

Conservation Connection

Water Conservation Financial Assistance

The Bureau of Reclamation Water Conservation grant proposals for Fiscal Year 2005 Water Conservation Field Service Program (WCFSP) are anticipated to be advertised on www.grants.gov. We expect the release of the competitive grants late in January or early in February 2005. It is suggested that interested parties register now with Grants.gov in order to get automatic email notification and to quickly apply for grant funds.

This year marks 8 years of successful implementation of the WCFSP. The WCFSP was established to encourage efficient water management, to develop partnerships with State and local conservation program efforts, and to promote water management on a regional, Statewide, and watershed basis.

The WCFSP is administered at the local level through the Mid-Pacific (MP) Region's five Area Offices. Since its inception, the MP Region has provided over 400 WCFSP grants for water conservation efforts.

The key components of the WCFSP are: Implementation of conservation measures; demonstration of innovative

technologies; water management planning; and conservation education.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about this program, or have questions regarding deadlines and program requirements, please contact your local water conservation specialist.

It's Time to Revise the Standard Criteria

Reclamation is about to begin revising the 2002 Water Conservation and Efficiency Criteria (Criteria) for the development of Water Management Plans (Plans). These Criteria were developed by Reclamation in accordance with the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992 (CVPIA) and the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982.

The CVPIA requires Reclamation to review the Criteria periodically, "but no less than every 3 years, with the purpose of promoting the highest level of water use efficiency reasonably achievable by project contractors using best available cost-effective technology and best management practices."

In preparation for the 2005 Criteria, Reclamation is asking all interested parties for their comments, suggestions, and recommendations.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the 2002 Criteria, please contact Leslie Barbre at 916-978-5232 (TDD 916-978-5608) or visit our website at www.usbr.gov/mp/watershare.

The public comment period starts January 10, 2005, and will end February 28, 2005. Please send all comments to:

Bureau of Reclamation
Attention: Mr. Jerry Townsend
2800 Cottage Way, MP-410
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

After February 28, 2005, Reclamation will develop the draft Criteria. The draft Criteria will be presented at workshops, giving the public an opportunity for questions and answers. After the public workshops, the draft Criteria will be entered in the Federal Register. Once in the Federal Register, the public will be given 30 days in which to comment. If no significant changes are made based on comments during the comment period, the review process will officially be complete, and the draft Criteria will be finalized. All plans received after the final date will be reviewed based on the 2005 Criteria.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Contact Us . . .
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Mid-Pacific Regional Office Lucille Billingsley, Team Leader 916-978-5215/Fax: 916-978-5290 E-mail: lbillingslev@mp.usbr.gov
WaterShare Website: http://www.usbr.gov/mp/watershare/

Calendar of Events
Pump Efficiency Testing Class December 8-9, 2004 Call to register: 805-756-2434 or visit the website: www.itrc.org (then use the "classes" link)
Mid-Pacific Region Water Users Conference January 19-21, 2005 Doubletree Hotel Rohnert Park, California
California Irrigation Institute's 43rd Annual Meeting January 27-28, 2005 Call to register: 916-366-9376 or visit the website: www.caii.org
Eco-Landscape 2005 February 5, 2005 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Samuel Pannell Community Center 2450 Meadowview Road, Sacramento

2004 Annual Updates for Water Management Plans

This is a reminder that Reclamation Contractors' 2004 Annual Updates for their Water Management (Conservation) Plans are due by March 31, 2005. Annual Updates are an essential element of the Water Conservation and Efficiency Criteria developed under the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. Urban Annual Update reporting is available at the following Internet site: <http://www.cuwcc.org>.

Agriculture Updates will be submitted in hard copy to your Area Office Water Conservation Specialist. Copies may be obtained from our web site at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/watershare>, or from your Area Water Conservation Specialist. Assistance regarding your Annual Update will be available at the Mid-Pacific Region Water Users Conference, on January 19 & 20, 2005.

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Address Correction Requested



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