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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# **Tickets on Sale for 2017 High Desert Water Summit Event Targets High School STEM Students**

Apple Valley, CA— “Calling on Tomorrow’s Innovators” is the theme of the 2017 High Desert Water Summit aimed at engaging the next generation of water leaders. The event sponsored by the Mojave Water Agency and the Hesperia Chamber of Commerce will be held March 8 from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the High Desert Church located at 14545 Hook Blvd. in Victorville.

This year’s event features both students and experts. One of the event presentations will feature essay contest winner Sara Mejia, a junior from the Academy for Academic Excellence in Apple Valley. Last year’s essay contest winner, Enrique Arcilla, also a junior from the Academy for Academic Excellence, will emcee the event. Additionally, essay contest finalists JM Malana and Emmanuel Ogunrinde, both juniors from University Preparatory School will be on hand to receive their scholarships.

New to this year’s program is the presentation and award of the top student video. Video finalists include Stephanie Reyes, a junior from University Preparatory School in Victorville; Melanie Rodriguez, a senior from University Preparatory School; and the team of Victoria Rojas and Nathan Rivas, both seniors from Oak Hills High School.

Serving as the keynote speaker is Robin Kobaly, a botanist and plant ecologist. She serves as the Executive Director of the SummerTree Institute in Morongo Valley. Kobaly served as a botanist for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for 21 years.

The event also features Nicholas Schneider, Water Conservation Manager for the Mojave Water Agency. Schneider joined the Mojave Water Agency three years ago and is responsible for the agency's water conservation and education programs. He also represents MWA on statewide conservation committees.

Rounding out the event is Joel Greene, creator, producer, and host of the award winning PBS television show *Curiosity Quest*. No stranger to environmental and water conservation issues, Greene specializes in producing fun, creative programs that deconstruct complex issues.

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 <http://web.hesperiaacc.com/events/2017-High-Desert-Water-Summit--1384/details>.

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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.*