



## INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

### Big Pine Paiute Tribe Fire Hydrant Replacement Project

The Big Pine Paiute Tribe Fire Hydrant Replacement project was funded through California Proposition 84, which was approved by voters in 2006 to support water supply, water quality, and natural resource protection. This Prop. 84 grant was provided through the Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP), which has been working to secure funding for water projects in the region since 2008. In 2016, the Inyo-Mono IRWMP was awarded a grant of \$1,816,943 to fund six on-the-ground projects that supported improvements in water supply and water quality in Inyo, Mono, and Kern Counties. The Big Pine Fire Hydrant Replacement Project was awarded \$225,000 of this funding. Work on this project began in 2017 and was completed in 2019.



The Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley is a federally recognized tribe located on the Big Pine Indian Reservation in Inyo County. The Tribe is considered an economically-disadvantaged community. The Big Pine Indian Reservation has a population of 500 people, of which 400 are tribal members. The Reservation exists along a wildland-urban interface on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains (see map on p. 2).

Isolated residential fires have caused extensive destruction of homes over the past decade on the Reservation, and the potential for wildland fire is a great risk to the community. One of the reasons for the catastrophic nature of these fire was noted to be a lack of working fire hydrants.

An analysis of the Tribe's water distribution system revealed that there were 62 hydrants throughout the system and that the average hydrant age was 33 years. Hydrants have a typical life expectancy of 40-60 years. Twenty-seven of the 62 hydrants had reached the end of their life expectancy or parts were no longer available if repairs were needed. This project replaced 45 of the 62 hydrants for the protection of the community and surrounding environment.





The goals of the Big Pine Tribal Fire Hydrant Replacement Project were to increase the safety of the Reservation's residents, prevent property and infrastructure damage and loss, prevent fire from spreading to neighboring wildland areas, and reduce the likelihood of sedimentation and water quality impacts to Big Pine Creek, which runs through the Reservation.

For more information about this project, contact Holly Alpert, Inyo-Mono IRWM Program Director, [holly@inyo-monowater.org](mailto:holly@inyo-monowater.org), 760-709-2212.

