

Attachment 9 consists of the following information for each project claiming benefits to a Tribe:

1. **Percentage of Project Benefits Provided to the Tribe**
2. **Map of Project Benefit Area and Location of Tribe**
3. **Letters of Support**
4. **Back-Up Documentation to Support the Tribe's Recognition**

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Documentation of Presence and Needs of a Tribe

The Coachella Valley IRWM Region has six federally recognized Reservations. The Reservations are governed by Tribal Nations and totals over 69,000 acres, as seen in **Figure 9-1**. The six tribes in or near the Coachella Valley are:

- Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians,
- Augustine Band of Mission Indians,
- Cabazon Band of Mission Indians,
- Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians,
- Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, and
- Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians.

The Agua Caliente and Torres-Martinez Reservations are the largest in the area. Due to their historical presence in the Coachella Valley, Tribes face specific issues and consideration with relation to the *2018 Coachella Valley IRWM/SWR Plan* and its *Chapter 5, Tribal Water Resources* is included to document tribal water issues and needs.

Native Americans are the original inhabitants of the Coachella Valley. The water in the Coachella Valley has sustained these Native American people agriculturally, economically, culturally, and spiritually for a long period of time, as it still does today. The Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group (CVRWMG) is collaborating with the local tribes on long-term water management planning to ensure that the water supply within the Coachella Valley is adequate for all users. Since the Coachella Valley Region is a semi-arid environment, there is limited surface water and forces the Region to mainly use pumped water from the groundwater basin, along with recharged imported water. As population growth and urban water demand increases, there will be an increase of water usage that will affect the gaming facilities and residents on the reservations. The economic benefits of tribal gaming facilities are expected to encourage higher population growth rates at the reservations due to factors such as increased employment opportunities. As such, Tribes work closely with planning agencies to ensure that their growth impacts are accounted for through local planning efforts.

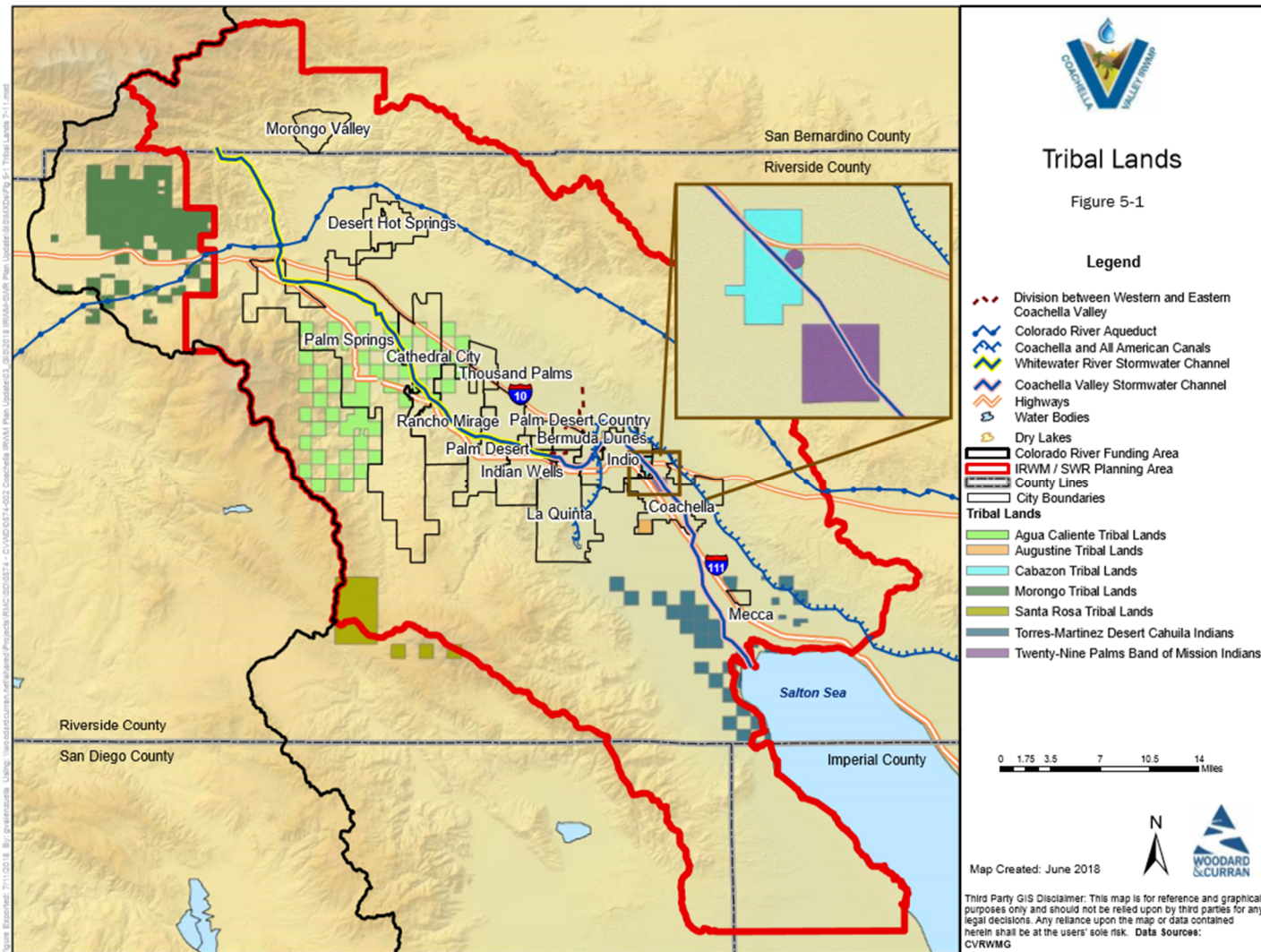
Both the *East Coachella Valley Water Supply Project – Avenue 66 Phase 2B* and the *East Coachella Valley Septic to Sewer Conversion Project – Monroe Street* projects provide benefits to the Torres-Martinez Reservation. Established in 1876, the Torres-Martinez Reservation has a total area of over 24,000 acres located in the eastern Coachella Valley. Named for the early village of Toro and the Martinez Indian Agency, the modern Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians take their name from the Reservation and has approximately 217 members. The Torres-Martinez Reservation is one of the largest in the Coachella Valley IRWM area with approximately 24,000 acres and participates in the Coachella Valley IRWM Program. **Figures 9-2** through **9-5**, using the ESRI Community Analysis Tool, show the location of the *Avenue 66 Phase 2B* and *Monroe Street* projects and the Torres Martinez Reservations.

Water-Related Needs of Tribes in the Coachella Valley

As documented in *Chapter 5 Tribal Water Resources* in the *2018 Coachella Valley IRWM/SWR Plan*, the major water resource issues the Torres-Martinez Tribe is facing is lack of flood protection, lack of adequate water and sewer infrastructure, stormwater and sewer capacity issues, and groundwater quality. The Tribe is concerned with the water quality associated with recharge operations upgradient of their groundwater wells and has named total dissolved solids (TDS) and ammonium perchlorate to be of particular concern. The Tribe reports that groundwater wells on the tribal lands are very close to recharge facilities and located at shallow depths, making them potentially impacted by the difference in water quality of recharge water supplied by the Colorado River water. Torres-Martinez is considered a disadvantaged community (DAC) due to the median household income (MHI) being lower than the California average.

As part of the Torres-Martinez Tribe's involvement in the IRWM Program, the Tribe is in the process of adopting the *2018 Coachella Valley IRWM/SWR Plan*.

Figure 9-1: Tribal Lands of Coachella Valley IRWM Region





East Coachella Valley Septic to Sewer Conversion Project – Monroe Street

The CVRWMP has previously worked directly with the Torres-Martinez Tribe in the Proposition 84-Round 2 and Proposition 84-Round 4 grant cycles in support of the Avenue 64 housing subdivision. The Round 2 application included the *Avenue 64 Water Supply Connection Project*, which addressed the issue of adequate water supply infrastructure, and included a project to provide preliminary design and engineering support for a potable water pipeline to Torres-Martinez tribal lands. The design and engineering work completed through the *Avenue 64* water project made the Torres-Martinez Tribe potentially eligible to receive additional funding support by federal agencies such as the United States Department of Agriculture to complete construction of a water supply pipeline to the Tribe's Avenue 64 housing subdivision. The Round 4 application included the *Torres Martinez Septic to Sewer Conversion* project which funded engineering design and environmental documentation for the Avenue 64 housing subdivision's connection to CVWD's sewer system. The *East Coachella Valley Septic to Sewer Conversion Project – Monroe Street* in this application provides for the construction of the necessary trunk sewer to serve the Avenue 64 housing subdivision, as planned out in the Round 4 deliverables. This project is the culmination of seven years of effort to resolve a significant public health issue on the Torres-Martinez tribal lands.

This project addresses public health and safety by removing an aging septic system with new sewer service to the tribal reservation. Additionally, this project will help improve contamination leakage into the ground by removing septic leaching and instead routing the wastewater flows to a regional reclamation plant. This project will directly address Objectives A, B, E, K, L and M of the 2018 *Coachella Valley IRWM/SWR Plan*.

East Coachella Valley Water Supply Project – Avenue 66 Phase 2B

While there are Native American reservations throughout the Coachella Valley, the Tribes have expressed that there are issues with the groundwater supply availability and a lack of proper water quality standards for both imported water and in their groundwater basin. Within the eastern Coachella Valley, there are many small mobile home park communities that rely on small drinking water systems in a notable state of disrepair. Specifically, surveyors noted onsite leaking and ponding of water, pipes that were corroding or breaking, and pipes that were not properly connected or jointed and could therefore potentially carry contaminated water into the mobile home units. In 2019, CVWD and its DAC Infrastructure Task Force conducted the East Coachella Valley Water Supply Project which identified 83 small water systems, many with water quality violations, in need of consolidation into the municipal water system. This effort included evaluation of system violations from both the State Water Resources Control Board 9SRWRCB) and Riverside County Department of Environmental Health (DEH). That effort led to the identification of the *East Coachella Valley Water Supply Project – Avenue 66 Phase 2B* project which will consolidate one mobile home park (Manuela Garcia) located on tribal reservation lands into the CVWD domestic water system.

This project addresses water supply reliability and otherwise helps to reduce the frequency or magnitude of groundwater withdrawals (by consolidating these demands into the more efficient municipal system). Additionally, this project will help improve contamination leakage into the ground by removing a derelict well that likely serves as a pathway for degrading groundwater. This project will directly address Objectives A, B, K, L and M of the 2018 *Coachella Valley IRWM/SWR Plan*.

Project Consistency with Water-Related Needs of Tribes

As shown in **Table 9-1**, both the *East Coachella Valley Water Supply Project – Avenue 66 Phase 2B* and the *East Coachella Valley Septic to Sewer Conversion Project – Monroe Street* will directly address water-related needs of Tribes as described in the 2018 *Coachella Valley IRWM/SWR Plan*. Additionally, *CV Water Counts Regional Water Conservation Program* is eligible to tribal lands where water is provided by CVWD, DWA, IWA, CWA and/or MSWD. Project consistency with water-related needs of Tribes is provided in the following sections.



Table 9-1. Project Benefits to a Tribe

Project	Sponsored by a Tribe	Provides Benefits to a Tribe
Castro Mobile Home Park	No	No
CV Water Counts Regional Conservation Program	No	Possibly
East Coachella Valley Water Supply Project – Avenue 66 Phase 2B	No	Yes
Groundwater Quality Protection Project Sub Area M2-1	No	No
East Coachella Valley Septic to Sewer Conversions – Monroe St	No	Yes
Non-Potable Water System – Hovley Lane East	No	No

Project 2: CV Water Counts Regional Water Conservation Program

As shown in **Figure 9-2**, there are several tribal reservations that are located within the service areas of the CVRWGM member agencies. If these properties are provided potable water by the member agencies, they are also eligible for receiving incentives to reduce turf at their properties. The tribes that could benefit include the Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Augustine Band of Mission Indians, Cabazon Band of Mission Indian, Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, and Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians. The tribes are eligible for the same benefits as other residents in receiving the incentives and associated lower water bills due to increased water efficiency.

The location of the demonstration garden, shown in **Figure 9-3** at the Palm Springs Airport that will be completed by DWA is directly adjacent to Agua Caliente Tribal Lands. This will benefit the tribe by providing a nearby model for landscape renovation to desert-friendly landscapes and efficient irrigation practices. All consumer shifts to more efficient water use helps with groundwater basin reliability and sustainability through reduced overall pumping.

Percentage of Project Benefits Provided to the Tribe

It is difficult to anticipate how many tribal properties will take advantage of the turf incentives. Approximately 69,000 acres (7.5%) of the approximately 909,000-acre CVRWGM region is tribal land.

Back-Up Documentation to Support the Tribe's Recognition

No back up documentation is needed because the Tribes in the vicinity are federally recognized.

Figure 9-2: CV Water Counts Regional Conservation Program – Tribal Properties within CVRWMG Service Area

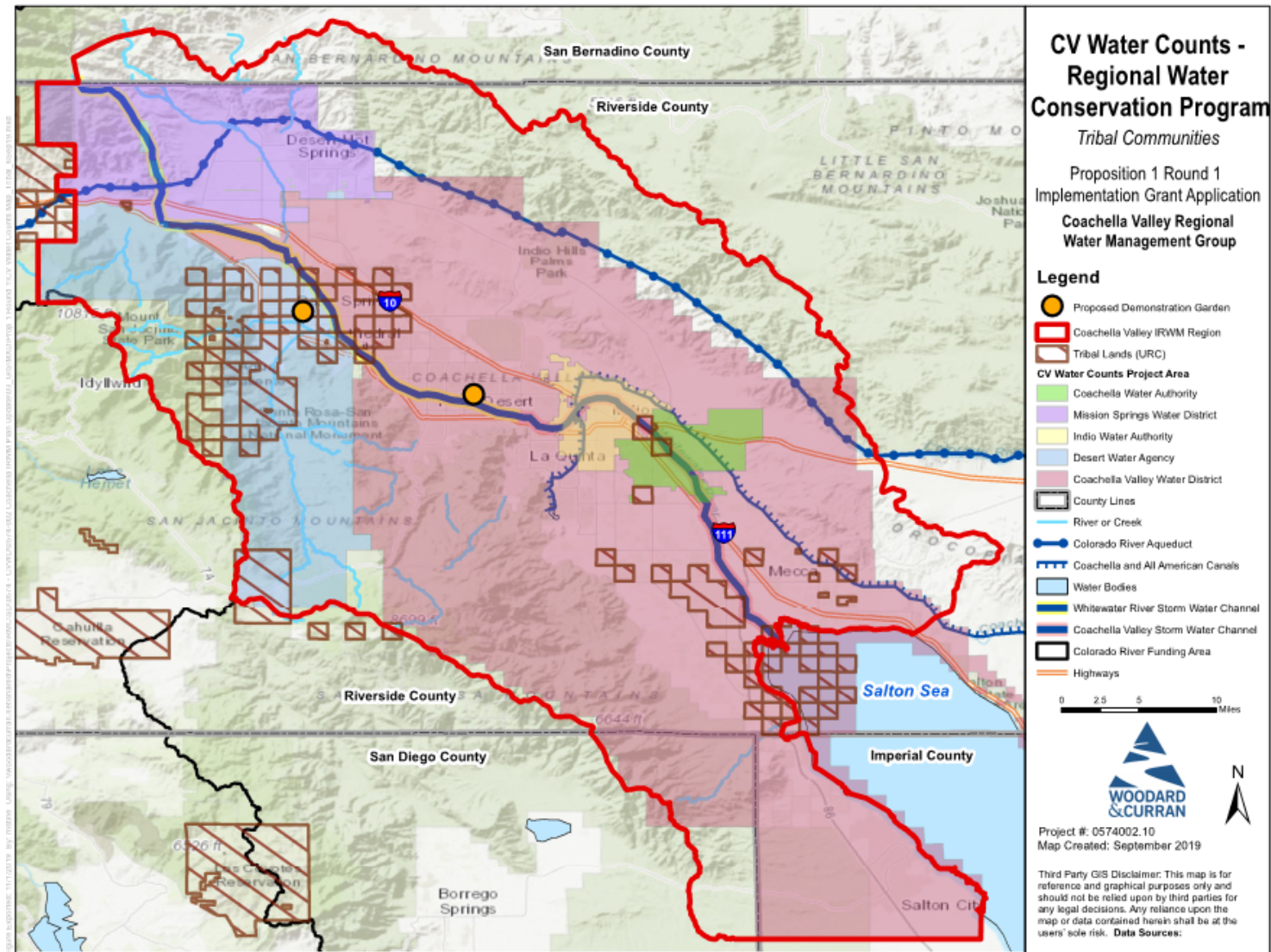
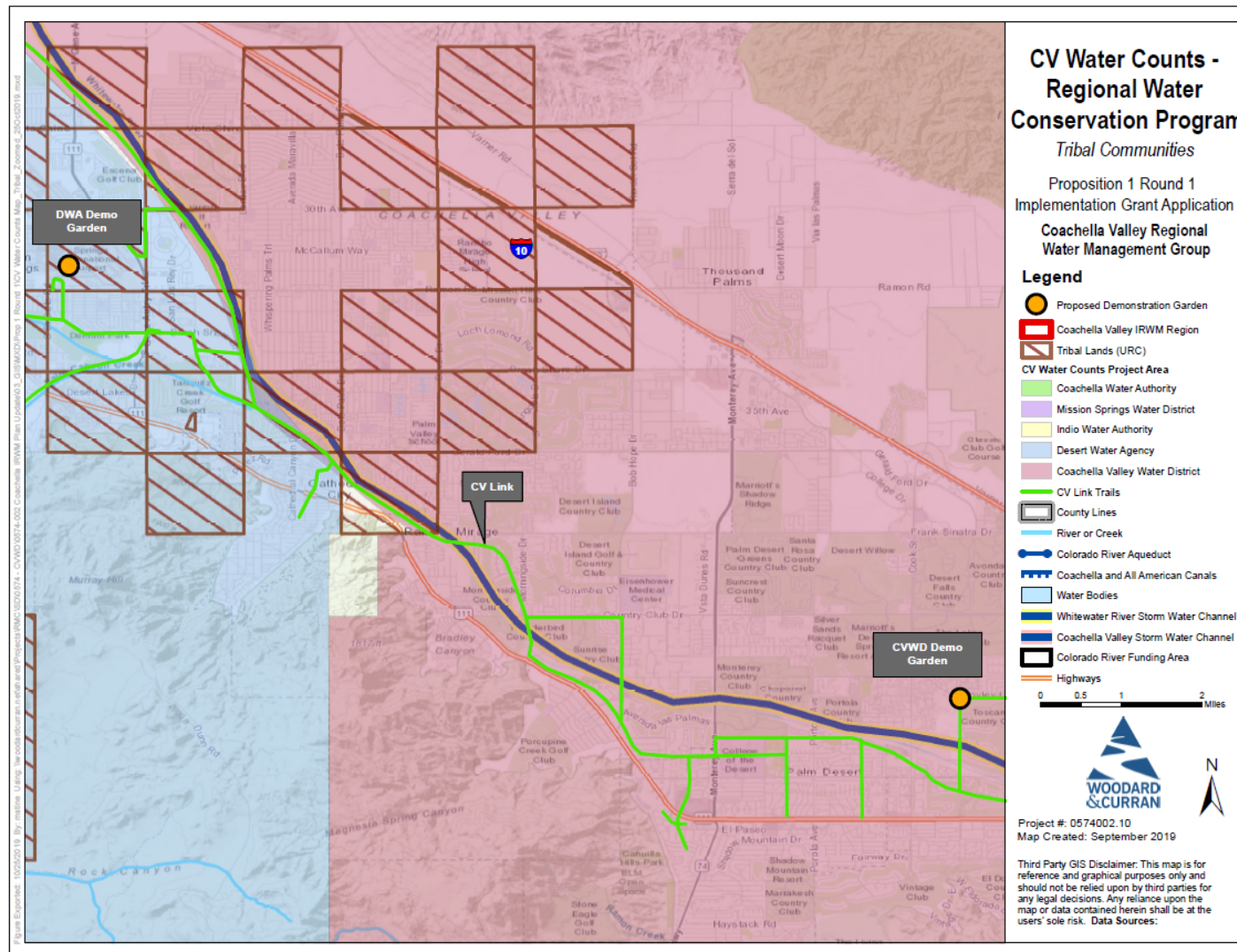


Figure 9-3: Demonstration Garden Locations and Proximity to Tribal Lands



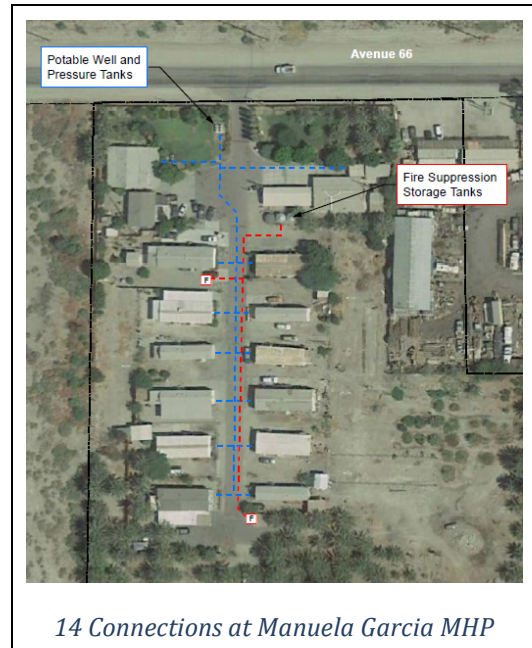
Project 3: East Coachella Valley Water Supply Project – Avenue 66 Phase 2B

As shown in **Figure 9-4**, the Manuela Garcia Mobile Home Park (MHP) is located on the Torres-Martinez Indian Reservation and serves a DAC. The *Avenue 66 Phase 2B* project will provide funding to connect the Manuela Garcia MHP to CVWD's domestic water system. Based on the East Coachella Valley Water Supply Project, consolidation of the Avenue 66 cluster of mobile home parks, which includes the Manuela Garcia MHP, is the highest priority for CVWD. The shallow private groundwater wells that serves water supply to the community has water that exceeds drinking water standards for arsenic, which was combatted by installing counter reverse osmosis treatment units in each mobile home in 2013. However, the use of point of use treatment devices to address contamination is not considered a long-term solution. The MHP has minimal to no security for their water systems, which exposes them to unauthorized access and tampering. Consolidation into the CVWD municipal system would reduce this risk exposure.

The proposed *Avenue 66 Phase 2B* project would address critical water quality and water supply issues by connecting the MHP to CVWD's water system. The community would be able to have clean, safe, potable drinking water and avoid unhealthy arsenic levels in their drinking water. This project will address critical Tribal water supply and water quality issues important in the Coachella Valley, and throughout the State of California. The Human Right to Water Policy that is in effect in California calls for access to safe, affordable water for drinking, bathing, sanitation, and cooking for all residents.¹ By connecting the community to a municipal water supply system, the project will provide a long-term solution to the community's existing water supply issues.

Percentage of Project Benefits Provided to the Tribe

Figure 9-4 shows the location of *East Coachella Valley Water Supply Project – Avenue 66 Phase 2B*, which will provide 13 acre-feet per year (AFY) of clean, safe, potable drinking water to the 14 MHP residents and will consolidate Manuela Garcia MHP, which is located on the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians Reservation, into the CVWD water system. **Figure 9-4** demonstrates that **the entirety (100%) of the project service area is DAC and a tribal area**. Connecting Manuela Garcia MHP to the existing CVWD water system will reduce the arsenic concentration in their drinking water by 24 micrograms per liter (µg/L). By improving drinking water service, CVWD supports the Torres-Martinez community in avoiding environmental injustices. Consolidating small water systems with water quality issues into large water systems is typically the most cost-effective way to reduce long term water costs.



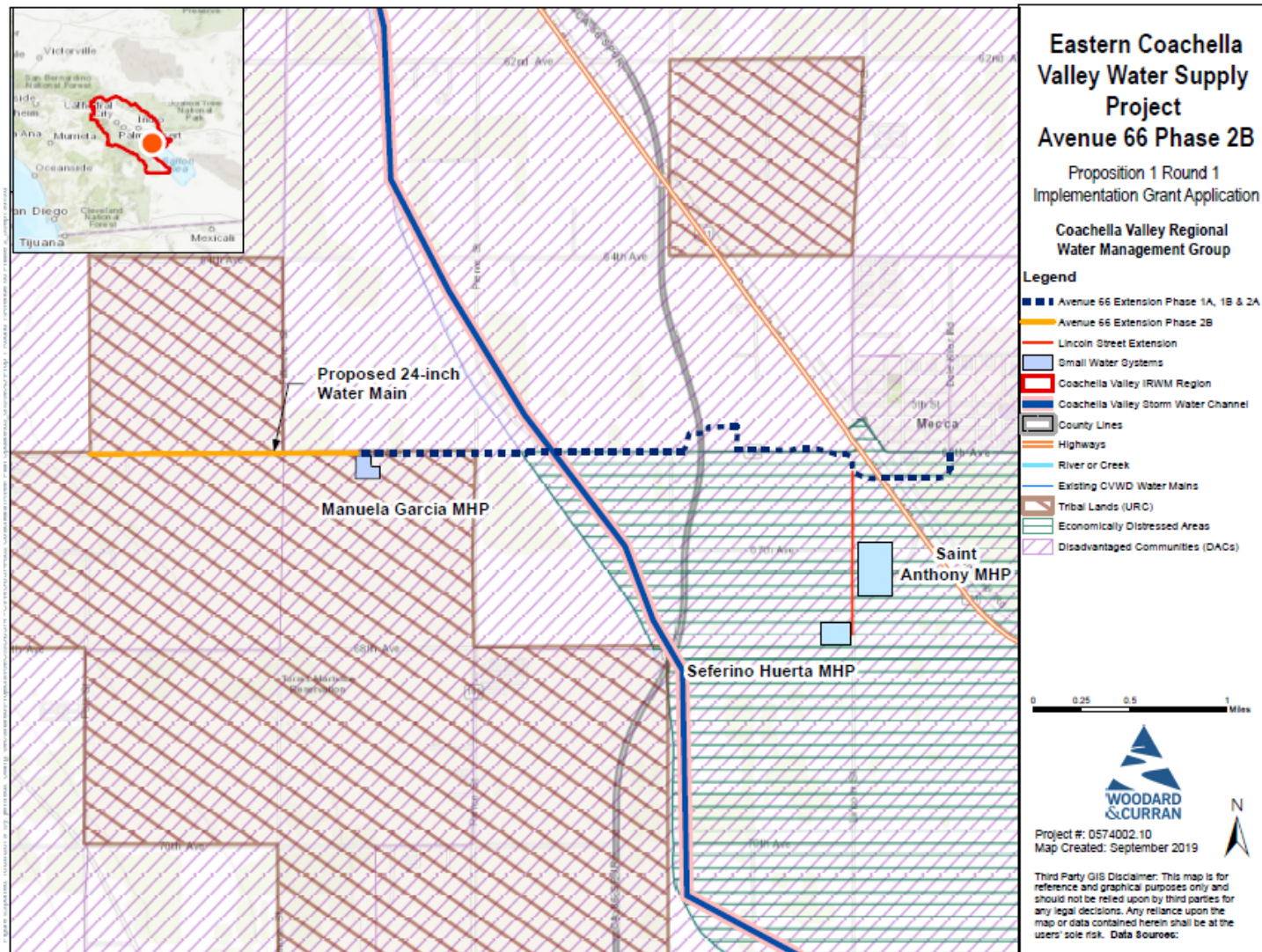
Water Supply Benefit	Water Quality Benefit
13 AFY clean, safe drinking water	24 µg/L reduction in arsenic in drinking water

Back-Up Documentation to Support the Tribe's Recognition

No back up documentation is needed because the Tribe is federally recognized.

¹ Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group. 2014. Coachella Valley Disadvantaged Community Outreach Demonstration Project: Final Report.

Figure 9-4: East Coachella Valley Water Supply Project – Avenue 66 Phase 2B and Location of Tribal Lands



Project 5: East Coachella Valley Septic to Sewer Conversions Project – Monroe Street

The Avenue 64 housing subdivision is located on Torres Martinez Tribal land and is home to Tribal residents. The area is also classified as a DAC. The subdivision consists of 33 tribal homes, a community park, cemetery, and a church, all of which have failing septic systems. A sewer collection system within the subdivision has already been constructed through a joint project with the Tribe, US Indian Health Services (IHS), and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – that effort anticipates a future connection to CVWD's sanitation system.

As noted in IHS's 2012 Preliminary Engineering Report (2012 PER), each of the homes in the Avenue 64 Housing Subdivision are served by individual septic systems located in backyard areas. These systems have a history of failure, with sewage surfacing in residential backyards. Due to the low permeability of the soils in the area, septic systems either require a large area for their leach fields, or the soils simply cannot accept a septic system.² These problems are further exacerbated by the inability of homeowners in the subdivision to afford regular pumping of their failing systems, creating public health hazards from the surfacing sewage. Such public health hazards include direct exposure to sewage, secondary exposure in the home from people or pets walking through sewage and then into homes, and through the fostering of disease vectors such as mosquitos. Failing septic systems can also create health hazards by contaminating drinking water. The Tribe currently relies on groundwater to meet their water demands, and this supply can be contaminated when septic systems fail or are otherwise inadequate. In addition, water supply outages can lead to sewage infiltration into water distribution pipelines, which may then be consumed by residents when water service is restored. A 2019 Technical Memorandum to update the 2012 PER was completed to document the environmental reviews that have been completed, the on-site sewer collection system has been completed, and the change in material selection for the transmission main in Monroe Street³.

The need for conversion from septic to sewer is clearly documented in the 2012 PER and 2019 Technical Memorandum. This project would connect the Tribe's subdivision to the existing CVWD sewer collection pipeline on Monroe Street north of Avenue 62. In addition to improving the subdivision sewer system, this project will decrease the amount of nitrogen and pollution bacteria currently discharged into the groundwater basin.



*Failing Septic Systems
(Circled in Red) at Ave 64 Housing*

In this situation, the people living in the subdivision are essentially drinking diluted sewage. Given extensive evidence of septic system failure and frequent reports of water outages, this is almost certainly true.

- Indian Health Services, 2012 PER

² Indian Health Services. 2012. Preliminary Engineering Report for the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians: CVWD Sewer Main Extension to Avenue 64 Housing Subdivision.

³ Indian Health Services. 2019. Technical Memorandum No. 1 to the 2012 PER Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians CVWD Sewer Main Extension to Avenue 64 Housing Subdivision.



Percentage of Project Benefits Provided to the Tribe

Figure 9-5 shows the location of *East Coachella Valley Septic to Sewer Conversion Project – Monroe Street*, which connects a community on the Torres Martinez Reservation to CVWD's sanitary sewer system. This project will treat and recharge 19 AFY to the aquifer. As shown in the figure, the project area is **100% DAC and a tribal area**. Connecting the Tribe to the CVWD sewer system will remove 20 mg/L of nitrogen currently discharged to the groundwater basin. Because the project is targeted at addressing specific water-related needs of an economically disadvantaged Tribal community, 100% of the project service area (by geography) will benefit a water-related need of a DAC and Tribe.

<i>Water Quality Benefit</i>	<i>Water Supply Benefit</i>
20 mg/L reduction in nitrate in water recharged to the aquifer	19 AFY of treated wastewater recharged to the aquifer

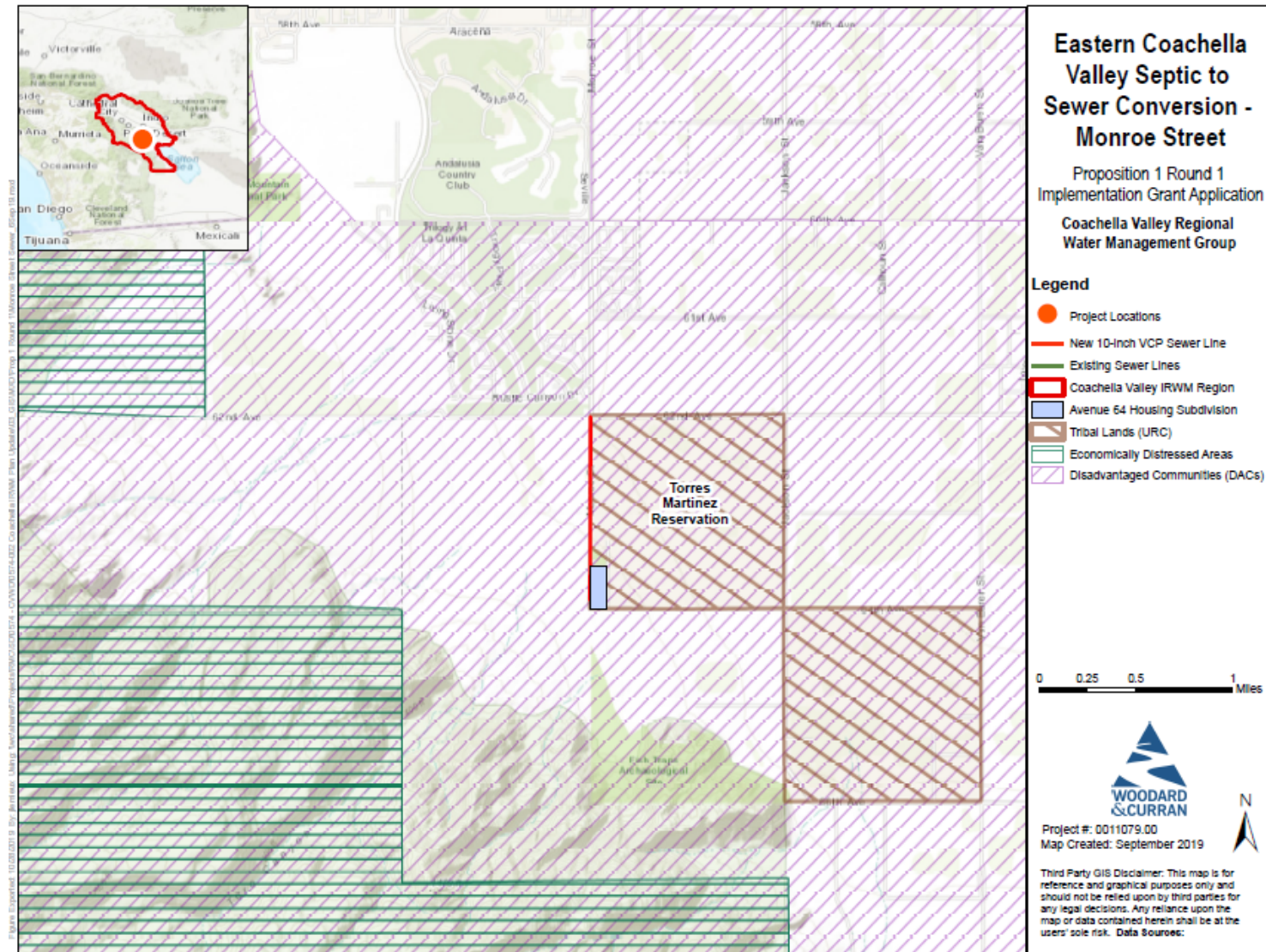
Letters of Support

Letters of support from Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians dated October 29, 2019 and from Indian Health Services dated November 1, 2019 are attached.

Back-Up Documentation to Support the Tribe's Recognition

No back up documentation is needed because the Tribe is federally recognized.

Figure 9-5: East Coachella Valley Septic to Sewer Conversions – Monroe Street Project and Location of Tribal Land





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Appendix: Letters of Support for Projects that Benefit Tribes



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THE TORRES MARTINEZ DESERT CAHUILLA INDIANS

P.O. Box 1160
Thermal, CA 92274
(760) 397-0300 – FAX (760) 397-8146

October 29, 2019

Carmel Brown
Financial Assistance Chief
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Dear Ms. Brown:

RE: Support for East Coachella Valley Septic to Sewer – Monroe Street

On behalf of Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, we are pleased to submit this letter of support for the 2019 Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant Proposal. The proposal includes the East Coachella Valley Septic to Sewer – Monroe Street project which will directly benefit the Tribe.

The East Coachella Valley Septic to Sewer – Monroe Street project will connect the constructed on-site sewer system of the Avenue 64 Tribal housing subdivision to the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) sewer. The Torres Martinez Band of Cahuilla Indians Avenue 64 housing subdivision consists of 33 Tribal homes, a community park, cemetery, and church all currently on a failing septic systems. Failing septic systems with sewage surfacing at ground level can potentially cause disease by direct contact and foster disease carrying vectors and can also contaminate the groundwater basin with various pollutants, including nitrate. An on-site sewer collection system was constructed in 2019. However, until the CVWD Monroe Street collection main is constructed and connected to the on-site sewer collection system, the users will continue to rely on the failing septic systems. This project is a continuation of the project that was funded in the Proposition 84 Round 4 grant cycle.

Implementation of this project will address serious community health risks and improve the health and safety of our community. We recommend that the California Department of Water Resources fund the 2019 Coachella Valley IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I may be reached at (760) 397-0300, ext. 12005.

Sincerely,

Honorable Thomas Torte, Tribal Chairperson
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

cc: Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group
c/o Mike Nusser, Coachella Valley Water District
85-995 Avenue 52
P.O. Box 1058
Coachella, CA 92236



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
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ESCONDIDO, CA 92029

Honorable Thomas Torte, Tribal Chairperson
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
P.O. Box 1160 – 66725 Martinez Road
Thermal, CA 92274

NOV 01 2019

RE: Support for East Coachella Valley Septic to Sewer – Monroe Street

Honorable Chairman:

The purpose of this letter is to express IHS support for the pursuit of grant funding through the Proposition 1, Round 1 Implementation Grant application being submitted by the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group (CVRWMG) for the East Coachella Valley Septic to Sewer – Monroe Street project. This project is a critical part of connecting the Avenue 64 Housing Subdivision to the Coachella Valley Water District sewer collection system.

The Torres Martinez Band of Cahuilla Indians Avenue 64 housing subdivision consists of 33 Tribal homes, a community park, cemetery, and church all currently on failing septic systems. Failing septic systems with sewage surfacing at ground level can potentially cause disease by direct contact and foster disease carrying vectors and can also contaminate the groundwater basin with various pollutants, including nitrate. An on-site sewer collection system was constructed in 2019. However, until the CVWD Monroe Street collection main is constructed and connected to the on-site sewer collection system, the users will continue to rely on the failing septic systems.

IHS has assisted the Tribe with grant applications for this project from Federal agencies and supports their efforts to secure funding from other sources to implement this important project. Implementation of this project will address a serious community health risk and improve the health and safety of the community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at 760-735-6885.

Sincerely,

for Sean T. Bush, P.E.
IHS Escondido District Engineer
Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction

cc: Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group
c/o Mike Nusser, Coachella Valley Water District
85-995 Avenue 52
P.O. Box 1058
Coachella, CA 92236



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