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Mojave River Pipeline Draws to a Close

Pipeline Delivers State Project Water to Communities Along the 76-mile Route

APPLE VALLEY—Unlike the rest of the High Desert, the rural community of Newberry Springs received water on Saturday morning, but not from the predicted rain showers. The water—about 10 acre feet—was delivered by the long-awaited final stretch of the Mojave River Pipeline.

During a dedication ceremony held at the Newberry Springs Recharge Facility, Mojave Water Agency (MWA) board members opened the valve to release water into one of the two 10-acre recharge basins, thus beginning the delivery of approximately 1,620 acre-feet of imported State Project Water from the California Aqueduct. This initial delivery will flow at a rate of up to 20 acre-feet per day and will percolate into the aquifer serving the community in the Newberry Springs. One acre foot is approximately 326,000 gallons, enough water to serve a family of four for a year. Construction of the overall project began in 1995 and was completed in January of this year. The total construction cost was \$62 million.

"I am so thankful that our board had the foresight in the early '90s to plan for this occasion," said MWA board member Beverly Lowry. "We knew back then we had to have a supplemental source of water to serve our growing region, and this pipeline will help meet present and future demands," she added. Lowry, the MWA board member with the most longevity on the board, was instrumental years ago in securing the necessary funding to pay for the pipeline. "It was a labor of love, all the meetings, all the negotiations, but it paid off."

The Newberry Springs Recharge Facility becomes the fourth such site along the pipeline. Water has been delivered for the past six years to recharge facilities at Hodge, Lenwood, and Daggett. Although water demands in the Newberry Springs area will not immediately require delivery of 20 acre-feet per day, the recharge site increases MWA's ability to deliver water to serve a growing region. "There are times when we can take additional water from the State Water Project but we have to have sites to which we can deliver it," said Jim Ventura, MWA Board President.

"We decided just last month to purchase additional water supplies for our banking program." The board is spending \$3 million to purchase 15,000 acre feet to plan for periods when water is less available through the State Water Project, and to have a source of supply to plan for dry spells or increased demands.

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3,750 acre feet will find its way to the subarea that includes Newberry Springs. “The timing couldn’t have been better to have this site come on line,” added Lowry.

Founded in July of 1960, Mojave Water Agency the only water wholesaler in the region and is responsible for managing the High Desert region’s groundwater resources to ensure a sustainable supply to meet present and future water demands. The Agency serves approximately 4,900 square miles including the communities of Adelanto, Apple Valley, Barstow, Hesperia, Joshua Tree, Landers, Lenwood, Lucerne Valley, Newberry Springs, Victorville, Yermo and Yucca Valley.

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