



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MOJAVE BASIN AREA ADJUDICATION**

### ***Q.: What is the Adjudication?***

**A.:** The Adjudication of the Mojave Basin Area was the legal process that allocated the right to produce water from the natural water supply. The trial court's final decision was reached in January 1996. Until the Mojave Water Agency undertook the Adjudication and an independent court issued the Judgment, water production rights and obligations never had been defined in this area. Under the Judgment, each entity considered a water producer during 1986-1990 was determined to have a certain Base Annual Production (BAP). However, because the area does not have enough water for producers to pump their maximum amount, each year a producer is assigned a percentage of its BAP as its Free Production Allowance (FPA). A producers' FPA is the amount of water that can be pumped for free during a year without having to pay for replacement water.

### ***Q.: Who is included?***

**A.:** The Adjudication defined a producer as an entity that pumps 10 acre-feet or more per year. Also known as parties to the Judgment, producers are under the jurisdiction of the court. The MWA serves as the Watermaster, which is the administrative arm of the Court established to carry out the Judgment. Those well owners who pump less than 10 acre-feet annually are classified as minimal producers, and the MWA currently has a monitoring program to assess their water use. Most people in the high desert get their water at their homes or businesses from an organized water system, and therefore they are not directly affected by either the Adjudication or the minimal producer program.

### ***Q.: What happens if a producer exceeds his FPA?***

**A.:** A producer who needs more FPA than he has assigned to him must pay for the excess that he uses. He can do so either by arranging to transfer the desired amount from another producer or by buying the amount required from the Watermaster which is run by the seven elected officials who constitute the Mojave Water Agency Board of Directors. The Watermaster Board decides whether these proposed transactions follow the Watermaster Rules and Regulations and may therefore take place.

### ***Q.: What are the Administrative and Biological assessments?***

**A.:** The Judgment requires each producer to pay an Administrative assessment to fund the operation of the Watermaster. The Judgment also requires a Biological assessment for a reserve account to secure water for the environment if and when determined necessary by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Watermaster.

### ***Q.: How can I learn more about the Mojave Water Agency?***

**A.:** You can visit the Mojave Water Agency Website at: [www.mojavewater.org](http://www.mojavewater.org), on the Agency's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/mojavewater>, call (760) 946-7000, or (800) 254-4242 during business hours.