

WaterSMART Grant:
Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R24AS00059
For Fiscal Year 2024
\$100,000 Grant Request

January 12, 2024

Water Meter and Data Management Upgrade
Overton, NV

Applicant

Moapa Valley Water District
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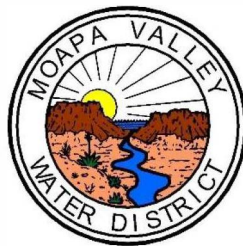
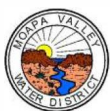


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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date: January 12, 2024

Applicant: Moapa Valley Water District
601 N. Moapa Valley Blvd.
Overton, Clark County, NV 89040

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PROJECT SUMMARY:

For this project, Water Metering and Data Management Upgrade, Moapa Valley Water District (MVWD) has targeted specific meters to be upgraded, including those meters currently in the worst operating condition. A total of 350 failing domestic water meters within MVWD's service area will be upgraded to new meters coupled with cellular endpoints for improved data analytics and water management. The project will increase efficiency in MVWD's distribution system and help achieve the District's goal of providing quality drinking water to its users through efficient management and conservation. It will also increase resiliency to climate change, particularly as it relates to severe drought. Furthermore, this project will help to stretch and secure water supplies for future generations. Proposed funding in the amount of \$100,000 acquired through the Bureau of Reclamation will be used to purchase the upgraded metering equipment while an equal or greater portion of funds will be provided as a matching contribution by MVWD to implement the project.

Applicant Eligibility	Category A
Estimated Start Date:	November 2024
Approximate Project Length:	10 months
Estimated Completion Date:	August 2025
Federal Facility:	This project is not located on a Federal facility



BACKGROUND DATA

Although this section is not required by the Notice of Funding Opportunity for Fiscal Year 2024, it has been included because it provides relevant information for the reviewer.

Moapa Valley is located approximately 60 miles northeast of Las Vegas, Nevada. The valley consists of the following towns or communities: Overton, Logandale, Glendale, Moapa, the Moapa River Indian Reservation, and the Warm Springs Natural Area. Figure 1 is an area map for Moapa Valley.

The MVWD was created as a political subdivision of the State of Nevada on July 23, 1983, to provide domestic water (irrigation water is provided by another company) to customers within Moapa Valley. MVWD's service area covers approximately 79 square miles and is bounded by Lake Mead to the southeast and the head of the Muddy River at Warm Springs Natural Area to the northwest. Within MVWD's service area is the reservation for the Moapa Band of Paiutes. Figure 2 shows a location map of the District's service area boundary. The dashed line on the left of Figure 2 is the Moapa River Indian Reservation boundary.

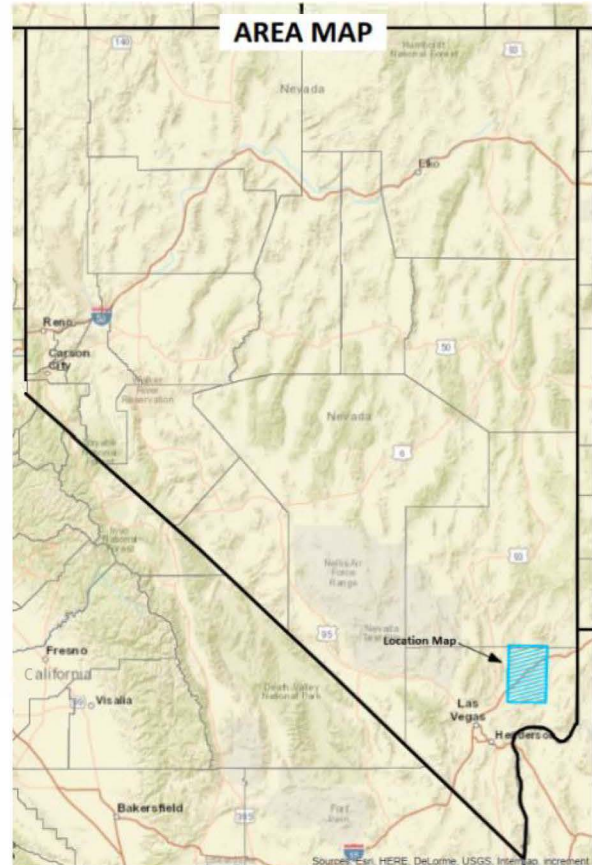


Figure 1. Area Map of Moapa Valley

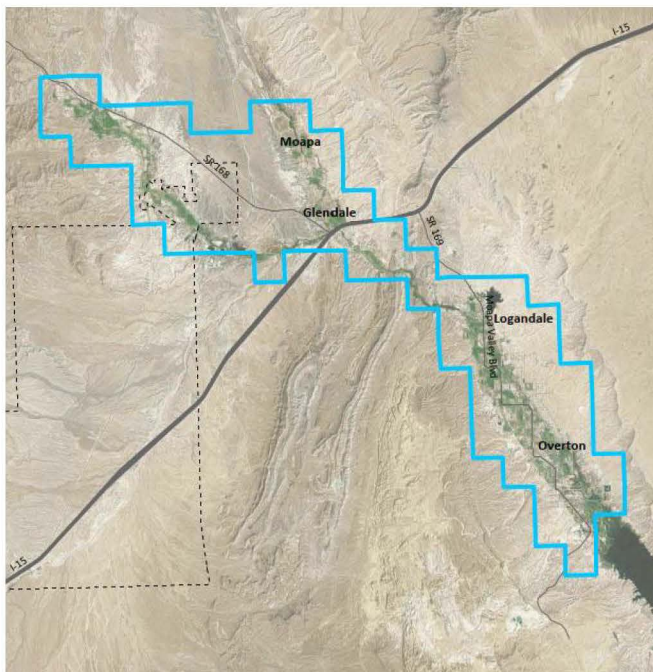


Figure 2. MVWD Service Area Boundary Map

WATER SYSTEM

MVWD operates a domestic water system that generally includes 4 wells, 2 spring groups, 6 tanks totaling 8.3 million gallons, 2 treatment facilities, 14 pressure reducing valves, 449 fire hydrants, 1,721 valves, and 184 miles of transmission and distribution pipe ranging in size from 2 inches to 24 inches. The system is operated in 15 pressure zones, serving connections at elevations from approximately 1,800 feet down to 1,225 feet above sea level.

Water Source

The water sources available to MVWD originate from the regional carbonate aquifer flow system which collects from the Muddy



River and Meadow Valley Wash hydrological basins. MVWD holds a series of ground water rights in the Lower White River Flow System for municipal, domestic, and irrigation uses, utilizing 4 wells and 2 springs for domestic water which draws from the carbonate aquifer.

Table 1. Active Domestic Water Rights

Permit#	Water Source	Diversion Rate (cfs)	Annual Duty (afy)
68524	Logandale Well	0.89	913.1
72263		2.71	
46932	MX-6 Well	2.00	6792.71
52520	Arrow Canyon Well #1	2.00	
55450		3.00	
58269		1.50	
66043	Arrow Canyon Well #2	3.50	
28791	Baldwin Spring	3.00	2132.2
22739	Jones Spring	1.00	723.8
Total Water Rights		19.6	10561.81

The water sources listed in Table 1 are as provided in MVWD's Water Conservation Plan and are water rights that currently produce domestic water for the District's system.

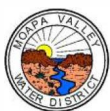
Both Baldwin and Jones Springs are part of a larger spring group at Warm Springs Natural Area forming the Muddy River which flows to Lake Mead, southern Nevada's primary drinking water source. The Warm Springs Natural Area is owned and operated by Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA), a partner of the Bureau of Reclamation.

MVWD has entered various understanding/agreement to resolve regional water supply issues:

- MVWD has entered into multiple Memorandums of Understanding and Memorandums of Agreement with SNWA to resolve water supply issues and for other beneficial water impacts such as hydropower and recreation.
- On April 20, 2006, MVWD entered a Memorandum of Agreement with SNWA, the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, and the US Fish and Wildlife Services. This agreement was made to retain water in the Warm Springs Natural Area which is an oasis for 28 endangered, threatened, and sensitive species of plants and wildlife.
- MVWD also partners frequently with the Muddy Valley Irrigation Company (MVIC) through shared water rights.

Distribution System

MVWD's distribution system consists of 184 miles of water lines in 15 pressure zones, feeding approximately 3,200 total connections. Many existing connections to the water system are equipped with Master Meter Bottom-Load Multi-Jet (BLMJ) meters which are read monthly by drive-by 3G radio transmission. MVWD has begun upgrading failing meters to new Badger Meter Positive Displacement Disc meters with cellular endpoints for more advanced two-way data transmitting and management. Recognizing the efficiencies of these upgrades, MVWD intends to continue this meter upgrading effort through this and future projects.



CONSERVATION PLAN

MVWD has a complete water conservation plan and actively supports conservation measures. The conservation plan details educational, financial, and regulatory incentives.

PROJECT LOCATION

Provide detailed information on the proposed project location or project area including a map showing the geographic location. For example, {project name} is located in {state and county} approximately {distance} miles {direction, e.g., northeast} of {nearest town}. The project latitude is {##°##'N} and longitude is {###°##'W}.

The MVWD office is located in Overton, Clark County, NV, approximately 60 miles northeast of Las Vegas, NV, and is situated approximately 24 miles from the northwest and 3 miles from the southeast boundary of the service area. The project will occur in 350 different locations within the service area (see Map on page 6).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Provide a comprehensive description of the technical aspects of your project, including the scope of work to be accomplished and the approach for the on-the-ground project. This description should provide detailed information about the project materials and equipment including what is currently installed and a description of the upgrade being made. Include in your description the necessary site preparation, removal of materials, motorized and rotating equipment required for installation, site laydown and mobilization areas, and areas impacted by construction. This section provides an opportunity for the applicant to provide a clear description of the technical nature and installation process of the project and to address any aspect of the project that reviewers may need additional information to understand.

PROBLEMS AND NEEDS

MVWD faces 3 main issues stemming from the current meters and data collection method. These issues include an aging infrastructure, strain on District resources, and the ability to conserve water in accordance with MVWD's water conservation plan.

Aging Infrastructure

Typical mechanical water meters have a service life of 10 to 15 years before accuracy begins to decline to an unacceptable level. When these types of meters begin to fail, the accuracy declines at a slow and steady rate for a period of months to years before taking a significant and noticeable drop in accuracy (see Figure 3). MVWD's method of meter data tracking is not sophisticated enough to detect faulty meters until after the significant drop in accuracy, resulting in prolonged, unnecessary losses in water supply and revenue.

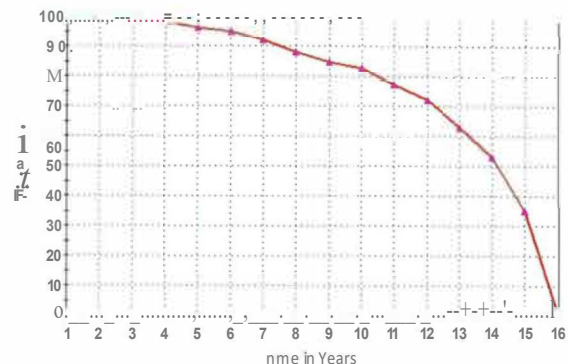
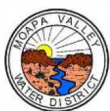


Figure 3. Accuracy of Water Meter Over Time



Many existing meters within MVWD's system are more than 14 years old and are experiencing significant drops in accuracy. MVWD has reported over 350 meters that are reading below typical flows or have stopped transmitting data wirelessly. A Capital Facilities Plan completed by MVWD in 2016 recommended replacing and upgrading meters on a recurring schedule.

Strain on District Resources

The size and nature of MVWD's service area is not conducive to the drive-by radio data collection required by the current meters. MVWD's office is situated in Overton - approximately 24 miles from the northern boundary of the service area and 3 miles from the southern boundary. This distance puts a strain on equipment and manpower, as well as consumes excess amounts of fuel, when regular trips are required to the extents of the service area. Each month, crews travel over 200 miles recording meter readings. These numbers are increased when meters fail to transmit data during drive-by meter reading activities.

Water Conservation

MVWD managers estimate that current lost & unaccounted for water through the system is 26%, with failing meters being a large factor of that percentage. MVWD's conservation plan states that responsibilities on the part of the purveyor include leak detection and system maintenance. The current meters and data reporting method do not provide the ability to detect small leaks within the system. Any leak from the system means additional water demanded from the sources supplying water to Warm Springs Natural Area and less water available to Lake Mead.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

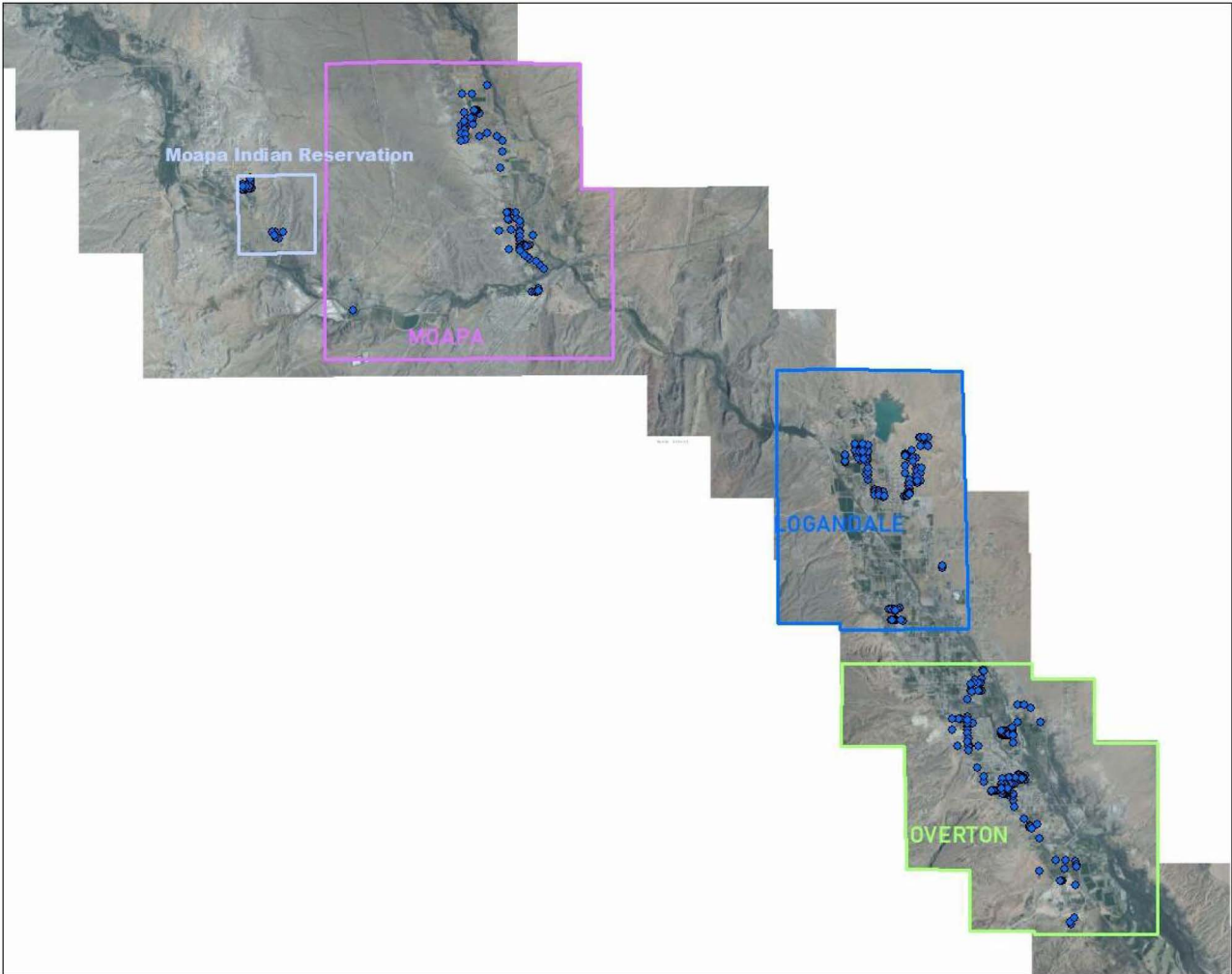
To help correct the issues described above, MVWD intends to upgrade 350 old and malfunctioning meters with new Badger Meter 5/8" positive displacement disc meters and Orion Cellular LTE-M Endpoints. Additionally, crew members will replace approximately 64 existing meter boxes and 270 meter lids that are beyond their service life to help preserve the new meters. The proposed project will require 2 hours to remove and install each upgraded meter. MVWD plans to complete the project at a rate of 35 meters per month to finish the project within the two-year allotted timeframe.

The upgraded cellular endpoints collect data from the meters at 15-minute intervals and store the information for 45 days. Four times each day, the endpoints send stored data through a cellular network to a cloud-based data management system. Using this upgraded system, both MVWD and consumers will be able to access information regarding water usage to improve water management.

MVWD will additionally utilize GIS to manage upgraded assets. The new metering system will operate through Badger Meter's Fixed Network data collection system and integrate with MVWD's GIS data to support predictive rather than reactive management. Importantly, the upgrade will allow MVWD to conserve resources required to complete monthly meter reads and more accurately identify when meters begin to show signs of failure.



**MOAPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
2024 Meter Upgrade Program**



Legend

GrantMeters2024



EVALUATION CRITERIA

EVALUATION CRITERION A: PROJECT BENEFITS (35 POINTS)

Up to 35 points may be awarded based upon evaluation of the benefits that are expected to result from implementing the proposed project. This criterion considers a variety of project benefits, including the significance of the anticipated water management benefits and the public benefits of the project. This criterion prioritizes projects that modernize existing infrastructure to address water reliability concerns, including making water available for multiple beneficial uses and resolving water related conflict in the region.

Benefits to the Category A Applicant's Water Delivery System: Describe the expected benefits to the Category A applicant's water delivery system. Address the following:

- ***Clearly explain the anticipated water management benefits to the Category A applicant's water supply delivery system and water customers.***

Upgrading MVWD's water meters will improve the overall efficiency of the water delivery system. The new metering and data management project will provide greater accuracy, earlier detection of leaks, and improve usage understanding by all parties to help reduce and manage water consumption in MVWD's service area.

- ***Explain the significance of the anticipated water management benefits for the Category A applicant's water delivery system and customers. Consider:***

- ***Are customers not currently getting their full water right at certain times of year?***

Yes. However, with the ongoing and persistent drought in the region, there is some degree of uncertainty as to whether this will still be the case over time.

- ***Does this project have the potential to prevent lawsuits or water calls?***

Yes. With the technology to capture and store data in real-time, the District and the customers will have the ability to refer to and pull historical or current data as necessary. This would aid in mitigating issues and disputes before escalating to legal battles. Further, these meter upgrades will likely result in the District having the ability to troubleshoot and resolve issues from an office setting rather making a call to the actual location of where the problem originated.

- ***What are the consequences of not making the improvement?***

Prolonging these improvements would result in continued water use inefficiencies as well as unnecessary strain on District resources. The water conserved through this project will allow water resources to stretch further and expand the scale of benefit beyond the local region. The more current and future water that can be captured in Lake Mead will be a future benefit for all Lower Basin States on the Colorado River. Should these upgrades not be completed due to financial constraints, it will result in water losses that would typically remain in the river and eventually in Lake Mead.

- ***Are customer water restrictions currently required?***

No, the District has not been compelled to set customer water restrictions. The District does have the authority to set restrictions in the event that usage trends show an increase or conditions warrant such action as so indicated in the Water Conservation Plan. The system improvements noted will allow the District to more closely monitor water use and take the necessary steps to better manage water resources, especially in a drought environment.



- o ***Other significant concerns that support the need for the project.***

Upgrading MVWD's water meters and data collection method will reduce the consumption of precious water supplies, thereby improving the reliability and longevity of those water sources. Importantly, considering current proceedings in the Nevada State Engineer's office and probable curtailments of water rights in the Lower White River Flow System, which are anticipated to affect MVWD's water rights portfolio, conservation of water in MVWD's system will reduce the demand on water rights, strengthening MVWD's ability to supply water reliability.

Broader Benefits: Describe the broader benefits that are expected to occur as a result of the project. Consider:

Will the project improve broader water supply reliability at sub-basin or basin scale?

Yes, the meter upgrades will help to optimize the water system and will result in supply reliability on a sub-basin and basin scale. As water is better managed through more reliable and timely data, the customers and the District will be able to monitor usage at a much greater frequency. This, in turn, will allow the water users to respond more quickly and the benefits and savings from conservation practices can be captured much sooner. These water savings will naturally improve reliability by stretching limited water supply much further.

- ***Will the proposed project increase collaboration and information sharing among water managers in the region? Please explain.***

Yes. As noted previously, MVWD has partnered through legal agreements with several water managing institutions in a commitment to resolve regional water supply issues. Advanced data management and accessibility made possible through the upgraded metering system will provide beneficial data and information to help collectively manage southern Nevada's water.

- ***Is the project in an area that is experiencing, or recently experienced, drought or water scarcity? Will the project help address drought conditions at the sub-basin or basin scale? Please explain.***

Yes. The MVWD service area is currently in DO (abnormally dry) and DI (moderate) drought intensity according to the U.S. Drought Monitor (shown in Figure. 4 on page 14). This project will help address drought conditions at the sub-basin or basin scale by reducing the amount of water being drawn from the watershed and water table.

- ***Will the project benefit species (e.g., federally threatened or endangered, a federally recognized candidate species, a state listed species, or a species of particular recreational, or economic importance)? Please explain.***

Yes. Several endangered, threatened, or sensitive species, such as the Moapa Dace, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yuma Ridway's Rail, Desert Tortoise, Big Spring Spinedace, Bonytail, Razorback Sucker and the Virgin River Chub are located within MVWD's service area boundaries. Many of these species are found at Warm



Springs Natural Area. None of the species will be directly affected by activity at the proposed meter upgrade locations since the work is local to the meters only. By contrast, many of the species will benefit from the water conservation results of this project. Water conserved through this project means less water being taken out of the environment and ultimately supporting the Memorandum of Agreement that MVWD entered with SNWA, the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, and the US Fish and Wildlife Services; to retain water in the Warm Springs Natural Area which is an oasis for 28 endangered, threatened, and sensitive species of plants and wildlife.

- *Will the proposed project positively impacts/benefit various sectors and economies within the applicable geographic area (e.g., impacts to agriculture, environment, recreation, and tourism)? Please explain.*

Yes. Conservation of water and water management resources is expected to benefit the local economy by enabling application of saved resources to other endeavors, water uses, infrastructure improvements, and opportunities both locally and regionally. Additional water to the Warm Springs Natural Area and Lake Mead will provide impacts to recreation and tourism while simultaneously supporting Federal and regional environmental initiatives. Additional water to Lake Mead may also contribute to the potential of greater hydropower generation through Hoover Dam as a renewable resource.

- *Will the project complement work being done in coordination with NRCS in the area (e.g., the area with a direct connection to the districts water supply)? Please explain.*

No NRCS projects have been done in the proposed project area to MVWD's knowledge.

EVALUATION CRITERION B: PLANNING EFFORTS SUPPORTING THE PROJECT (25 POINTS)

Up to 25 points may be awarded based on the extent to which the proposed on-the-ground project is supported by an applicant's existing water management plan, water conservation plan, System Optimization Review, or identified as part of another planning effort led by the Category A applicant. This criterion prioritizes projects that are identified through local planning efforts and meet local needs.

Plan Description and Objectives: Is your project supported by a specific planning document or effort? If so, describe the existing plan. When was the plan developed? What is the purpose and objective of the plan?

Yes. This project is supported by MVWD's Water Conservation Plan which was developed in April 2019 with the primary goal of delivering quality water to its customers and also to encourage water conservation within the District. Part of MVWD's plan means monitoring water usage and updating the infrastructure when it's time. In addition, this project is also supported by MVWD's current Capital Improvements Plan which recommends a regular program for replacing and upgrading meters to significantly reduce lost revenue and unaccounted water.

Plan Development: Who developed the planning effort? What is the geographic scope of the plan? If the planning effort was not developed by the Category A applicant, describe the Category A applicant's involvement in developing the planning effort.

The planning effort was developed by MVWD. The geographic scope of the plan is the MVWD's service area, which includes Overton, Logandale, Glendale, Moapa, the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, and the surrounding unincorporated towns of Clark County, NV.



Support for the Project: Describe to what extent the proposed project is supported by the identified plan. Consider:

- **Is the project identified specifically by name and location in the planning effort?**
Yes. MVWD's Water Conservation Plan states "MVWD's primary goal is to deliver quality water to its customers. To achieve that goal, the existing water distribution system must be kept in good repair. .." The plan also states MVWD's existing water supplies must be properly managed through conservation. The proposed project is in accordance with MVWD's conservation plan to maintain the distribution system and manage water through conservation. In addition, MVWD's current Capital Improvements Plan recommends a regular program for replacing and upgrading meters to enable accurate billings, to maintain a quality history of use, to support the sizing and demands of future infrastructure, and to promote water conservation. In summary, the project implements goals from both the Water Conservation Plan and the Capital Improvements Plan.
- **Is this type of project identified in the planning effort?**
Yes. This type of project is identified in MVWD's current Capital Improvement Plan.
- **Explain whether the proposed project implement a goal, objective, or address a need or problem identified in the existing planning effort?**
Managing conservation is an overarching goal of the District. A problem that the District has come to know is that it is impossible to manage what is not measured. This is the case for performance on an administrative level as well as system operations. On this premise, the District has made system optimization and care a priority in both the Water Conservation Plan and Capital Improvements Plan. This project will help achieve the goals that the District has, which are to keep the water system in good repair and to make necessary upgrades. This in turn, leads to greater efficiencies in the workflow of personnel. This will result in improved overall system management that will benefit not only the customer base in the MVWD service area but throughout the region.

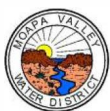
Explain how the proposed project has been determined as a priority in the existing planning effort as opposed to other potential projects/measures.

MVWD's Board of Directors recognizes meter replacement and upgrading efforts as an annual priority because of the high return on investment for making the improvements. MVWD recognizes the important role of meter accuracy in revenue generation which translates directly to the ability to fund other needed improvements. MVWD also recognizes the value on the conservation side, especially where lighter demands translate to reduced pressure on source improvements and water right needs. Reduced demands for manpower and equipment, with their related costs, saved in meter reading efficiencies through higher-technology meter upgrades also represents a savings on the demand side of the equation.

EVALUATION CRITERION C: IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS (20 POINTS)

Up to 20 points may be awarded based upon the extent to which the applicant is capable of proceeding with the proposed project upon entering into a financial assistance agreement. Applicants that describe a detailed plan (e.g., estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates) will receive the most points under this criterion.

- **Describe the implementation plan for the proposed project. Please include an estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates.**



The project will be implemented by local District employees as typical daily duties. With funding being authorized in October 2024, meter installation would begin in November 2024 and proceed at a rate of 35 meters per month minimum. The total project length is estimated to be 10 months for a completion date of August 2025. Table 2 shows the proposed schedule of implementation.

Table 2. Proposed Project Schedule

Project Tasks and Milestones	Year 1				Year 2			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Receive Funding Award								
Coordinate with Reclamation on Agreement								
Order Meters & Supplies								
Install 350 Upgraded Meters								
Integrate Meters into Data Management System								
Project Closeout & Submit Final Repmt								

- Proposals with a budget and budget narrative that provide a reasonable explanation of project costs will be prioritized under this criterion.

The project is estimated to cost \$216,972. This Grant application is requesting \$100,000 in federal funding from the Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). MVWD will fund the remaining \$116,972 for the project using in-kind services and cash reserves. There is no other pending funding request, including no other federal funding, for this project; therefore, no letters of commitment from partnering funding agencies are required. This project will not incur any costs prior to the estimated start date. Table 3 summarizes the proposed financing sources for this project.

A summary of the proposed project budget is provided in Table 4. A more detailed budget and budget narrative will be included in this application in the form of an attachment.

- Describe any permits and agency approvals that will be required along with the process and timeframe for obtaining such permits or approvals.

Table 3. Project Funding Sources

FUNDING SOURCES	AMOUNT
Non-Federal Entities	
Moapa Valley Water District: In-Kind Labor/Wages	\$ 84,702
Moapa Valley Water District: Cash	\$ 32,270
Non-Federal Subtotal	\$ 116,972
Federal Entities	
Bureau of Reclamation	\$ 100,000
Federal Subtotal	\$100,000
Total Project Cost	\$216,972

Table 4. Summary of Proposed Budget

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	COMMITMENT		L/IT TYPE	TOTAL COST
	\$/unit	Quantity		
Salaries and Wages				
Lon Dalley - Project Manager	\$ 55.29	80	HR	\$ 4,423
Victor Bitter - Maintenance Servicem	\$ 35.00	530	HR	\$ 18,550
Dandy Sutphin - Maintenance Worker	\$ 25.00	1,200	HR	\$ 30,000
Fringe Benefits				
Lon Dalley - Project Manager	\$ 22.67	80	HR	\$ 1,814
Victor Bitter - Maintenance Servicem	\$ 14.35	530	HR	\$ 7,605
Dandy Sutphin - Maintenance Worker	\$ 10.25	1,200	HR	\$ 12,300
Equipment				
314-Ton Truck	\$ 17.00	530	HR	\$ 9,010
Backhoe/Loader	\$ 25.00	40	HR	\$ 1,000
Supplies and Materials				
518-inch Meter	\$ 73.20	350	EA	\$ 25,620
HRE 8 Encoder	\$ 73.20	350	EA	\$ 25,620
Cellular Endpoint	\$ 135.00	350	EA	\$ 47,250
DFW Meter Box	\$ 165.00	64	EA	\$ 10,560
DFW Meter Box Lid	\$ 86.00	270	EA	\$ 23,220
Contractual / Construction				
N/A				
Environmental				
N/A				
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS				\$ 216,972
Indirect Costs				
N/A				
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS				\$ 216,972



No permits are required for this project. It will be completed as a maintenance project under Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW) rules.

- *Identify and describe any engineering or design work performed specifically in support of the proposed project. What level of engineering design is the project currently? If additional design is required, describe the planning process and timeline for completing the design.*

No engineering or design work is required for this project.

- *Does the applicant have access to the land or water source where the project is located? Has the applicant obtained any easements that are required for the project? If the applicant does not yet have permission to access the project location, describe the process and timeframe for obtaining such permission.*

Yes. The proposed project represents improvements to the existing local meter assemblies at specific sites; therefore, the applicant has access to the land where the project is located.

- *Identify whether the applicant has contacted the local Reclamation office to discuss the potential environmental and cultural resource compliance for the project and the associated costs. Has a line item been included in the budget for costs associated with compliance? If a contractor will need to complete some of the compliance activities, separate line items should be included in the budget for Reclamation's costs and contractor's costs.*

Whereas the proposed project (Metering and Data Management Upgrade) represents improvements to local meter assemblies at specific sites that have already been disturbed (there are existing meters in place at each of the sites), environmental impacts are expected to be negligible and NEPA compliance is expected to be tenable through a Categorical Exclusion. Compliance efforts and anticipated costs have been discussed with the local Reclamation office. It is anticipated that Reclamation will perform the work necessary to document NEPA compliance. For budgeting purposes, 3% of the direct costs have been included in the budget proposal to account for this expense, though costs are expected to be minimal.

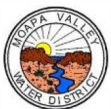
EVALUATION CRITERION D: NEXUS TO RECLAMATION (5 POINTS)

Up to 5 points may be awarded based on the extent that the proposal demonstrates a nexus between the proposed project and a Reclamation project or activity. Describe the nexus between the proposed project and a Reclamation project or activity, including:

- *Is the proposed project connected to a Reclamation project or activity?*

If so, how? Please consider the following:

Yes. The Metering and Data Management Upgrade project is expected to conserve water resources and introduce efficiencies into MVWD's culinary water system. MVWD and SNWA have entered into legal agreements and are working as partners on several initiatives, including the conveyance of SNWA water from the Coyote Springs valley into Lake Mead through MVWD's transmission and distribution system and utilizing MVWD's Jones Spring water right as a source to support SNWA's Warm Springs Natural Area as part of SNWA's regional water management strategy. In addition, both SNWA and MVWD hold water rights in the Lower White River Flow System and are parties to the ongoing discussion on sustainable yield current in the Nevada State Engineer's office. Thus, conservation activities undertaken by MVWD have a direct connection to a Reclamation project (Lake Mead) and a Reclamation partner (SNWA) via the working relationships between MVWD and SNWA.



- ***Does the applicant have a water service, repayment, or operations and maintenance (O&M) contract with Reclamation?***
No. However, MVWD is a contributor to Reclamation project water, being located on the Muddy River at the upstream head of Lake Mead and through its partnerships with SNWA.
- ***If the applicant is not a Reclamation contractor, does the applicant receive Reclamation water through Reclamation contractor or by any other contractual means?***
No.
- ***Will the proposed work benefit a Reclamation Project area or activity?***
Yes. The project is in the Muddy River basin which flows directly into Lake Mead. The meter upgrade project is expected to have immediate direct and indirect effects on water conservation. Any conserved water resource will enter Lake Mead.

EVALUATION CRITERION E: PRESIDENTIAL AND DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR PRIORITIES (15 POINTS)

Up to 15 points may be awarded based on the extent that the project demonstrates support for the Biden-Harris Administration's priorities, including E. O. 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, E.O. 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, and the President's memorandum, Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to Nation Relationships. Points will be allocated based on the degree to which the project supports the priorities listed, and whether the connection to the priority(ies) is well supported in the application. Only address the sub-criterion that are relevant to your project.

This project supports the Biden-Harris Administration's priorities to tackle climate crisis and to advance racial equity and support for underserved communities through the federal government. The upgraded technology proposed in this project will result in less water being used and allowing conserved water to remain in the water basin. This funding grant will also temper the burden on customers in underserved communities and allow the District to conduct the upgrades to the system.

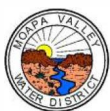
Sub-criterion no. E1: Climate Change

Points will be awarded based on the extent the project will reduce climate pollution, increase resilience to the impacts of climate change; protect public health; and conserve our lands, waters, oceans, and biodiversity. Address the following as relevant to your project.

Combating the Climate Crisis E.O. 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, focuses on increasing resilience to climate change and supporting climate-resilient development. For additional information on the impacts of climate change throughout the western United States, see: <https://www.usbr.gov/climate/secure/docs/2021secure/2021SECUREReport.pdf> Please describe how the project will address climate change, including:

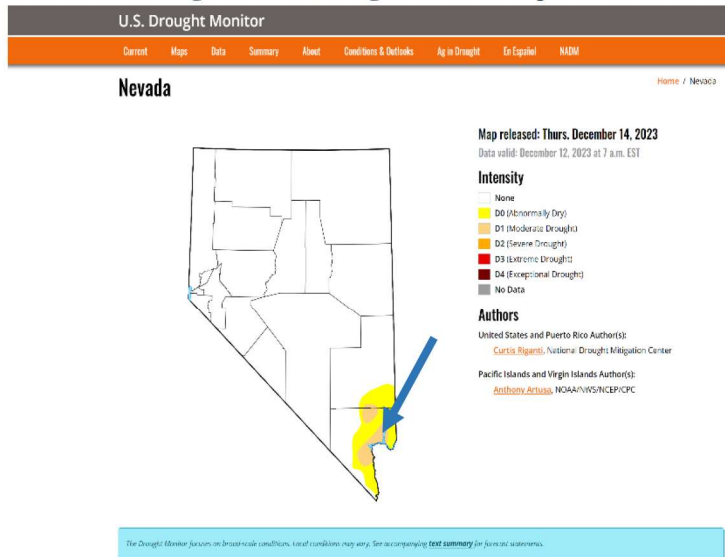
- ***Please provide specific details and examples on how the project will address the impacts of climate change and help combat the climate crisis.***

The ongoing drought in the west has had a significant impact on the water supply throughout the region. The MVWD service area is currently in D0 (abnormally dry) and D1 (moderate) drought intensity according to the U.S. Drought Monitor (see Figure. 4 on page 14). This has caused some degree of uncertainty in the future as it pertains to sustainable yield in community water sources. This metering upgrade project will allow MVWD to better monitor and manage



their systems in a real-time environment and take appropriate action in response to drought conditions. Furthermore, advanced and accurate metering has shown to cause users to be more judicious in how they use water.

Figure 4 U.S. Drought Monitor Map



- *Does this proposed project strengthen water supply sustainability to increase resilience to climate change? Does the proposed project contribute to climate change resiliency in other ways not described above?*

Yes, the project does strengthen water supply through proven conservation measures such as advanced metering and monitoring water use. These efforts will result in less water being used on landscapes and allowing conserved water to remain in the water basin and ultimately into Lake Mead. District crews currently use gas powered vehicles to travel around 200 miles each

month to collect data from meters within the service area. This equates to approximately 2,400 miles annually, leading to approximately \$10,800 of annual expense. With the ability to capture the data from a remote location, which this project will provide, the District will realize this financial benefit and will be able to use it elsewhere in their operating budget. There will also be a reduction in carbon load as the District will not be required to travel routes to read meters and in some instances will be able to troubleshoot and resolve water calls without traveling to the actual location of the issue.

Sub-criterion No. E2. Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities

E.O. 14008 and E.O. 13985 affirm the advancement of environmental justice and equity for all through the development and funding of programs to invest in disadvantaged or underserved communities. For the purpose of this criterion, Tribes and insular areas (Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands) are considered disadvantaged.

- *Please use the White House Council on Environmental Quality’s interactive Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, available online at Explore the map – Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool (<http://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov>) to identify any disadvantaged communities that will benefit from your project.*

The following disadvantaged communities will benefit from this project:

- Overton
- Moapa River Indian Reservation



- *If applicable, describe how the project benefits those disadvantaged or underserved communities identified using the tool. For example, does the project increase reliability of water supplies, improve water quality, provide economic growth opportunities, improve, or expand public access to natural areas or recreation, or provide other benefits in a disadvantaged or underserved community?*

MVWD service area has a diverse range of race and ethnicity consisting of White (Non-Hispanic), Hispanic, and American Indian Native. Statistics show that around 7.8% of the population in the area live in poverty. Considering the current environment of unstable markets and rising inflation rates, it is likely that those living in poverty along with those earning less than the national average will trend even higher. The grant funding available through this WaterSMART opportunity will allow the District to complete the upgrades to the system while leveraging cash and in-kind contributions, tempering the burden on the customers. This will be a tangible benefit to those who may be disadvantaged or historically underserved throughout the service area community. Upgrading MVWD’s water meters will also improve the overall efficiency and reliability of the water supplied in the disadvantaged or historically underserved communities.

Sub-criterion No. E.3. Tribal Benefits

Points will be awarded based on the extent to which the Project will honor the Federal government’s commitments to Tribal Nations. The Department of the Interior is committed to strengthening Tribal sovereignty and the fulfillment of Federal Tribal trust responsibilities. The President’s memorandum, “Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships,” asserts the importance of honoring the Federal government’s commitment to Tribal Nations.

- *Does the proposed project directly serve and/or benefit a Tribe? Will the project improve water management for a Tribe?*

Yes. MVWD’s service area includes the inhabited area of the Moapa River Indian Reservation, and MVWD provides domestic water service to the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians. A portion of the meter upgrades proposed as part of this application will improve service on the Reservation.

- *Does the proposed project support Tribal resilience to climate change and drought impacts or provide other Tribal benefits such as improved public health and safety by addressing water quality, new water supplies, or economic growth opportunities?*

Yes. These conservation efforts will help to sustain flows in the Muddy River basin which flows directly into Lake Mead. Conservation efforts that allow for more water in Lake Mead will add social and economic benefit to tribal members who depend on the lake for recreation and tourism element for employment and economic growth opportunities.



ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

CONSIDERATIONS

To allow Reclamation to assess the probable environmental and cultural resources impacts and costs associated with each application, all applicants should consider the following list of questions focusing on the NEPA, ESA, and NHPA requirements. Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge. If any question is not applicable to the project, please explain why.

The application should include the answers to:

- *Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment (e.g., soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat)? Please briefly describe all earth-disturbing work and any work that will affect the air, water, or animal habitat in the project area. Please also explain the impacts of such work on the surrounding environment and any steps that could be taken to minimize the impacts.*

The proposed project will occur at 350 specific locations within MVWD's service area. Whereas the project contemplates replacing existing meters with improved technology, the sites have already been disturbed and no new disturbance is expected. Excavation activities will be minimal for some sites and non-existent at most sites. Minimal dust may occur but is not expected to affect air, water, or animal habitat. Activities are not expected to result in a significant impact to the local environment.

- *Are you aware of any species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitat in the project area? If so, would they be affected by any activities associated with the proposed project?*

Several endangered, threatened, or sensitive species, such as the Moapa Dace, are located within MVWD's service area boundaries; the majority of these species are found at Warm Springs Natural Area. None of the species will be directly affected by activity at the proposed meter upgrade locations since the work is local to the meters only. By contrast, many of the species will be benefited by the water conservation results of this project.

- *Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as "Waters of the United States?" If so, please describe and estimate any impacts the proposed project may have.*

Whereas the improvements will occur at specific meter sites within MVWD's service area boundaries, no impact to wetlands or other surface waters will occur.

- *When was the water delivery system constructed?*

MVWD was created in 1983 as a political subdivision of the State of Nevada which replaced two prior water companies in Moapa Valley. Portions of the current water delivery system were in place prior to the creation of MVWD while most of the system has been constructed incrementally over time as population growth demands have required. The domestic water meters to be upgraded are of varying ages but represent those that are in most need of replacement now.

- *Will the proposed project result in any modification of or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes)? If so, state when those features were constructed and describe the nature and timing of any extensive alterations or modifications to those features completed previously.*



This project has no effect on an irrigation system, other than to promote conservation of resources for use in other areas, including the MVIC system.

- *Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places? A cultural resources specialist at your local Reclamation office or the State Historic Preservation Office can assist in answering this question.*

This project has no effect on an irrigation system, or any buildings, structures, or features listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The improvements are limited to the meter assemblies only.

- *Are there any known archeological sites in the proposed project area?*

No sites are known. The improvements will be made at specific meter sites which have already been disturbed. No new disturbances are anticipated.

- *Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?*

No. The proposed project will improve service to low income and minority populations. Upgraded meters will promote early leak detection and provide more accurate and fair billing for water use at all improved connections.

- *Will the proposed project limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands?*

The proposed project will benefit members of the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians on the Moapa River Indian Reservation.

- *Will the proposed project contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area?*

No.

REQUIRED PERMITS OR APPROVALS

You should state in the application whether any permits or approvals are necessary and explain the plan for obtaining such permits or approvals.

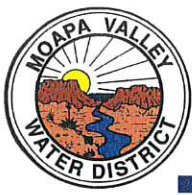
No permits are necessary for this project. It will be completed as a maintenance project under Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW) rules.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

An official resolution meeting the requirements set forth above is mandatory before an award of funding will be made.

An official resolution has been drafted and approved by MVWD's Board of Directors. The signed resolution is attached to this application.





601 N. Moapa Valley Boulevard * Post Office Box 257 * Logandale, Nevada * 89021
Telephone (702) 397-6893 * Facsimile (702) 397-6894

December 14, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Support Section
Attn: NOFO Team
Denver, Colorado 80225

Re: Bureau of Reclamation Funding Opportunity Number R24AS00059 - WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects For Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025

Dear NOFO Team,

The Board of Directors of the Moapa Valley Water District whole-heartedly support the District's application for the Small-Scale Water Efficiency Project WaterSMART Grant to upgrade the system's metering infrastructure. We believe this effort to be a vital component in the overall strategy for conserving water resources in Moapa Valley for the benefit of all interested parties.

As with all communities in Southern Nevada, the District understands the importance of protecting and conserving the desert's precious resource-water. Moapa Valley Water District's mandate is to operate a domestic water system that provides water to system users while operating efficiently. Installing technology advanced infrastructure is an important strategy the District employs to ensure effective management of the water.

The District has considerable water interests in Moapa Valley, and we rely on the infrastructure to beneficially use local water resources and deliver them to local users. We hope to see the community grow and prosper as a fundamental part of the economy in Southern Nevada, but this can only be achieved if we act as responsible stewards of our natural resources. We believe this water efficiency project will provide much-needed water conservation and boost the overall health of the local communities.

The Board of Directors appreciate the assistance of the Bureau of Reclamation in its efforts to improve water infrastructure and water efficiency in our valley. If you need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact Kelby Robison at 702-397-6893 or at chairman@moapawater.com.

Sincerely,

Kelby Robison, Chairman
Board of Directors
Moapa Valley Water District

Moapa Valley Water District is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Muddy Valley Irrigation Company

P.O. Box 665, Overton, NV 89040
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Phone: (702) 398-7310 Fax: (702) 398-7307

December 28, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Support Section
Attn: NOFO Team
P.O. Box 25007, MS4-27133
Denver, CO 80225

Re: Funding Opportunity # R24AS00059 Water SMART Grant: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Project for Fiscal years 2024 and 2025. On behalf of Moapa Valley Water District.

To Whom it may concern,

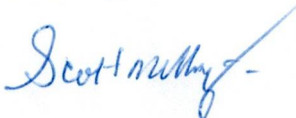
Muddy Valley Irrigation Company whole-heartedly supports Moapa Valley Water District's application for the Small-Scale Water Efficiency Project Water SMART Grant to upgrade the water system's metering infrastructure. We believe this effort to be a vital component in the overall strategy for conserving water resources in Moapa Valley for the benefit of all interested parties.

As with all communities in southern Nevada, Muddy Valley Irrigation Company understands the importance of protecting and conserving the desert's most precious resource - water. Moapa Valley Water District's mandate is to operate a domestic water system that provides water to system users while operating efficiently. Installing technologically advanced infrastructure is an important strategy the district employs to ensure effective management of the water.

Muddy Valley Irrigation Company has considerable water interests in Moapa Valley, and we rely heavily on the infrastructure to beneficially use local water resources. We hope to see the community grow and prosper as a fundamental part of the economy in Southern Nevada, but this can only be achieved if we act as responsible stewards of our natural resources. We believe this water efficiency project put forth by Moapa Valley Water District will provide much-needed water conservation and boost the overall health of the local communities.

Muddy Valley Irrigation Company appreciates the opportunity to support Moapa Valley Water District in its endeavors to improve water infrastructure and water efficiency. If you need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact Scott Millington at (702) 398-7310 or at muddyvalley@mvdsi.com.

Sincerely,



Scott Millington
General Manager
Muddy Valley Irrigation Company



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702-862-3400 • snwa.com

December 27, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Support Section
Attn: NOFO Team
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

Re: Funding Opportunity R24AS00059 - WaterSMART Grants Program,
Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025

Dear NOFO Team,

The Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) is pleased to offer continued support for the Moapa Valley Water District's (MVWD) fourth round proposal, which seeks grant funding to install technologically advanced infrastructure for the efficient use of its system's water.

Conserving Southern Nevada's limited water resources is necessary to ensure a reliable long-term water supply. In previous funding rounds, the Bureau of Reclamation partnered with the SNWA to fund similar advanced metering projects in the community of Blue Diamond and the town of Searchlight. Based on the success of these projects, the SNWA can confidently predict that MVWD's proposed project will also provide significant water savings.

The SNWA appreciates the opportunity to express support for this project. If you need any additional information, please call my office at (702) 822-3378.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. N. Pellegrino", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Colby N. Pellegrino
Deputy General Manager, Resources

SNWA MEMBER AGENCIES

Big Bend Water District • Boulder City • Clark County Water Reclamation District • City of Henderson • City of Las Vegas • City of North Las Vegas • Las Vegas Valley Water District

APPENDIX B
OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION
OF THE
Moapa Valley Water District
Resolution No. 2023-01

The Chairman of the Moapa Valley Water District, Kelby Robison, and the Board of Directors, have reviewed and support the application for a contribution grant for an upgraded culinary water metering project focused on conserving water in Southern Nevada. The grant request in the amount of \$100,000, with an in-kind labor and cash match for an approximate \$225,000 project, would greatly benefit the local residents and the Moapa Valley Water District in efforts to reduce error and water usage cost, while increasing water efficiency.

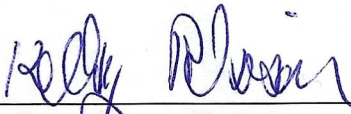
WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, has made grant funding available under the Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects For FY24 and FY25 - Funding Opportunity Number R24AS00059, the Moapa Valley Water District in Overton, Nevada is submitting a grant application requesting grant funds in the amount of \$100,000 for the upgraded metering materials.

WHEREAS, the Moapa Valley Water District supports the proposed WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects For FY24 and FY25 grant request and is committed to provide the required funding support for the application budget necessary for a successful project.

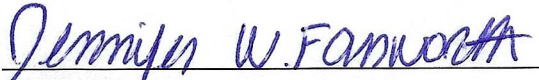
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Moapa Valley Water District commits the remaining budget balance of up to \$125,000, if necessary, through in-kind labor and cash reserves to comply with the WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects For FY24 and FY25 grant budget.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Moapa Valley Water District will work with Reclamation to meet environmental compliance and established deadlines for the entering into a grant or cooperative agreement.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Directors of the Moapa Valley Water District this December 19, 2023.



Kelby Robison, Chairman



ATTEST:

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION
OF THE
Moapa Valley Water District
Resolution No. 2023-01

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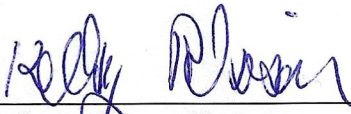
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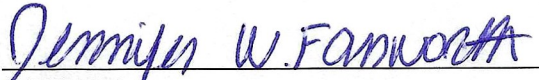
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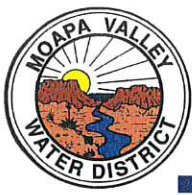
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Kelby Robison, Chairman



ATTEST:



601 N. Moapa Valley Boulevard * Post Office Box 257 * Logandale, Nevada * 89021
Telephone (702) 397-6893 * Facsimile (702) 397-6894

December 14, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Support Section
Attn: NOFO Team
Denver, Colorado 80225

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Sincerely,

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Kelby Robison, Chairman
Board of Directors
Moapa Valley Water District

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702-862-3400 • snwa.com

December 27, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Support Section
Attn: NOFO Team
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27133
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Colby N. Pellegrino
Deputy General Manager, Resources

SNWA MEMBER AGENCIES

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Muddy Valley Irrigation Company

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December 28, 2023

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Denver, CO 80225

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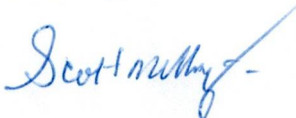
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Sincerely,



Scott Millington
General Manager
Muddy Valley Irrigation Company