



**MOJAVE WATER AGENCY
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI) TO ADOPT AN INITIAL
STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR
LUCERNE VALLEY GROUNDWATER RECHARGE PROJECT**

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines, the Mojave Water Agency (Agency) Staff prepared a Draft Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) that identify and evaluate the environmental impacts of the below-named project.

Project Title: Lucerne Valley Groundwater Recharge Project

Project Location: The project is located at the existing Lucerne Valley Pump Station, located at 37776 Foothill Road, Lucerne Valley, Assessor Parcel Number 044-90-8319. The project is located in the southwest quarter of Section 13, Township 4 North, Range 1 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. It is depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Cougar Buttes, California* (1994) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.

Project Description: The Agency proposes to construct an approximate 3-acre groundwater recharge basin and related equipment on its existing 5-acre Lucerne Valley Pump Station property to recharge approximately 500 acre feet per year (AFY) of State Water Project water (SWP). The proposed groundwater recharge area would be located on 3 acres of vacant land, on a 5-acre parcel currently only used for the Lucerne Valley Pump Station that services the Morongo Basin Pipeline. The recharge basin will have 3-foot to 5-foot high berms in varying configurations within the recharge area as needed to manage flow and recharge rates.

The proposed Project will also add a turnout (6" – 10" diameter) along the existing Morongo Basin Pipeline at the Lucerne Valley Pump Station to allow approximately 1 cubic foot per second (cfs) on average to flow to the proposed recharge area. It is anticipated that the site will percolate SWP water into the ground at approximately 2 feet per day (fpd) and 1 acre of the recharge area will be in use allowing a total of approximately 500 AFY to be recharged into the Lucerne Valley area of the Este Subbasin. The Este Subbasin currently has no other SWP groundwater recharge facilities.

Water will be delivered via gravity flow through the Morongo Basin Pipeline from the turnout in the SWP Aqueduct to the Lucerne Valley Pump Station site. No pumping is required for delivery of water to this proposed recharge area. With the addition of a groundwater recharge area at the Lucerne Valley Pump Station, the Agency will be utilizing the existing facility flow capacities it owns and operates from the Aqueduct turnout to the Lucerne Valley Pump Station plus any unused capacity not being utilized for deliveries to the Morongo Basin.

Environmental Review and Public Comment: The circulation of the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study is to encourage written public comments. Interested persons can review the Draft IS/MND at <https://www.mojavewater.org> and at the Mojave Water Agency, 13846 Conference Center Drive, Apple Valley, CA 92307. If unavailable on the web site, a hard copy of the document may be obtained by telephoning the Mojave Water Agency at (760) 946-7000, or by emailing Darrell Reynolds, Director of Engineering at dreynolds@mojavewater.org to request an alternative to the electronic version of the document published on the District's website.

The public comment period starts **August 13, 2018** and ends on **September 12, 2018 at 5:00 PM**. Submit comments to:

Email to: dreynolds@mojavewater.org – or - Fax (760) 240-2642 attention to:
Darrell Reynolds, Director of Engineering
Mojave Water Agency, 13846 Conference Center Drive, Apple Valley, CA 92307

Public Hearing: A public hearing will be held on **September 27, 2018** during the Agency's regular Board meeting to consider adoption of the Final IS/MND. In advance of the hearing date, Staff will distribute a separate notice regarding that hearing.