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Mojave Water Agency Enters New Era of Efficiency with Hydroelectric Project

*Deep Creek Hydroelectric Project to Generate Millions in Savings
When Importing Water to Local Basin*

APPLE VALLEY, CA— Mojave Water Agency (MWA) broke ground Thursday morning on a hydroelectric system that is projected to save millions of dollars for the Agency over the next 30 years.

The Deep Creek Hydroelectric Project is a roughly \$4.3 million, clean-energy system designed to generate electricity while importing water from the California Aqueduct to the groundwater basin in the Victor Valley area. It is slated for completion in spring 2019.

Kimberly Cox, MWA Board President, described the new system as a “smart” project. “This new hydroelectric system builds on the success of the Regional Recharge and Recovery Project by adding a clean energy component that brings cost savings,” Cox said. “We’re taking an existing project that delivers drinking water, and now we’re going to generate renewable energy. This combination of innovation and efficiency will benefit the environment and our communities. It’s a smart way to ensure sustainability.”

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The central component of the project is an 820 kilowatt, hydroelectric turbine generator that can process up to 12,000 acre-feet (nearly 4 billion gallons) per year at a maximum flow rate of 20 cubic feet per second. Using the existing pressure and available flow within the pipeline, the hydroelectric turbine controls the flow of water producing electricity that will offset MWA operating costs, as well as provide power to Southern California Edison's (SCE) power grid. It will be the Agency's first hydroelectric turbine generator connected to the SCE system.

Among the benefits, the project will offset 4,540 metric tons of carbon dioxide that would have normally been supplied by non-renewable electricity, and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from 972 passenger vehicles.

Capitalizing on the existing pressure and flow of water when recharging the aquifer, the hydroelectric project signals a new era of efficiency for MWA in its role in ensuring a sustainable water supply for the region, and qualifies for California's Renewable Portfolio Standard as an eligible project to help the state reach its goal of 50-percent renewable energy by 2030.

The hydroelectric system will be constructed next to MWA's Operations Facility, located near Deep Creek Road in Apple Valley, the hub for the Agency's Regional Recharge and Recovery Project.

The Regional Recharge and Recovery Project, replenishes the local groundwater supply with State Water Project (SWP) water. The water is transported from the California Aqueduct through a series of pipelines to the Deep Creek recharge site where it is released in the riverbed or nearby area to percolate into the underground aquifer. The

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water is later recovered, pumped, and distributed to retail water purveyors to serve local communities.

Project partners include Kiewit Infrastructure, NLine Energy, Inc., Canyon Industries, and SCE.

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