

PRESS RELEASE

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Delta Conveyance Project: Key Piece of High Desert’s Long Term Water Supply

Apple Valley, CA – Long ago, in 1960, our parents and grandparents had the foresight to participate in the State Water Project and bring snowmelt from the Sierra Nevada to the High Desert. The water travels a long distance—moving this water from the Feather River watershed to the High Desert isn’t easy. It must pass through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, continue in the California Aqueduct and over the Tehachapi mountains. When it does arrive, the Mojave Water Agency works with local water purveyors to use this State Water Project water to recharge our local groundwater basins, thus ensuring we have the water supply to support the needs of our businesses, homes, schools, and farms.

In a water year like this one, we were able to request our full “Table A” allocation of 89,800-acre feet and refresh our groundwater supply. We recognize how important this imported water is to our way of life in the High Desert. The State Water Project water that filled the normally dry Mojave River this summer was imported to be stored underground to maintain our communities’ water supply and help us get through the next dry spell. Moving, managing, and coordinating the storage of such a large amount of water relies on both state and local infrastructure. We need to invest in modernizing this infrastructure so that we can continue to take advantage of our water supply when it is plentiful and prepare for the times that it is not.

We’ve known for generations that something needed to be done to address the fragility of the State Water Project system we have now. As we learn more about and experience climate uncertainty, the extremity of California’s weather, sea level rise, and the threat of earthquakes, we need a modern solution like the Delta Conveyance Project to protect the large investment we’ve already made in the State Water Project. I am participating in the Joint Powers Authority of the Delta Conveyance Design & Construction Authority (DCA) to ensure the project will meet our communities’ long-term needs and be delivered in a fiscally responsible manner.

There are limited opportunities for us to source additional water locally and we’ve optimized the ones that are affordable to our community. Our community is removed from the coastline and that makes some options such as desalination cost prohibitive. We have and will continue to push the limits on conserving our water—conservation will always be a way of life in and out of drought periods in the desert. Our board has studied this carefully and, even with conservation, the Delta Conveyance Project will be essential to help make the water that supports our way of life more dependable.

For example, if the Delta Conveyance Project had been operational during the high rain events of January this year, the modernized conveyance system could have moved an additional 228,000 acre-feet of water into San Luis Reservoir while still meeting fishery and water quality protections and regulations. That’s

enough water to supply about 2.3 million people for an entire year and is equivalent to approximately 40 percent of the total State Water Project exports the year before.

Our participation in this project ensures the long-term success of the State Water Project and the Mojave Water Agency. If we think of our water supply system as a puzzle and we were looking for the last few pieces, we'd see that the Delta Conveyance Project is one of those missing pieces, the piece to help us secure our water future.

For more information, visit the Agency's website at www.mojavewater.org or follow us on social media @mojavewater.

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