



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Matthew Litchfield, General Manager
(909) 621-5568

Comprehensive scientific study plan of Cadiz Water Project approved

New data collection and analysis to clarify whether desert springs would be affected by operations.

CLAREMONT, CA (June 24, 2019) – The Three Valleys Municipal Water District Board unanimously approved a new, unique multidisciplinary study of the Cadiz Water Project to further address public concerns about its potential impact on desert springs.

The comprehensive, year-long study approved by the Board on June 19 is a follow-up to recommendations made by an independent review panel in March. The panel determined that monitoring and mitigation measures for the Project are protective of the ecosystem but suggested additional steps to determine conclusively whether the project is connected to Bonanza Spring, which is 11 miles from the project facilities.

The first phase will involve forming a study team, with invitations to the National Parks Conservation Association, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other groups. Further study at Bonanza Spring will include a geophysical survey, installation of monitoring wells and a weather station, spring flow and vegetation monitoring, and updates to the groundwater flow model. An interim report is expected in early 2020 with a final report due in July 2020.

“The Cadiz Project offers a needed new supply of water for our region and it is important to us that it is also sustainable,” Board President Bob Kuhn said. “This study will give us the bottom-line science on whether the Cadiz project and the spring are connected and, by involving our state and federal partners and environmental stakeholder groups into the process, we can be sure we have exercised due diligence and resolved any lingering questions about this scientific question.”

Three Valleys holds an option agreement to participate in the Cadiz Water Project, which would manage and conserve Mojave Desert groundwater for Southern California before it is lost to evaporation. The project would provide the District with enough water to serve about 15,000 families per year.

The study will be led by Anthony Brown of Aquilogic, Inc., who also participated in the earlier peer review. Funding for the work will be provided by Fenner Valley Water Authority, a joint powers authority that will operate the Cadiz project and implement the Groundwater Monitoring, Mitigation and Management Plan.

###

About TVMWD

Three Valleys Municipal Water District formed in 1950 and is the area’s primary source of supplemental water covering the Pomona, Walnut and East San Gabriel Valleys. TVMWD is one of 26 member agencies of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) that is authorized to deliver wholesale water supplies from the Colorado River and Northern California. The region served by TVMWD spans over 133 square miles and serves 13 retail member agencies that in turn serve a population of over 500,000.