

Joshua Tree Septic to Sewer Planning Kick-Off

Meeting Minutes Summary

Date: January 20, 2026

Attendees:

- Moe Yousif – San Bernardino County-CAO
- Sarah Johnson – Joshua Basin Water District
- Noel Castillo – San Bernardino County - PW/Special Districts
- David Doublet – San Bernardino County - PW/Special Districts
- Gregory Snyder – San Bernardino County - PW/Special Districts
- Anne Roman – Joshua Basin Water District
- Noel Mondragon – San Bernardino County - PW/Special Districts
- Darren Meeka – San Bernardino County - PW/Special Districts
- David Shook – Joshua Basin Water District
- Kimberly Mesen – San Bernardino County - CAO

Key Topics Discussed:

1. Project Introduction and Objectives:

- Moe mentioned the history of previous conversations and introduced the project, emphasizing the preliminary phase and the importance of coordination between teams.
- The project aims to establish a sewer system in Joshua Tree, with a focus on public engagement, planning, and design.
- The project is contingent on property owners approval of a new district, waterboard permit, LAFCO approval, funding for phases beyond planning and design.

2. Funding and Timeline:

- Partial funding has been approved, allowing for initial planning work.
- The project is expected to take 2-3 years for planning and design, with construction potentially starting after three years if funding is available.

3. Public Engagement and Perception:

- Sarah highlighted the need for clear communication with the public and addressing concerns about costs and potential changes to the community.
- The importance of involving Joshua Basin Water District in public meetings to address community concerns was discussed.

4. Technical and Operational Considerations:

- Discussion on treatment technology and the desired level of treatment for the finished water product.

- Locally located staff will be provided to the treatment plant at time of operations. County team supported by consultants and qualified personnel will work on all project phases.

5. Next Steps:

- Review the existing wastewater treatment strategy study and identify the study area.
- Draft a letter for public engagement and plan an initial public meeting to gauge community support.
- Share contact information and ensure clear communication channels between teams.

Action Items:

1. **Public Engagement Letter** – County to draft a letter for public engagement and coordinate with Sarah's team for scheduling the meeting.
2. **Study Review** - County SD team to review the existing wastewater treatment strategy study and identify the study area.
3. **Contact Information** – County SD and JBWD teams will share a list of contacts with phone numbers for better coordination.
4. **Stakeholder Identification** – JBWD to provide contacts for any new business groups or stakeholders that should be included in communications.

Additional Notes:

- Sarah shared a link to the project study area and map: www.jbwd

Meeting Adjourned.