

PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

Please complete a unique Project Information Form for each project in the application. There are no character limits on specific questions but the Project Information Form as a whole may not exceed 10 pages.

1. Project Name: Coachella Water Authority (CWA) Groundwater Well Project
2. Local Project Sponsor (if different than grantee): N/A
3. Please provide the latitude and longitude of the project site. For linear projects or those covering a large area, report the coordinates for a central point. If this information is confidential, it must be clearly labeled "confidential." You can find the latitude and longitude easily using google maps. You can find instructions at the following link:
<https://support.google.com/maps/answer/18539?hl=en&co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop>.

Latitude: 33.6931

Longitude: -116.2077

4. Please briefly describe the proposed project.
Coachella Water Authority (CWA) is a joint powers authority formed by the City of Coachella and Coachella Redevelopment Agency to provide potable water service to the City of Coachella and surrounding areas. CWA's water supply consists solely of groundwater, which is pumped from six wells within the Indio Subbasin of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin. CWA recently partnered with the three other water purveyors in the Indio Subbasin to prepare the Indio Subbasin Water Management Plan Update (www.IndioSubbasinSGMA.org) that will guide sustainable basin management, including protection of groundwater quality and reliability.

To ensure safe, clean drinking water for residents within its service area, 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, poor water supply reliability, lack redundancy, and are small, disadvantaged communities (DACs). In the next year, CWA is planning to consolidate Shady Lane Mobile Home Park (MHP), Mesquite Mutual Water Company (MMWC), and Castro's Mobile Home Community. All three SWSs previously relied on private, on-site wells to provide domestic water to a total of approximately 102 residential connections, as well as irrigation services. However, all three private wells exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for the hexavalent chromium drinking water standard and have failed in the past six years leaving the residents with no water supply. Temporary emergency water supplies have since been provided by CWA and adjacent parcels; for example, two of these SWS are currently being served by a high line from nearby CWA fire hydrants. As the lack of dedicated water supplies and lack of redundancy put the residents of each of the SWSs at risk, consolidation into CWA's water system was found to be the most feasible and long-lasting alternative. The SWSs are at risk of experiencing more severe drought impacts since they already have limited and unreliable supplies and poor water quality – issues that can be further exacerbated during times of drought.

In the future, CWA will continue to consolidate SWSs to improve water supply reliability and water quality for these small DACs. Additionally, CWA will continue expanding its service to new customers within its service area consistent with its local planning documents. According to the City of Coachella 2021 Housing Element (<https://www.coachellahousingelement.com/documents>), it is estimated that the City will require over 7,500 new housing units to meet its projected need for the 2021 to 2029 planning period, with over 2,000 of the units set aside for very low or low income populations. This represents a potential increase of over 50% in total households in Coachella by 2030, which would significantly increase demands on the CWA water system.

As consolidations with small DACs and new customer connections continue, new water supplies will be needed to meet the increased demand on CWA's system. The entirety CWA's service area is designated as a severely disadvantaged community (SDAC), as shown in Attachment 1, consisting of predominantly Hispanic, Spanish-speaking communities with a median household income of \$36,124 and a child poverty rate of 40 percent. Additionally, approximately 12.7% of Coachella residents are unemployed, which ranks as the highest unemployment rate in the County of Riverside.

The CWA Groundwater Well Project (Project) consists of the construction of one new groundwater well, which will increase CWA's overall capacity, improve operational flexibility by increasing the number of wells CWA has access to and can pump as needed to meet demands, and assist CWA in responding to drought impacts within its service area. The Project will ensure SWSs can be served with a high-quality, reliable water supply while alleviating 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. Furthermore, the improved water supply reliability resulting from the Project will benefit all customers served by CWA and ensure adequate supply for new, planned connections including those for low and very low income populations.

5. Does this project respond to an existing emergency to humans and/or wildlife? If so, please describe the emergency and how this project is addressing it.

Yes, the Project responds to the existing drought emergency within the State of California, as well as an emergency to humans – specifically those living within the SWSs that are in the process of being consolidated into CWA's potable water system.

In October 2021, CWA initiated Stage 1 of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP), recognizing a shortage of up to 10 percent. The move to Stage 1 was prompted by the rapidly evolving drought conditions and the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by Governor Newsom on October 19, 2021, which calls on residents statewide to voluntarily reduce water use by 15 percent. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, CWA's service area is experiencing moderate drought.

The Project benefits small DACs to address existing water supply challenges and builds local resilience should drought conditions continue by ensuring SWSs can access a high-quality, reliable water supply. The Project will alleviate the SWSs' susceptibility to drought conditions by adding redundancy to their water supply systems, as many lack the ability to purchase alternative water supplies, drill deeper

wells, or repair wells should issues arise. Additionally, the improved water supply reliability that will result from the Project will benefit all customers served by CWA and furthers CWA's continued investment to deliver value to all customers and communities served by providing safe, reliable, economical, and environmentally sustainable water services.

6. Each project must meet one of the following purposes as it relates to drought. Please select the appropriate purpose for your project.
- Address immediate impacts on human health and safety, including providing or improving availability of food, water, or shelter.
 - Address immediate impacts on fish and wildlife resources.
 - Provide water to persons or communities that lose or are threatened with the loss or contamination of water supplies.
7. Each project must enhance regional drought resilience and align with the goals and objectives of the relevant approved Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. You can find the relevant IRWM Region by using the map at the following link:
<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>

The IRWM Plans can be found at the following link: <https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grant-Programs/Plan-Review-Process>. If you have any questions about the IRWM region the contact list can be found at the following link: <https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grant-Programs>. Applicants are encouraged to contact and coordinate with the applicable RWMG for the IRWM region in which the project is located

Please identify the IRWM objective your project addresses.

CWA is a planning partner of the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group. The 2018 Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management and Stormwater Resource Plan (IRWM/SRP; www.cvrwmg.org/irwm/irwm-plan) includes five goals:

1. Optimize water supply reliability,
2. Protect or improve water quality,
3. Provide stewardship of water-related natural resources,
4. Coordinate and integrate water resource management, and
5. Ensure cultural, social, and economic sustainability of water in the Coachella Valley.

The Project contributes to goals 1 (Optimize water supply reliability) and 5 (Ensure cultural, social, and economic sustainability of water in the Coachella Valley) by addressing the following objectives of the IRWM/SRP:

A. Provide reliable water supply for residential and commercial, agricultural community and tourism needs. The Project directly supports the consolidation of several SWSs that have MCL violations within their drinking water wells into CWA's potable water system, thereby providing a safe and reliable municipal water supply to DAC residents.

L. Address water and sanitation needs of DACs, including those in remote areas. The Project directly serves the water needs of DACs in the City of Coachella, the entirety of which is considered a SDAC.

M. Maintain affordability of water. Provision of a reliable local supply of groundwater for City of Coachella residents ensures that water rates will remain stable and affordable.

8. Describe the Primary Benefit of the project.

Quantified benefit: 2500

Units (Drop down):Acre feet per year If other please enter:

Benefit Type: Water Supply - Ground If other please enter:

9. Describe the Secondary Benefit of the project:

Quantified benefit: 45522

Units (Drop down):Other If other please enter:persons

Benefit Type: Water Supply Reliability If other please enter:

10. Please briefly describe how the project will achieve the claimed benefits.

The Project consists of the construction of a groundwater well to provide 2,500 acre-feet per year (AFY) of additional potable water supply to CWA's system. This addition of groundwater production in the Low Zone pressure zone of the water system will directly support multiple SWS consolidations. The Project will provide high-quality, reliable water supply to the small DACs currently being served by privately owned SWSs that historically depended on private wells that produced unreliable and often unsafe water supply. Additionally, the improved water supply reliability that will result from the Project will benefit all of the approximately 45,522 customers served by CWA.

11. Briefly describe how the community/area benefiting from this project is being impacted by the current drought.

In October 2021, CWA initiated Stage 1 of its WSCP, recognizing a shortage of up to 10 percent. The move to Stage 1 was prompted by the rapidly evolving drought conditions and the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by Governor Newsom on October 19, 2021, which calls on residents statewide to voluntarily reduce water use by 15 percent. Approximately 22% of Riverside County, where CWA is located, is experiencing severe drought, while 78% is in moderate drought. If drought conditions continue to increase in severity, additional restrictions may be implemented by the State of California and CWA may move to higher stages of the WSCP.

CWA is in the process of consolidating SWSs that rely on individual, private groundwater wells into its potable water system. In the next year, CWA will consolidate three SWSs that have experienced poor water quality, poor water supply reliability, and lack of redundancy:

- Shady Lane MHP is currently receiving temporary replacement bottled water after its on-site well failed in 2019 and its subsequent emergency water supplier, Amezcua Garcia Water, received a Citation and Compliance Order from the County of Riverside Department of Environmental Health (DEH) for hexavalent chromium concentrations exceeding the MCL.
- MMWC is currently receiving an emergency water supply from CWA via a fire hydrant and high-line fire hose after its on-site well failed in July 2015. Additionally, in August 2015, MMWC received a Citation and Compliance Order from the County of Riverside DEH for hexavalent chromium concentrations exceeding the MCL.
- Castro's Mobile Home Community is currently receiving an emergency water supply from CWA via a fire hydrant and high-line fire hose after its on-site well collapsed in 2017. Additionally, Castro's received a Citation and Compliance Order from the County of Riverside DEH.

The wells at each SWS were past their usable life and were not able to provide the needed water supply, water quality, or flow rate without substantial retrofits. Furthermore, while the lack of permanent, dedicated water supplies and lack of redundancy put the residents of each of the SWSs at risk, as SDACs, the residents of each SWS do not have the resources to pursue additional sources of supply independently. These communities are currently receiving emergency water supplies from CWA; but if they weren't, the drought would impact them further by reducing groundwater storage and concentrating contaminants that are already in exceedance of MCLs. It is critical that CWA increase water supply capacity within its system so that it can continue to serve these small DACs and existing customers within its service area a reliable water supply even during times of drought.

12. How will this project alleviate the impacts described in your answer to Question 11?

The Project consists of the construction of a new groundwater well to provide 2,500 AFY of additional potable water supply to CWA's system. By drilling a new well to increase supply, CWA will be able to serve new SWS consolidations and provide a high quality, reliable water supply for the residents of these small SDACs. The conversion from community wells to CWA's system will guarantee that residents receive potable water that is strictly regulated and meets drinking water standards. The Project will enable safe, reliable water distribution to meet the required fire flows plus the maximum day demand for existing dwelling units in the community.

The Project provides support to small, underrepresented communities to address existing water supply challenges. By ensuring SWSs can be served with a high-quality, reliable water supply upon consolidation with CWA, local resiliency during drought conditions is enhanced. The SWSs' susceptibility to drought conditions will be alleviated by adding redundancy, as many SWSs lack the ability to purchase alternative water supplies, drill deeper wells, or repair existing private wells should wells go dry or other issues arise.

Additionally, the improved water supply reliability that will result from the Project will further CWA's continued investment to deliver value to all customers and communities served by providing safe, reliable, economical, and environmentally sustainable water services.

13. Please complete the following budget table for the project. (Identify funding sources in Question 15)

	BUDGET CATEGORY	Grant Amount	All Other Cost	Total Cost
(a)	Project Administration	40,000	0	40,000
(b)	Land Purchase / Easement	0	0	0
(c)	Planning / Design / Engineering / Environmental Documentation	100,000	0	100,000
(d)	Construction / Implementation	2,615,291	1,000,000	3,615,291
	TOTAL COSTS	2,755,291	1,000,000	3,755,291

14. Please describe why state funding is needed for this project. If state funding is not secured, what will happen to the project?

The Project is ready to proceed pending funding. If state funding is secured through the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Grant Program, work on the Project can begin immediately. If state funding is not secured, the project would not begin until subsequent grant funding is secured.

15. Will the applicant provide cost share (encouraged but not required) and/or will this project require any additional funding from sources other than this solicitation? If so, please describe the funding source and indicate if the funding has been secured. If the funding has not been secured, please describe the plan to secure the necessary funding.

A cost share of \$1,000,000 is being provided by CWA local funds to contribute to construction and implementation costs. The cost share is sourced from CWA reserve funds and development impact fees and has been secured.

16. Is land acquisition or landowner permission required for this project? If so, please briefly describe the status of the acquisition or agreement with the landowner. If the acquisition is not complete or permission not secured at the time of application, please describe the plan to complete it.

No land acquisition or landowner permission is required for the Project; the Project will be implemented at one of two sites owned by CWA (see Attachment 1) and the location will be finalized during the preliminary design stage.

17. Has planning and design for this project been completed? If not, please describe the status of planning and design.

Planning and design for the Project began in January 2017 with the preparation of a Well Siting Evaluation (completed in May 2017). Design for the Project is expected to begin upon receipt of State grant funding in March 2022 and be complete by March 2023. CWA will hire a consultant to prepare 30%, 60%, 90% and Final plans and specifications for the project. During the preliminary design phase, CWA and its consultant will select the site based on the Well Siting Evaluation previously completed.

18. Are the CEQA (and NEPA if applicable) and permitting processes for this project complete? If not, please briefly describe the permits and CEQA (or NEPA) documents to be completed and projected schedule for completion.

CEQA and the permitting processes for the Project are expected to be complete by March 2023. NEPA is not applicable.

The Project is anticipated to be exempt from environmental review under CEQA pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, State CEQA Guidelines § 15303 (Class 3: New Construction). This Class 3 exemption allows for the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure; the Project consists of the construction of a well on a CWA-owned parcel.

Necessary permits may include:

- Permit to Construct, SCAQMD
- Fugitive Dust Control Plan, SCAQMD

- General Permit for Stormwater Discharge, SWRCB
- General Permit for Construction Discharges, RWQCB

The CEQA document and permits will be identified during the design process. CWA will acquire all necessary permits prior to the start of construction and operation. CWA will file the Notice of Exemption with the County of Riverside and State Clearinghouse prior to construction.

19. Please briefly describe the necessary construction/implementation for this project.

Following the completion of design, CEQA, and permit acquisition, CWA will conduct the bid process to retain a contractor to construct the new groundwater well at one of two sites, both of which are currently owned by CWA. The construction contracting process is expected to take approximately three months. Construction will consist of drilling, testing, casing, and developing an approximately 2,200-gallon per minute (gpm) groundwater well that will be approximately 1,300 feet deep with an approximately 18-inch diameter casing and screen. The exact depth and casing diameter will be determined during the design and implementation process. The Project will also construct the well manifold piping, pump house, electrical building, installation of the electrical motor control center, hydropneumatic tank, emergency backup generator, chlorination equipment, site grading, other related aboveground and underground appurtenances, and connection to CWA's existing domestic water distribution system. Based on local knowledge and experience drilling wells in the Coachella Valley, it is estimated the construction duration will be approximately 18 months.

20. Please complete the schedule below for the project. Projects must be complete by March 31, 2026, to allow time for final invoice processing and retention payment before the State funds expire on June 30, 2026. Project administration should end at least three months after construction.

	Categories	Start Date	End Date
(a)	Project Administration	3/1/2022	4/1/2025
(b)	Land Purchase / Easement		
(c)	Planning/ Design / Engineering / Environmental Documentation	1/1/2017	3/31/2023
(d)	Construction/ Implementation	4/1/2023	1/1/2025