



## INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

# Safe Drinking Water and Fire Water Supply Feasibility Study for Tecopa, California

## Amargosa Conservancy



The disadvantaged community of Tecopa, which is located in a desert area in remote southeastern Inyo County, has no source of potable drinking water. Although many households have domestic wells, water from the wells does not meet the State's safe drinking water standards for dissolved solids such as fluoride and arsenic. Residents either drove 45 miles to purchase purified water, or they drank the well water which subjected them to long-term negative health effects. Moreover, during the frequent power outages that occur in



Tecopa (especially during periods of high winds and intense summer heat), the existing wells cannot be operated. In addition to lack of a potable water supply, this community lacks facilities to quickly refill firefighting apparatus used by the local volunteer fire protection district. Recent fires in the area have demonstrated the severity of this problem.

Grant funding was obtained through the Inyo-Mono IRWM Program to conduct a feasibility

study to determine whether safe drinking water and fire flow water storage facilities could be provided to Tecopa. Instead of focusing on the delivery of potable water to every household, the study analyzed the feasibility of constructing a public drinking water station that would provide treated, potable water where residents could fill drinking water containers. The study will also identify a location in each community where an above ground water storage tank for fire flow could be located and will identify the type of storage tank that should be used.

The feasibility study identified several possible locations for a drinking water filling station, and extensive community outreach helped to determine the best location for the community.

Subsequent to this grant being completed and using the results from the feasibility study, another grant was obtained through the State Water Resources Control Board to construct a water filling kiosk in Tecopa Heights. The kiosk was completed in 2017, and residents and visitors alike use the kiosk for their drinking water needs.



The Amargosa Conservancy sponsored the feasibility study project, and the Southern Inyo Fire Protection District now operates and maintains the water kiosk.

The Safe Drinking Water and Fire Water Supply Feasibility Study 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 2011, the Inyo-Mono IRWMP was awarded a grant of \$1,075,000 from the California Department of Water Resources to fund seven projects that supported improvements in water supply and water quality in Inyo and Mono Counties. The Amargosa Conservancy was awarded \$65,000 for this project. The feasibility study was completed in 2013.



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.