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To: Chairman Kelby Robison, & MVWD Board of Directors

From: Joseph Davis, General Manager

Date: May 21, 2024

Subject: MVWD Capital Improvements – Arrow Canyon Well #3, Warm Springs Tank, and Narrows Tank “Baseline Biological Analysis Scope of Work”

Background

In applying for the BLM ROW for the capital improvements of the Arrow Canyon Well #3, Warm Springs Tank, and Narrows Tank, the BLM requires a biological analysis for all special status species that may occur on BLM land within the proposed disturbed areas. Sunrise Engineering has assisted MVWD Staff with reaching out to WLA Environmental, LLC to perform the required biological analysis for these projects. WLA Environmental, LLC has provided MVWD with a **Scope of Work** at a **cost not to exceed \$37,000**. This covers the baseline biological evaluation, there may be follow-up costs if required by BLM.

Suggested Motion

Move to approve the “Scope of Work” by WLA Environmental, LLC for the “baseline biological analysis” at a cost not to exceed \$37,000.



Joe Davis, Manager
Moapa Valley Water District
601 N Moapa Valley Blvd.
Overton, NV 89040
702-397-6893

May 16, 2024

RE: Moapa Valley Water District Water System Upgrade Baseline Biological Analysis Scope of Work

Dear Mr. Davis,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this cost estimate for Baseline Biological Evaluation for the proposed culinary water system upgrade for the Moapa Valley Water District in Clark County, Nevada. This cost estimate is based on my understanding of the project from discussion with Reed Haycock and an email from him on May 14th, 2024. The Moapa Valley Water District plans to upgrade the culinary water system to include a new well, storage tank, and treatment building at the Arrow Canyon Site northwest of Warm Springs in Moapa. And a new water storage tank at the Narrows Site northwest of Logandale. Both sites are on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Las Vegas District Office. The BLM has requested a biological analysis for all special status species that may occur on BLM land within the area of disturbance.

This cost estimate includes consultation with the Nevada BLM Las Vegas District Office botanist, the Nevada Natural Heritage Program, the US Fish and Wildlife Services' Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC), and the Biogeographic Information & Observation System (BIOS). We will conduct desktop analysis of the project areas to determine habitat suitability for special status plants and wildlife species. The baseline biological evaluation will be used to consult with the BLM botanists and wildlife biologists to prepare species-specific survey plans for sensitive species as necessary. The subject areas are suitable habitat for the Mojave Desert tortoise, currently protected under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. Surveys will include USFWS protocol survey for desert tortoise. All surveys will be conducted by qualified field biologists.

The anticipated survey areas are listed below and shown on the attached figures. If additional areas of disturbance or alternate sites are identified, then a cost estimate will be provided prior to survey.

- Arrow Canyon Site (Figure 1) – 8.7-acres of pedestrian survey, transects spaced for 100% visual coverage.
- Narrows Site (Figure 2) – 11-acres of pedestrian survey, transects spaced for 100% visual coverage.

Scope of Work Baseline Biological Evaluation

1. Baseline Biological Evaluation
 - a. Vegetation Delineation/Community Mapping: Utilize on-line data sources to delineate and quantify the general vegetation communities by type. Field verification of vegetation communities and current range conditions.

- b. Obtain existing sensitive species data from NDOW, USFWS, BLM, and other sources.
- c. General Wildlife Survey: Conduct general wildlife surveys of the areas of proposed disturbance to determine wildlife use and habitat suitability for special status species.
- d. Noxious and Invasive Weeds: General survey of the areas of existing disturbances and along existing access roads for listed noxious plants. Noxious plant infestations will be delineated, and GPS recorded.
- e. Sensitive Plants Analysis: Obtain current BLM sensitive species list. Conduct database search and literature review of each species to determine areas of recorded populations and to identify areas of potential suitable habitat. Conduct survey of the areas of disturbance for sensitive plants during the general biological survey. GPS record the location of individual plants and delineate suitable habitat of such species to the extent practicable.
- f. General biological survey will include survey for Mojave Desert tortoise, burrowing owl, raptors, and nesting migratory birds. Active burrows and nests will be GPS mapped for avoidance. Spatial and seasonal buffers around active nests will be established.
- g. Deliverable - Baseline Biological Survey Report.

Follow-up Survey for Sensitive Plant Species

2. Species Specific Follow-Up Survey

We will make every attempt to survey during the appropriate survey window upon contracting to maintain the project budget and schedule. However, based upon the findings from the baseline biological analysis follow-up survey for some of the BLM listed sensitive plants may be required by the BLM. Unique and rare plants in this desert environment are only detectible during a short period of the year. As such surveys for sensitive plants require follow-up surveys to detect them. If follow-up surveys are required by the BLM, then we will provide a cost estimate for such survey upon discovery.

Cost Estimate

Task	Description	Cost Estimate
1.	Baseline Biological Evaluation	"Not to exceed" \$37,000
2.	Potential Follow-up Sensitive Plant Surveys	Unknown

I truly appreciate the opportunity to provide Moapa Valley Water District with our professional services. We would bill for time and materials based on this outlined Scope of Work. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.



Thank you so much,

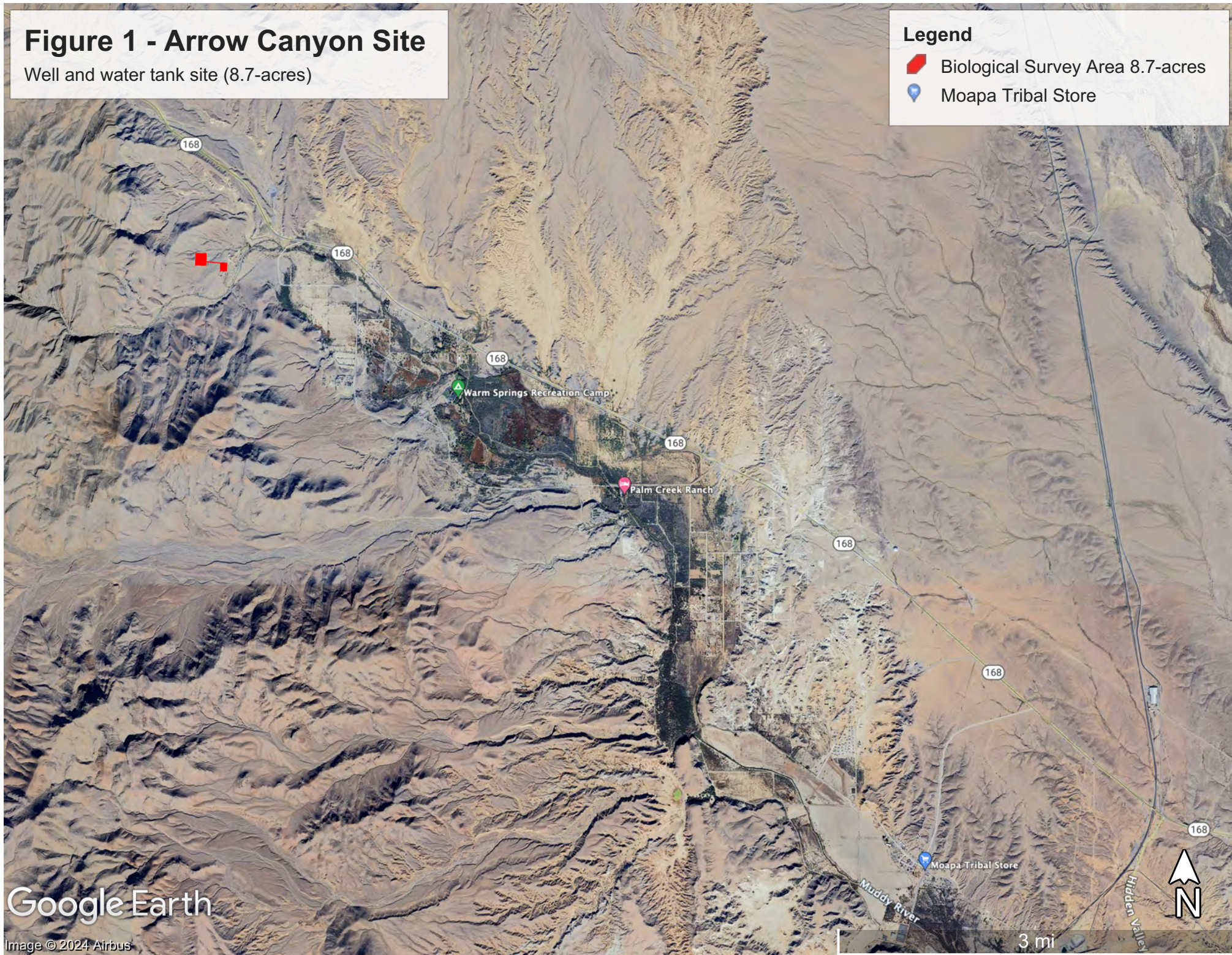
Jill Bunnell
Jill Bunnell, Principal

Figure 1 - Arrow Canyon Site

Well and water tank site (8.7-acres)

Legend

-  Biological Survey Area 8.7-acres
-  Moapa Tribal Store





Google Earth

Image © 2024 Airbus

Figure 2 - Narrows Site

Water tank site (11-acres)

Legend

-  ARCO
-  Narrows Site 11-acres

