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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Innovators High Desert Water Summit Registration Open ***Essay Winner Alaina Tess and Student Teams to be Featured***

Apple Valley, CA—Aimed at engaging the next generation of water leaders, the 2018 Innovators High Desert Water Summit will feature essay contest winner Alaina Tess and six middle/high school teams competing for top honors in a fierce problem-solving contest. The event will be held February 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the High Desert Church located at 14545 Hook Blvd. in Victorville.

“Rethinking Water” is the theme of this year’s summit which is sponsored by the Mojave Water Agency, Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce, Liberty Utilities, Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority (VWRA), and Altec Engineering.

The event, now in its third year offers a half-day program that includes a mix of both water experts and the region’s extraordinary students. This year’s line-up will feature essay contest winner Alaina Tess, a senior from University Preparatory in Victorville. The essay competition was pared down to three finalists that also included Daniel Colon, a senior from University Preparatory in Victorville, and Andrew Canchola, a senior from Serrano High School in Phelan. Daniel Colon will also serve as the event’s emcee.

Keynote speaker Bryce Dettorre will kick off the program with the topic, “Stay M.A.D. by not Listening to Your B.S.” He is a High Desert resident and motivational speaker who founded the company, Don’t Be Average.

Additionally, Logan Olds, General Manager of the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority (VWVRA), will speak on building a career out of one’s passion. He is a humorous speaker and an expert in the field of wastewater.

Rounding out the event is Joel Greene, creator, producer, and host of the award winning PBS television show *Curiosity Quest*. MWA partnered with Greene on a series called Curiosity Quest Problem Solvers. High Desert and Morongo Basin schools were offered a chance to participate, and six randomly selected middle/high schools were selected. They were challenged with solving the problem of how to reuse a drop of water at school or home. The top three teams will be revealed and awarded scholarship funds at the event. Competing for top honors are AAE Middle School, Goodwill Education Center, Hesperia High School, Montara Elementary School (6th graders), Phoenix Academy, and University Preparatory.

Also new to this year’s program are breakout sessions on hydrogeology and water resource management.

Registration is \$10 for adults. High school students are free, but must register with their school. Attendees will receive a boxed lunch.

For more information, please contact Gloria Golike at 760.946.7001.

Register at <https://avchamber.org/events/details/2018-innovators-high-desert-water-summit-6327>.

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The Mojave Water Agency manages the region’s water resources for the common benefit to assure stability in the sustained use for its citizens. It is one of 29 State Water Contractors that is entitled to receive State Water Project water when available. The Agency’s territory encompasses 4,900 square miles with a population of 450,000.