

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Water Conservation Field Services Program for Fiscal Years 2011-2016

**Finding of No Significant Impact and Final Environmental
Assessment**

**Southern Nevada, Northwestern Arizona, Southwestern Utah,
and Needles, CA**

LC-11-031



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region
Boulder City, Nevada**

June 2011

Mission Statements

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region
Boulder City, Nevada**

June 2011

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**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
(FONSI)**

LC-11-031


For

**Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for Water Conservation Field Services Program for
Fiscal Years 2011-2016**

Based on a thorough review of the analysis of the potential environmental impacts presented in the EA, Reclamation finds that implementation of the Proposed Action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the project area, therefore an Environmental Impact Statement would not be prepared.

Accordingly, this FONSI is submitted to document environmental review and evaluation of the Proposed Action in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended.

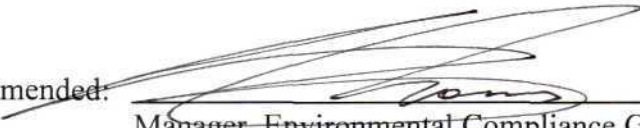
Prepared:


Environmental Protection Specialist

Date:

6/27/2011


Recommended:


Manager, Environmental Compliance Group

Date:

6/27/11

Approved:


Acting Chief, Resources Management Office

Date:

6/27/2011

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to fund activities under the Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP). This effort is supported by Reclamation's mission to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public. Reclamation has a major responsibility, in partnership with water users, States, and other interested parties, to help improve water resource management and water use efficiency in the western United States.

Reclamation established the WCFSP in 1996 with the purpose to fulfill its water conservation-related obligation as outlined in Section 210 of the Reclamation Reform Act (RRA) of 1982. The RRA directs the Secretary of the Interior to encourage and implement water conservation measures on Federal Reclamation projects. Directives and Standards (WTR 01-02) were developed for the program, which outline Reclamation's procedures for administering the WCFSP pursuant to the RRA and other existing authorities, including the provision of technical and financial assistance to Federal and non-Federal entities, and the administration of water conservation plans and/or programs.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide funding through the WCFSP to the City of St. George (St. George), Utah, Lake Havasu City (LHC), Arizona, and Washington County Water Conservancy District (County), Utah, and other eligible applicants within the LCROA. This funding will be provided to initiate, implement, enhance, or continue water conservation plans or programs under the WCFSP for the period of 2011-2016. The program's purpose is to educate the public on water conservation and provide incentives for implementing water conservation measures.

The proposed action is needed to optimize available water resources because of decreasing water supplies resulting from increasing population and ongoing drought within the Lower Colorado River Basin.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

A No Action Alternative and a Proposed Action Alternative were considered in detail. Under the No Action Alternative, the WCFSP programs proposed will not be funded. Water savings and financial incentives for water conservation not occur.

The Recommended Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, Reclamation will grant funding to St. George, LHC, and the County for the period of 2011-2016 through the WCFSP. Funding will include the specific grants described below as well as additional proposals which fit the purpose and need and scope of this EA.

The grants for FY 2011 include the following:

Grant #R11AP30008 provides funding to St. George to implement measures from its Water Conservation Plan to offer rebates to customers who install pressure regulating valves (PRV) on existing or newly installed irrigation systems.

Grant #R11AP30006 will continue to carry out LHC's Water Conservation Program to implement water conservation outreach outlined in its 5-year Water Conservation Plan. The work involves performing water audits in homes throughout the city, an outreach publication campaign, presenting water programs at the local schools, and continuing a rebate program for the purchase of low-flow toilets, pool covers, and recirculation pumps for homes. In addition, LHC will conduct a lead detection program with handheld sonic tests to find leaks in water mains. The program is to quantifiably detect and pinpoint water system leakage, assess system proneness to non-surface leaks, and to inspect and report damaged or broken appurtenances that may pose potential public liability risks. The process includes a production to demand analysis, sonic tests on water mains to determine sound transmission characteristics and a leak survey. The rebate and leak detection portion of the program is estimated to save about 1,120 AF of water per year.

Grant #R11AP30009 will assist the County in providing assistance in education, outreach and maintenance of the County Demonstration Garden, offer rebates for high-efficiency toilets, and implement a water auditing and loss control program. This project will save approximately 8,239 AF of water per year.

The proposed action alternative incorporates the following mitigation measures:

- Contracts/grants funded under Grant #R11AP30008, Grant #R11AP30006, Grant #R11AP30009, and other future grant proposals funded and approved within the scope of WCFSP should include the following language prior to funding by Reclamation:

“If during the course of any activities associated with the execution of this agreement, **the grantee becomes aware of discovery** of any historic architectural and/or archaeological districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects 50 years or older, the grantee shall, **within the limits of its legal authority, request that activities immediately cease and consultation be conducted with the State Historic Preservation Office pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.6.**”

- The Regional Office will review each yearly WCFSP proposal prior to funding to determine that it fits within the purpose and need, and scope of this EA. Annual proposal review will also ensure that all requirements related to Federal natural resource policies and laws are met.

If new Federal requirements need to be met, such as a new listing of a species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), new discovery of cultural resources or listing, and/or the

WCFSP has been modified, further review will be conducted to determine appropriate documentation for the proposed action in compliance with NEPA.

- The Lower Colorado Region has implemented Sustainability and Environmental Management System (SEMS) in accordance with Executive Orders 13423 and 13514. SEMS is a systematic approach for managing environmental impacts by meeting the needs of the present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. The proposed actions will integrate this approach by optimizing available water resources and helping meet a current and future demand. This approach is consistent with SEMS continual progress to reduce the use of raw materials, solid waste generation, Greenhouse Gas emissions.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND FINDINGS

Implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative will not result in significant impacts to any of the resources evaluated in the EA. The WCFSP is beneficial program that is expected to result in the savings of thousands of AF of water. Because of the large volume of water in the LCR system, and the large volume of water being withdrawn, it is not possible to quantify the impact of this water savings. Impacts to the human environment are not measureable as the program will be incorporated into private commercial and residential facilities. The proposed action includes mitigation measures to prevent impacts to resources. Therefore, there will be no impacts to the following resources from the Proposed Action.

- Recreation
- Biological Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Hazardous Materials
- Land use
- Air Quality
- Visual Resources
- Socioeconomics
- Geology Soils and Topography.
- Lower Colorado River (LCR) Watershed
- Cultural
- Cumulative Impacts

Water Conservation Field Services Program for Fiscal Years 2011-2016

Final Environmental Assessment

**Southern Nevada, Northwestern Arizona, Southwestern Utah,
and Needles, CA**

LC-11-031

**Prepared by:
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region
Boulder City, Nevada**



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region
Boulder City, Nevada**

June 2011

List of Acronyms

Term	Acronym or Abbreviation
Acre feet	AF
Bureau of Reclamation	Reclamation
Categorical Exclusion	CE
City of St. George, Utah	St. George
Council on Environmental Quality	CEQ
Environmental Assessment	EA
Finding of No Significant Impact	FONSI
Lake Havasu City, Arizona	LHC
Lower Colorado Region	LCR
Lower Colorado Regional Office Area	LCROA
Lower Colorado Regional Area Office	Regional Office
National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended	NEPA
Pounds per square inch	psi
Pressure regulating valves	PRV
Reclamation Reform Act of 1982	RRA
Sustainability and Environmental Management System	SEMS
Washington County Water Conservancy District, Utah	County
Water Conservation Field Services Program	WCFSP
Water Conservation Field Services Program FY2010 Environmental Assessment	WCFSP EA
Water Conservation Field Services Program for Fiscal Year 2011-2016 Environmental Assessment	WCFSP 2011-2016

1.0 Purpose of and Need for the Action

This Final Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA. The purpose of this EA is to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed project and its alternative on the physical and human environment and determine if the impacts would be significant thus warranting the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

1.1 Background

Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region, requests proposals to fund activities in support of its Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP) annually. This EA addresses WCFSP activities supported by the Lower Colorado Regional (LCR) Office in Boulder City, NV and includes programs in Southern Nevada, Northwestern Arizona, and Southwestern Utah, and any other areas as appropriate (shown as LCROA in Figure 1).

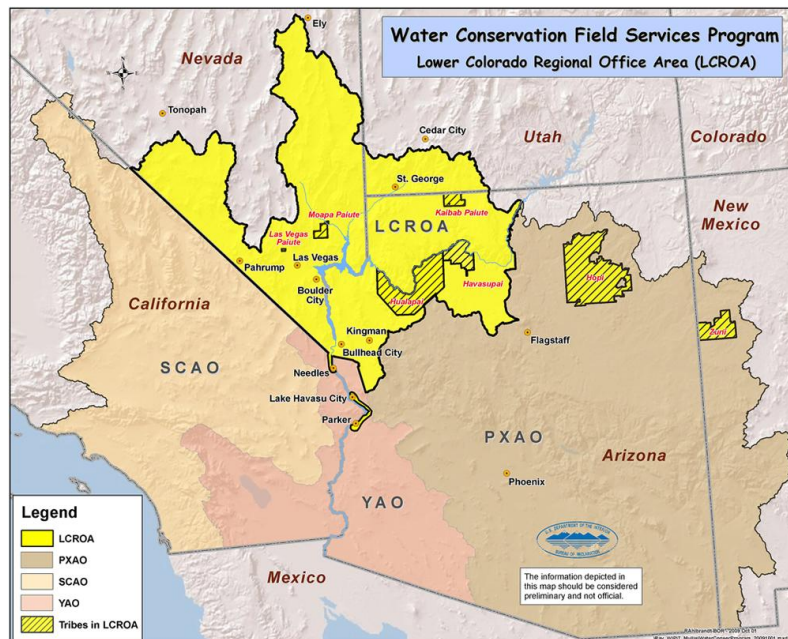


Figure 1. Map of the Water Conservation Field Services Program Lower Colorado Regional Office Area.

Reclamation's mission is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public. Reclamation has a major responsibility, in partnership with water users, States, and other interested parties, to help improve water resource management and water use efficiency in the western United States.

WCFSP Overview

Reclamation established the WCFSP in 1996 with the purpose to fulfill its water conservation-related obligation as outlined in Section 210 of the Reclamation Reform Act (RRA) of 1982. The RRA directs the Secretary to encourage and implement water conservation measures on Federal Reclamation projects. Directives and Standards (WTR 01-02) were developed for the program, which outline Reclamation's procedures for administering the WCFSP pursuant to the RRA and other existing authorities, including the provision of technical and financial assistance to Federal and non-Federal entities, and the administration of water conservation plans and/or programs.

The primary purposes or four major components of the WCFSP are to:

- Assist in developing effective water management and conservation plans;
- Encourage and promote implementation of water efficiency measures;
- Demonstrate conservation technologies; and
- Promote and support water education and training.

As defined by the WCFSP, eligible applicants in this EA refer to tribes, agricultural and municipal and industrial water user entities, states, local governments, and non-profit organizations. Also eligible are any university, nonprofit research institution, or organization with water or power delivery authority for any research activity that is designed in accordance with demonstration of innovative technologies projects. Eligible applicants must have a definable relationship to the watershed of one, or more, specific Reclamation water projects in the LCRA boundaries described in Section I. For the purposes of this funding announcement, a Reclamation project is defined as a specific Reclamation water project that was authorized by Congress and constructed by Reclamation. This includes everything within the project service area (i.e., project features and facilities, project service area, watershed, water systems or water supplies affected by a specific Reclamation project). Substantiation of a Reclamation water supply contract is one way to show a relationship to a Reclamation project. See WCFSP 2011-2016 Appendix A for further information about the WCFSP grant process and criteria.

In 2010, LCR prepared the *Water Conservation Field Services Program FY2010 Environmental Assessment* (WCFSP EA) and *Finding of No Significant Impact* (FONSI) for several WCFSP grants (see WCFSP 2011-2016 Appendix B). In September 2010, the *WaterSmart Water and Energy Efficiency Program and Water Conservation Field Services Grants: Water Smart Landscape Rebate Program in Clark County Nevada, Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment* (Supplemental EA) and FONSI was prepared for additional grant numbers funded for 2010 under the WCSFP (see WCFSP 2011-2016 Appendix C). The WCFSP EA and Supplemental EA are incorporated by reference in this EA.

1.2 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide funding through the WCFSP to the City of St. George (St. George), Utah, Lake Havasu City (LHC), Arizona, and Washington County Water Conservancy District (County), Utah and other eligible applicants within the LCROA. This funding would be provided to initiate, implement, enhance, or continue water conservation plans or programs under the WCFSP for the period of 2011-2016. The program's purpose is to educate the public on water conservation and provide incentives for implementing water conservation measures.

The proposed action is needed to optimize available water resources because of decreasing water supplies resulting from increasing population and ongoing drought within the Lower Colorado River Basin.

1.3 Related Laws, Policies, and Planning Documents

This EA complies with all applicable environmental, natural resource, and cultural resource statutes, regulations, and guidelines. These statutes, regulations, and guidelines may require permits, approvals, consultations with outside agencies, or implementation of mitigation measures.

The following federal, state, and local statutes, regulations, management plans, and studies are particularly relevant to the proposed project:

- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 USC 4321)
- Reclamation Act of 1902 (32 Stat. 388), as amended and supplemented;
- Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (96 Stat. 1268; 43 U.S.C. 390jj);
- Soil and Moisture Conservation Act of 1935 (49 Stat 163; 16 U.S.C. 590 et seq.)
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958 (75 Stat. 563; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.)
- Water Supply Act of 1958 (72 Stat 319; 43 U.S.C. 390b);
- Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);
- Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Section 9504 of the Secure Water Act, Subtitle F of Title IX of the (P.L. 111-11, Section 9504; 123 Stat 1334).
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-665), as Amended 1992 (P.L. 102-575)
- Executive Order 13423, *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*, 2007
- Executive Order 13514, *Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance*, 2009

2.0 Description of Alternatives

2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, the WCFSP programs proposed would not be funded. Water savings and financial incentives for water conservation would not occur.

2.2 Proposed Action Alternative

Reclamation is proposing to grant funding to St. George, LHC, and the County for the period of 2011-2016 through the WCFSP. Funding would include the specific grants described below as well as additional proposals which fit the purpose and need and scope of this EA. The authority to dispense WCFSP grants for FY 2011/2012 is given under the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.

These grants would allow these entities to continue water conservation programs which would provide annual recurring savings of water from the Colorado River through the provision of incentives for residential property owners. Water conserved through these proposed actions would be used to help meet current and future demands in the face of sustained drought in the Colorado River Basin.

Under Grant #R11AP30008 St. George would implement measures from its Water Conservation Plan to offer rebates to customers who install pressure regulating valves (PRV) on existing or newly installed irrigation systems. Installing PRV's on the irrigation system is advisable as most pressure zones in St. George exceed 100 pounds per square inch (psi). High pressure zones cause failures and leaks in the irrigation systems, hereby using more water than is needed. The program is estimated to save about 50 acre feet (AF) of water per year.

Grant #R11AP30006 would continue to carry out LHC's Water Conservation Program to implement water conservation outreach outlined in its 5-year Water Conservation Plan. The work involves performing water audits in homes throughout the city, an outreach publication campaign, presenting water programs at the local schools, and continuing a rebate program for the purchase of low-flow toilets, pool covers, and recirculation pumps for homes. In addition, LHC would conduct a lead detection program with handheld sonic tests to find leaks in water mains. The program is to quantifiably detect and pinpoint water system leakage, assess system proneness to non-surface leaks, and to inspect and report damaged or broken appurtenances that may pose potential public liability risks. The process includes a production to demand analysis, sonic tests on water mains to determine sound transmission characteristics and a leak survey. The rebate and leak detection portion of the program is estimated to save about 1,120 AF of water per year.

Grant #R11AP30009 would assist the County in the implementation of three measures identified in its Water Management and Conservation Plan. Measure one would provide assistance in

education, outreach and maintenance of the County Demonstration Garden. The second measure would offer rebates for high-efficiency toilets. The third measure would implement a water auditing and loss control program. This project would save approximately 8,239 AF of water per year.

The proposed action alternative incorporates the following mitigation measures:

- Contracts/grants funded under Grant #R11AP30008, Grant #R11AP30006, Grant #R11AP30009, and other future grant proposals funded and approved within the scope of WCFSP should include the following language prior to funding by Reclamation:

“If during the course of any activities associated with the execution of this agreement, **the grantee becomes aware of discovery** of any historic architectural and/or archaeological districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects 50 years or older, the grantee shall, **within the limits of its legal authority, request that activities immediately cease and consultation be conducted with the State Historic Preservation Office pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.6.**”

- The Regional Office would review each yearly WCFSP proposal prior to funding to determine that it fits within the purpose and need, and scope of this EA. Annual proposal review would also ensure that all requirements related to Federal natural resource policies and laws are met.

If new Federal requirements need to be met, such as a new listing of a species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), new discovery of cultural resources or listing, and/or the WCFSP has been modified, further review would be conducted to determine appropriate documentation for the proposed action in compliance with NEPA.

- The Lower Colorado Region has implemented Sustainability and Environmental Management System (SEMS) in accordance with Executive Orders 13423 and 13514. SEMS is a systematic approach for managing environmental impacts by meeting the needs of the present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. The proposed action would integrate this approach by optimizing available water resources and help meet a current and future demand. This is consistent with SEMS continual progress to reduce the use of raw materials, solid waste generation, and Greenhouse Gas emissions.

3.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

3.1 Affected Environment

Under the proposed action, the affected environment would be the associated urbanized areas within of the St. George, LHC, and the County discussed in more detail in Section 3.0 of the WCSFP EA, as well as the associated urbanized areas defined in future grant proposals within the LCRA (see Section 1.1).

3.2 Environmental Consequences

As described in Sections 3 and 4 of the WCSFP EA, The WCFSP is a beneficial program that is expected to result in the savings of thousands of AF of water. Because of the large volume of water in the LCR system, and the large volume of water being withdrawn, it is not possible to quantify the impact of this water savings. Impacts to the human environment are not measureable as the program would be incorporated into private commercial and residential facilities. The proposed action includes mitigation measures to prevent impacts to resources. Therefore, there would be no impacts to the following resources from the Proposed Action.

- Recreation
- Biological Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Hazardous Materials
- Land use
- Air Quality
- Visual Resources
- Socioeconomics
- Geology Soils and Topography.
- Lower Colorado River (LCR) Watershed
- Cultural
- Cumulative Impacts

Reclamation does not have a Categorical Exclusion (CE) that specifically addresses funding grants under the WCFSP and some of the activities funded under the WCFSP do not fit within one of the categories covered by Reclamation's CEs. This EA was prepared because of the lack of an appropriate CE. Reclamation's CE checklist (CEC) was used to document that there are no potentially significant impacts and no extraordinary circumstances that would apply to the

Proposed Action Alternative. The CEC, which also demonstrates the need for a new CE category for this type of commonly proposed action, is included in of this EA in WCFSP 2011-2016 Appendix D.

4.0 References

Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region. 2010. “Notice for Funding Opportunity: Water Conservation Field Services Program – Lower Colorado Regional Area (Southern Nevada, Northwestern Arizona, Southwestern Utah, and Needles, CA) Financial Assistance Program for Fiscal Year 2011.”

Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region. 2010. “Water Conservation Field Services Program: FY2010 Grants Environmental Assessment,” dated April 6, 2010, Project Number LC-10-014, prepared by Marc Maynard.

Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region. 2010. “WaterSmart Water and Efficiency Program and Water Conservation Field Services Grants: Water Smart Landscape Rebate Program in Clark County, Nevada, Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment,” dated September 29, 2010, Project Number LC-10-031, prepared by Dana Anat.

5.0 List of Preparers

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Environmental Protection Specialist
Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Regional Office

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Natural Resources Specialist/NEPA Coordinator
Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Regional Office

**Water Conservation Field Services Program for Fiscal Year 2011-2016
(WCFSP 2011-2016) Appendices**

WCFSP 2011-2016 Appendix A

Notice for Funding Opportunity: Water Conservation Field Services
Program – Lower Colorado Regional Area (Southern Nevada,
Northwestern Arizona, Southwestern Utah, and Needles, CA) Financial
Assistance Program for Fiscal Year 2011

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Request for Proposals
No. R11SF30001

Water Conservation Field Services Program – Lower Colorado Regional Area (Southern Nevada, Northwestern Arizona, Southwestern Utah, and Needles, CA)

Financial Assistance Program for Fiscal Year 2011



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region

Lower Colorado Regional Office WCFSP

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITY

Federal Agency Name:	Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
Funding Opportunity Title:	<i>Lower Colorado Regional Office Area Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP)</i>
Announcement Type:	Initial announcement
Funding Opportunity Number:	R11SF30001
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:	15.530
Application Due Date:	November 30, 2010 COB PST
Eligible Applicants:	State and local governments, Tribes, public and private agencies that have water delivery authority, a tie to a Reclamation project, or a Reclamation water contractor.
Applicant Cost Share:	50% or more of project costs
Federal Funding Amount:	Shall not exceed \$100,000 per agreement
Estimated number of agreements to be awarded:	Three to seven, depending on submittals and budget
Total amount of Fiscal Year 2011 federal funding available for award:	Estimated at up to \$350,000

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Background

The Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region, is requesting proposals to fund activities in support of its Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP) within the Lower Colorado Regional Area (LCRA), also known as Lower Colorado Regional Office Area. The LCRA includes Southern Nevada, Northwestern Arizona, and Southwestern Utah, and any other areas supported by the Regional Office, which is located in Boulder City, Nevada. More information and a map of the area are available at <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/q2000/wtrconsrv.html>.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public. Reclamation has a major responsibility, in partnership with water users, States, and other interested parties, to help improve water resource management and water use efficiency in the western United States. More efficient water use is a key component of Reclamation's water resource management strategy.

Water Conservation Field Services Program Overview

Reclamation established the WCFSP in 1996 with the purpose to fulfill its water conservation-related obligation as outlined in Section 210 of the Reclamation Reform Act (RRA) of 1982 directing the Secretary to encourage and implement water conservation measures on Federal Reclamation projects. Directives and Standards (WTR 01-02) were developed for the program which outlined Reclamation's procedures for administering the WCFSP pursuant to the RRA and other existing authorities, including the provision of technical and financial assistance to Federal and non-Federal entities and the administration of water conservation plans.

The primary purposes or four major components of the WCFSP are to:

- A. Assist in developing effective water management and conservation plans;
- B. Encourage and promote implementation of water efficiency measures;
- C. Demonstrate conservation technologies; and
- D. Promote and support water education and training.

Please refer to Section III for additional information on these major components.

Reclamation recognizes that no single entity, acting independently, can meet the challenge of improving the efficiency of water use and management throughout the western states. Consequently, a key to meeting this challenge will be partnerships formed between Reclamation and water users, other Federal and State agencies, educational and research institutions, and other interested parties.

Objective of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

The objective of this Notice of Funding Opportunity is to invite irrigation and water districts, states, local governments, water providers, and other entities that have a tie to Reclamation projects to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on activities/projects that make more efficient use of existing water supplies through water conservation and efficiency in the LCRA. Activities/Projects will be selected through a competitive process using the selection criteria listed in Section VI.

Program Authority

This Program and NOFO are administered in accordance with the authority of Reclamation Act of 1902 (32 Stat. 388), as amended and supplemented; RRA of 1982 (96 Stat. 1268; 43 U.S.C. 390jj); Soil and Moisture Conservation Act of 1935 (49 Stat 163; 16 U.S.C. 590 et seq.) (through Section 6 of Reorganization Plan No. IV - 1940); Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958 (75 Stat. 563; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) (through Secretarial delegation); Water Supply Act of 1958 (72 Stat 319; 43 U.S.C. 390b); Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and Section 9504 of the Secure Water Act, Subtitle F of Title IX of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11, Section 9504; 123 Stat 1334).

II. AWARD INFORMATION

Project Funding

It is anticipated that between three and seven agreements will be awarded for the LCRA WCFSP, depending on the total amount of funding requested by successful proposals and the amount of funding provided in the budget.

Applicants may request multi-year funding, but should be aware that any funding after the 2011 fiscal year will be contingent upon subsequent Congressional funding.

Subsequent modifications related to additional funds for any awards as of a result of this Funding Opportunity may be entered into without future competition; however, are conditioned upon successful project performance and availability of appropriated funds.

Project Funding Limitations

To facilitate the broad and effective use of limited Federal funds, Reclamation's share of any one proposed activity/project should be up to 50% of the total activity/project costs, and should generally not exceed \$100,000. However, Reclamation retains the right to make awards exceeding that amount on a case-by-case basis.

Award Instrument

If substantial involvement between Reclamation and the Recipient is anticipated during the performance of this activity/project, the anticipated instrument will be a cooperative agreement. If substantial involvement is not anticipated on the part of Reclamation, the financial assistance instrument will be a grant.

Anticipated Award Date

It is anticipated that awards will be made in June 2011 with an anticipated activity/project start date on or around July 1, 2011, subject to the date of appropriation and allotment of the Federal budget.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include agricultural and M&I water user entities, states, tribes, local governments, and non-profit organizations. Also eligible are any university, nonprofit research institution, or organization with water or power delivery authority for any research activity that is designed in accordance with demonstration of innovative technologies projects, as described below. To be eligible for financial assistance under this announcement, the applicant must have a definable relationship to the watershed of one, or more, specific Reclamation water projects in the LCRA boundaries described in Section I. For the purposes of this funding announcement, a Reclamation project is defined as a specific Reclamation water project that was authorized by Congress and constructed by Reclamation. This includes everything within the project service area (i.e., project features and facilities, project service area, watershed, water systems or water supplies affected by a specific Reclamation project). Substantiation of a Reclamation water supply contract is one way to show a relationship to a Reclamation project.

Types of Activities/Projects

All proposals will be ranked upon Evaluation Criteria stated in Section VI of this NOFO. Activities/projects to be considered should address one of the following task areas:

- (A) Development of written water management and conservation plans. Water conservation plans are required for Colorado River water contractors in the Lower Colorado Region, in accordance with the RRA. The Plans should be modeled after plans described in *Achieving Efficient Water Management: A Guidebook for Preparing Municipal Water Conservation Plans*, and *Achieving Efficient Water Management: A Guidebook for Preparing Agricultural Water Conservation Plans, Second Edition (Guidebooks)*. These publications are available at www.usbr.gov/waterconservation/publications.html. The proposed planning activity/project should address one or more of the planning tasks discussed in the Guidebooks. Priority is given to development of plans under requirements supported by the WCFSP.
- (B) Implement more efficient water management/conservation measures with special emphasis on outdoor water management practices as part of its water management and conservation program. This component involves the implementation of best management practices or water conservation measures outlined in the entity's water management or water conservation plan.
- (C) Demonstrate innovative technologies in water conservation to increase technical understanding of unfamiliar water management and conservation principles and practices that have not been previously used locally. A demonstration activity/project's purpose is to install or apply a particular technology in a new way, or in a new setting, with the intent of reporting the results to others for potential wider adoption. This may also be accomplished by supporting applied research that will benefit field development of innovative water management and conservation technologies, as well as sponsoring specific conservation technology demonstration projects, such as public demonstration gardens. The proposed activity/project should not only "publicly" demonstrate a new or unfamiliar practice; it should contain a process for informing interested individuals and organizations about the outcome of the demonstration;
- (D) Improve water district employees' knowledge and a segment of the public's understanding of good water management and water conservation principles through outreach and training programs. The proposal shall explain how Federal funds will be used for the educational or research activity/project.

Projects that are considered normal Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement (OM&R) are not eligible under the WCFSP. OM&R is described as system improvements that replace or repair existing infrastructure or function without providing increased efficiency or effectiveness of water distribution over the expected life of the improvement.

Examples of ineligible OM&R projects include:

- Replacing malfunctioning components of an existing facility with the same components.
- Improving an existing facility to operate as originally designed.
- An activity that is performed on a recurring basis even if that period is extended (i.e., 10-year interval).
- Replacing leaky pipes.

Length of Activity/Project

Applicants should propose activities/projects that can be completed within 24 months from the estimated project start date. However, depending upon the activity/project, any proposals beyond this length shall provide substantive justification in its proposal.

Pre-Award Costs

Project pre-award costs that have been incurred prior to the date of award but after the date of authorization and appropriation for this Program may be submitted for consideration as an allowable portion of the recipient's cost share for the project. **In no case will pre-award costs incurred prior to October 1, 2010, be considered for cost share purposes.**

For example, such costs might include design or construction plans and environmental compliance costs directly supporting the proposed project. Environmental compliance, including National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) compliance, is an allowable cost and must be completed prior to any ground disturbing activities or significant expenditures. Reclamation will review the proposed pre-award costs to determine if they are allowable in accordance with the authorizing legislation and applicable cost principles. To be considered allowable, any pre-award costs proposed for consideration under the new awards must comply with all applicable requirements under this NOFO.

Requirements for Agricultural Operations [Public Law 111-11, Section 9504(a)(3)(B)]

In accordance with Section 9504(a)(3)(B) of Public Law 111-11, grants and cooperative agreements under this authority will not be awarded for an improvement to conserve irrigation water unless the applicant agrees not—

- To use any associated water savings to increase the total irrigated acreage of the eligible applicant or
- To otherwise increase the consumptive use of water in the operation of the eligible applicant, as determined pursuant to the law of the State in which the operation of the eligible applicant is located

[This does not pertain to urban water savings.]

Other Requirements

Applicants shall adhere to Federal, State, Territorial, and local laws, regulations, and codes, as applicable, and shall obtain all required approvals and permits. Applicants shall also coordinate and obtain approvals from site owners and operators.

1. Title to Improvements [Public Law 111-11, Section 9504(a)(3)(D)]

If the activities funded through an agreement awarded under this FOA result in an infrastructure improvement to a federally owned facility, the Federal Government shall continue to hold title to the facility and improvements to the facility.

2. Liability [Public Law 111-11, Section 9504(a)(3)(F)]

(a) In General—Except as provided under chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”), the United States shall not be liable for monetary damages of any kind for any injury arising out of an act, omission, or occurrence that arises in relation to any facility created or improved through an agreement awarded under this FOA, the title of which is not held by the United States.

(b) Tort Claims Act—Nothing in this section increases the liability of the United States beyond that provided in chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”).

IV. APPLICATION AND PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Proposal Format and Length

The Proposal Narrative shall be limited to **seven (7)** 8-1/2 inch X 11 inch pages, excluding any forms required in these instructions, **single-spaced** on one side of the page. The font used shall be at least 11 points in size and shall be easily readable. The cover sheet (Standard Form 424), Assurances

(Standard Form 424B or D, as applicable), Budget (Standard Form 424A or C), blank pages, title pages, blueprints, Appendices, environmental compliance documentation, budget narrative, funding plan, and table of content pages, will not be counted in the 7-page limit. All pages shall be consecutively numbered, including tables, appendices and exhibits.

Do not include a cover letter, organization literature, and/or brochures with your proposal. **Do not** place proposals into binders or plastic.

NOFO Technical Point of Contact

There will be no pre-proposal conference. Organizations or individuals interested in submitting proposals in response to this solicitation may direct questions to Reclamation in **writing**.

Tina Mullis
Bureau of Reclamation
P O Box 61470
Boulder City NV 89006
Fax: 702- 293-8146 **E-mail:** tmullis@lc.usbr.gov

NOFO Administrative Point of Contact

Requests for hardcopy mailing of the Notice of Funding Opportunity itself, <http://www.grants.gov> questions or any other questions can be directed to April Kendall, Grants and Cooperative Agreements Specialist, at akendall@lc.usbr.gov or 702-293-8521.

Date for Receipt of Proposals

Applicants shall submit an **original and two copies** of all proposal documents, unless submitted electronically. Proposals will be accepted until close of business on **November 30, 2010, PST**. Proposals received after this time will only be considered for award if additional funding is available or if there is a shortage of high quality eligible proposals identified after evaluation of original proposals.

Proposal Delivery Instructions

Proposals shall be addressed as follows:

Mailing Address:

Bureau of Reclamation
Attn: April Kendall, LC-2711
P O Box 61470
Boulder City NV 89006

Physical Location (for express mail/delivery services):

Bureau of Reclamation
Attn: April Kendall, LC-2711
500 Fir Street
Boulder City NV 89005
Mailroom: (702) 293-8683

Facsimile transmissions will NOT be accepted.

Electronic Submission via Grants.gov

Reclamation is participating in the Grants.gov Initiative that provides the Grant Community with a single site to find and apply for grant funding opportunities. Reclamation encourages applicants to submit their applications electronically through <http://www.grants.gov/Apply>. The use of <http://www.grants.gov> is NOT REQUIRED; Reclamation will continue to accept applications via hard copy. It is at the discretion of the applicant in the method of proposal delivery chosen. Chosen method of delivery will not impact or determine the award or non-award of any agreement. **If the applicant submits a proposal via www.grants.gov electronic filing, please notify Reclamation by sending**

an email to Tina Mullis at tmullis@usbr.gov, so that the proposal is not missed.

What to Submit in the Proposal

Each applicant shall submit a proposal in accordance with the instructions set forth immediately below:

√	WHAT TO SUBMIT	REQUIRED FORM OR FORMAT
	Application for Federal Assistance	Standard Form SF-424. See Sec. V.1.a DUNS Number is required - Make sure that DUNS Number is on the coversheet
	Budget Information	Standard Form SF 424A or Standard Form 424C , as applicable. See Sec. V.1.b
	Assurances	Standard Form SF-424B or Standard Form 424D , as applicable. See Sec. V.1.c
	Proposal Narrative, including benefit information and addressing questions in the supplemental questionnaire	See Sec. V.1.d., Sec. VI, and Sec. VIII
	Environmental/Regulatory Compliance Information, as applicable	See Sec. V.1.e
	Budget Detail and Narrative	See Sec. V.1.f and Sec. VIII
	Indirect Cost Information, as applicable	See Sec V.1.g
	Funding Plan and Letters of Commitment, as applicable	See Sec. V.1.h

V. PROPOSAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

1. Proposal Format

a. Application for Federal Assistance – The proposal cover page shall consist of a fully completed **SF 424 - Application for Federal Assistance**. This form must be signed by a person legally authorized to commit your organization to performance of the project. This form is available at http://www.grants.gov/agencies/forms_repository_information.jsp.

b. Budget Information

- For Non-Construction Projects, submit an **SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs**.
- For Construction Projects, submit an **SF-424C, Budget Information – Construction Programs**.
- For projects comprised of both construction and non-construction aspects, submit the **SF-424C, Budget Information – Construction Programs** only.

c. Assurances

- For Non-Construction Projects, submit an **SF-424B, Assurances – Non-Construction Programs**.
- For Construction Projects, submit an **SF-424D, Assurances – Construction Programs**.

- If your project is comprised of both construction and non-construction aspects, submit the **SF-424D, Assurances – Construction Programs** only.

The form must be signed by a person legally authorized to commit your organization to performance of the project.

These forms are available at http://www.grants.gov/agencies/forms_repository_information.jsp

d. Project Narrative

- Discuss background and location of your organization. Identify the purpose and objective of the proposed project, and if the project is a component of an approved conservation or management plan.
- Describe – in detail –the work to be carried out. Also, break out the proposed work into major tasks, and discuss the approach and evaluation techniques that will be used to accomplish the proposed work. This discussion shall be in sufficient detail to permit a comprehensive evaluation of the proposal and its outcomes. If applicable, include engineering plans, designs and analyses as part of the proposal. These plans should be in the Appendix of the proposal.
- Provide the anticipated schedule for the project by identifying the anticipated start and end dates of all major stages/tasks of the project proposal. Explain any variations from proposed start dates shown in Section II, under Anticipated Award Date.
- Describe the anticipated benefit(s) and “performance measures” for each proposed task. The “performance measures” refer to the means by which the applicant will quantify actual benefits, including water conserved, water better managed, or water marketed. Note: The performance measure(s) suggested in the proposal may be written into the award for future monitoring results. Also, describe how the applicant will verify benefits achieved.
- To ensure your proposal receives the points it deserves, applicants are strongly encouraged to explain how your proposed project relates to the Criteria outlined in Section VI. **DO NOT** attempt to address ALL criteria. Applicants must select the **ONE** task area component that applies to the proposed activity/project and only address the criteria for that **ONE** selected area component. The selection should be expressly stated in the proposal. If your project has aspects of more than one emphasis area, you must choose which one is the better fit or best describes the key reason for the project. **Please note in the Project Summary which task area component that you feel, so that it is clear to the reviewer which criteria should be used.**
- **Potential Water Management Benefits** - Reclamation is required to report on potential water management benefits resulting from its financial assistance. Each application shall identify as many benefits shown below that may apply to the proposed activity/project. The PROPOSAL MUST DESCRIBE how the activity/project would achieve the benefit(s) and provide numerical estimates, where applicable. The following are examples of benefits that, at a minimum, should be addressed:
 - Reduces leaks and seepage - Estimated acre-feet per year
 - Reduces system spills – Estimated acre-feet per year
 - Makes more water available for other uses – Estimated acre-feet per year
 - Reduces operation costs – Estimated savings per year in dollars
 - Reduces energy costs - Estimated savings per year in dollars
 - Reduces waste treatment costs - Estimated savings per year in dollars
 - Improve crop yield – Estimated percent per year
 - Reduces on-farm costs - Estimated savings per year in dollars

- Reduces per capita use - Estimated reduction in gallons per capita per day per year
- Provides technical training - Estimated number of participants per year
- Provides water conservation education - Estimated number of participants per year
- Improves water supply/delivery reliability – Describe increased water transmission efficiency
- Delays construction of new M&I facilities – Describe benefits
- Reduces drainage and erosion – Describe benefits
- Improves water quality – Describe benefits
- Enhances aquatic/riparian habitat – Describe benefits
- Protects/assists endangered species efforts – Describe benefits

Applicants can submit the attached Benefits Form to aid in completion of this requirement.

e. Environmental and Regulatory Compliance – Applicants are required to comply with all applicable state, Federal, and local environmental, cultural, and paleontological resource protection laws and regulations. These may include, but are not limited to, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), including the Council on Environmental Quality and Department of the Interior regulations implementing NEPA; the Clean Water Act; and the National Historic Preservation Act, which requires consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, the Endangered Species Act, and could require consultation with potentially affected Tribes.

Reclamation is the lead Federal agency for NEPA compliance for projects funded by this NOFO. As the lead agency, Reclamation is solely responsible for determining the appropriate level of NEPA compliance, which could be a categorical exclusions checklist, environmental assessment, or environmental impact statement. However, a project partner (or their contractor) can provide much of the necessary information and data analyses.

In order to allow Reclamation to assess the probable environmental impacts and associated costs for each proposal, all applicants must respond to the following list of questions focusing on the requirements of NEPA, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act. Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge. If any question is not applicable to your activity/project, **please explain why**. If you have any questions, please contact your local Reclamation office.

The follow questions/items must be addressed:

- (1) Will your activity/project impact the surrounding environment (i.e. soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat, etc.)? If so, please explain the impacts and any steps that could be taken to minimize the impacts.
- (2) Are you aware of any endangered or threatened species in the activity/project area?
- (3) Are there wetlands inside the activity/project boundaries? If so, please estimate how many acres of wetlands there are, and describe any impact your activity/project will have on the wetlands.
- (4) When was your irrigation system or structures affected by this project constructed? Irrigation systems and facilities that are 50 years old or older meet the minimum basic requirement for consideration for eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Your answers to this will help us understand whether this applies to this project.
- (5) If your activity/project will affect individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals or flumes), state when those features were constructed and describe the nature and timing of any extensive alterations or modifications to those features.
- (6) Are any buildings, structures, or features in your irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places? Your local Reclamation office can assist you in answering this question.

- (7) Are there any known cultural resources sites in the proposed activity/project area?
- (8) Nature of Activity (Note: the description of project should include all features and other details that will aid in determining the extent of the impacts of the activity or project, such as, but not limited to: a.) total acres of new surface disturbance anticipated, b.) the duration of the project to be authorized, c.) time of year project will be implemented, d.) types and number of equipment to be used, and e.) future operations and maintenance activities.
- (9) What NEPA documents, biological assessments, biological opinions, cultural reports have already been prepared for this action (e.g. programmatic EA or EIS, biological opinion, etc.) or similar actions in the area?
- (10) Applicants must obtain all required approvals and permits, and shall coordinate and obtain any approvals required from site owners and operators. Applicants should state in their proposals whether any other Federal (e.g. 401, 404, etc.), state, county, municipality permits or approvals are required, and explain the applicant's plan for obtaining such permits or approvals.
- (11) Project Location should be provided, including a legal description with Section, Township, Range, State, County and City where the activity or project will take place. Also, USGS topographic map(s), other land status map(s), engineering drawing(s)/plat map(s), vicinity, plan view, and elevation depictions may be required in order to establish the area and scope of the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the activity or project.

Environmental compliance must be completed for all projects selected for award, no matter how slight the disturbance of the environment appears. Answers provided to the above questions will aid in the completion of this important requirement.

f. Budget Content – The activity/project budget shall clearly identify all activity/project costs and the funding source, i.e., Reclamation, or other funding sources. An example of an acceptable budget format is included in Section VIII. The budget narrative should include the following categories: Salaries and Wages, Fringe Benefits, Travel, Equipment, Supplies, Consultants/Contractual, Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs, and Other. If the projects does not includes costs in one of these categories, list it and show it as not applicable.

g. Indirect Costs – Indirect costs are those costs that are not directly attributable to the project (such as for computing, maintenance, security, administrative support) because they are incurred in joint usage. If the applicant chooses to include indirect costs, the proposal must show the proposed rate, cost base, and proposed amount for allowable indirect costs based on the applicable OMB circular cost principles for the applicant's organization. It is acceptable for the applicant to pay for indirect costs outside of the grant. It is not acceptable to incorporate indirect rates within other direct cost line items. If the applicant has separate rates for recovery of labor overhead, general, and administrative costs, each rate shall be shown. The applicant should propose rates for evaluation purposes that will be used as fixed or ceiling rates in any resulting award. Include a copy of any Federally-approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement. If you do not have a Federally-approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement or if unapproved rates are used, explain why, and include the computational basis for the indirect expense pool and corresponding allocation base for each rate. Information on "Preparing and Submitting Indirect Cost Proposals" is available from the Department of the Interior, National Business Center, Indirect Cost Section, at <http://www.aqd.nbc.gov/services/ICS.aspx>.

h. Funding Plan and Letter of Commitment Information – The proposal shall include a funding plan that describes how the non-Reclamation share of the activity/project costs and/or resources will be obtained. Reclamation will use this information in making a determination of financial capability. Applicants must be willing to fund at least 50% of the activity/project costs and provide documentation showing the sources of non-Reclamation funding that totals 50% or more of the total activity/project

costs. Additionally, if activity/project funding is being provided by other than the applicant, the applicant shall submit letters of commitment from these additional sources.

VI. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation criteria have changed to Reclamation-wide criteria. The criteria are intended to reflect a Reclamation-wide priority on water conservation planning and on-the-ground efficiency improvements. The relative importance to be placed on the evaluation criteria is shown below. Proposals will be evaluated by the appropriate program officials in accordance with these criteria and the corresponding points assigned to each criterion.

The four task area components and amount of available evaluation points are:

1. **Water Management Planning – 100 total points available**
2. **Implementation of Efficiency Measures – 95 total points available**
3. **Demonstration of Innovative Water Conservation Technologies – 90 total points available**
4. **Water Management/Conservation Education and Training – 85 total points available**
(See Section III for more information on these task area components)

In order to evaluate the proposal, the applicant must select the task area component for the proposed activity/project. If there is more than one type of task area component in the proposed work, please select the ONE that depicts the primary purpose of the activity/project. The following are the types of task areas and prospective points available for each:

1. **Water Management Planning – 100 Total Points Available:**

- a. Association with Reclamation Project Water Supplies--This criterion addresses the applicant's relationship with Reclamation projects. Priority is given to water user entities that receive water supplies from Reclamation projects or have water contracts with Reclamation. The applicant should explain its tie to a Reclamation project activity and specify Reclamation's water supply contract number, if applicable. (up to 25 points)
- b. Reasonableness of cost--This criterion evaluates whether the budget is sufficiently detailed, realistic and commensurate to the proposed work in the specified time frame. This criterion also evaluates whether the costs are reasonable, allocable and appropriate for the work proposed. (up to 10 points)
- c. Likelihood that the proposed activity/project would be completed by applicant if no Federal funding is available. This criterion addresses whether the proposal demonstrates what impact the lack of Federal assistance would have on the proposed work, including impact on the applicant's water management or water conservation program. (up to 10 points)
- d. Amount and sources of non-Federal funding (i.e., cost share)--This criterion evaluates whether the proposal provides for 50% or more non-Federal funding or in-kind services and that the cost share funds are secure. The applicant's proposal shall include a funding plan that describes how the non-Reclamation share of the activity/project costs will be obtained. Reclamation will use this information in making a determination of financial capability. More points will be given to those applicants that provide more than 50% cost share. (up to 2 points)
- e. Potential issues related to environmental and cultural resources compliance—this criterion evaluates whether or not the proposal includes discussion and answers to questions posed in Section V.1.e. (up to 1 point)

- f. Water Conservation Plan is required under the Reclamation Reform Act (RRA) of 1982—priority is given for plans required by the RRA. (up to 20 points)
- g. Benefit information, described in Section V.1.d., is addressed in the proposal, including description of how benefits will be verified. (up to 32 points)

2. Implementation of Efficiency Measures – 95 Total Points Available:

- a. Association with Reclamation Project Water Supplies—same description as above (up to 23 points)
- b. Extent to which applicant’s Water Management Plan is complete and updated—must provide information about the plan, but plan does not have to be attached (Less points are awarded if applicant is not required to have a plan under RRA) (up to 15 points)
- c. Reasonableness of cost—same description as above (up to 9 points)
- d. Extent to which the proposed activity/project is expected to improve water use efficiency--This criterion addresses whether the proposal meets the goals and anticipated outcomes of activities of the LCRA WCFSP, as described in Sections I and III. To achieve full points, the required benefits information, from Section V.1.d. must be addressed. (up to 15 points)
- e. Likelihood that the proposed activity/project would be completed by applicant if no Federal funding is available—same description as above (up to 9 points)
- f. Amount and sources of non-Federal funding (i.e., cost share)—same description as above (up to 2 points)
- g. Potential issues related to environmental and cultural resources compliance—same description as above (up to 1 point)
- h. Extent to which proposal demonstrates a sound implementation strategy--This criterion addresses whether the approach is technically sound, if the methods are appropriate for achieving the stated goals and objectives, and if the anticipated results can be achieved in the time frame specified. (up to 11 points)
- i. The applicant’s strategy for monitoring performance and reporting and disseminating results--This criterion addresses whether the proposal describes how the actual benefits will be verified and documented once the activity/project is completed. (up to 10 points)

3. Demonstration Projects – 90 Total Points Available:

- a. Association with Reclamation Project Water Supplies—same description as above (up to 22 points)
- b. Extent to which applicant’s Water Management Plan is complete and updated— must provide information about the plan, but plan does not have to be attached (Less points are awarded if applicant is not required to have a plan under RRA) (up to 14 points)
- c. Reasonableness of cost—same description as above (up to 8 points)
- d. Extent to which the proposed activity/project will demonstrate innovative conservation technologies for improving water use efficiency (including applied research to benefit development of new technologies; demonstration of a specific conservation technology; or innovative application of existing technology with the intent of evaluating results). To achieve full points, the required benefits information, from Section V.1.d. must be addressed. (up to 14 points)
- e. Likelihood that the proposed activity/project would be completed by applicant if no Federal funding is available—same description as above (up to 8 points)
- f. Amount and sources of non-Federal funding (i.e., cost share)—same description as above (up to 2 points)
- g. Potential issues related to environmental and cultural resources compliance—same description as above (up to 1 point)
- h. Procedure for delivering message or findings—this criterion evaluates whether the applicant has provided information on its approach for disseminating the findings from

the demonstration project and whether the approach is realistic. This includes applicant's strategy for monitoring performance and reporting and disseminating results. (up to 11 points)

- i. Extent to which proposal demonstrates a sound implementation strategy (up to 10 points)

4. Water Conservation Education and Training Activities -- 85 Total Points Available

- a. Association with Reclamation Project Water Supplies—same description as above (up to 21 points)
- b. Reasonableness of cost—same description as above (up to 7 points)
- c. Likelihood that the proposed activity/project would be completed by applicant if no Federal funding is available—same description as above (up to 7 points)
- d. Amount and sources of non-Federal funding (i.e., cost share)—same description as above (up to 5 points)
- e. Need for education/training activity/project as related to improved water management, water use efficiency, and water conservation—this criterion addresses whether the applicant has provided sufficient information about why the education is needed. The required benefits information, from Section V.1.d. must be addressed. (up to 10 points)
- f. Procedure for delivering message—this criterion evaluates whether the applicant has provided information on its approach for delivering the message and whether the approach is realistic, including number of participants. (up to 12 points)
- g. The applicant's strategy for measuring the impact of the proposed activity/project on improved water management, water use efficiency, and water conservation (e.g., did water use decrease by the number of people reached by this activity/project.) (up to 15 points)
- h. Potential issues related to environmental and cultural resources compliance—same description as above (up to 1 point)
- i. Water Conservation Plan is required under the Reclamation Reform Act (RRA) of 1982—priority is give to outreach activities that are implemented from measures outlined in plans required by RRA. (up to 10 points)

****See attached Supplemental Information Questionnaire on pages 24-25 for additional explanation of what is required for receiving maximum points for these criteria.**

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals that do not meet the requirements of this opportunity or proposals that are determined to be outside the scope of this Notice. Awards will be made to the responsible applicants submitting proposals that conform to the NOFO and are most advantageous to the Government considering the factors listed above. The evaluation process will be comprised of three levels.

First Level Screening (Administrative Review)

All proposals received will be screened to ensure that proposal meets the requirements of the NOFO and that applicant meets the eligibility requirements stated in Section III of this document.

Second Level Evaluation (Technical Review)

If the proposed activity/project meets the first level screening, the applications are sent for technical review by an evaluation committee comprised of the LCRA WCFSP Program Manager and other technical specialists to document and rank proposals based on the evaluation criterion listed above.

Third Level Evaluation (Managerial Review)

Management will conduct a final review to prioritize activities/projects based on availability of funds and ensure balance among program tasks listed in Section I and balance throughout the LCRA. After completion of the Third Level Evaluation, Reclamation will notify applicants of its initial selections and begin the process of awarding the grant.

VII. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Award Notices

Successful applicants from this opportunity will receive notification that the application proposal has been recommended for funding by the cognizant Grants Officer (GO.) This notification is not an authorization to begin performance of the work. An official Notice of Award is the authorizing document signed by the GO and the Recipient. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified that their proposal was not selected for award.

Administration Requirements

If your organization is awarded an agreement as a result of this NOFO, grant funds must be paid electronically. Therefore, bank routing and account numbers are needed from the recipient to setup the payment account. A convenient way to provide this information is for the recipient to register on the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) website at <http://www.ccr.gov/>. CCR is the primary registrant database for the U.S. Federal Government. This is not required, but may become a requirement in the near future. At this time, other options are available, but involve additional paperwork. Please contact the technical point of contact with any questions.

VIII. FORMS AND SUGGESTED FORMATS

1. **SAMPLE BUDGET WORKSHEET FORMAT or Similar should be used**

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	COMPUTATION		APPLICANT FUNDING	RECLAMATION FUNDING	TOTAL COST
	\$/Unit and Unit	Quantity			
SALARIES AND WAGES					
Employee 1 (descriptive title)					
Employee 2 (descriptive title)					
FRINGE BENEFITS					
Full-time employees					
Part-time employees					
TRAVEL					
Trip 1					
Trip 2					
EQUIPMENT					
Item A					
Item B					
Item C					
SUPPLIES/MATERIALS					
Office Supplies					
Construction					
CONTRACTUAL/ CONSTRUCTION					
ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE					
OTHER					
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS					
INDIRECT COSTS - __%					
TOTAL ACTIVITY/PROJECT COSTS					

SAMPLE BUDGET NARRATIVE [must be included]

A. Salaries and Wages/Personnel - Indicate program manager and other key personnel by name and title, but only by title for others. For all positions, indicate salaries and wages, estimated hours or percent of time, and rate of compensation proposed. Clearly identify any proposed salary increases and the effective date. Generally, salaries of clerical personnel should be included as a portion of your indirect costs. If these salaries can be adequately documented as direct costs, they may be included in this section; however, please explain in budget narrative.

Name/Position	Computation	Cost
Ellen Smith, Investigator	$(\$50,000 \times 100\% \times 1.5)$	\$75,000
2 advocates	$(\$50,000 \times 100\% \times 1.5 \times 2)$	<u>\$150,000</u>
	Subtotal	\$225,000

Explanation of work: The investigator and the advocates will be assigned exclusively to domestic violence unit. A 2% cost of living adjustment is scheduled for all full-time personnel 6-months prior to the end of the grant. Overtime will be needed during some investigations. A half-time secretary will prepare reports and provide other support to the unit.

Cost of living increase	$(\$225,000 \times 2\% \times .5 \text{ yr.})$	\$2,250
Overtime per employee	$(\$37.5/\text{hr} \times 100 \text{ hrs} \times 3)$	<u>\$11,250</u>
	TOTAL SALARIES	\$238,500

B. Fringe Benefits - Indicate rates/amounts, what costs are included in this category and the

basis of the rate computations. Indicate whether these rates are used for proposal purposes only or whether they are fixed or provisional rates for billing purposes. Federally approved rate agreements are acceptable for compliance with this item. Fringe benefits should be based on actual known costs or an established formula. Fringe benefits are for the personnel listed in budget category (A) and only for the percentage of time devoted to the project. Fringe benefits on overtime hours are limited to FICA, Workman's Compensation, and Unemployment Compensation.

Name/Position	Computation	Cost
Employer's FICA	\$238,500 x 7.65%	\$18,245
Retirement	\$227,250 x 6%	\$13,635
Health Insurance	\$227,250 x 12%	\$27,270
Workman's Compensation	\$238,500 x 1%	\$ 2,385
Unemployment Compensation	\$238,500 x 1%	<u>\$ 2,385</u>
TOTAL FRINGE BENEFITS		\$63,920

C. Travel - Include purpose of trip (e.g., staff to training, field interviews, advisory group meeting, etc.); destination; number of employees traveling; length of stay; and all travel costs, including airfare (basis for rate used), per diem, lodging, and miscellaneous travel expenses. In training projects, travel and meals for trainees should be listed separately. Indicate source of travel policies applied, applicant or federal travel regulations. For local travel, include mileage and rate of compensation.

Purpose

Purpose of Travel	Location	Item	Computation	Cost
Training	Minneapolis	Airfare	(\$150 x 2 people x 2 trips)	\$600
		Hotel	(\$75/night x 2 nights x 2 people x 2 trips)	\$600
		Meals	(\$35/day x 3 days x 2 people x 2 trips)	<u>\$420</u>

The two advocates will attend meeting on domestic violence and child abuse in Minneapolis in October. Federal travel rates applied.

TOTAL TRAVEL \$1,620

D. Equipment - Itemize costs of all equipment having a value of over \$5,000 and include information as to the need for this equipment. (Note: Organizations' own capitalization policy for classification of equipment should be used.) Expendable items should be included in the "Supplies" category. Applicants should analyze the cost benefits of purchasing versus leasing equipment, especially high cost items and those subject to rapid technical advances. Rented or leased equipment costs should be listed in the "Contractual" category. Explain how the equipment is necessary for the success of the project. Attach a narrative describing the procurement method to be used.

Item	Computation	Cost
3 - 486 Computer w/CD ROM	(\$2,000 x 3)	\$6,000
Video Camera		<u>\$1,000</u>

The computers will be used by the investigator and the advocates to analyze case and intelligence information. The camera will be used for investigative and crime scene work.

TOTAL EQUIPMENT \$7,000

E. Supplies - List items by type (office supplies, postage, training materials, copying paper, and expendable items such as books, hand held tape recorders); quantity; and purpose. Show the basis for computation. Generally, supplies include any materials that are expendable or consumed during the course of the project.

Supply Items	Computation	Cost
---------------------	--------------------	-------------

Office Supplies	(\$50/mo x 18 mo)	\$ 600
Postage	(20/mo x 18 mo)	\$ 240
Training Materials	(\$2/set x 500 sets)	<u>\$1,000</u>

Office supplies and postage are needed for general operation of the program. Training materials will be developed and used by the investigators to train patrol officers how to preserve crime scene evidence.

TOTAL SUPPLIES \$1,840

F. Consultants/Contracts - Identify all work that will be accomplished by subrecipients, consultants, or contractors, including a detailed budget estimate of time, rates, supplies, and materials that will be required for the task. If a subrecipient, consultant, or contractor is proposed and approved at time of award, no other approvals will be required. Any changes or additions will require a request for approval. Indicate whether applicant's formal, written Procurement Policy or the Federal Acquisition Regulations are followed.

Consultant Fees: For each consultant enter the name, if known, service to be provided, hourly or daily fee (8-hour day), and estimated time on the project. Consultant fees in excess of \$450 per day require additional justification and prior approval from OJP.

<u>Name of Consultant</u>	<u>Service Provided</u>	<u>Computation</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Jane Doe	Domestic Violence Trainer	(\$150/day x 30 days)	\$4,500

Joe Doe, Domestic Violence Trainer, will be hired, as needed, to assist with the education of the local law enforcement officers and the court personnel.

Consultant Expenses: List all expenses to be paid from the grant to the individual consultant in addition to their fees (i.e., travel, meals, lodging etc.)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Computation</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Airfare	San Diego	\$400 x 6 trips	\$2,400
Hotel and Meals		(\$100/day x 30 days)	<u>\$3,000</u>

Jane Doe is expected to make up to 6 trips to provide training and technical assistance to the project.

Subtotal of Consultant Expenses \$5,400

Contracts: Provide a description of the product or services to be procured by contract and an estimate of the cost. Applicants are encouraged to promote free and open competition in awarding contracts. A separate justification must be provided for sole source contracts in excess of \$100,000.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Not applicable	

TOTAL CONTRACTS \$9,900

G. Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs – Environmental and Cultural resource regulatory compliance is required for all projects that receive federal funding. Applicants **must** include a line item in their budget to cover environmental compliance costs. Reasonable environmental costs included in the line item will be considered project costs and will be cost shared by the applicant and Reclamation. The amount of the line

item should be based on the actual expected environmental compliance costs for the project. Any environmental compliance costs that exceed the amount budgeted for by the applicant must generally be paid for solely by the applicant. Reclamation retains discretion, depending on the circumstances, to pay for some environmental compliance costs in excess of the amount budgeted for the by applicant, on a case-by-case basis.

How environmental compliance activities will be performed (e.g. by Reclamation, the applicant or a consultant) will be determined upon selection and negotiation of the financial assistance agreement between Reclamation and the recipient. If any portion of the funds budgeted for environmental compliance is not required for compliance activities, such funds may be reallocated to the activity/project, if appropriate. To the extent possible, environmental compliance will be completed before an agreement is signed by the parties. In all other cases, the agreement will describe how environmental compliance will be carried out and how such costs will be paid for.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Cultural Resource Survey Consultant Contract	\$5,000
Permits	\$1,000
Environmental Compliance (Applicant's Contractor)	\$4,000
Environmental Compliance (Reclamation)	<u>\$3,000</u>
TOTAL Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Cost	\$13,000

H. Other Costs - Any other expenses, such as those for reporting, not included in the above categories shall be listed in this category, along with a description of the item and explanation of its use. No profit or fee will be allowed. Funding for contingencies will only be considered in association with construction projects. Proposals for construction contingency funding at a rate greater than 10% will not be found acceptable. List items (e.g., rent, reproduction, telephone, janitorial, or security services and investigative or confidential funds) by major type and the basis of the computation.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Computation</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Rent	(700 sq. ft. x \$15/sq. ft.) (\$875 mo. X 12 mos.)	\$10,500

This rent will pay for space for the domestic violence unit. No space is currently available in city owned buildings.

Telephone	(\$100/mo. x 12)	\$ 1,200
Printing/Reproduction	(\$150/mo. x 12)	<u>\$ 1,800</u>
TOTAL OTHER COSTS		\$13,500

I. Indirect Costs - Indirect costs are allowed only if the applicant has a federally approved indirect cost rate. A copy of the rate approval (a fully executed, negotiated agreement) must be attached. If the applicant does not have an approved rate, one can be requested by contacting the applicant's cognizant federal agency, which will review all documentation and approve a rate for the applicant organization, or if the applicant's accounting system permits, costs may be allocated in the direct costs categories. **N/A**

Budget Summary - When you have completed the budget worksheet, transfer the totals for each category to the spaces below. Compute the total direct costs and the total project costs. Indicate the amount of Federal requested and the amount of nonfederal funds that will support the project.

Budget Category	Amount
A. Personnel	\$238,500
B. Fringe Benefits	\$ 63,920
C. Travel	\$ 16,620
D. Equipment	\$ 7,000
E. Supplies	\$ 1,840
F. Consultants/Contracts	\$ 9,900
G. Environmental & Regulatory Costs	\$ 13,000
H. Other	<u>\$ 13,500</u>
Total Direct Costs	\$364,280
I. Indirect Costs	<u>\$ N/A</u>
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$364,280
Federal Share (50%)	\$182,140
Non-federal Share (50%)	\$182,140
Indirect Cost Rate (if applicable): N/A Indirect costs rates must be based on the applicable OMB circular cost principles for the applicant's organization. Is a copy of the Federally approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement? Yes ___ No ___ If no, provide supporting documentation of cost basis of the proposed rate calculation:	

2. Benefits

WATER CONSERVATION FIELD SERVICES PROGRAM
ACTIVITY/PROJECT BENEFITS FORM

Applicant's Name _____ Date _____

Please check the appropriate water management benefits for agricultural or urban measures that you anticipate addressing in you proposal. Where available, please provide an estimate of the benefit to units (i.e. Acre Feet, Dollars, and Percentages) and backup for calculations, if available.

It is essential to establish benefits of the Program. Please help us with your best estimate for each benefit (direct and indirect) that applies.

- ___ Reduces Leaks and Seepage _____ Acre Feet/Year
___ Reduces System Spills _____ Acre Feet/Year
___ Makes More Water Available _____ Acre Feet/Year
___ Reduces Operation Costs _____ \$ /Year
___ Reduces Energy Costs _____ \$ /Year
___ Reduces Waste Treatment Costs _____ \$ /Year
___ Improves Crop Yield _____ Percent/Year
___ Reduces On-Farm Costs _____ \$ /Year
___ Reduces Per Capita Use _____ Gallons/Capita/Day
___ Provides Technical Training _____ # of People
___ Provides Water Conservation Education _____ # of People
___ Improves Water Supply Reliability _____ Frequency (Years)*
* Estimate of how often the improvement will occur (i.e. 1 = each year)
___ Delays Construction of New Supplies _____ Years
___ Reduces Drainage/Erosion _____ Tons
___ Improves Water Quality _____ % reduction of _____
___ Enhances Aquatic/Riparian Habitat Describe: _____
___ Protects/Assists endangered species efforts Describe: _____

OTHER:

3.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE
Lower Colorado Regional Area (LCRA)
Request for Proposal
Supplemental Information Questionnaire

To ensure that the proposal has addressed all of the evaluation criteria from Section VI, this supplemental questionnaire is provided for the applicant's assistance. This is not a mandatory form. On a separate sheet of paper, please briefly answer all of the following questions that apply **ONLY** to the task area component of your proposal.

1. Water Management Planning

- a. With which Reclamation project in the LCRA service area do you have an association? What is the association? What is the applicant's Reclamation Water Service Contract Number?
- b. Is the budget summary, detailed budget narrative, and funding plan attached? Does the work described in the technical proposal match the budget? Are the costs commensurate with the work being accomplished? Are costs reasonable, allocable, and appropriate for the work proposed per applicable CFR?
- c. Why is financial assistance from Reclamation needed to complete this activity/project? Will the activity/project proceed if the assistance is not received? Why or why not?
- d. Who are the partners in this project? What are their contributions? List cost share percentages.
- e. Answer environmental questions from Section V.1.e.
- f. If water contract number was provided above, does the contract require a 5-year Water Conservation Plan? Does the applicant have a service area population of more than 3,300 people or receive more than 2,000 acre feet of water from Reclamation?
- g. Does the proposal discuss benefits and provide required benefit information?

--- OR ---

2. Implementation of Efficiency Measures

- a. With which Reclamation project in the LCRA service area do you have an association? What is the association? What is the applicant's Reclamation Water Service Contract Number, if applicable?
- b. Is the proposed activity/project a component of a written water management/conservation plan and has the plan been formally submitted to a federal, state, or local agency? If the proposed activity/project is contained in a formal plan, what specific goal and objective in the plan is the proposed activity/project intended to accomplish?
- c. Is the budget summary, detailed budget narrative, and funding plan attached? Does the work described in the technical proposal match the budget? Are the costs commensurate with the work being accomplished? Are costs reasonable, allocable, and appropriate for the work proposed per applicable CFR?
- d. How will this activity/project promote good water management and efficient water use? Does this proposal address the activity/project's connection to goals of the WCFSP? Does the proposal discuss benefits and provide required benefit information?
- e. Why is financial assistance from Reclamation needed to complete this activity/project? Will the activity/project proceed if the assistance is not received? Why or why not?
- f. Who are the partners in this activity? What are their contributions? List cost share percentages.
- g. Answer environmental questions from Section V.1.e.
- h. How does the applicant plan to achieve full implementation of the proposed activity/project? Are the schedule/timeframes provided?
- i. How does the applicant intend to evaluate the effectiveness of the completed activity/project? Does the proposal discuss how the actual benefits will be verified and documented once the activity/project is completed?

--- OR ---

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE cont.

3. Demonstration of Water Management/Conservation Innovative Technology

- a. With which Reclamation project in the LCRA service area do you have an association? What is the association? What is the applicant's Reclamation Water Service Contract Number, if applicable?
- b. Is the proposed activity/project a component of a written water management/conservation plan and has the plan been formally submitted to a federal, state, or local agency? If the proposed activity/project is contained in a formal plan, what specific goal and objective in the plan is the proposed activity/project intended to accomplish?
- c. Is the budget summary, detailed budget narrative, and funding plan attached? Does the work described in the technical proposal match the budget? Are the costs commensurate with the work being accomplished? Are costs reasonable, allocable, and appropriate for the work proposed per applicable CFR?
- d. Why is this demonstration activity/project needed? Does this proposal address the activity/project's connection to goals of the WCFSP? Does the proposal discuss benefits and provide required benefit information?
- e. Why is financial assistance from Reclamation needed to complete this activity/project? Will the activity/project proceed if the assistance is not received? Why or why not?
- f. Who are the partners in this activity? What are their contributions? List cost share percentages.
- g. Answer environmental questions from Section V.1.e.
- h. How do you intend to inform interested individuals and organizations about the outcome of the demonstration activity/project?
- i. How does your organization plan to achieve full implementation of the proposed activity? Are the schedule/timeframes provided?
- j. How does your organization intend to evaluate the effectiveness of the completed activity? Does the proposal discuss how the actual benefits will be verified and documented once the activity/project is completed?

--- OR ---

4. Water Management/Conservation Education and Training Activities

- a. With which Reclamation project in the LCRA service area do you have an association? What is the association? What is the applicant's Reclamation Water Service Contract Number?
- b. Is the proposed activity/project a component of a written water management/conservation plan and has the plan been formally submitted to a federal, state, or local agency? If the proposed activity/project is contained in a formal plan, what specific goal and objective, in the plan, is the proposed activity/project intended to accomplish? Why or why not?
- c. Why is financial assistance from Reclamation needed to complete this activity/project? Will the activity/project proceed if the assistance is not received? Why or why not?
- d. Who are the partners in this activity? What are their contributions? List cost share percentages.
- e. What is the need for this education/training activity with relation to good water management, efficient use of water, and water conservation? Is it a traditional method of water management/conservation education or public outreach? Does the proposal discuss benefits and provide required benefit information?
- f. How do you intend to spread your message? Who is the intended audience? How many people will the activity reach?
- g. Can you measure the impact of your message upon good water management, efficient use of water, and water conservation? How will you do this and how will you document and publish the outcomes?
- h. Answer environmental questions from Section V.1.e.
- i. If water contract number was provided above, does the contract require a 5-year Water Conservation Plan? Is this education/outreach activity included as an implementation measure in the plan?

WCFSP 2011-2016 Appendix B
Water Conservation Field Services Program FY2010 Environmental
Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

Bureau of Reclamation
Water Conservation Field Services Program
FY2010 Grants
Environmental Assessment

Lower Colorado Region, Boulder City, NV

Environmental Assessment # LC-10-014

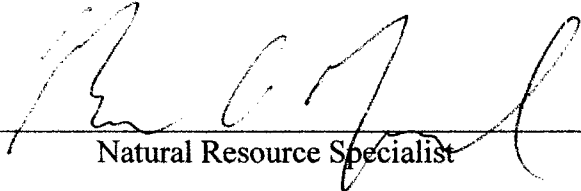
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
(FONSI)**

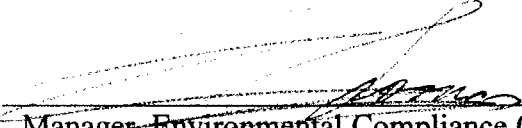
LC-10-014


**Bureau of Reclamation
Water Conservation Field Services Program FY2010 Grants
Clark County, Nevada; Washington County, Utah; Mojave County, Arizona**

Based on a thorough review of the analysis of the environmental impacts presented in the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) Reclamation concludes that implementation of the Proposed Alternative will not significantly affect the quality of the human or physical environment within the project area.

This Finding of No Significant Impact has, therefore, been prepared and is submitted to document environmental review and evaluation of the Proposed Alternative in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended.

Prepared:  _____ Date: 4/6/10
Natural Resource Specialist

Recommended:  _____ Date: 4/9/10
Manager, Environmental Compliance Group

Approved:  _____ Date: 4-6-10
Director, Resources Management Office

BACKGROUND

There are three Categorical Exclusion (CE) categories that cover this type of action for the Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP) in the Department Manual 516 Chapter 14.5. The three categories all cover grant actions under the authority of various Acts passed by Congress. The authority to dispense WCFSP grants for FY2010 is given under the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009, for which there is not yet an established CE category. Although the grant actions themselves for the projects included in the FY2010 WCFSP are covered under the current CE categories the specific authority that these grants are being offered under is not. The Bureau of Reclamation Lower Colorado Region has prepared an Environmental Assessment to properly document the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. In the future, the Bureau of Reclamation Lower Colorado Region will seek to add a new CE category that addresses this new authority for WCFSP grants.

Water conserved under the proposed action is many orders of magnitude less than the total amount of water that flows through the Lower Colorado River System. The water proposed to be conserved through these grant programs is so insignificant in the context of water that flows through the Lower Colorado River System that it will not even raise to a point of being measurable in the overall system.

1.0 Purpose and Need for the Action

This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA. The purpose of this EA is to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed project and its alternative on the physical and human environment.

The purpose of this action is to provide funding through the Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP) to various entities to initiate, implement, enhance, or continue water conservation plans or programs. These plans or programs will either educate the public on the need for and how to of conserving water or will provide incentives to the public for implementing water conservation measures.

The need for this action is to promote water conservation within the Lower Colorado River Basin in order to optimally use available water resources. The authority to provide grants for the types of projects listed under the proposed action is given under the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Section 9504.

2.0 Description of Alternatives

2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative the projects proposed to be funded by the WCFSP would not be funded. Under the WCFSP in fiscal year 2010 there are two projects that would be continuing from previous years and four projects that are newly proposed. The two continuing projects would be discontinued. The four new projects would not be initiated through the WCFSP. Water savings through conservation programs would not occur in conjunction with the WCFSP if the no action alternative is selected.

2.2 Proposed Alternative

Under the proposed action there would be six projects funded by the WCFSP. Two of the six projects are for projects that have been funded in previous years and would be a continuation of those activities. Four of the six projects being proposed for funding are new projects.

Projects that are a continuation of work from previous years, but with new grant agreements:

Under Grant #R10AP30010, the City of Lake Havasu City, Arizona would carry out a Water Conservation Program to implement water conservation outreach outlined in its 5-year Water Conservation Plan. The work would involve performing water audits in homes throughout the

city, running outreach publication campaign, presenting water programs at the local schools, and continuing a rebate program for the purchase of low-flow toilets for homes built prior to 1990.

Under Grant #R10AP30014 the Washington County Water Conservancy District, Utah would assist in the implementation of two measures identified in the Water Management and Conservation Plan. One measure is to provide assistance in maintaining the outreach aspects of the City's Demonstration Garden, such as: assisting in organizing, planning, and presenting workshops; maintaining garden appearance; keeping current all outreach facets; and providing assistance to visitors. The second measure is to offer rebates for residential and large water users who install a Smart Water Applied Technology device (SWAT). This project would save approximately 23 acre feet of water per year.

New projects:

Under Grant #R10AP30009 the City of St. George, Utah would implement measures from the City of St. George's Water Conservation Plan to continue a rebate program to replace older, high-flow toilets in single family and multi-family units with ultra low-flow and highly efficient models and to replace older high-flow urinals in commercial buildings with WaterSense labeled urinals, which use a half gallon of water per flush or less.

Under Grant #R10AP30011 the City of North Las Vegas, Nevada would distribute digital shower timers at a public event held in August. The digital shower timers are easy for residents to place inside the shower and are used to encourage residents to take shorter showers, thereby reducing in-house water use. Implementation of this measure is a vital portion of the City's effort to promote water conservation and manage its water more efficiently.

Under Grant #R10AP30012 Kyle Canyon Water District, Nevada would develop and implement a water conservation rate structure for the Kyle Canyon Water District. Currently the rate is a flat rate, which seasonal residents only pay when their water is turned on. An underlying goal of the process is to promote water conservation and ensure that all residents pay equitably for operations and system improvement costs. The process is intended to result in a well-designed structure that will balance competing interests, promote water conservation, and increase the sustainability of the system.

Under Grant #R10AP30013 the Southern Nevada Water Authority, Nevada would continue its successful WaterSmart Landscaping (WSL) Program, which provides rebates to encourage homeowners throughout Southern Nevada to convert turf to desert tolerant landscaping. The program rebates customers \$1.50 per square-foot for the first 5,000 square-feet of turf converted per property and \$1.00 per square-foot for each additional square-foot removed,

with caps for large conversions. This project would convert approximately 785,714 square-feet of turf and will result in a recurring annual water savings of 135 AFY.

3.0 Affected Environment

Under the proposed action the affected environment would be urbanized areas within the states of Arizona, Utah, and Nevada. These urbanized areas are specifically the City of St. George and urbanized portions of Washington County (Utah), the City of Lake Havasu City (Arizona), and the Greater Las Vegas Metropolitan area and Kyle Canyon (Nevada).

The actions included in the Proposed Action would not have any measurable impact on Recreation, Cultural Resources, Biological Resources, Environmental Justice, Hazardous Materials, Land Use, Air Quality, Utilities and Public Services, Visual Resources, socioeconomics, and Geology Soils and Topography. Therefore the above mentioned topics will not be analyzed further in this document.

The affected environment for projects associated with Grant #R10AP30010, R10AP30014, and R10AP30009 are compiled together in the following paragraph. These three projects are associated with water conservation plan implementation. Currently residential and commercial developments are operating using appliances that were designed when water was not such a limiting resource. As a result, many of the water using appliances utilize larger amounts of water than necessary to accomplish the specific tasks. Many residents and commercial establishments utilize landscaping to beautify their properties. In the past, landscaping implied that large amounts of water were needed to irrigate plants. With the popularity of desert landscaping growing, a demonstration garden has been established in Washington County to demonstrate to individuals and businesses the principals and benefits of desert landscaping.

The affected environment for the project associated with grant #R10AP30011 is in the urban Las Vegas, Nevada setting. Currently, residents use more time than necessary to take showers. By taking longer showers, an unnecessarily larger amount of water is used that then needs to be. This water then needs to be treated prior to being discharged back into the Colorado River system.

The affected environment for the project associated with grant #R10AP30012 is the service area for the Kyle Canyon Water District, located in Kyle Canyon, Nevada. The project associated with this grant is administrative in nature. Currently residents pay for water through a flat rate that is charged monthly and only when the water to the owner's residents is turned on. This grant is to assist the Kyle Canyon Water District in designing a new rate structure that will

spread the costs associated with the Kyle Canyon water system more equitably across all of the residents.

The affected environment for the project associated with grant #R10AP30013 is in the urban Las Vegas, Nevada setting. Currently many residents in the Las Vegas have grass as a major component of their landscaping. Utilizing grass for landscaping in the desert southwest is a water intense activity. During the hot summer months grass needs to be watered routinely, resulting in excessive water use. Water that is used for watering lawns is lost to evapotranspiration and into the shallow groundwater table. Although this water does not incur the cost of treatment, it is in effect removed from the Colorado River system because it is not accounted for and returned to the Colorado River system through the water treatment system.

4.0 Environmental Consequences

The environmental consequences for all six proposed WCFSP grant projects are compiled together because they are all similar in nature in that they propose to conserve water within the Lower Colorado River (LCR) watershed.

The amount of water that is expected to be conserved through these proposed projects is in the order of hundreds of acre feet per year. The amount of water that flows through the LCR system is on the order of millions of acre feet per year. Water conservation is an important topic in the desert southwest. Return flow systems associated with the LCR (such as the Las Vegas Wash in Las Vegas, Nevada) are important in that they have become established with vegetation and provide habitat for many species of animals and plants and in some areas are incorporated in natural park areas for the public to enjoy.

Due to the fact that the amount of water estimated to be conserved through these proposed projects is many orders of magnitude less than the total amount of water that flows through the LCR system and many orders of magnitude less than the amount of water removed from the LCR system at each point of diversion where the water conservation measures are proposed, impacts of the reduced volume of water being utilized are negligible and virtually non-measurable.

Impacts to the human environment are also non-measurable. These proposed water conservation projects are voluntary programs that will be incorporated into private commercial and residential facilities.

Included as an attachment to this EA is a Categorical Exclusion (CE) checklist (Attachment A) that would have been used for this project if there was an appropriate CE category. The CE checklist is used to illustrate the fact that there are no impacts to areas that should be considered when analyzing this project and also to demonstrate the need for a new CE category that would cover this type of action.

Water conservation in general is a wholly beneficial activity that allows water delivery systems to better allocate their set water allocations from the LCR to areas that benefit the vision of the community being serviced.

4.1 Cumulative Impacts

Due to the nature of these projects being small in size, beneficial in nature, and spread over a large geographic area a cumulative impact analysis is difficult to formulate. The actions included in the proposed action are proposing to conserve water in the LCR watershed, but the amounts proposed to be conserved are truly insignificant in the context of the water that flows through the LCR within a water year. Water that is conserved will be available for use within the water districts that are conserving the water for other uses within the water district and the net flow of water in and out of these water districts will not change significantly or increase beyond currently allocated amounts. The funding for the proposed projects is one time grant funding for activities that will occur within urbanized environments on private lands through voluntary participation and is difficult to gauge the success the projects.

Attachment A

EVALUATION OF CRITERIA FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | This action or group of actions would have significant effect on the quality of the human environment.
(40 CFR 1502.3) | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes___. |
| 2. | This action or group of actions would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. (NEPA Section 102(2) (E) and 43 CFR 46.215 (c)) | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes___. |
| 3. | This action would have significant impacts on public health and safety.
(43 CFR 46.215 (a)) | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes___. |
| 4. | This action would have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

(43 CFR 43.215 (b)) | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes___. |
| 5. | The action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
(43 CFR 43.215 (d)) | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes___. |
| 6. | This action would establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about the future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
(43 CFR 46.215 (e)) | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes___. |
| 7. | This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

(43 CFR 46.215 (f)) | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes___. |
| 8. | This action would have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes___. |

listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation.

(43 CFR 43.215 (g))

9. This action would have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed, on the List of Threatened or Endangered Species or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species. No Uncertain Yes .

(43 CFR 43.215 (h))

10. This action would violate Federal, State, local, or tribal law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment. (43 CFR 46.215 (i)) No Uncertain Yes .

11. This action will adversely affect Indian Trust Assets (ITA). No Uncertain Yes .

(S.O. 3175)

12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations. No Uncertain Yes .

(43 CFR 46.215 (j))

13. This action would limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007). No Uncertain Yes .

(43 CFR 46.215 (k))

14. This action would contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or result in actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112). No Uncertain Yes .

(43 CFR 43.215 (l))

WCFSP 2011-2016 Appendix C

WaterSmart Water and Energy Efficiency Program and Water Conservation
Field Services Grants: Water Smart Landscape Rebate Program in Clark
County Nevada, Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment and
Finding of No Significant Impact

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Program and Water Conservation Field Services Grants: Water Smart Landscape Rebate Program in Clark County, Nevada

Lower Colorado Region, Boulder City, Nevada

Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region
Boulder City, Nevada**

September 2010

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

(FONSI)

LC-10-031

**Bureau of Reclamation
WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Program and Water Conservation Field
Services Grants: Water Smart Landscape Rebate Program
Clark County, Nevada**

Based on a thorough review of the analysis of the environmental impacts presented in the Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) Reclamation concludes that implementation of the Proposed Alternative that would provide funding through the *Water Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow* (WaterSmart) Water and Energy Efficiency Program and the Water Conservation Field Services Program to Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) to initiate, implement, enhance, or continue water conservation plans under SNWA's Water Smart Landscape Rebate Program for the period of 2010-2015, will not significantly affect the quality of the human or physical environment within the project area.

This Finding of No Significant Impact has, therefore been prepared and is submitted to document environmental review and evaluation of the Proposed Alternative in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended.

Prepared:


Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: 9-27-2010

Recommended:


Manager, Environmental Compliance Group

Date: 9/29/10

Approved:


Director, Resources Management Office

Date: 9-29-10

Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment

**WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Program and
Water Conservation Field Services Grants: Water Smart
Landscape Rebate Program in Clark County, Nevada**

**Prepared by:
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region
Boulder City, Nevada**



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region
Boulder City, Nevada**

September 2010

Mission Statements

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

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1.0 Purpose of and Need for the Action

This Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA. The purpose of this EA is to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed project and its alternative on the physical and human environment and determine if the impacts would be significant warranting the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

1.1 Background

Reclamation is proposing to grant the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) funding through the Reclamation's *Water Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow* (WaterSMART) Water and Energy Efficiency (WSWEE) program to continue SNWA's Water Smart Landscapes Rebate Plan (WSL) Program. The authority to dispense WSWEE grants for 2010/2011 is given under the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.

This grant would allow SNWA to continue its water conservation efforts in Southern Nevada. The program would provide an estimated annual recurring savings of 1,390 acre feet (AF) of water from the Colorado River by creating an incentive for residential property owners by converting turf with water-efficient landscaping. Under the program, a deed of covenant ensures that no turf will be installed in the project area following retrofit. This expansion of the program is projected to result in savings of approximately 1,390 acre-feet of water annually. Water conserved through this project will be used to help meet current and future demands in the face of sustained drought in the Colorado River Basin. (see Appendix C).

In April 2010, The Bureau of Reclamation Lower Colorado Region prepared the Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP) EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for several WCFSP grants. The WCFSP EA included Grant #R10AP30013 in which Reclamation granted SNWA funding to continue the WSL Program in fiscal year 2010.

This EA is a supplement to the April 2010 WCFSP EA and FONSI to amend the proposed action to add grants for WSL under the WSWEE and include additional grants for WSL under the WCFSP for the period of 2010-2015. As a result, the information contained in this EA either summarizes or references information in the April 2010 WCFSP EA.

Both the actions covered under the April 2010 WCFSP EA and FONSI and this new action are typically covered under a Categorical Exclusion (CE). There are three CE categories that cover this type of action in the Department Manual 516 Chapter 14.5. The three categories all cover grant actions under the authority of various Acts passed by Congress. However, there is not yet an established CE to cover actions under the authority for the WSWEE or the WCFSP.

1.2 Purpose and Need

The purpose of this action is to provide funding through the WCFSP and WSWEE to SNWA to initiate, implement, enhance, or continue water conservation plans or programs under the WSL Program for the period of 2010-2015. The program would educate the public on the need for water conserving water and how to conserve water or will provide incentives to the public for implementing water conservation measures.

The need for this action is to promote water conservation within the Lower Colorado River Basin in order to optimally use available water resources. The authority to provide grants for these types of projects listed under the proposed action is given under the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Section 9504.

2.0 Description of Alternatives

2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, the WSL program proposed would not be funded and initiated through the WCFSP or WSWE. Water savings through the conservation program that proposes to provide a financial incentive for residential property owners to replace turf with water-efficient landscaping would not occur in conjunction with the WCFSP or WSWE if the no action alternative is selected.

2.2 Proposed Alternative

The proposed alternative would continue the WSL program through WCFSP and WSWE grants.

Under Grant #R10AP30013 SNWA would continue its WSL Program that provides rebates as a financial incentive to encourage the conversion of turf to water efficient and desert tolerant landscaping. The program rebates \$1.50 per square-foot for the first 5,000 square-feet converted per property, and \$1.00 per square-foot for each additional square-foot converted. There would be caps for conversions exceeding \$300,000. The program proposes to convert approximately 8,115,384 square feet of turf that would result in a recurring annual water savings of 1,390 AF per year.

Grant #R10AP30013 would include all landscape conversions rebates that are distributed under the WSL Program between FY2010 and FY2011 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011). This would dependent on customer demands that have been historically steady since the inception of the WSL Program (See Appendix C).

This alternative also includes future grant proposals from SNWA for the WSL programs that fit the purpose and need for this action and have environmental impacts which fall within the range of impacts described in the WCFSP EA.

3.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

3.1 Affected Environment

Under the proposed action, the affected environment would be the associated urbanized areas within Southern Nevada discussed in more detail in Section 3.0 of the WCSFP EA.

3.2 Environmental Consequences

The Proposed Action would not have any measurable impacts as discussed in the original WCSFP EA to

- Recreation
- Cultural Resources
- Biological Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Hazardous Materials
- Land use
- Air Quality
- Utilities and Public Services
- Visual Resources
- Socioeconomics
- Geology Soils and Topography.

Therefore, the above mentioned topics will not be analyzed further in this document.

The addition and expansion to the WSL Program under Grant #R10AP30013 poses no changes to the impacts of the following elements discussed in the Environmental Consequences section (4.0) of the original WCSFP EA:

- Lower Colorado River (LCR) Watershed
- Cumulative Impacts

Please refer to Section 3.0 and 4.0 of the WCSFP EA for a more detailed description of the affected environment and further analysis of the environmental consequences for the Proposed Action (see Appendix B).

Included in Appendix A of this EA is a CE checklist that would have been used for this project if there was an appropriate CE category. The CE checklist is used to illustrate the fact that there are no impacts to areas that should be considered when analyzing this proposed project and to also demonstrate the need for a new CE category that would cover this type of action as stated in the WCSFP EA (see Appendix B).

4.0 References

- 2010 Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region.
“Water Conservation Field Services Program: FY2010 Grants Environmental Assessment,” dated April 6, 2010, Project Number LC-10-014, prepared by Marc Maynard.

5.0 List of Preparers

Dana Anat
Environmental Protection Specialist
Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Regional Office

Faye Streier
Natural Resources Specialist/NEPA Coordinator
Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Regional Office

Appendix A
Categorical Exclusion Checklist

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
LOWER COLORADO REGION
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NO.: LC-10-031

DATE:

September 3, 2010

PROJECT NAME:

WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Program and Water Conservation Field Services Grants:
Water Smart Landscape Rebate Program in Clark County, Nevada

EVALUATION OF CRITERIA FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

1. This action or group of actions would have significant effect on the quality of the human environment. (40 CFR 1502.3) No Uncertain Yes .
2. This action or group of actions would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. (NEPA Section 102(2) (E) and 43 CFR 46.215 (c)) No Uncertain Yes .
3. This action would have significant impacts on public health and safety. (43 CFR 46.215 (a)) No Uncertain Yes .
4. This action would have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas. (43 CFR 43.215 (b)) No Uncertain Yes .
5. The action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. (43 CFR 43.215 (d)) No Uncertain Yes .
6. This action would establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about the future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. (43 CFR 46.215 (e)) No Uncertain Yes .
7. This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. (43 CFR 46.215 (f)) No Uncertain Yes .
8. This action would have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation. No Uncertain Yes .

(43 CFR 43.215 (g))

9. This action would have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed, on the Threatened or Endangered Species or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species. (43 CFR 43.215 (h)) No Uncertain__ Yes ___.
10. This action would violate Federal, State, local, or tribal law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment. (43 CFR 46.215 (i)) No Uncertain__ Yes ___.
11. This action will adversely affect Indian Trust Assets (ITA). (S.O. 3175) No Uncertain__ Yes ___.
12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations. (43 CFR 46.215 (j)) No Uncertain__ Yes ___.
13. This action would limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007). (43 CFR 46.215 (k)) No Uncertain__ Yes ___.
14. This action would contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or result in actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112). (43 CFR 43.215 (l)) No Uncertain__ Yes ___.

Appendix B
Water Conservation Field Services Program: FY2010 Grants
Environmental Assessment

Bureau of Reclamation
Water Conservation Field Services Program
FY2010 Grants
Environmental Assessment

Lower Colorado Region, Boulder City, NV

Environmental Assessment # LC-10-014

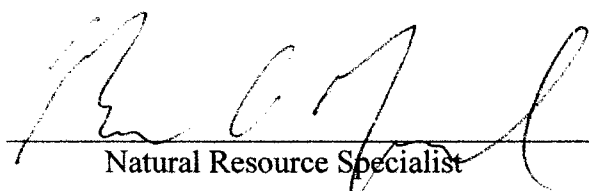
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
(FONSI)**


LC-10-014


**Bureau of Reclamation
Water Conservation Field Services Program FY2010 Grants
Clark County, Nevada; Washington County, Utah; Mojave County, Arizona**

Based on a thorough review of the analysis of the environmental impacts presented in the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) Reclamation concludes that implementation of the Proposed Alternative will not significantly affect the quality of the human or physical environment within the project area.

This Finding of No Significant Impact has, therefore, been prepared and is submitted to document environmental review and evaluation of the Proposed Alternative in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended.

Prepared:  _____ Date: 4/6/10
Natural Resource Specialist

Recommended:  _____ Date: 4/9/10
Manager, Environmental Compliance Group

Approved:  _____ Date: 4-6-10
Director, Resources Management Office

BACKGROUND

There are three Categorical Exclusion (CE) categories that cover this type of action for the Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP) in the Department Manual 516 Chapter 14.5. The three categories all cover grant actions under the authority of various Acts passed by Congress. The authority to dispense WCFSP grants for FY2010 is given under the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009, for which there is not yet an established CE category. Although the grant actions themselves for the projects included in the FY2010 WCFSP are covered under the current CE categories the specific authority that these grants are being offered under is not. The Bureau of Reclamation Lower Colorado Region has prepared an Environmental Assessment to properly document the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. In the future, the Bureau of Reclamation Lower Colorado Region will seek to add a new CE category that addresses this new authority for WCFSP grants.

Water conserved under the proposed action is many orders of magnitude less than the total amount of water that flows through the Lower Colorado River System. The water proposed to be conserved through these grant programs is so insignificant in the context of water that flows through the Lower Colorado River System that it will not even raise to a point of being measurable in the overall system.

1.0 Purpose and Need for the Action

This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA. The purpose of this EA is to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed project and its alternative on the physical and human environment.

The purpose of this action is to provide funding through the Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP) to various entities to initiate, implement, enhance, or continue water conservation plans or programs. These plans or programs will either educate the public on the need for and how to of conserving water or will provide incentives to the public for implementing water conservation measures.

The need for this action is to promote water conservation within the Lower Colorado River Basin in order to optimally use available water resources. The authority to provide grants for the types of projects listed under the proposed action is given under the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Section 9504.

2.0 Description of Alternatives

2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative the projects proposed to be funded by the WCFSP would not be funded. Under the WCFSP in fiscal year 2010 there are two projects that would be continuing from previous years and four projects that are newly proposed. The two continuing projects would be discontinued. The four new projects would not be initiated through the WCFSP. Water savings through conservation programs would not occur in conjunction with the WCFSP if the no action alternative is selected.

2.2 Proposed Alternative

Under the proposed action there would be six projects funded by the WCFSP. Two of the six projects are for projects that have been funded in previous years and would be a continuation of those activities. Four of the six projects being proposed for funding are new projects.

Projects that are a continuation of work from previous years, but with new grant agreements:

Under Grant #R10AP30010, the City of Lake Havasu City, Arizona would carry out a Water Conservation Program to implement water conservation outreach outlined in its 5-year Water Conservation Plan. The work would involve performing water audits in homes throughout the

city, running outreach publication campaign, presenting water programs at the local schools, and continuing a rebate program for the purchase of low-flow toilets for homes built prior to 1990.

Under Grant #R10AP30014 the Washington County Water Conservancy District, Utah would assist in the implementation of two measures identified in the Water Management and Conservation Plan. One measure is to provide assistance in maintaining the outreach aspects of the City's Demonstration Garden, such as: assisting in organizing, planning, and presenting workshops; maintaining garden appearance; keeping current all outreach facets; and providing assistance to visitors. The second measure is to offer rebates for residential and large water users who install a Smart Water Applied Technology device (SWAT). This project would save approximately 23 acre feet of water per year.

New projects:

Under Grant #R10AP30009 the City of St. George, Utah would implement measures from the City of St. George's Water Conservation Plan to continue a rebate program to replace older, high-flow toilets in single family and multi-family units with ultra low-flow and highly efficient models and to replace older high-flow urinals in commercial buildings with WaterSense labeled urinals, which use a half gallon of water per flush or less.

Under Grant #R10AP30011 the City of North Las Vegas, Nevada would distribute digital shower timers at a public event held in August. The digital shower timers are easy for residents to place inside the shower and are used to encourage residents to take shorter showers, thereby reducing in-house water use. Implementation of this measure is a vital portion of the City's effort to promote water conservation and manage its water more efficiently.

Under Grant #R10AP30012 Kyle Canyon Water District, Nevada would develop and implement a water conservation rate structure for the Kyle Canyon Water District. Currently the rate is a flat rate, which seasonal residents only pay when their water is turned on. An underlying goal of the process is to promote water conservation and ensure that all residents pay equitably for operations and system improvement costs. The process is intended to result in a well-designed structure that will balance competing interests, promote water conservation, and increase the sustainability of the system.

Under Grant #R10AP30013 the Southern Nevada Water Authority, Nevada would continue its successful WaterSmart Landscaping (WSL) Program, which provides rebates to encourage homeowners throughout Southern Nevada to convert turf to desert tolerant landscaping. The program rebates customers \$1.50 per square-foot for the first 5,000 square-feet of turf converted per property and \$1.00 per square-foot for each additional square-foot removed,

with caps for large conversions. This project would convert approximately 785,714 square-feet of turf and will result in a recurring annual water savings of 135 AFY.

3.0 Affected Environment

Under the proposed action the affected environment would be urbanized areas within the states of Arizona, Utah, and Nevada. These urbanized areas are specifically the City of St. George and urbanized portions of Washington County (Utah), the City of Lake Havasu City (Arizona), and the Greater Las Vegas Metropolitan area and Kyle Canyon (Nevada).

The actions included in the Proposed Action would not have any measurable impact on Recreation, Cultural Resources, Biological Resources, Environmental Justice, Hazardous Materials, Land Use, Air Quality, Utilities and Public Services, Visual Resources, socioeconomics, and Geology Soils and Topography. Therefore the above mentioned topics will not be analyzed further in this document.

The affected environment for projects associated with Grant #R10AP30010, R10AP30014, and R10AP30009 are compiled together in the following paragraph. These three projects are associated with water conservation plan implementation. Currently residential and commercial developments are operating using appliances that were designed when water was not such a limiting resource. As a result, many of the water using appliances utilize larger amounts of water than necessary to accomplish the specific tasks. Many residents and commercial establishments utilize landscaping to beautify their properties. In the past, landscaping implied that large amounts of water were needed to irrigate plants. With the popularity of desert landscaping growing, a demonstration garden has been established in Washington County to demonstrate to individuals and businesses the principals and benefits of desert landscaping.

The affected environment for the project associated with grant #R10AP30011 is in the urban Las Vegas, Nevada setting. Currently, residents use more time than necessary to take showers. By taking longer showers, an unnecessarily larger amount of water is used that then needs to be. This water then needs to be treated prior to being discharged back into the Colorado River system.

The affected environment for the project associated with grant #R10AP30012 is the service area for the Kyle Canyon Water District, located in Kyle Canyon, Nevada. The project associated with this grant is administrative in nature. Currently residents pay for water through a flat rate that is charged monthly and only when the water to the owner's residents is turned on. This grant is to assist the Kyle Canyon Water District in designing a new rate structure that will

spread the costs associated with the Kyle Canyon water system more equitably across all of the residents.

The affected environment for the project associated with grant #R10AP30013 is in the urban Las Vegas, Nevada setting. Currently many residents in the Las Vegas have grass as a major component of their landscaping. Utilizing grass for landscaping in the desert southwest is a water intense activity. During the hot summer months grass needs to be watered routinely, resulting in excessive water use. Water that is used for watering lawns is lost to evapotranspiration and into the shallow groundwater table. Although this water does not incur the cost of treatment, it is in effect removed from the Colorado River system because it is not accounted for and returned to the Colorado River system through the water treatment system.

4.0 Environmental Consequences

The environmental consequences for all six proposed WCFSP grant projects are compiled together because they are all similar in nature in that they propose to conserve water within the Lower Colorado River (LCR) watershed.

The amount of water that is expected to be conserved through these proposed projects is in the order of hundreds of acre feet per year. The amount of water that flows through the LCR system is on the order of millions of acre feet per year. Water conservation is an important topic in the desert southwest. Return flow systems associated with the LCR (such as the Las Vegas Wash in Las Vegas, Nevada) are important in that they have become established with vegetation and provide habitat for many species of animals and plants and in some areas are incorporated in natural park areas for the public to enjoy.

Due to the fact that the amount of water estimated to be conserved through these proposed projects is many orders of magnitude less than the total amount of water that flows through the LCR system and many orders of magnitude less than the amount of water removed from the LCR system at each point of diversion where the water conservation measures are proposed, impacts of the reduced volume of water being utilized are negligible and virtually non-measurable.

Impacts to the human environment are also non-measurable. These proposed water conservation projects are voluntary programs that will be incorporated into private commercial and residential facilities.

Included as an attachment to this EA is a Categorical Exclusion (CE) checklist (Attachment A) that would have been used for this project if there was an appropriate CE category. The CE checklist is used to illustrate the fact that there are no impacts to areas that should be considered when analyzing this project and also to demonstrate the need for a new CE category that would cover this type of action.

Water conservation in general is a wholly beneficial activity that allows water delivery systems to better allocate their set water allocations from the LCR to areas that benefit the vision of the community being serviced.

4.1 Cumulative Impacts

Due to the nature of these projects being small in size, beneficial in nature, and spread over a large geographic area a cumulative impact analysis is difficult to formulate. The actions included in the proposed action are proposing to conserve water in the LCR watershed, but the amounts proposed to be conserved are truly insignificant in the context of the water that flows through the LCR within a water year. Water that is conserved will be available for use within the water districts that are conserving the water for other uses within the water district and the net flow of water in and out of these water districts will not change significantly or increase beyond currently allocated amounts. The funding for the proposed projects is one time grant funding for activities that will occur within urbanized environments on private lands through voluntary participation and is difficult to gauge the success the projects.

Attachment A

EVALUATION OF CRITERIA FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | This action or group of actions would have significant effect on the quality of the human environment.
(40 CFR 1502.3) | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes___. |
| 2. | This action or group of actions would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. (NEPA Section 102(2) (E) and 43 CFR 46.215 (c)) | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes___. |
| 3. | This action would have significant impacts on public health and safety.
(43 CFR 46.215 (a)) | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes___. |
| 4. | This action would have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

(43 CFR 43.215 (b)) | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes___. |
| 5. | The action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
(43 CFR 43.215 (d)) | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes___. |
| 6. | This action would establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about the future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
(43 CFR 46.215 (e)) | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes___. |
| 7. | This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

(43 CFR 46.215 (f)) | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes___. |
| 8. | This action would have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain__ Yes___. |

listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation.

(43 CFR 43.215 (g))

9. This action would have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed, on the List of Threatened or Endangered Species or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species. No Uncertain Yes .

(43 CFR 43.215 (h))

10. This action would violate Federal, State, local, or tribal law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment. (43 CFR 46.215 (i)) No Uncertain Yes .

11. This action will adversely affect Indian Trust Assets (ITA). No Uncertain Yes .

(S.O. 3175)

12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations. No Uncertain Yes .

(43 CFR 46.215 (j))

13. This action would limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007). No Uncertain Yes .

(43 CFR 46.215 (k))

14. This action would contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or result in actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112). No Uncertain Yes .

(43 CFR 43.215 (l))

Appendix C
Proposal for the Southern Nevada Water Authority: Water Smart
Landscapes Rebate Program

Southern Nevada Water Authority
WaterSmart Landscapes Rebate Program

Applicant:

Southern Nevada Water Authority

Contact for Further Information:

Jeremy Brooks

1001 South Valley View Blvd., MS 760

Las Vegas, NV 89153

Contact email: jeremy.brooks@snwa.com

Office: (702) 258-3258

Fax: (702) 258-7146

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1. Technical Proposal: Executive Summary

Date: May 3, 2009
Applicant: Southern Nevada Water Authority
Location: 1001 South Valley View Boulevard
Las Vegas, NV 89153
(Clark County)

Project Overview:

As severe and sustained drought in the Colorado River Basin threaten historically stable water supplies and critical water delivery facilities, water conservation has become a vital tool in helping to ensure the delivery of a safe and reliable water supply for Southern Nevada. For nearly a decade, the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) and its member agencies have implemented one of the most comprehensive and aggressive water conservation programs in the United States. These initiatives have helped to save billions of gallons of water annually, extending the availability of Nevada's limited Colorado River resources.

This project proposal seeks \$1 million in support from the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants to support continued water conservation efforts in Southern Nevada. Requested funding will support the 2010/2011 Water Smart Landscapes Rebate Program (WSL Program). The 2010/2011 WSL program will result in an estimated recurring annual savings of 1,390 AFY by converting turf to water efficient landscaping. The SNWA will provide a minimum matching contribution of \$9.55 million for a total project cost of \$10.55 million

Task Area:

The proposed project fits within grant Task Area A, *Water Conservation— projects resulting in quantifiable and sustained water savings or improve water management*. The SNWA's WSL Program provides a financial incentive for property owners to replace turf with water efficient landscaping. The program has proven to be the region's most effective way to achieve significant and lasting conservation gains, providing water-savings that directly extend the region's existing supplies. Turf removed and replaced with water efficient landscaping represents a permanent savings; a deed of covenant ensures that no turf will be installed in the project area following retrofit under the program.

In addition to meeting the objectives of Task Area A, the water conserved through this program supports the goals of Task Area B by providing quantifiable reductions in energy consumption and Task Area D through resultant contributions to existing water banks in California, Arizona and Southern Nevada.

Average annual acre-feet of water supply:

The SNWA and its member agencies depend on the Colorado River for approximately 90 percent of the community's resource needs. The SNWA's primary resource is its share of Nevada's consumptive-use apportionment of 300,000 AFY of Colorado River water. SNWA's members also have groundwater rights in Las Vegas Valley totaling 46,340 AFY. In addition, the SNWA has a right to purchased/leased rights along the Muddy and Virgin rivers and Coyote

Spring Valley groundwater rights, which can be conveyed to the Colorado River for Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) credit. These resources have a total consumptive use of approximately 42,000 AFY expected to be available during 2010. Total water use in 2009 was approximately 500,600 AF, including groundwater, Colorado River water diversions and direct reuse.

Estimated water saved after project completion:

This 2010/2011 WSL Program will convert approximately 8,115,384 square-feet of turf and will result in a recurring annual water savings of 1,390 AFY.

Over the life of the improvement (50 years), the cumulative recurring impact of the 2010/2011 WSL Program is estimated to result in the savings of approximately 69,500 AF. Calculations of conservation benefits are detailed under Criteria A (see page 10).

Estimated water better managed:

The proposed project supports efforts to meet Southern Nevada's new conservation goal of 199 GPCD by 2035, which will result in the better management of the SNWA's water resources. This included more than 500,000 AF during 2009.

Estimated and current amount of water marketed:

In Southern Nevada, the SNWA serves as a regional water wholesaler, which eliminates the need for direct marketing between municipalities. Instead, unused Colorado River resources are stored for future use in water banks located in Southern Nevada, California and Arizona. The Southern Nevada water bank, established in 1987, has approximately 330,000 AF of credits for future use. The SNWA's California bank has 70,000 AF of credits and Arizona has guaranteed banking 1.25 million acre-feet of credits. SNWA's water conservation gains have helped further the its banking efforts. Since 2004, water efficiency programs have helped allow the SNWA to contribute approximately 120,000 AF of unused Nevada Colorado River water toward interstate banking efforts.

In the event that Colorado River shortages are implemented, the SNWA intends to utilize banked resources to help offset supply availability. Conservation improves the ability to respond to shortages both by directly reducing demand, and be freeing up resources that can be banked for times of emergency. The proposed project will yield a recurring annual water savings of 1,390 AFY, resulting in a cumulative 69,500 AF available for banking over the life of the project.

Length of Time and Estimated Completion Date

The proposed project encompasses all landscape conversion rebates that are distributed under the SNWA's WSL Program during fiscal year 2010/2011 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011). Program participation is dependant on customer demands, and has been fairly steady throughout the year in the past.

2. Technical Proposal: Background Data

The SNWA was formed in 1991 by a cooperative agreement among the following seven water and wastewater agencies in Southern Nevada:

- Big Bend Water District
- City of Boulder City
- City of Henderson
- City of Las Vegas
- City of North Las Vegas
- Clark County Water Reclamation District
- Las Vegas Valley Water District

Together, these seven agencies provide water and wastewater service to approximately 2 million residents in the cities of Boulder City, Henderson, Las Vegas and North Las Vegas, and areas of unincorporated Clark County. (The service area is shown in the map included as Appendix A.) As their wholesale water provider, the SNWA is responsible for water treatment and delivery, as well as acquiring and managing short and long-term water resources for Southern Nevada. Within the service area, nearly all the water meets municipal use demands. Since its inception, the SNWA has worked to seek new water resources for Southern Nevada, manage existing and future water resources, construct and manage regional water facilities and promote conservation.

The onset of an historic drought on the Colorado River underscores the critical role of conservation in helping to meet current and future demands. If drought conditions continue, Southern Nevada may be subject to declared shortages (13,000 AFY) on the Colorado River as early as 2012—making Southern Nevada’s conservation efforts even more significant. In addition, further Lake level declines could result in additional shortages (20,000 AFY+) which would further stress the ability of water supply facilities to meet water demands. Water conservation will help to mitigate these concerns

Program Description

Since its creation in 1991, the SNWA has implemented a number of conservation programs focused on reducing water use throughout the community. While the SNWA actively promotes indoor conservation, in Southern Nevada the greatest opportunity for water conservation lies in curbing outdoor water use. According to consolidated data provided by SNWA member agencies, residents account for approximately 59 percent of water use. Approximately, 60 percent of Southern Nevada’s total annual water supply is used consumptively, meaning it can be used just once – commercial and residential landscape irrigation is collectively the single largest consumptive use.

The SNWA has realized significant water savings as part of its conservation program. As a measure of success, since 2002, Southern Nevada’s consumptive water use has declined by approximately 26 billion gallons annually, despite the addition of 400,000 new residents and nearly 40 million annual visitors. In addition, total water use stated in gallons per capita per day (GPCD) has been reduced by more than 70 gallons, with significant progress made towards the community’s a new conservation goal of 199 GPCD by 2035. Achieving this goal is estimated to save nearly 276,000 AFY by 2035, with incremental gains in preceding years.

Since inception, the SNWA has allocated nearly \$160,000,000 to the WSL program, resulting in the removal of more than 140 million square-feet of turf. This represents a cumulative savings of approximately 125,900 AF and annual recurring savings of 24,635 AFY. Due to a substantial decline in connection fees and other revenue streams resulting from current economic conditions, the SNWA cannot sustain historic program funding levels. Despite continued high program demands, the FY 2010/2011 WSL Program budget is 62% lower than the previous year and is projected to fall 30-40% below demands. The Reclamation WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants funding will provide an important contribution to continuing the impact and capacity of this program.

Energy and Environment

Water treatment and delivery is energy intensive. Each acre-foot of water saved will result in an estimated 2,118 kilo-Watt hours (kWh) energy reduction. As a result of the WSL Program, the SNWA saves an estimated 52 million kWh each year, with a total savings of more than 266 million kWh since program inception.

The SNWA obtains energy resources from a number of sources. In 2009, these included 657,000 mega-watt hours (MWH) from the Silverhawk Power Station (79%), 109,643 MWH hydropower generated at Hoover Dam and purchased from Reclamation (13%), 55,080 MWH market purchases (7%), and small quantities of power purchased from NVenergy (1,781 MWH) or generated by SNWA's solar and hydropower projects (3,167 MWH). The energy conserved as a result of the proposed project allows the SNWA to reduce its non-renewable market purchases.

The Colorado River watershed contains a number of sensitive and protected species. Management of the River's resources is key to protecting these species and their habitats. Although the conversion of urban turf landscaping provides no direct benefits to threatened or endangered species, water conservation achievements can indirectly increase Reclamation's flexibility in managing Lake Mead and Colorado River water resources.

Construction activities associated with the conversion of turf will not harm or negatively impact any of Southern Nevada's threatened or endangered species. All landscape conversions will be completed by private parties and implemented on private land within previously developed residential and commercial areas in Southern Nevada.

System Overview and Reclamation Relationship

The SNWA manages the Southern Nevada Water System (SNWS) regional pumping, treatment and delivery facilities for Southern Nevada. SNWS diverts and treats raw Colorado River water from Lake Mead and delivers potable water to Southern Nevada's municipal water purveyors (Las Vegas Valley Water District, City of Henderson, City of North Las Vegas and the City of Boulder City).

Water is extracted via two 600 million gallons per day (MGD) raw water intakes submerged within Lake Mead (located at elevation 1,050 and 1,000 feet, respectively). Water collected at these diversion points is transported to and treated at one of the SNWA's two water treatment facilities. In 2008, these facilities treated and delivered an average of approximately 400 MGD and have a maximum capacity of 900 MGD. Treated water is delivered to the municipal water

purveyors through more than 160 miles of large diameter pipeline, which bisect the Las Vegas Valley and connect to purveyor systems. The SNWA facilities support water distribution to more than 500,000 customer accounts and nearly 2,000,000 residents in Southern Nevada.

The SNWA receives delivery of Colorado River water from Reclamation under several contracts held by the SNWA or its member agencies, as listed below:

SNWA Contracts:

- Contract Number 2-07-30-W0266, Amendment Number 1, Amended and Restated Contract with the Southern Nevada Water Authority, for the Delivery of Colorado River Water
- Contract Number 7-07-30-W0004, Amendatory and Supplemental Contract between the United States and the State of Nevada for the Delivery of Water and Construction of Project Works

SNWA Member Agency Contracts:

- Contract Number 14-06-300-978, “Boulder Canyon Project Arizona-California-Nevada Contract for the Delivery of Water,” City of Boulder City
- Contract Number 0-07-30-W0246, Contract for Delivery of Water to City of Henderson
- Contract Number 14-06-300-2130, “Boulder Canyon Project Contract for Delivery of Water to Las Vegas Valley Water District”
- Contract Number 2-07-30-W0269, “Boulder Canyon Project Contract with the Big Bend Water District, Nevada, for the Delivery of Colorado River Water”

The water delivered by SNWA under these contracts is diverted at Reclamation approved diversion points in the Colorado River at Lake Mead and below Hoover Dam. This includes delivery of water through the Robert B. Griffith Water Project (formerly the Southern Nevada Water Project) constructed by Reclamation, as authorized by an Act of the United States Congress.

In addition, the SNWA has established long-standing relationships with Reclamation and has coordinated on a number of initiatives, which include funding for: the Drop 2 Reservoir System Efficiency Project and the Yuma Desalting Plant Pilot Project; development and implementation of interstate water banking agreements with Arizona and California; Colorado River accounting and procedures for return-flow credits; a Xeriscape Conversion Study; and environmental restoration and stabilization initiatives in the Las Vegas Wash.

An agreement between the SNWA and Reclamation Region 9 is under development. Under the Water Conservation Field Services Program, Reclamation Region 9 will provide \$100,000 in funding for the WSL Program, with a SNWA match of \$1,000,000. These grant and SNWA funds are separate from the proposed project funds, including SNWA’s \$9.55 million match.

3. Technical Proposal: Technical Project Description

WaterSmart Landscapes Program Overview:

In Southern Nevada, nearly all water used indoors is recovered, treated and returned to the Colorado River system for return-flow credits. The recycling of Colorado River water used in Southern Nevada is accrued according to the 1984, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation “Procedure for

Determining Return-Flow Credits to Nevada from Las Vegas Wash” and subsequent administrative updates authorized by Reclamation. This process extends Nevada’s Colorado River water supply by nearly 70 percent. As a result, the SNWA’s conservation efforts emphasize reducing outdoor water use, which cannot be recovered through return-flow credits.

The WSL Program is a key component in the SNWA’s efforts to meet its conservation goals. The WSL Program encourages property owners to convert turf by providing a financial incentive to offset a portion of the cost associated with the conversion. The program rebates \$1.50 per square-foot for the first 5,000 square-feet converted per property, and \$1.00 per square-foot for each additional square-foot converted. The maximum award for any property in a fiscal year is \$300,000. Based upon a joint Reclamation/SNWA research project conducted from 1995 to 2000, every square-foot of grass replaced with desert landscaping saves an average of 55.8 gallons of water per year (see Subcriteria A.1 for scientific basis of estimate).

Since 1999, the WSL Program has supported the removal of more than 140 million square-feet of turf grass – resulting in the cumulative conservation of more than 125,900 AF of water total, an annual recurring savings of 24,635 AFY.

The total budget for the 2010/2011 WSL Program is \$10,550,000, a 62% reduction from the previous year. The SNWA will contribute \$9,550,000 in matching contributions, which will be derived from SNWA budgeted 2010/2011 WSL Program funding. At current budget levels, the project will result in the conversion of 8,115,384 square-feet of turf and will save an additional 1,390 AFY.

WaterSmart Landscapes Program Process:

The following details the general process that applicants to the WSL program follow in order to qualify for and receive landscape conversion rebates:

1. **Application** - Single-family property owners must submit an application to the WSL Program via mail or internet. Commercial and institutional properties contact a Programs Coordinator directly.
2. **Pre-conversion site inspection** – All properties must meet eligibility requirements. At the pre-conversion site inspection, SNWA staff document the existing landscape, determine eligibility to participate in the program and explain the program requirements to the property owner or agent.

(Step 1-2 Duration: 14 days)

3. **Six month performance period** – After SNWA deems the property eligible for participation, the property owner is given up to six months to complete the landscape conversion. Subject to SNWA approval, participants may be granted up to six additional months.

(Step 3 Duration: Customer Dependent up to 6 months)

4. **Post-conversion site inspection** – Upon notice from the applicant that the conversion is complete, SNWA will inspect the landscape to ensure it meets minimum requirements and to determine the square footage eligible for rebate. If program requirements are not met, the applicant is given an additional 60 days or the remainder of the six-month time period to take corrective action.
5. **Rebate issuance** – Following a successful post-conversion site inspection, the customer is notified of the rebate amount. The customer acknowledges the amount by signing the form and returning it. A rebate check is then processed and mailed.

(Step 4-5 Duration: 21 days)

On average, this process takes approximately 3-4 months from initial customer request.

Estimated Project Schedule:

As a customer rebate program, the WSL Program is dependant upon customer demand. Historically, rebate issuance has remained relatively steady through the fiscal year. By quarter, expenditures for the FY 2010/2011 WSL Program are anticipated to track the following estimated forecast:

Fiscal Year 2010/2011	Percent	Landscape Converted	Rebate Issuance
Q1 - July 1 – September 30	25%	2,028,846 square-feet	\$2,637,500
Q2 - October 1 – December 31	25%	2,028,846 square-feet	\$2,637,500
Q3 – January 1 – March 31	25%	2,028,846 square-feet	\$2,637,500
Q4 - April 1 – June 30	25%	2,028,846 square-feet	\$2,637,500
Total	100%	8,115,384 square feet	\$10,550,000

4. Technical Proposal: Evaluation Criteria

Criteria A- Water Conservation

Subcriteria A.1—Quantifiable Water Savings:

The total project cost for the 2010/2011 WSL program is \$10,550,000. Based upon past participation, SNWA estimates that the average rebate during the project period will be \$1.30 per square-foot. Based on this cost, the SNWA estimates that 8,115,384 square-feet of turf will be removed through this program in the coming fiscal year (during the grant performance period).

$$\frac{\text{Total Square Feet Converted} \quad \$10,550,000}{\$1.30 \text{ /square-foot}} = 8,115,384 \text{ square-feet}$$

In 1995, a multi-year Xeriscape Conversion Study was implemented as a result of a cooperative agreement between SNWA and Reclamation. Funded in part by Reclamation; the draft final report finished in 2005. This research involved hundreds of participants that were divided into three treatment groups: Xeric Study, Turf Study, and control groups. Data on both household water consumption and water consumption through irrigation submeters was collected. Submeters were installed to determine per-unit area water application for both xeric- and turf

grass-dominated landscapes. The per-unit area savings of xeric- versus turf grass-dominated landscapes as revealed by the submeter data was found to be 55.8 gallons per square-foot per year. This results in a significant savings of 76.4% when considered in the context of all available residential water conservation measures.

Based on the data gathered from the Xeriscape Conversion Study, SNWA is able to determine the water savings realized from landscape conversion projects completed through the WSL Program. The number of square feet of turf converted to Xeriscape under the requirements of the WSL program will determine the number of gallons of water saved.

Based on this figure, the 2010/2011 WSL Program will result in a 1,390 AFY savings per year.

$$\text{Total AFY Saved} = \frac{55.8 \text{ gal} \times 8,115,384 \text{ square-feet}}{325,851 \text{ gal/AF}} = 1,390 \text{ AFY}$$

Beginning in 2009, customers receiving rebates through the WSL Program were conditioned with a property deed restriction which will disallow current and future owners from reinstalling turf on converted properties. Given this use-restriction, the SNWA estimates the expected life of the improvements to be 50 years, or the planning horizon of the SNWA Resource Plan. Over the life of the improvement, the cumulative recurring impact of the 2010/2011 WSL Program is estimated to result in the savings of approximately 69,500 AF.

$$\text{Cumulative Recurring Impact} = 1,390 \text{ AFY} \times 50 \text{ years} = 69,500 \text{ AF}$$

Subcriteria A.2—Percentage of Total Supply:

Total SNWA member customer water use in 2009 was approximately 500,600 AF, including groundwater, Colorado River water diversions (allocation and return-flow credits) and direct reuse. The SNWA meters its Colorado River diversions at individual diversion points in Southern Nevada, including SNWS Intakes 1 and 2. Return-flow credits are based on measured flows at gauges in the Las Vegas Wash. The SNWA reports Colorado River diversions to Reclamation, and the Colorado River Commission of Nevada reports return-flow credits to Reclamation. Nevada Colorado River water diversions, return flow credits, and consumptive use are reported by Reclamation annually in its Colorado River Accounting and Water Use Report.

Water savings resulting from the proposed project represent only a small fraction of the total water supply (.027%). However, the WSL Program is a long-term conservation strategy and cannot be viewed as a single year. Although the incremental gains of each year are small, the overall impact of the program has been significant—since inception, the WSL Program has achieved an annual recurring savings of 24,635 AFY, or 4.9% of total annual water supplies. With the WSL Program budget cut 62% over the previous year, additional funding is critical to continue the program’s momentum, adding year by year incremental gains to the nearly 5% overall savings that the program has achieved to date.

Subcriteria A.3—Improved Water Management:

The proposed project supports efforts to meet Southern Nevada’s new conservation goal of 199 GPCD by 2035, which will result in the better management of the SNWA’s total water resource supply. This included 500,600 AF during 2009--- or better management of 100 percent of total water supplies.

In addition, the project will result in a reduction in transport loss, as water not served (due to conservation efforts) will not experience transport loss.

Subcriteria A.4—Reasonableness of Costs:

Calculating a 50 year improvement life, based on restrictions prohibiting the reinstallation of turf, the cost of investment is \$151.79 per acre-foot.

$$\text{Cost of Investment} \frac{\$10,550,000}{1,390 \text{ AFY} \times 50 \text{ years}} = \$151.79 \text{ per acre-foot}$$

Criteria B- Energy Efficiency

Subcriteria B.1—Implementation of Renewable Energy Projects

The SNWA is committed to conserving energy and focusing on the use of renewable resources. The SNWA voluntarily committed to meet 20 percent of its energy needs through renewable resources by 2015, which parallels Nevada's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards.

The proposed project does not include construction of renewable energy facilities. However, the project will reduce energy demands and allow the SNWA to focus remaining use on its renewable and efficient energy sources. These include:

- The Silverhawk Power Station, which meets 70% of SNWA’s power demands, employs "dry cooling" technology to produce electricity using one-tenth of the water consumed by traditional "wet-cooled" power plants.
- Three hydropower projects at SNWA Rate of Flow Control Stations, consisting of a small turbine and induction generator to generate electricity through normal water delivery operations.
- Solar photovoltaic systems at water treatment facilities, generating approximately 920,000 kWh per year.
- In 2009, the SNWA secured a loan for \$2.2 million through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act to fund an energy audit, and energy and water conservation improvements at its water treatment facilities. The project is anticipated to save 3.5 million kWh during the life of the improvements.

Subcriteria B.2—Increasing Energy Efficiency from Enhanced Water Management or Water Conservation

Under the proposed project, each acre-foot of water saved will yield an estimated 2,118 kilo-Watt hours (kWh) of energy conserved. These savings are estimated by calculating the power

required to treat deliver one acre-foot of water to the average customer (includes wholesale and purveyor power uses).

Through the 2010/2011 WSL Program, the region will save an estimated 2.9 million kWh each year, with a total savings of more than 147 million kWh through the life of the project.

$$\text{Energy Savings} \quad 1,390 \text{ AFY} \times 2,118 \text{ kWh} = 2,944,020 \text{ kWh}$$

At present, more than 13% of energy used by the SNWA is generated through renewable resources. The savings generated by the proposed project will allow the SNWA to reduce its non-renewable market purchases, increasing the emphasis on renewable energy.

Criteria C- Addressing Endangered Species Concerns

The Colorado River watershed contains a number of sensitive and protected species, including four endangered fish, four endangered birds and one endangered invertebrate. In March 1994, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated 1,980 miles of river as “critical habitat” for the four listed fish within the Colorado River Basin. The presence of these listed species makes Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance a major component of resource planning along the Colorado River and its tributaries.

Management of the River’s resources is key to protecting these species and their habitats. Although the conversion of urban turf landscaping provides no direct benefits to threatened or endangered species, water conservation achievements can indirectly increase Reclamation’s flexibility in managing Lake Mead and Colorado River water resources.

Construction activities associated with the conversion of turf will not harm or negatively impact any of Southern Nevada’s threatened or endangered species. All landscape conversions will be completed by private parties and implemented on private land within previously developed residential and commercial areas in Southern Nevada.

Criteria D- Other Contributions to Water Supply Sustainability

The intent of the WSL Program is to make more water available to respond to the challenges of growth, climate change and drought. The program is a direct effort to establish a more efficient and sustainable water supply for Southern Nevada. The water that will be conserved through this initiative is currently being used consumptively for landscape irrigation. Water conserved by the establishment of more efficient landscaping approaches will, in the short-term, reduce system demands and allow for Nevada’s unused Colorado River apportionment to be used for other purposes, including banking initiatives in California, Arizona and Southern Nevada, which provides for greater security during times of drought and climate change. Long-term, Southern Nevada is projected to increase by more than 1 million residents by 2035. Conservation efforts extend Southern Nevada’s water resources and secure future banked resources to meet the demands of growth and offset potential shortages associated with drought.

Criteria E- Water Marketing and Banking

Water conservation efforts in Southern Nevada directly correlate with regional water banking initiatives. Water conserved through the WSL Program has allowed SNWA to bank substantial quantities of Nevada's unused Colorado River apportionment in the Southern Nevada Water Bank, California Water Bank and Arizona Water Bank. The act of storing conserved water provides greater surety of supply to meet demands particularly during times of drought and possible water shortage. These resources will support the approximately 2 million current Southern Nevada residents and future residents in excess of an estimated 3 million by 2035.

In 2004, the SNWA and Colorado River Commission of Nevada (CRC) entered into initial agreements with the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and Reclamation to bank unused Nevada Colorado River water in Southern California until it is needed. The agreement with MWD was amended in 2009 to provide additional terms and conditions for storage and recovery. The agreement assists California through its current shortage condition and diversifies Southern Nevada's resource portfolio. Under the agreements, Nevada can recover up to 30,000 AF per year from the storage account during normal water supply conditions, beginning in the year 2022 or earlier in the event of declared Colorado River shortages. To date, the SNWA has banked 70,000 AF in California. California water banking is a regionally significant initiative, providing resource managers in both states with flexibility.

Beginning in 2001, the SNWA, the Arizona Water Banking Authority (AWBA), the Arizona Department of Water Resources, Central Arizona Water Conservation District and the CRC entered into agreements for the SNWA to establish a bank of storage credits in Arizona for future use. The SNWA acquires storage credits by paying the AWBA to bank unused Arizona or Nevada Colorado River water in Arizona's underground aquifer. Subsequent amendments, including a 2009 amendment, provide the SNWA with a guarantee that the AWBA will store 1.25 million acre-feet of water for SNWA in the Arizona Water Bank. As part of the agreement, SNWA can recover 40,000 AFY of consumptive use during a normal Colorado River water supply year with advanced notice, as well as the opportunity to recover additional water from Arizona to make up for reductions in Nevada's basic apportionment during Colorado River shortages. In addition, the SNWA has directed approximately 60,000 AF of unused Nevada Colorado River water to AWBA for banking on SNWA's behalf. The SNWA's conservation efforts directly contributed toward making this water available for banking in the in the Arizona Water Bank.

The SNWA and its member agencies manage the Southern Nevada Water Bank within the Las Vegas Valley Groundwater Basin. Since program inception in 1987, unused Colorado River water has been artificially recharged into the Las Vegas Valley aquifer. This resource is a critical tool in managing summer peak-use demands and is an important component in the SNWA water resource portfolio. To date, Southern Nevada has stored 333,639 AF of water in the local groundwater basin for future use, with an additional 17,378 acre-feet banked in the Las Vegas Valley available for the benefit of the Las Vegas Valley Groundwater Management Program. (The water banked on behalf of the LVVGMP will remain in storage, and it is not intended to be used for SNWA's future use.) As opportunities arise and circumstances warrant, this water bank will continue to be utilized for water banking initiatives.

Agreements and related permits are in place in support of the described actions. No known legal constraints limit the described water marketing/banking initiatives. Reclamation regulations permit all of the above-mentioned activities.

Criteria F- Demonstrated Results

The SNWA has developed a number of planning documents that guide the management, acquisition and conservation of its water resources. To help plan for the future, the SNWA has developed and maintains a comprehensive Water Resource Plan and portfolio of water resources (available at http://www.snwa.com/html/wr_resource_plan.html). This document includes a 50-year planning horizon where future water resources are assessed against projected demands. The plan is reviewed annually and updated as needed. Since 1996, the plan has been revised nine times to reflect rapidly changing conditions driven by drought and growth. The plan considers the both conservation water initiatives and banking arrangements as important goals and resources. The WSL Program is specifically highlighted as an important conservation tool, which extends the region's water resources (see page 17).

In addition, and in accordance with Reclamation requirements for Section 210(b) of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982, the SNWA maintains a regional water conservation plan that identifies water conservation strategies and goals to protect and extend Southern Nevada's available water resources (available at http://www.snwa.com/html/cons_plan.html). The SNWA works closely with its member agencies to refine conservation strategies and programs that are appropriate for the community. The 2009-2014 SNWA Conservation Plan is currently on file with Reclamation. This plan sets a new target GPCD of 199. The Conservation Plan identifies the WSL Program as a critical tool in achieving this conservation goal.

In support of its extensive conservation programming, the SNWA has implemented thorough performance measures and tracking programs. A detailed description of the analysis, processes and reviews performed by SNWA is included in Section F- Performance Measures for Quantifying Post-project Benefits (see page 16).

Criteria G- Project Financing and Cost Sharing

The SNWA has four key funding sources, which include: quarter cent sales tax, connection fees, commodity fees, and reliability charges. These revenue sources provide the organization with a mix of funding sources, which help to ensure the financial stability and capacity of the organization. Matching contributions for the 2010/2011 WSL Program will be derived from bond proceeds.

The total cost of the project is \$10,550,000 – the SNWA will be the sole provider of \$9,550,000 in matching contributions. The SNWA's Fiscal Year 2010/2011 budget contains adequate funding to support project activities and matching requirements. In the past two fiscal years, the SNWA has budgeted nearly \$35 million annually for conservation programs and is capable of managing program capacity. Due to diminished revenue streams, driven by current economic conditions, the SNWA has been required to scale back its FY 2010/2011 WSL Program budget by 62% over the previous year. Reclamation funding will provide an important contribution to

continuing the impact and capacity of this program. The proposed work will not result in operations and maintenance obligations in future calendar years.

In addition to this request, a complementary request for \$300,000 has been submitted under the same program. In addition, an agreement between the SNWA and Reclamation Region 9 is under development. Under the Water Conservation Field Services Program, Reclamation Region 9 will provide \$100,000 in funding for the WSL Program, with a SNWA match of \$1,000,000. These grant and SNWA funds are separate from the proposed project funds, including SNWA’s \$9.55 million match.

Subcriteria G.1—Allocation of Costs:

All budgeted costs are allocated to direct project expenditures, in the form of either customer rebates or contracted survey work. Indirect and staff expenses will not be requested for reimbursement or as matching contributions.

Environmental costs are not included as the direct project activities. Removal of turf landscaping will be completed by private parties and implemented on private land within previously developed residential and commercial areas.

Subcriteria G.2—Additional non-Federal Funding:

The SNWA will contribute a \$9.55 million dollar cash match to this project. The non-Federal funding percentage for this project is 90.5%.

Criteria H- Connection to Reclamation Project Activities

Reclamation is a critical partner in the SNWA’s water management and conservation efforts. The Southern Nevada Water Authority diverts 90 percent of its water supply from the Reclamation managed Colorado River system. Further details regarding the SNWA-Reclamation relationship and collaborations are outlined in Section 2 (see page 7).

Section F. Performance Measures for Quantifying Post-project Benefits

Performance measures for this program will be calculated in *rebates issued, turf converted and water saved*. Total program performance measures include the issuance of \$10,550,000 in rebates, 8,115,384 square-feet of turf converted and the recurring annual conservation of 1,390 AFY. As described in the table below, Reclamation’s \$1,000,000 contribution to this program will result in the conversion of approximately 769,231 square-feet of turf and the recurring annual conservation of 132 AFY. The number of rebates issued will be available upon project completion.

Agency	Contribution	Turf Converted (square feet)	Water Conserved (AFY)
SNWA	\$9,550,000	7,346,153	1,258
Reclamation	\$1,000,000	769,231	132
Total	\$10,550,000	8,115,384	1,390

Conservation progress is measured by annually comparing the community’s actual water use to the expected water use without conservation measures in effect. To measure conservation, the

SNWA uses an explanatory regression model to determine the variables that influenced Southern Nevada's water use during the preceding year. Although the model has identified a substantial number of relevant variables, the most significant are related to population, weather and economic indicators. These data are obtained from other agencies on an annual basis.

To track and monitor the effectiveness of the WSL Program's performance, the SNWA developed the Water Efficiency Incentive and Rebate Database (WEIRD). Designed in-house and launched in September 2004, the WEIRD database tracks all participants, processes and results related to the WSL Program. Important features include individual participant tracking, Clark County Assessor property record information, rebate application information, site assessment information, converted square footage, and rebate amounts. Other functions include the ability to run various reports on program participation, to track quality assurance performed on staff work, and to run queries on numerous tracking and enrollment options. All of these functions allow the database to serve as the primary method for tracking performance measures. Information regarding results of the program can be made available to the Reclamation as needed, or quarterly through progress reporting processes. At project completion, the Reclamation will be provided with a report summarizing the number of square feet converted, rebates issued, AFY saved and other relevant program information.

Section G. Description of Potential Environmental Impacts

The elements of this proposal are not anticipated to have any environmental impacts that would require consideration under NEPA or NHPA. Work will be implemented on private land, within urbanized Southern Nevada communities, all of which have been previously disturbed. Environmental benefits of the proposed project are outlined in Section C (see page 12).

Section H. Required Permits or Approvals

As a non-construction program, it is not anticipated that the implementation of this project will require the issuance of any permits. Property owners of exceptionally large projects may be required to seek permits applicable to the size and scope of work being performed. However, acquisition of such a permit would be the responsibility of the property owner. Such an occurrence is an exception and is not reflective of the standard landscape conversation project.

The WSL Program budget and survey contracts must be authorized and approved by the SNWA Board of Directors.

Section I. Funding Plan and Letters of Commitment

Matching contributions for the 2010/2011 WSL Program will be derived from bond proceeds currently held in the SNWA Enterprise Fund.

No in-kind contributions are incorporated into this proposal.

In addition to this request, a complementary request for \$300,000 has been submitted under the same program. In addition, an agreement between the SNWA and Reclamation Region 9 is under development. Under the Water Conservation Field Services Program, Reclamation Region 9 will provide \$100,000 in funding for the WSL Program, with a SNWA match of \$1,000,000. These grant and SNWA funds are separate from the proposed project funds, including SNWA's \$9.55 million match.

Section J. Official Resolution

An official resolution authorizing the submission of this proposal and confirming the subject matching requirements under this grant program will be submitted for consideration at the May 20, 2010 SNWA Board meeting, and submitted to Reclamation thereafter.

Section K. Budget Proposal

The following details the planned expenditures related to the implementation of the 2010/2011 WSL Program.

Budget Form

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	COMPUTATION		RECIPIENT FUNDING	RECLAMATION FUNDING	TOTAL COST
	\$/Unit and Unit	Quantity			
SALARIES AND WAGES	NA	NA			
FRINGE BENEFITS	NA	NA			
TRAVEL	NA	NA			
EQUIPMENT	NA	NA			
SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	NA	NA			
OTHER (REBATES)					
Customer Rebates	\$1.30 square feet	8,115,384	\$9,550,000	\$1,000,000	\$10,550,000
CONTRACTUAL	NA	NA			
Regulatory and Environmental Compliance	NA	NA			
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS			\$9,550,000	\$1,000,000	\$10,550,000
INDIRECT COSTS - 0%			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS			\$9,550,000	\$1,000,000	\$10,550,000

Budget Narrative

All costs included in this proposal are directly related to rebate and contract costs. Program costs for salaries/wages, fringe benefits, travel, equipment and other supplies and materials are not being requested for consideration as either match or reimbursable expenditures. All costs are direct and necessary for project implementation. The non-federal contribution is 90.5 percent; Federal contributions are 9.5 percent.

Salaries and Wages

Reclamation funding will not be expended for program administration. In addition to the SNWA's matching contribution, the SNWA will assume all overhead costs necessary to operate the program, including staffing, administration, marketing and other duties associated with assuring a successful program. Although not included in the budget proposal all rebate management processing activities will be implemented by in-house SNWA staff and not subject to Davis-Bacon.

Fringe Benefits

Not applicable to this project.

Travel

Not applicable to this project.

Supplies and Materials

Not applicable to this project.

Other (rebates)

Expenditures totaling \$10,550,000 in customer rebates will result in the estimated conversion of approximately 8,115,384 square-feet of turf. Since January 2009, the average rebate issuance is \$1.30; it is anticipated that variance will be within a plus/minus 5 percent.

Contractual

Not applicable to this project.

Regulatory and Environmental Compliance

Not applicable to this project.

Total Direct Costs

Reclamation is being requested to contribute \$1,000,000 toward direct WSL program. The SNWA will provide a match of \$9,550,000.

Indirect Costs

Not applicable to this project.

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Approval No. 0348-0044

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		Total (g)
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	
1. WSL Program	15-507	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 9,550,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,550,000.00
2.						0.00
3.						0.00
4.						0.00
5. Totals		\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 9,550,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,550,000.00

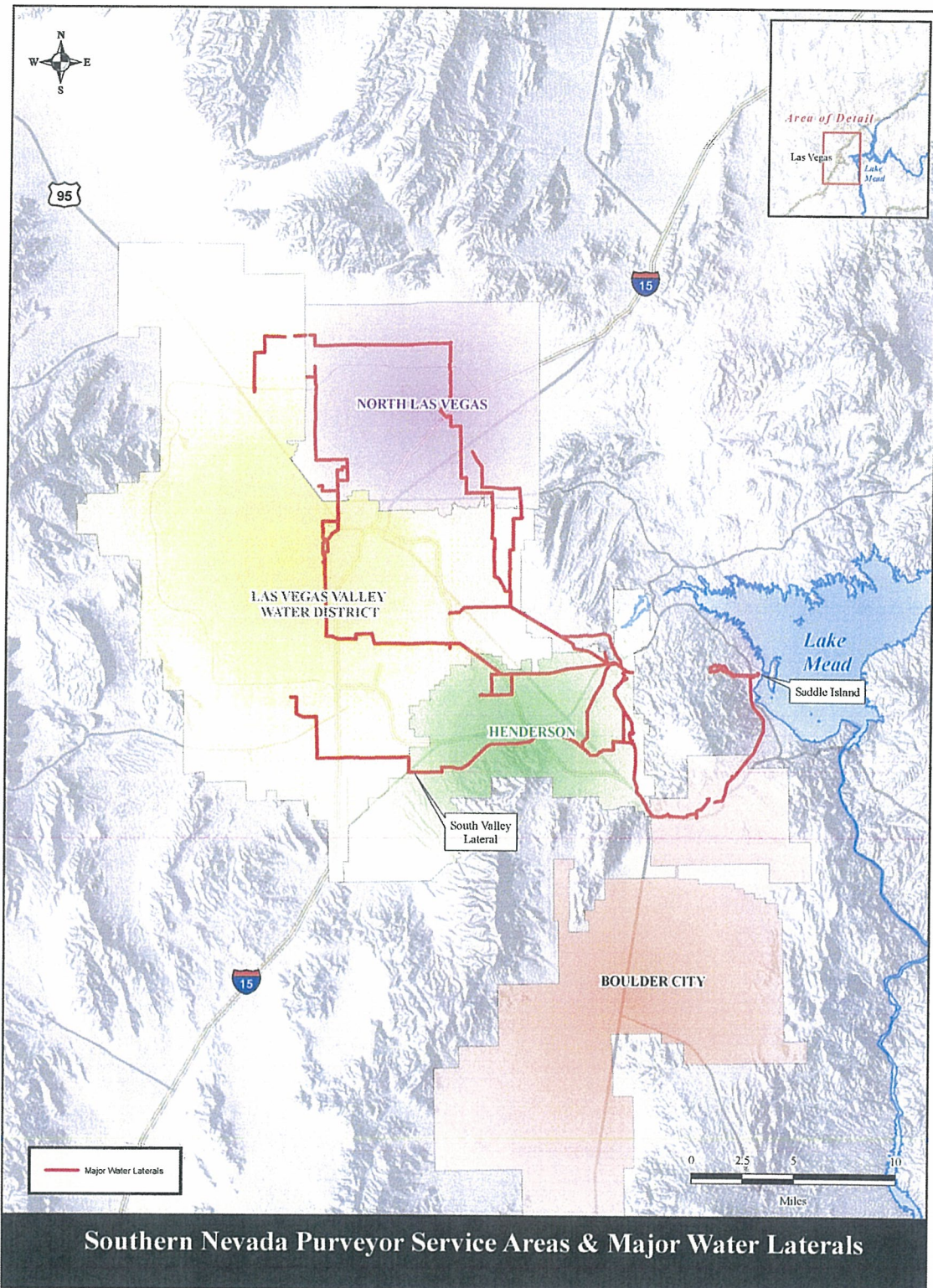
SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES

6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY					Total (5)
	(1) WSL Program	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
a. Personnel	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	0.00
b. Fringe Benefits						0.00
c. Travel						0.00
d. Equipment						0.00
e. Supplies						0.00
f. Contractual						0.00
g. Construction						0.00
h. Other	10,550,000.00					10,550,000.00
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)	10,550,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,550,000.00
j. Indirect Charges						0.00
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$ 10,550,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,550,000.00

7. Program Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	0.00
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SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES					
(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e) TOTALS	
8. WSL Program	\$ 9,550,000.00	\$	\$	\$	\$ 9,550,000.00
9.					0.00
10.					0.00
11.					0.00
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)	\$ 9,550,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 9,550,000.00	
SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS					
13. Federal	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00
14. Non-Federal	9,550,000.00	2,387,500.00	2,387,500.00	2,387,500.00	2,387,500.00
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$ 10,550,000.00	\$ 2,637,500.00	\$ 2,637,500.00	\$ 2,637,500.00	\$ 2,637,500.00
SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT					
(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (Years)				
	(b) First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth	
16.WSL Program	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
17.					
18.					
19.					
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16-19)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION					
21. Direct Charges:	22. Indirect Charges:				
23. Remarks:					

Appendix A – SNWA System



WCFSP 2011-2016 Appendix D
Categorical Exclusion Checklist

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
LOWER COLORADO REGION
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NO.: _____

DATE: _____

PROJECT NAME:

Water Conservation Field Services Program – Lower Colorado Regional Area Financial Assistance Program

EVALUATION OF CRITERIA FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

1. This action or group of actions would have significant effect on the quality of the human environment. (40 CFR 1502.3) No Uncertain Yes .
2. This action or group of actions would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. (NEPA Section 102(2) (E) and 43 CFR 46.215 (c)) No Uncertain Yes .
3. This action would have significant impacts on public health and safety. (43 CFR 46.215 (a)) No Uncertain Yes .
4. This action would have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas. (43 CFR 43.215 (b)) No Uncertain Yes .
5. The action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. (43 CFR 43.215 (d)) No Uncertain Yes .
6. This action would establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about the future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. (43 CFR 46.215 (e)) No Uncertain Yes .
7. This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. (43 CFR 46.215 (f)) No Uncertain Yes .
8. This action would have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation. (43 CFR 43.215 (g)) No Uncertain Yes .

9. This action would have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed, on the Threatened or Endangered Species or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species. (43 CFR 43.215 (h)) No Uncertain __ Yes __.
10. This action would violate Federal, State, local, or tribal law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment. (43 CFR 46.215 (i)) No Uncertain __ Yes __.
11. This action will adversely affect Indian Trust Assets (ITA). (S.O. 3175) No Uncertain __ Yes __.
12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations. (43 CFR 46.215 (j)) No Uncertain __ Yes __.
13. This action would limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007). (43 CFR 46.215 (k)) No Uncertain __ Yes __.
14. This action would contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or result in actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112). (43 CFR 43.215 (l)) No Uncertain __ Yes __.