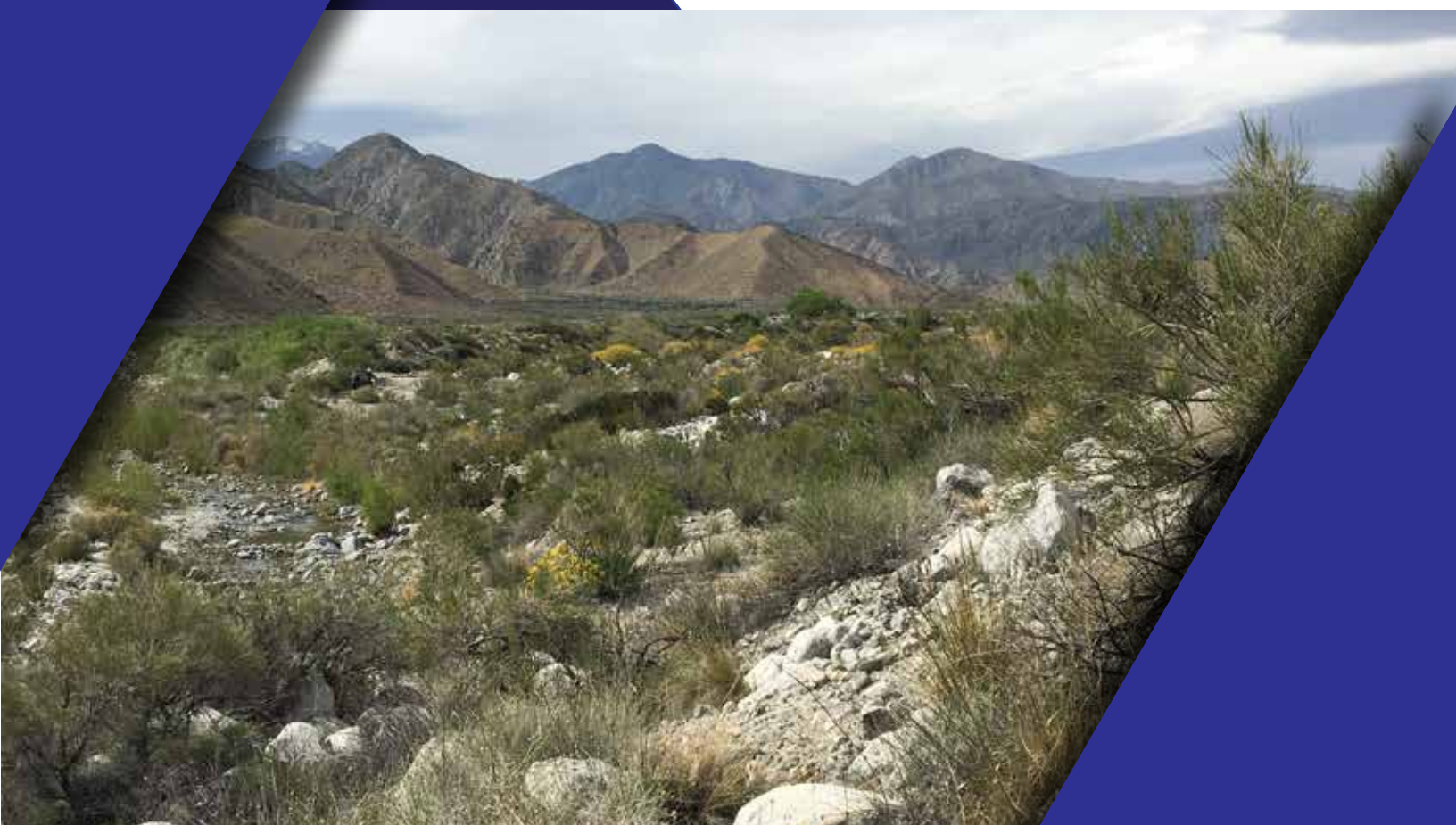


2019-2020 Whitewater River Watershed Annual Report



RIVERSIDE COUNTY
WATERSHED PROTECTION

March 1, 2021



2019 - 2020

WATERSHED ANNUAL REPORT

WHITEWATER RIVER REGION MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PERMIT
(BOARD ORDER No. R7-2013-0011)
(NPDES No. CAS617002)

For
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN

By
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, County of Riverside,
Coachella Valley Water District, and the Cities of Banning, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert
Hot Springs, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, and Rancho Mirage

March 1, 2021

CERTIFICATION

**Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Errata to Section 3 Monitoring Annual Report Field Data Forms
of the Whitewater River Watershed Annual Report**

Fiscal Year 2019-2020



I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Signed: _____

Richard J. Boon
RICHARD J. BOON

Chief of Watershed Protection Division
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

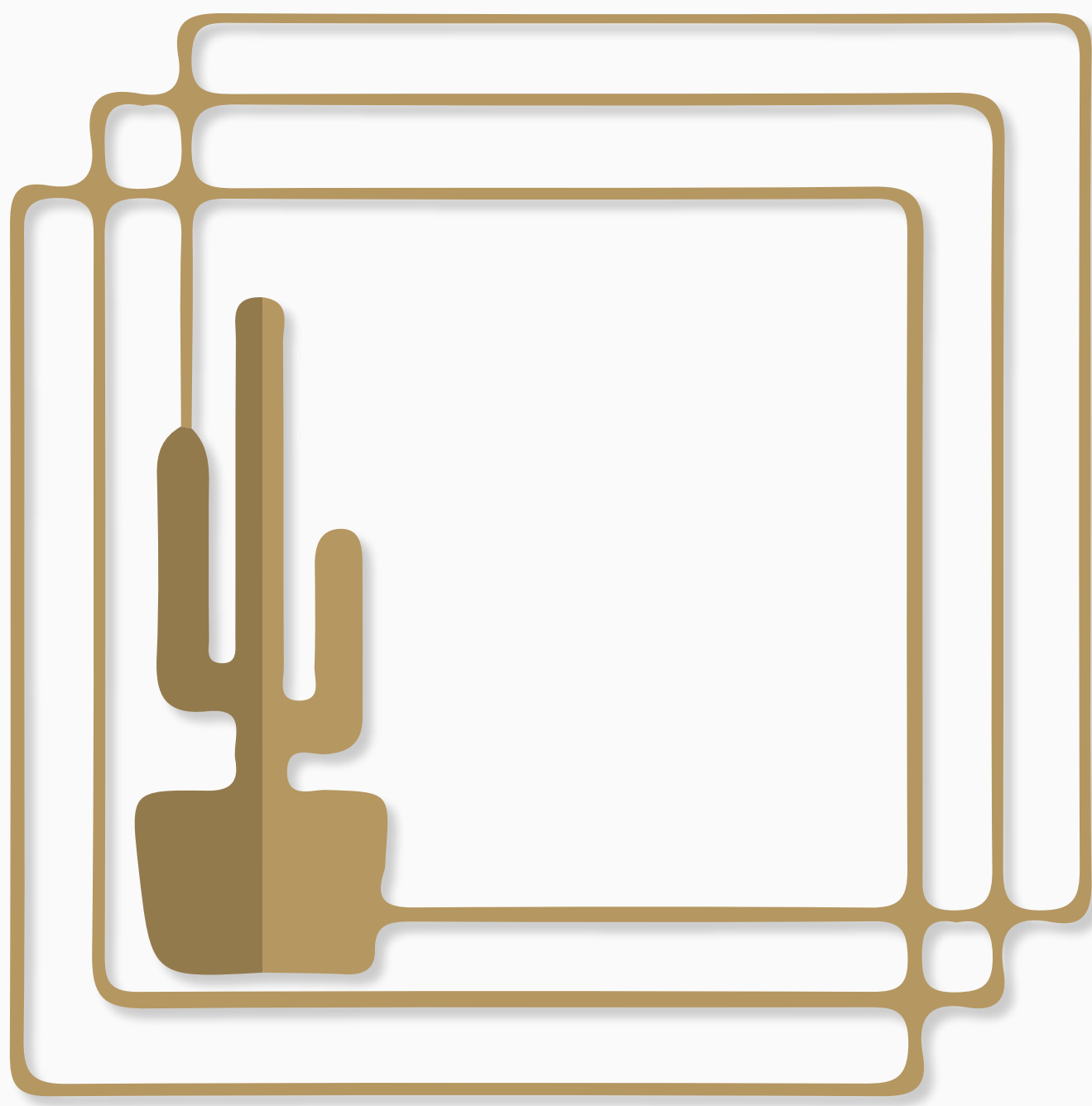
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Section 1.0

Watershed Summary



WWR WATERSHED SUMMARY

The Whitewater River Region (**WWR**) encompasses the urbanized areas that lie between Banning and the San Geronio Pass area to the northwest and the Salton Sea to the southeast. Within this region, stormwater and non-stormwater flows from ten municipal jurisdictions are discharged to the Whitewater River via a network of storm drains referred to as the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (**MS4**). Since 2015, the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (**District**) and County of Riverside (**County**), as the Principal Permittees, and the Coachella Valley Water District (**CVWD**) and Cities in the Coachella Valley as Co-Permittees, (collectively as Permittees) have been implementing a Stormwater Management Plan (**SWMP**). The goal of this plan is to protect and enhance the region's creeks and river by preventing pollution from entering the MS4 and encouraging water conservation. This report presents highlights from the sixth year of program implementation.

During the **2019 - 2020** reporting year , the Co-Permittees continued...



Implementing the Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP)



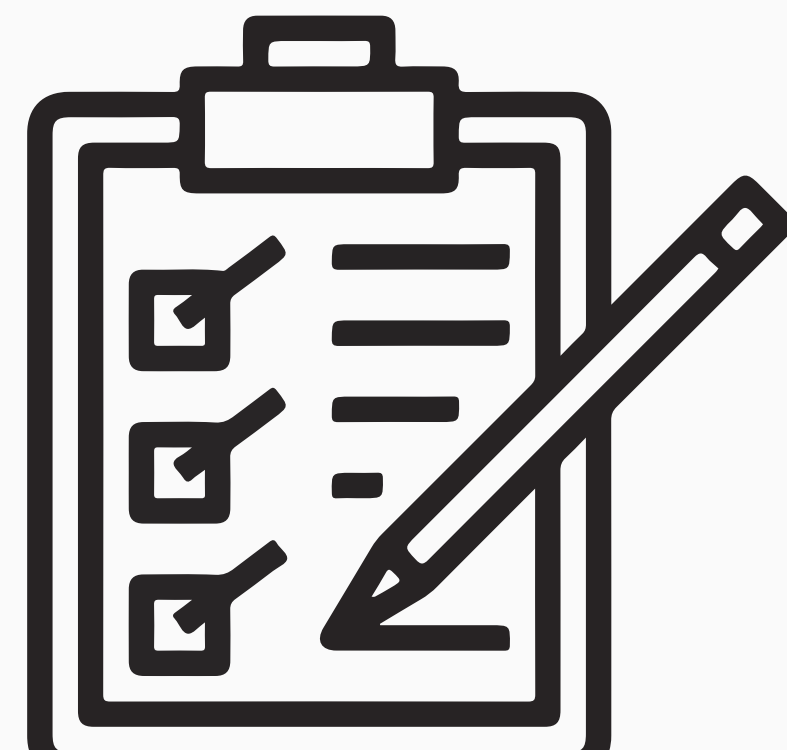
Practicing a vibrant Public Education Program



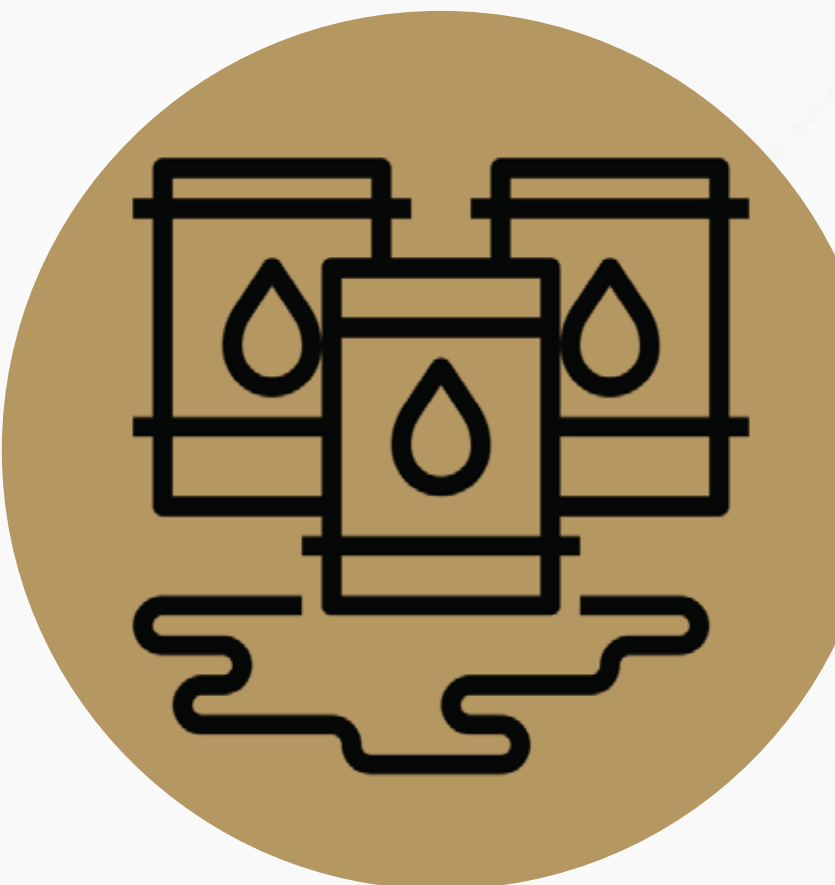
Administering the Monitoring and Reporting Program (M&RP)



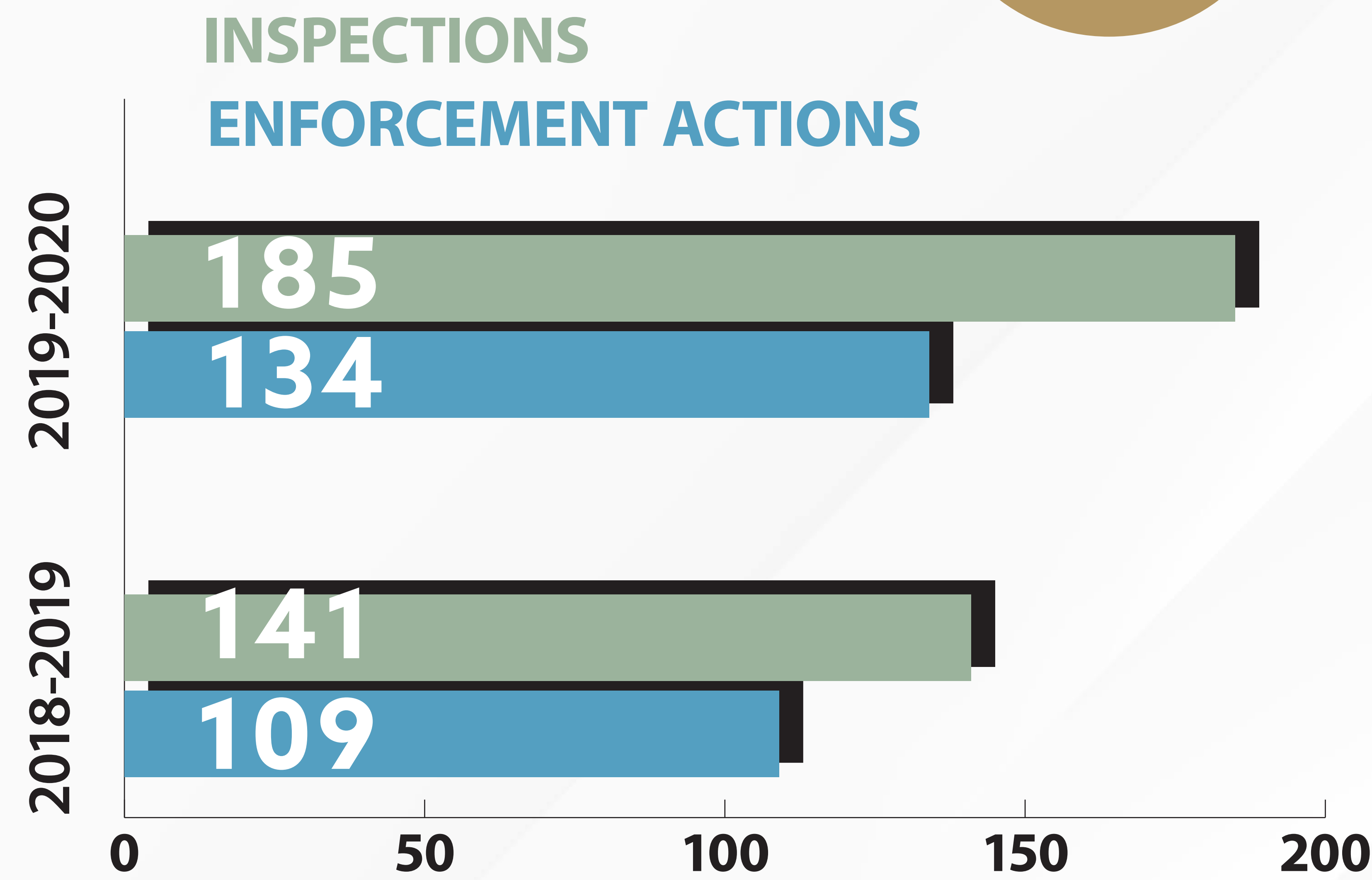
Managing the Implementation and Cost Sharing Agreement



Running Municipal and Jurisdictional Programs

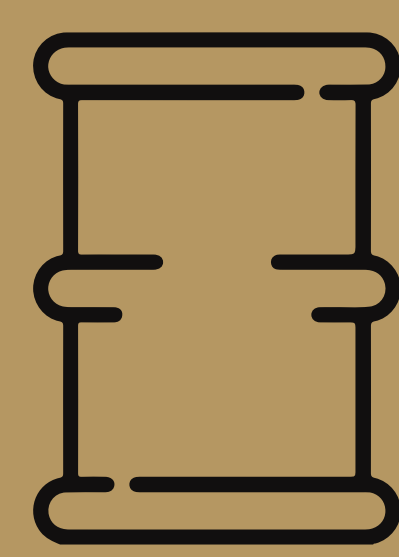


Illicit Connections / Illegal Discharges



The Permittees continued surveying outfalls for IC/IDs and collectively received and responded to IC/ID incident reports affecting their storm drain infrastructure. Incidents include trash and illegal dumping, homeless encampment removals, illicit connections and illegal discharges. Enforcement responses ranged from verbal education to monetary citations as outlined in the Enforcement and Compliance Strategy included in the SWMP.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection



255,907 POUNDS

These centers collectively prevented 255,907 pounds of HHW from potentially entering the Whitewater River. The Cities of Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, and Indio operated additional HHW centers that were accessible to their respective residents, and Burrtec Waste Industries Inc. operated Anti-freeze, Batteries, Oil, & Paint (**ABOP**) collection centers at their waste transfer stations in Cathedral City and the City of Coachella.



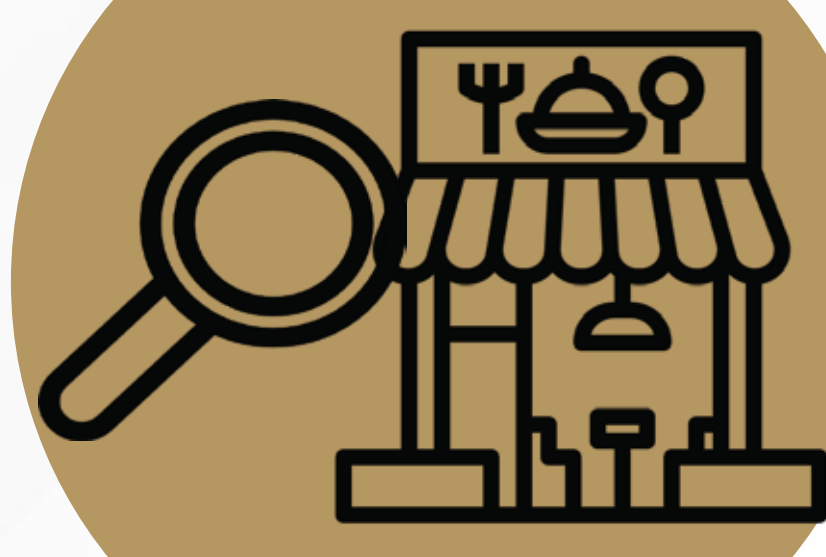
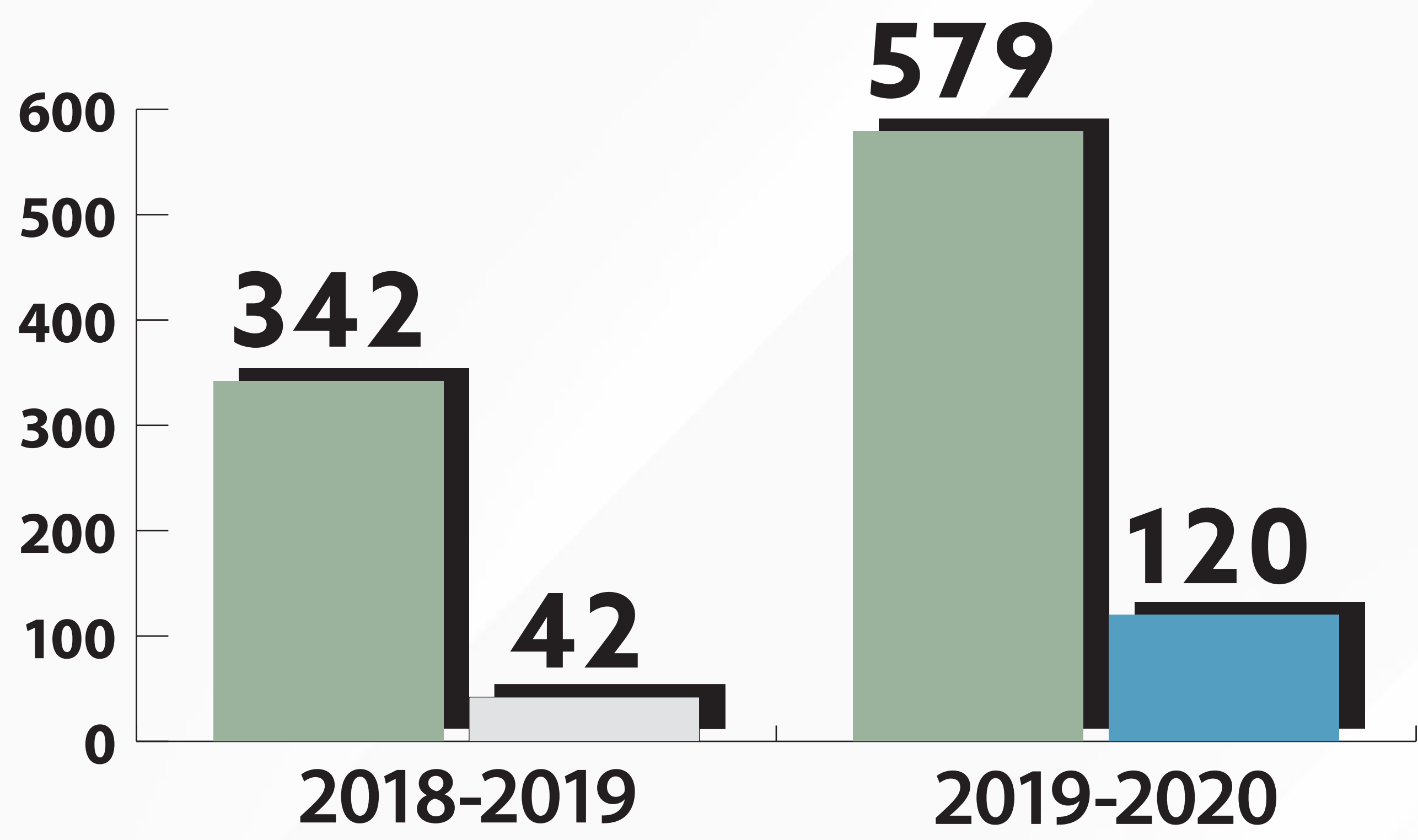
NPDES Desert Taskforce (DTF)

20 CASQA REGULATORY UPDATES REVIEWED

Permittees are required to convene quarterly and in 2019-2020 met on seven separate occasions to discuss their MS4 permit requirements, programs, and compliance objectives. Several grant funding opportunities were presented to the Permittees during the taskforce meetings.

1 The District and CVWD do not retain legal land use authority or enforcement capability, which preclude the District and CVWD from implementing and enforcing the development planning program, private construction program and commercial/industrial program, and municipal facilities inspection program.

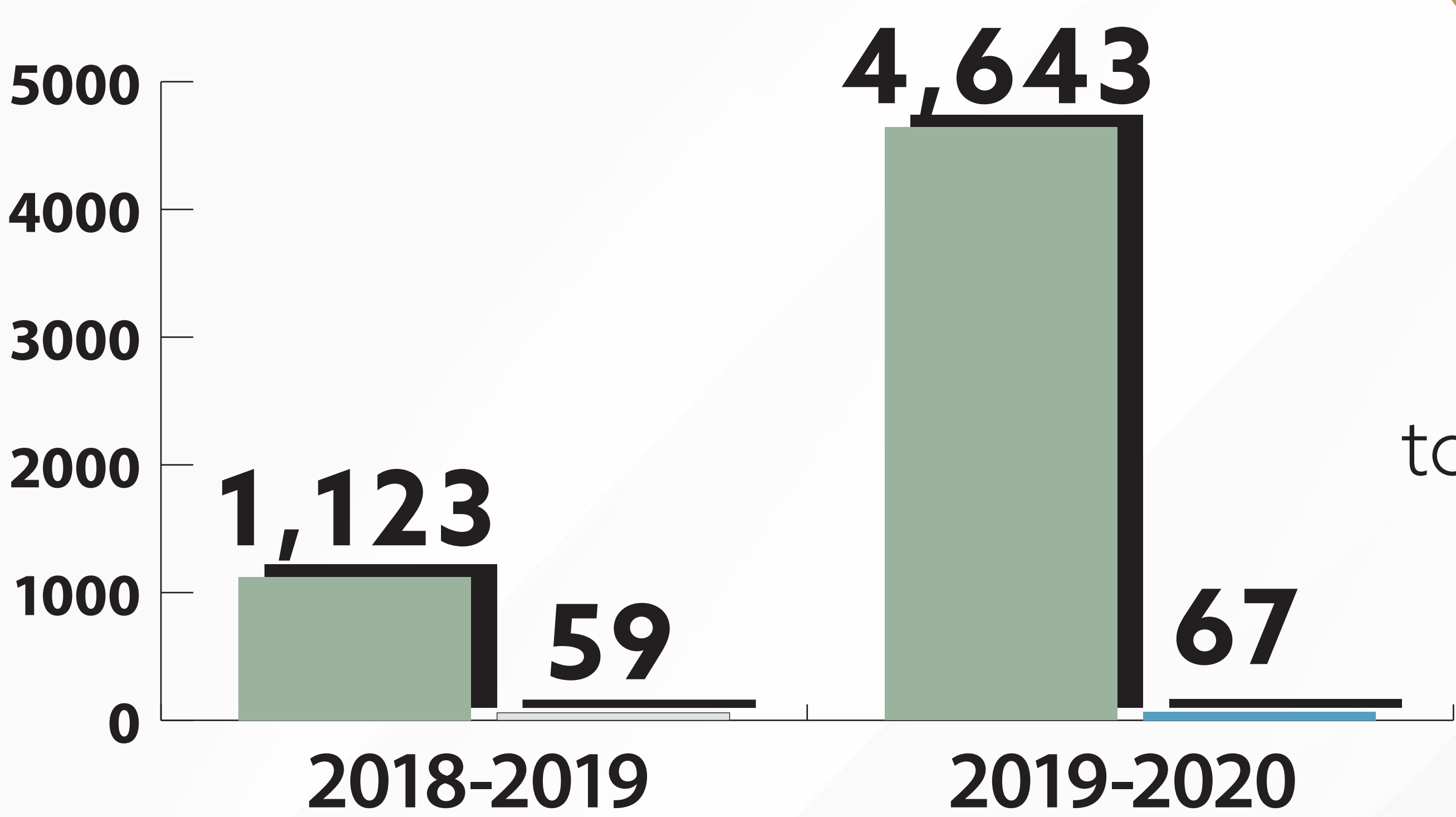
INSPECTIONS
ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS



Business Inspections

The purpose of this program is to conduct source identification and outreach to reduce discharges of pollutants from targeted commercial businesses and industrial operations to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP).

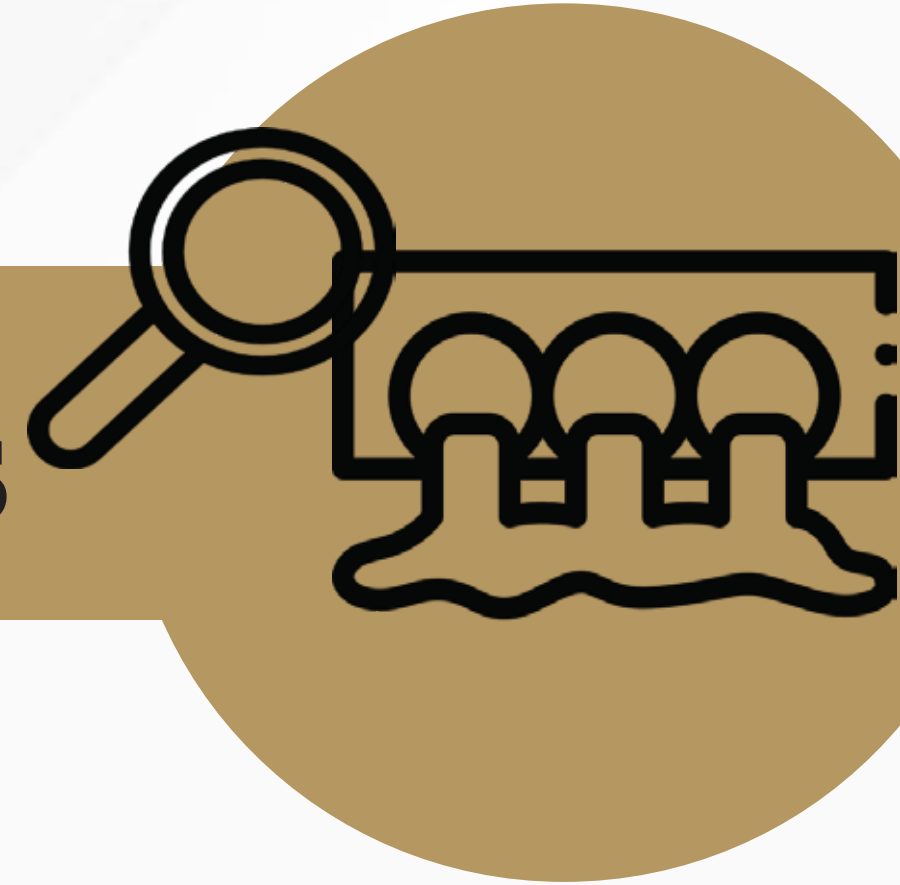
INSPECTIONS
ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS



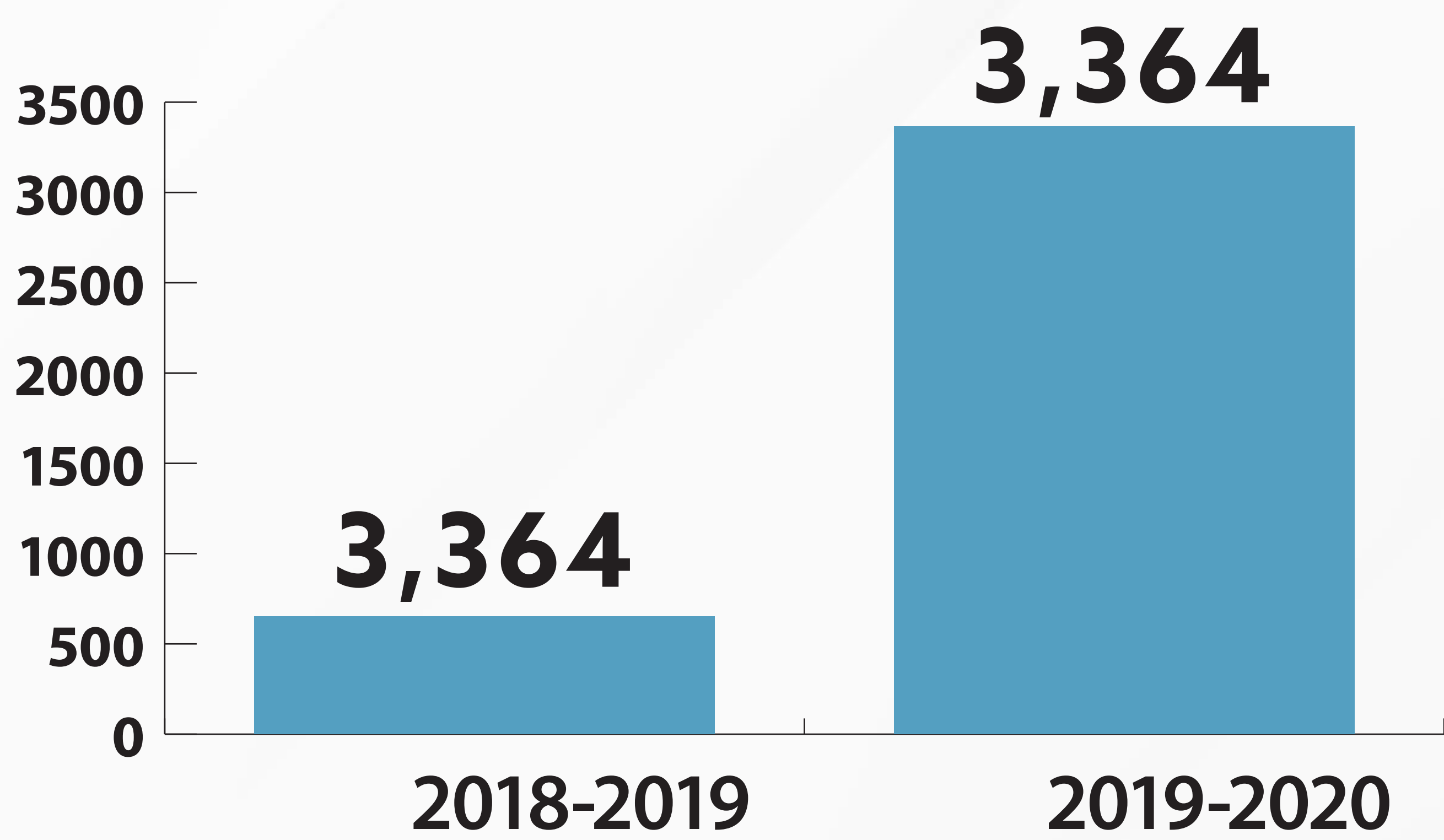
Private Construction Inspections

The purpose of this program is to reduce pollutants in Urban Runoff to the MS4 from construction activities that result in a land disturbance.

Facility Pollution Prevention Plans (FPPP)² Inspections



MS4 FACILITY INSPECTIONS



FPPP SITE INSPECTIONS 38

The County and Co-Permittees continued implementing housekeeping practices at their respective municipal facilities in accordance with their respective Facility Pollution Prevention Plans (FPPP). An inspection was conducted at each of the 38 FPPP facilities.

NPDES Municipal Staff Training



85 STAFF TRAINED

Due to COVID-19 in-person restrictions, staff trainings were held virtually, establishing a new system to allow for more participants in the future. Training occurred both in LMS and in virtual sessions. The Permittees had multiple options for training this round.

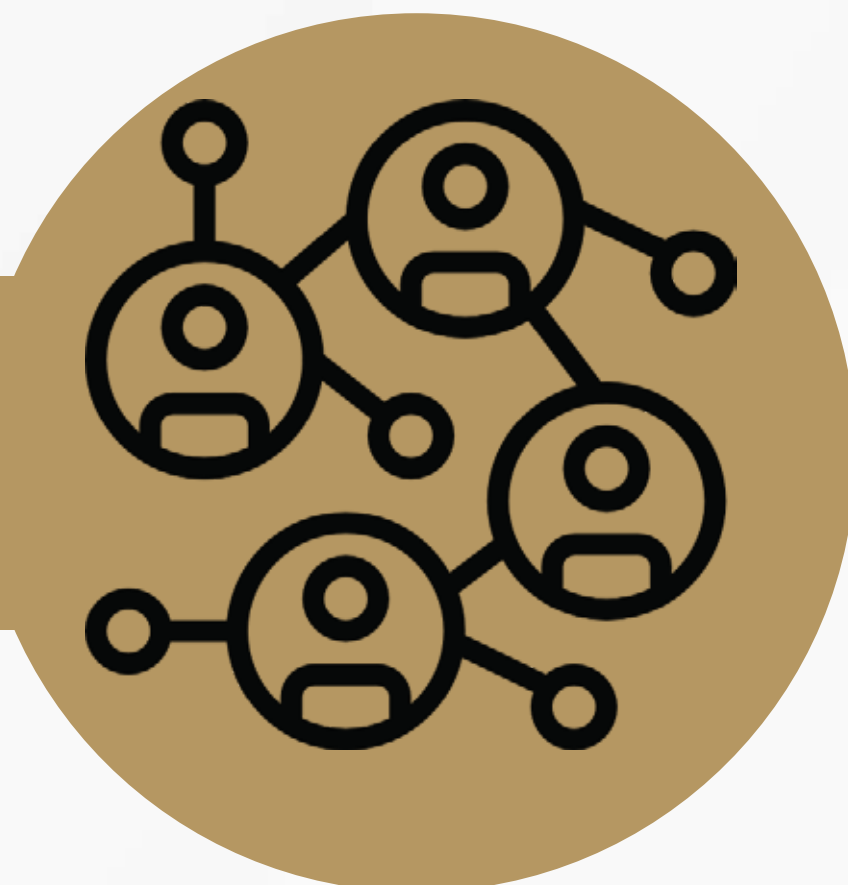


Water Quality Management Plans

60 CONDITIONED FOR WQMPs

During the fiscal year, the Permittees have conditioned 60 new development projects to prepare Water Quality Management Plans (WQMPs) and address MS4 permit requirements. Nine (9) Cities execute ordinances requiring developments to retain extra stormwater and conserve a valuable and limited water resource in this arid region.

Collaborative Efforts



CVRWVG



Coachella Valley Regional
Water Management Group

LID



Low Impact
Development

CASQA



California Stormwater
Quality Association

SMC



Stormwater
Monitoring Coalition

See Section 3 - Monitoring and Reporting Program Annual Report for more updates on Co-Permittee collaborations

² The District does not own or maintain municipal facilities in the WWR region that require Facility Pollution Prevention Plans (FPPP).



COVID-19 Impact & Modifications

On March 19, 2020, a statewide Executive Order N-33-20 imposed social distancing measures and directed all individuals in our State to stay at their place of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of critical infrastructure sectors. Although this presented challenges, the WWR Permittees altered methods to remain in compliance with the MS4 permit. Certain modifications were made in order to reach compliance such as virtual public education efforts, and windshield drive-through inspections. The WWR Permittees worked through the pandemic to continue compliance activities and protection of the watershed.



Public Education Program

The Watershed Protection Program’s strategic plan for public education has been developed by the Public Education Strategic Taskforce (PEST) to engage Riverside County residents in actions protective of the County’s streams, and rivers, which is built upon the many successes of the current program and carries out activities and projects. This year, the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on public outreach. The use of social media and adapting school outreach to online presentations were successful in communicating pollution-prevention programs and watershed-friendly behaviors. The NPDES Website hosted by the District received over two million visits in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

For the first time, the Permittees, the Regional Board, and Riverside County Waste Management collectively participated in outreach at the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival. Together, they handed out over 1,500 different types of material to festival goers focused on proper trash disposal, stormwater education, and overall watershed protection.

The Permittees also participated in the Southern California Water Committee which developed a regional consensus-based strategy and recommendation for utilizing stormwater as a new local water supply while reducing urban runoff water pollution within the coastal plains of Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties, as well as the Santa Ana River watershed portion of San Bernardino and Riverside ounties.

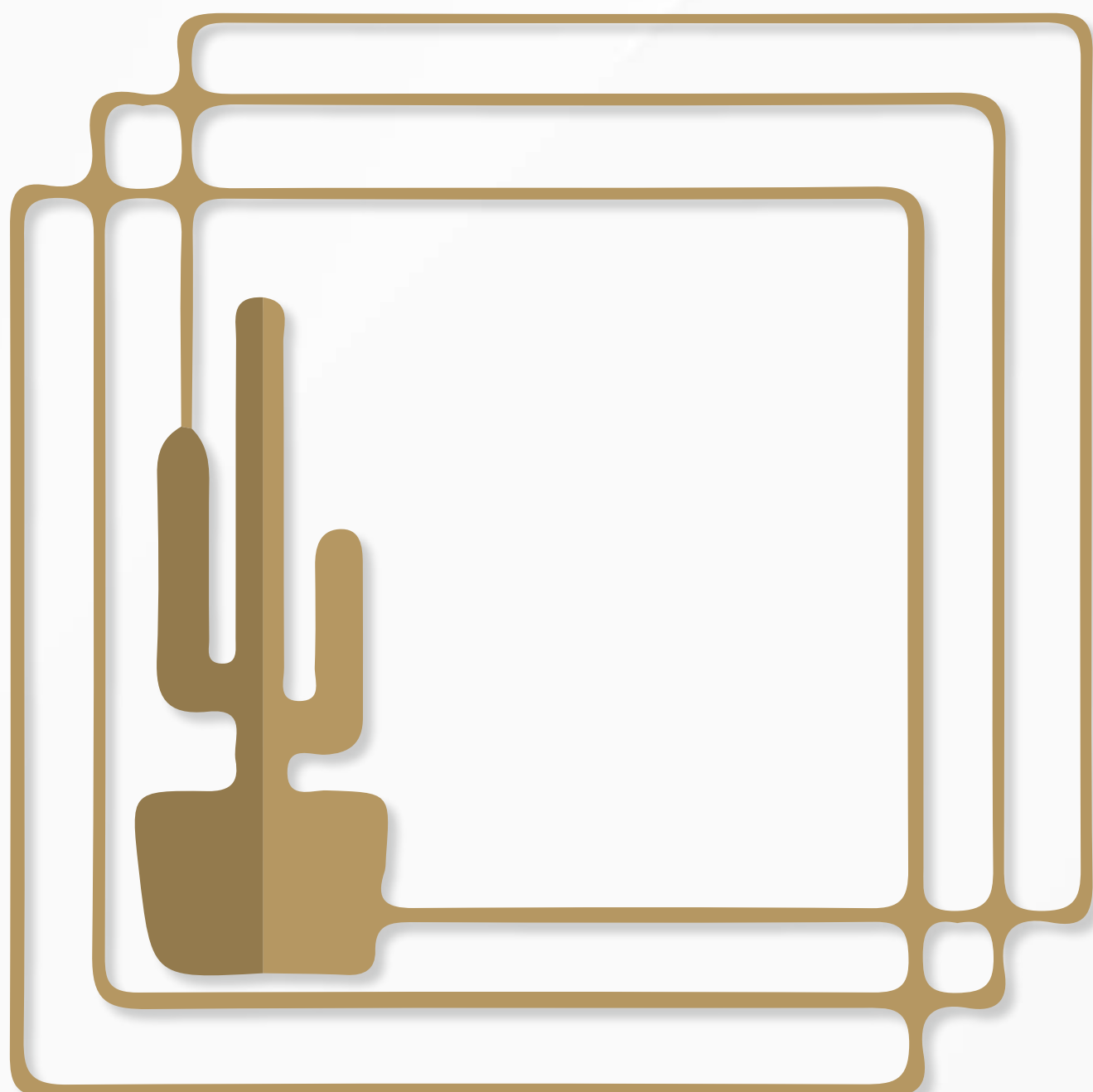
- ✔ 24/7 illegal dumping hotline
- ✔ Monthly eNews Bulletin
- ✔ Program Website rcwatershed.org
- ✔ Business outreach to landscape professionals
- ✔ School-aged children education outreach program

8,633
WEBSITE VISITS



2020 Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival

Visit www.RCWatershed.org for more information



INDIAN WELLS
CALIFORNIA

La Quinta
CALIFORNIA

