



December 27, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Indio Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) – comprised of Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Desert Water Agency (DWA), Indio Water Authority (IWA), and Coachella Water Authority (CWA) – we are pleased to submit this letter of support for CWA's Groundwater Well Project (Project). The improved water supply reliability that will result from the Project is vital to the communities within the basin – specifically to CWA's service area and small disadvantaged communities that are being consolidated into CWA's potable water system.

The Indio Subbasin plan area includes the entirety of the Indio Subbasin of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin. The Subbasin is unadjudicated and designated as a medium-priority subbasin by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). In January 2017, CVWD, DWA, CWA, and IWA collaboratively submitted the 2010 *CVWMP Update* as an Alternative (Alternative Plan) to a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Subbasin, which was subsequently approved by DWR on July 17, 2019. Since establishing as GSAs, CVWD, DWA, CWA, and IWA have worked together to implement Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirements.

CWA is in the process of consolidating small water systems (SWSs) that rely on individual, private groundwater wells into its potable water system. These SWSs often have poor water quality with maximum contaminant level (MCL) exceedances for arsenic and fluoride, as well as poor water supply reliability. In the next year, CWA is consolidating Castro's Mobile Home Community, the Mesquite Mutual Water Company and the Shady Lane Mobile Home Park. In the future, it will continue to consolidate SWSs to improve water supply reliability and water quality to these communities. In order to meet demands of the small DACs within the SWSs, CWA plans to implement the Groundwater Well Project which will increase the system's overall capacity and ensure the SWSs can be served a high quality, reliable water supply, including during drought conditions. Furthermore, the project will remedy the SWSs' susceptibility to drought conditions, as many lack the ability to purchase alternative water supplies, drill deeper wells, or repair wells should issues arise.

In conclusion, we support CWA's *2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program Grant Application* and encourage DWR to fully fund the grant request.

Sincerely,

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