



May 15, 2024

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Subject: Agua Caliente Tribe, WaterSMART Water Strategy Grant Application for Funding Opportunity No. R23AS00109

Dear U.S. Bureau of Reclamation:

I am writing on behalf of the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group (CVRWMG) to express support for the proposed project to evaluate options and develop strategies for water supply enhancements to benefit the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (Tribe) and the Coachella Valley. I understand that the Tribe is submitting an application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant program, and we support this grant application and the shared use of Federal and Tribal funding resources to support their continued exploration of water supply enhancements.

The CVRWMG includes the Coachella Water Authority (CWA), Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Desert Water Agency (DWA), Indio Water Authority (IWA), Mission Springs Water District (MSWD), and Valley Sanitary District (VSD). The group represents a collaborative effort to implement the Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management (CVIRWM) Plan to address the water resources planning needs of the Coachella Valley, which is in central Riverside County, within the Colorado River Funding Area. Several of the CVRWMG agencies are also Groundwater Sustainability Agencies responsible for sustainable groundwater management in the Coachella Valley under California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The Coachella Valley has faced water resources challenges in the past which have been mitigated through improved groundwater management and increased water supply importation for direct use and replenishment of the groundwater basin. Local water managers continue to develop strategies to address future challenges of continuing to meet water demands in our desert environment, looking at both supply enhancements and demand management strategies. The Tribe is seeking Federal funding to add to these local efforts with a specific focus on supply enhancement through additional water supply development projects for importation. The goal of the project is to identify and evaluate water supply enhancement opportunities so that water managers in the Coachella Valley can cooperatively work toward projects that represent a shared interest in sustainable management of groundwater supplies.

This is an important project for the Tribe and the Coachella Valley. We hope Reclamation provides funding under the grant program to support the Tribe in this project, and we look forward to further engaging on this effort over the next few years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zoe Rdr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'Z' being particularly large and stylized.

Zoe Rodriguez del Rey
On behalf of the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group
Water Resources Manager
Coachella Valley Water District

CVRWMG agency representatives:
Steve Johnson, Desert Water Agency
Ron Buchwald, Valley Sanitary District
Castulo Estrada, Coachella Water Authority
Reymundo Trejo, Indio Water Authority
Marion Champion, Mission Springs Water District