

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

**WaterSMART Grants:  
Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects**

## **Draft Evaluation Criteria for Review and Comment**



**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Policy and Administration**

**September 2016**

## Opportunity to Comment

Reclamation invites other Federal agencies, the public, not-for-profit organizations, or States, Tribes and local governments to *comment on the draft evaluation criteria on page 7, below, by October 28, 2016*. Comments on the draft criteria may be sent to **Mr. Darion Mayhorn at [dmayhorn@usbr.gov](mailto:dmayhorn@usbr.gov) or to the address below:**

Bureau of Reclamation  
Attention: Darion Mayhorn  
84-51000  
PO Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225-0007

For questions regarding WaterSMART Grants or this opportunity to comment, please contact Mr. Darion Mayhorn at (303) 445-3121 or [dmayhorn@usbr.gov](mailto:dmayhorn@usbr.gov).

## Summary

In fiscal year (FY) 2017, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will implement a new category of WaterSMART Grants to provide funding for small-scale on-the-ground efficiency projects. This new funding category -- **WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects** is intended to complement the existing Water and Energy Efficiency Grant category, as well as the overall WaterSMART Program.

Reclamation plans to take the following steps for FY 2017:

- A new Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) under WaterSMART Grants for small-scale on-the-ground efficiency projects is expected to be posted on grants.gov in November 2016 after comments received through this process have been addressed and incorporated as necessary.
- This new FOA will incorporate the types of on-the-ground efficiency projects that were previously considered for financial assistance under the Water Conservation Field Services Program.
- The new FOA is expected to include a streamlined application and selection process.
- It is expected that the total project cost (Federal and non-Federal cost share) of each proposal submitted for funding will be limited to \$150,000, with no more than \$75,000 in Federal funding available for each selected project.
- In FY 2017, the President's Budget includes \$23.4 million for WaterSMART Grants. Reclamation is committed to providing at least \$2 million of WaterSMART Grants appropriations for this new funding category for small-scale on-the-ground efficiency projects.

This FOA is intended to support specific small-scale water efficiency projects that have been prioritized through planning efforts led by the applicant. Larger projects or those with multiple project components, such as a renewable energy component, should be submitted under WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants.

**Reclamation has prepared draft evaluation criteria (see page 7, below) for use in allocating funding for small-scale efficiency projects and is seeking comments on the draft criteria.**

For additional information on FY 2017 funding opportunities for WaterSMART Grants, please see Reclamation's website at: <http://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/>.

## Authority

The FOA for this program will be issued under the authority of Section 9504(a) of the Secure Water Act, Subtitle F of Title IX of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Public Law 111-11 (42 United States Code 10364).

## Award Information

### Total Project Funding

Reclamation expects to make at least \$2 million in FY 2017 WaterSMART Grants funding available for this new category of WaterSMART Grants.

### Project Funding Limitations

The total project cost for a project under this grant category is expected to be capped at \$150,000. **Eligible applicants should only submit proposals for projects that have a total project cost (i.e., Federal funding + non-Federal funding) of \$150,000 or less. For projects with a total cost above \$150,000, please see the WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant.**

### Cost-Sharing Requirements

The Federal share (Reclamation's share in addition to any other sources of Federal funding) of any one proposed project shall not exceed 50 percent of the total project costs (e.g., no more than \$75,000 in Federal funding requested for a project with a total cost of \$150,000).

### Project Duration

In general, the projects funded under this opportunity should be completed within 2 years of award.

## Eligibility Information

### Eligible Applicants

Under P.L. 111-11, Section 9502, an eligible applicant is a State, Indian Tribe, irrigation district, water district, or other organization with water or power delivery authority.

Applicants must also be located in the western United States or Territories as identified in the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902, as amended and supplemented; specifically: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands.

Those not eligible include the following entities:

- Federal governmental entities
- Institutions of higher education
- Individuals

### Eligible Projects

Projects should be limited to on-the-ground projects which seek to implement work identified in an applicant's water planning efforts. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- **Canal Lining/Piping.**
- **Municipal Metering.**
- **Irrigation Flow Measurement.**
- **Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and Automation.**
- **Landscape Irrigation Measures.**
- **High-Efficiency Indoor Appliances and Fixtures.**

### Ineligible Projects

- **Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement (OM&R).** Projects that are considered normal OM&R are not eligible. 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.
- **Title XVI.** Any projects or project elements that are part of a congressionally authorized Title XVI project under Public Law 102-575, as amended (43 United States Code 390h et seq.), are not eligible for funding under this FOA.

## Draft Evaluation Criteria for Review and Comment

- Water Purchases. A project that proposes using Federal funding primarily for the purchase of water is not eligible under this FOA.
- Pilot Projects. A project that proposes to conduct a pilot study to evaluate technical capability, economic feasibility, or viability for full-scale implementation, or to test an unproven material or technology is not eligible for Federal funding under this FOA.
- Water Marketing.
- Modeling/Studies.

## **Streamlined Application and Budget Process**

While interest in WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants continues to be high, Reclamation has heard concerns that the application process for Water and Energy Efficiency Grants, which allows for funding requests up to \$1 million per project, is not ideal for smaller entities. As such, Reclamation intends to streamline the application and selection process for this new category of WaterSMART Grants, including simplified evaluation criteria and a simplified request for budget information.

## OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT:

### Draft Evaluation Criteria for Review and Comment

The following draft evaluation criteria will be used by the Application Review Committee to rank proposals submitted under the WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects FOA. A more detailed description of the type of information that applicants can use to address each criterion will be included in the FOA. Reclamation is seeking public comment on the following criteria, see page 2 for instructions on submitting your comments.

#### ***Evaluation Criterion A: Planning Efforts Supporting the Project***

This criterion evaluates the extent to which the proposed on-the-ground project(s) is supported by an applicant's existing water management and conservation plan, or identified as part of another planning effort led by the applicant.

#### ***Evaluation Criterion B: Project Benefits***

This criterion evaluates the benefits that are expected to result from implementing the proposed project. This criterion will consider a variety of project benefits, including improving the management of water supplies, the significance of the anticipated water management benefits, the public benefits of the project, and any expected environmental benefits.

#### ***Evaluation Criterion C: Project Implementation***

This criterion evaluates the extent to which the applicant is capable of proceeding with the proposed project upon entering into a financial assistance agreement.

#### ***Evaluation Criterion D: Nexus to Reclamation***

This criterion evaluates the extent that the proposed project has a nexus to a Reclamation project or activity.