

**PETITION LETTER: URGENT REQUEST FOR EXTENDED
COMPLIANCE TIME AND FUNDING SUPPORT
FOR JOSHUA TREE'S CHROMIUM-6 REQUIREMENT**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

RE: Urgent Request for Extended Compliance Time and State Funding Support for Joshua Tree's Chromium-6 Requirement

Dear _____

We, the undersigned residents and customers of Joshua Tree, California, write with urgency and hope. Our community is proud, resilient, and deeply rooted—but we are also a severely disadvantaged community made up of retirees, veterans, working families, and low-income households doing everything we can just to stay afloat.

We want what every Californian wants: safe, clean, reliable drinking water. We are asking for your help to ensure we can achieve that goal without forcing our community into financial hardship.

Joshua Basin Water District (JBWD) is required to comply with the state Chromium-6 mandate by October 1, 2027. For a small desert water system like ours, this deadline is simply not realistic—especially without meaningful state support. JBWD would need to plan, fund, design, permit, and construct treatment facilities at all five (5) well sites. There is just 1 year and 8 months left to comply. Even under ideal conditions, that is not enough time.

The estimated cost of construction alone is approximately \$60,000,000—and that doesn't include the estimated \$1,000,000 per year ongoing costs to operate and maintain treatment systems for decades to come. Those long-term costs will mean higher water bills every month for people who can least afford it.

Many Joshua Tree residents are living on fixed incomes. Some are choosing between groceries and prescriptions. Others are veterans and seniors who built their lives here because it was one of the last places they could afford. A dramatic increase in water rates would not be an inconvenience—it would be devastating.

We also want to emphasize that the Chromium-6 in our groundwater is naturally occurring, not caused by industrial pollution or local wrongdoing. Yet our small customer base is being asked to shoulder treatment costs that are far beyond what our community can bear.

We respectfully request that you take immediate action to support:

1. Extended compliance time for severely disadvantaged communities like Joshua Tree, where construction timelines and funding availability make the current deadline unworkable.
2. Significant state grant funding (not loans) to cover both construction and long-term operational costs—so safe water does not come at the cost of pushing residents out of their homes.
3. Streamlined and prioritized funding support for rural and small water systems so projects can move faster and more efficiently.

We are not asking to avoid compliance, we are asking for a fair, realistic path forward. Our community should not be punished for conditions we did not create. We simply need time, funding, and support to do this the right way.

Please stand with Joshua Tree. Help protect public health and protect the people who call this place home.

Sincerely,

Residents and Customers of Joshua Tree, California

Signers:

Printed Name	Signature	Address / Neighborhood	Email / Phone	Date