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Department of the Interior

R-DO - Reclamation – Denver and Washington Offices



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A. Program Description

A1. Authority

This NOFO is 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 (P.L.) 111-11 (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 10364).

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number
15.507

A2. Background, Purpose and Program Requirements

The objective of this NOFO is to invite eligible applicants (Section C.1) to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on projects that seek to conserve and use water more efficiently; increase the production of renewable energy; mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict; enable farmers to make additional on-farm improvements in the future, including improvements that may be eligible for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding; and accomplish other benefits that contribute to sustainability in the western United States.

B. Federal Award Information

B1. Total Funding

Estimate contingent upon final Congressional appropriations

Estimated Total Funding
\$ 15,000,000

B2. Expected Award Amount

Maximum Award
\$ 2,000,000

Minimum Award
\$ 0

B3. Anticipated Award Funding and Dates

Anticipated Award Date

September 30, 2022

Anticipated Project Completion Date

09/30/2025

B4. Number of Awards

Anticipated Number of Awards

50

B5. Type of Award

Funding Instrument Type

CA - Cooperative Agreement

G - Grant

Please see Attachment for additional funding instrument information and the Full Notice of Funding Opportunity Document under Section B.4

C. Eligibility Information

C1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants

25 – Others (see text field entitled “Additional Information on Eligibility” for clarification)

Additional Information on Eligibility

Category A applicants:

States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts;

State, regional, or local authorities, the members of which include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and

Other organizations with water or power delivery authority.

Category B applicants:

Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with, and with the agreement of, an entity described in Category A. Category B applicants must include with their application a letter from the Category A partner, stating that they are acting in partnership with the applicant and agree to the submittal and content of the proposal.

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: Alaska, Arizona,

California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Those not eligible include, but are not limited to, the following entities:

Federal Governmental entities, Individuals, Institutes of higher education, 501(c)4 organizations, 501(c)6 organizations

C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

Yes

This program has a cost share requirement.

Applicants must be capable of cost sharing 50 percent or more of the total project costs. The total project cost is defined as the total allowable costs incurred under a Federal award and all required cost share and voluntary committed cost share contributions, including third-party contributions.

Cost share may be made through cash, costs contributed by the applicant, or third-party in-kind contributions. Third-party in-kind contributions include the value of non-cash contributions of property or services that benefit the federally assisted project and are contributed by non-Federal third parties, without charge. Cost share funding from sources outside the applicant's organization (e.g., loans or state grants) should be secured and available to the applicant prior to award. Please see Section D.2.2.8 Official Resolution and Section D.2.2.5 Funding Plan and Letters of Commitment for more information regarding the documentation required to verify commitments to meet cost sharing requirements.

Other sources of Federal funding may not be counted towards the required cost share. The exception to this requirement is where the Federal statute authorizing a program specifically provides that Federal funds made available for such program can be applied to matching or cost sharing requirements of other Federal programs, such as awards to tribal organizations under P.L. 93-638, as amended. If it is determined that the Federal funding cannot be applied towards the non-Federal cost share, the work associated with the funding may be removed from the proposed project.

C3. Other

Please see Attachment for additional eligibility information and the Full Notice of Funding Opportunity Document under Section C.3

Excluded Parties: Reclamation conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant entities and their project personnel prior to award. Reclamation cannot award funds to entities or their key project personnel identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain

subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits, as their ineligibility condition applies to this Federal program.

C4. Eligible Project Types

Water Conservation Projects

Water conservation projects result in quantifiable and sustained water savings or improved water management. Please note that an agreement will not be awarded for an improvement to conserve irrigation water unless the applicant agrees to the terms of Section 9504(a)(3)(B) of Public Law 111-11. See Section F.2.4. Requirements for Agricultural Operations under Public Law 111-11, Section 9504(a)(3)(D) of this NOFO for further information. Eligible water conservation projects include:

- Canal Lining/Piping: Projects that line or pipe canals, resulting in conserved water.
- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Automation (SCADA): Projects that install SCADA and/or automation components that provide water savings when irrigation delivery system operational efficiency is
- Landscape Irrigation Measures: Projects that provide water savings by reducing outdoor water usage. These measures include turf removal, Smart irrigation controllers (weather or soil-moisture based) and high-efficiency nozzles (sprinkler heads). These measures are typically promoted by water entities through rebates or direct-install programs, which are eligible for WaterSMART Grants funding.
- Commercial Cooling Systems: Projects to retrofit or replace large evaporative cooling units (cooling towers) to reduce consumptive water use and energy, such as conversion to air-cooled units or high-efficiency cooling towers. Given the average design life of commercial cooling towers is 15 to 20 years and the latest technology towers are much more water and energy efficient, there are potential savings to be had by replacing or retrofitting older existing systems.

Renewable Energy Projects

Projects that increase the use of renewable energy sources in managing and delivering water and/or projects that upgrade existing water management facilities resulting in quantifiable and sustained energy savings. Projects include, but are not limited to, those discussed in the following subsections.

- Implementing Renewable Energy Projects Related to Water Management and Delivery
- Renewable energy projects related to water management and delivery

Please see Attachment for additional eligibility information and the Full Notice of Funding Opportunity Document under Section C.3.1. and C.3.2.

D. Application and Submission Information

D1. Address to Request Application Package

If you are unable to access this information electronically, you can request paper copies of any of the documents referenced in this NOFO by emailing the Notice of Funding Opportunity staff at bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov.

D2. Content and Form of Application Submission

1. SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance

Applicants must submit the appropriate Standard Form (SF)-424, Application for Federal Assistance. The required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov. The SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance must be complete, signed, and dated. Do not include any proprietary or personally identifiable information. Please note: Enter only the amount requested from this Federal program in the “Federal” funding box on the SF-424 Application form. Include any other Federal sources of funding in the “Other” box and provide details on those Federal source(s) and funding amount(s) in the required Budget Narrative (see the “Budget Narrative” section below).

Any applicant organization that has not completed the financial assistance certifications and representations within their SAM.gov registration must submit the appropriate signed and dated Assurances form. All of the required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov.

Any applicant organization that has not completed the financial assistance certifications and representations within their SAM.gov registration must submit the appropriate signed and dated Assurances form. All required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov.

Project Narrative

Please see Attachment for additional submission requirements information and the Full Notice of Funding Opportunity Document under Section D.2

Applicants must submit the appropriate SF-424 Budget Information form and Budget Narrative. For non-construction programs or projects, applicants must complete and submit the SF-424A, “Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs” form. All of the required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov. Federal award recipients and subrecipients are subject to Federal award cost principles in 2 CFR 200.

Applicants must submit the appropriate SF-424 Budget Information form and Budget Narrative. For construction programs or projects, applicants must complete and submit the SF-424C, “Budget Information for Construction Programs”. All of the required application forms are available with this announcement on Grants.gov. Federal award recipients and subrecipients are subject to Federal award cost principles in 2 CFR 200.

Detailed Budget Narrative

Please see Attachment for additional budget information and the Full Notice of Funding Opportunity Document under Section D.2.2.5

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), [2 CFR §1402.112](#), applicants must state in their application if any actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission.

(a) *Applicability.*

(1) This section intends to ensure that non-Federal entities and their employees take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements.

(2) In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by subrecipients, the conflict of interest provisions in 2 CFR 200.318 apply.

(b) *Notification.*

(1) Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the DOI awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with 2 CFR 200.112.

(2) Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Financial Assistance Officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that have been reported by subrecipients.

(c) *Restrictions on lobbying.* Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under a grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to 43 CFR part 18 and 31 U.S.C. 1352.

(d) *Review procedures.* The Financial Assistance Officer will examine each conflict of interest disclosure on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of the proposed grant or cooperative agreement, and will determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, develop an appropriate means for resolving it.

(e) *Enforcement.* Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338, Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also 2 CFR part 180).

Single Audit Reporting Statement

All U.S. states, local governments, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, and non-profit organizations expending \$750,000 USD or more in Federal award funds in the applicant's fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the [Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System](#). U.S. state, local government, federally recognized Indian tribal government, and non-profit applicants must state if your organization was or was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year. If your organization was required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year, provide the EIN associated with that report and state if it is available through the [Federal Audit Clearinghouse](#) website.

Please see Attachment for additional disclosure information and the Full Notice of Funding Opportunity Document under Section D.3

Certification Regarding Lobbying

Applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funding must certify to the statements in [43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying](#). If this application requests more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Official's signature on the appropriate SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance form also represents the entity's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A.

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

A fully completed and signed SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities is required is required if the applicant has made or agreed to make payment to any lobbying entity for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with a covered Federal action. Note – this form cannot be submitted by a contractor or other entity on behalf of an applicant.

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

Applicants must provide a statement that addresses if there is any overlap between the proposed project and any other active or anticipated proposals or projects in terms of activities, costs, or commitment of key personnel. If any overlap exists, applicants must provide a description of the overlap in their application for review.

Applicants must also state if the proposal submitted for consideration under this program is or is not in any way duplicative of any proposal or project that has been or will be submitted for funding consideration to any other potential funding source whether it be Federal or non-Federal. If such a circumstance exists, applicants must detail when the other duplicative proposal(s) were submitted, to whom (Agency name and Financial Assistance program), and when funding decisions are expected to be announced. If at any time a proposal is awarded funds that would be duplicative of the funding requested from the Bureau of Reclamation, applicants must notify the Notice of Funding Opportunity point of contact or the Program Coordinator immediately.

D3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration: This requirement does not apply to individuals applying for funds as individual (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own or operate) or any entity with an exception approved by the funding bureau or office in accordance with bureau or office policy. All other applicants are required to obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet and then register in SAM.gov prior to submitting a Federal award application. Federal award recipients must continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s). See the “Submission Requirements” section of this document below for more information on SAM.gov registration. We may not make a Federal award to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the program is ready to make an award, the program may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. The program can use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant. **There is no cost to register with Dun & Bradstreet or SAM.gov.** There are third-party vendors who will charge a fee in exchange for registering entities with Dun & Bradstreet and SAM.gov; **please be aware you can register and request help for free.**

Obtain a DUNS Number

Request a DUNS Number through the Dun & Bradstreet website. For technical difficulties, send an email to the D&B SAM Help Desk. Please ensure that you are able to receive emails from SAMHelp@dnb.com. The Grants.gov “Obtain a DUNS Number” webpage also provides detailed instructions. Once assigned a DUNS number, your organization must maintain up-to-

date information with Dun & Bradstreet. Applicants must enter their DUNS number in the “Organizational DUNS” field on the SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance form.

Register with the System for Award Management (SAM)

Register on the SAM.gov website. “Help” tab on the website contains User Guides and other information to assist you with registration. The Grants.gov Register with SAM page also provides detailed instructions. You can also contact the supporting Federal Service Desk for help registering in SAM. Once registered in SAM, entities must renew and revalidate their SAM registration at least once every 12 months from the date previously registered. Entities are strongly encouraged to revalidate their registration as often as needed to ensure their information is up to date and reflects changes that may have been to the entity’s DUNS or IRS information.

Please see Attachment for additional SAM.gov information and the Full Notice of Funding Opportunity Document under Section D.3

D4. Submission Dates and Times

Due Date for Applications

11/03/2021

Application Due Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m., MT, on the listed application due date.

D5. Intergovernmental Review

Prior to application submission, U.S. state and local government applicants should visit the [OMB Office of Federal Financial Management website](#) and view the “State Point of Contact (SPOC) List” to determine whether their application is subject to the state intergovernmental review process under Executive Order (E.O.) 12372 “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.” States not on the list do not participate in the intergovernmental review process, and therefore do not have a SPOC. If you are located within a State that does not have a SPOC, you may send application materials directly to a Federal awarding agency. If your state is on the list, contact the designated entity for more information on the state’s prior review requirements for Federal assistance applications.

D6. Funding Restrictions

Indirect Costs: Individuals

Indirect Costs: Organizations

Please see Attachment for additional budget information and the Full Notice of Funding Opportunity Document under Section D.2.2.5.

D7. Other Submission Requirements

Please see Attachment for additional submission information and the Full Notice of Funding Opportunity Document under Section D.4

E. Application Review Information

E1. Criteria

A. Quantifiable Water Savings

Maximum Points: 28

Up to 28 points may be awarded for this criterion. This criterion prioritizes projects that will conserve water and improve water use efficiency, supporting the goals of E.O. 14008. Points will be allocated based on the quantifiable water savings expected as a result of the project. Points will be allocated to give greater consideration to projects that are expected to result in more significant water savings.

All applicants should be sure to address the following:

1. **Describe the amount of estimated water savings.** For projects that conserve water, please state the estimated amount of water expected to be conserved (in acre-feet per year) as a direct result of this project.

Please include a specific quantifiable water savings estimate; do not include a range of potential water savings.

2. **Describe current losses:** Please explain where the water that will be conserved is currently going and how it is being used. Consider the following:
 - a. Explain where current losses are going (e.g., back to the stream, spilled at the end of the ditch, seeping into the ground)?
 - b. If known, please explain how current losses are being used. For example, are current losses returning to the system for use by others? Are current losses entering an impaired groundwater table becoming unsuitable for future use?
 - c. Are there any known benefits associated with where the current losses are going? For example, is seepage water providing additional habitat for fish or animal species?

3. **Describe the support/documentation of estimated water savings:** Please provide sufficient detail supporting how the estimate was determined, including all supporting calculations. Note: projects that do not provide sufficient supporting detail/calculations may not receive credit under this section. Please be sure to consider the questions associated with your project type (listed below) when determining the estimated water savings, along with the necessary support needed for a full review of your proposal.

In addition, please note that the use of visual observations alone to calculate water savings, without additional documentation/data, are not sufficient to receive credit under this section. Further, the water savings must be the result of reducing or eliminating a current, ongoing loss, not the result of an expected future loss.

4. **Please address the following questions according to the type of infrastructure improvement you are proposing for funding.** See *Appendix A: Benefit Quantification and Performance Measure Guidance* for additional guidance on quantifying water savings.

1. **Canal Lining/Piping:** Canal lining/piping projects can provide water savings when irrigation delivery systems experience significant losses due to canal seepage. Applicants proposing lining/piping projects should address the following:
 - a. How has the estimated average annual water savings that will result from the project been determined? Please provide all relevant calculations, assumptions, and supporting data.
 - b. How have average annual canal seepage losses been determined? Have ponding and/or inflow/outflow tests been conducted to determine seepage rates under varying conditions? If so, please provide detailed descriptions of testing methods and all results. If not, please provide an explanation of the method(s) used to calculate seepage losses. All estimates should be supported with multiple sets of data/measurements from representative sections of canals.
 - c. What are the expected post-project seepage/leakage losses and how were these estimates determined (e.g., can data specific to the type of material being used in the project be provided)?
 - d. What are the anticipated annual transit loss reductions in terms of acre-feet per mile for the overall project and for each section of canal included in the project?
 - e. How will actual canal loss seepage reductions be verified?
 - f. Include a detailed description of the materials being used.
2. **Municipal Metering:** Municipal metering projects can provide water savings when individual user meters are installed where none exist to allow for unit or tiered pricing, when existing individual user meters are replaced with [advanced metering infrastructure](#) (AMI) meters, and when new meters are installed within a distribution system to assist with leakage reduction. To receive credit for water savings for a municipal metering project, an applicant must provide a detailed description of the method used to estimate savings, including references to documented savings from similar previously

implemented projects. Applicants proposing municipal metering projects should address the following:

- a. How has the estimated average annual water savings that will result from the project been determined? Please provide all relevant calculations, assumptions, and supporting data.
 - b. How have current distribution system losses and/or the potential for reductions in water use by individual users been determined?
 - c. For installing end-user water service meters, e.g., for a residential or commercial building unit., refer to studies in the region or in the applicant's service area that are relevant to water use patterns and the potential for reducing such use. In the absence of such studies, please explain in detail how expected water use reductions have been estimated and the basis for the estimations.
 - d. Installation of distribution system meters will not receive points under this criterion. Accordingly, these projects must be paired with a complementary project component that will result in water savings in order for the proposal to receive credit for water savings, e.g., pipe installation using upgraded materials, or individual water service meters.
 - e. What types (manufacturer and model) of devices will be installed and what quantity of each?
 - f. How will actual water savings be verified upon completion of the project?
3. **Irrigation Flow Measurement:** Irrigation flow measurement improvements can provide water savings when improved measurement accuracy results in reduced spills and over-deliveries to irrigators. Applicants proposing municipal metering projects should address the following:
- a. How have average annual water savings estimates been determined? Please provide all relevant calculations, assumptions, and supporting data.
 - b. Have current operational losses been determined? If water savings are based on a reduction of spills, please provide support for the amount of water currently being lost to spills.
 - c. Are flows currently measured at proposed sites and if so, what is the accuracy of existing devices? How has the existing measurement accuracy been established?
 - d. Provide detailed descriptions of all proposed flow measurement devices, including accuracy and the basis for the accuracy.
 - e. Will annual farm delivery volumes be reduced by more efficient and timely deliveries? If so, how has this reduction been estimated?
 - f. How will actual water savings be verified upon completion of the project?
4. **Turf Removal:** Applicants proposing turf removal projects should address the following:
- a. How have average annual water savings estimates been determined? Please provide all relevant calculations, assumptions, and supporting data.
 - b. What is the total surface area of turf to be removed and what is the estimated average annual turf consumptive use rate per unit area?

- c. Was historical water consumption data evaluated to estimate average annual turf consumptive use per unit area? If so, did the evaluation include a weather adjustment component?
 - d. Will site audits be performed before applicants are accepted into the program?
 - e. How will actual water savings be verified upon completion of the project?
5. **Smart Irrigation Controllers, Controllers with Rain Sensor Shutoff, Drip Irrigation, and High-Efficiency Nozzles:** Applicants proposing smart irrigation controllers, controllers with rain sensor shutoff, drip irrigation, or high-efficiency nozzle projects should address the following:
- a. How have average annual water savings estimates been determined? Please provide all relevant calculations, assumptions, and supporting data.
 - b. Was historical water consumption data evaluated to estimate the percent reduction in water demand per unit area of irrigated landscape? If so, did the evaluation include a weather adjustment component?
 - c. What types (manufacturer and model) of devices will be installed and what quantity of each?
 - d. Will the devices be installed through a rebate or direct-install program?
 - e. Will site audits be performed before and after installation?
 - f. How will actual water savings be verified upon completion of the project?
6. **High-Efficiency Indoor Appliances and Fixtures:** Installing high- efficiency indoor appliances and fixtures can provide water savings for municipal water entities where there is significant potential for replacing existing non-efficient indoor appliances and fixtures. Applicants proposing high-efficiency indoor appliance and fixtures projects should address the following:
- a. How have average annual water savings estimates been determined? Please provide all relevant calculations, assumptions, and supporting data.
 - b. What types (clothes washers, shower heads, etc.) of appliances and fixtures will be installed and what quantity of each?
 - c. Have studies been conducted to verify the existence of non-efficient appliances and fixtures? Provide published water savings rates for each of these devices and reference the source for each of the device savings rates.
 - d. Will the devices be installed through rebate or direct-install programs?
 - e. How will actual water savings be verified upon completion of the project?
7. **Commercial Cooling Systems:** Cooling towers are components of many refrigeration systems with many applications. They dissipate heat to the atmosphere through the evaporative process and are common in manufacturing processes where cooling is required. They are also used for cooling large commercial buildings. Cooling tower structures vary in size, design, and efficiency. Regardless, all cooling towers consume large volumes of water and energy.

Open-circuit or direct contact are the most common types of cooling towers. Water is supplied to the tower after gathering heat and then released in the upper tower levels and a fan near the base of the tower creates upward airflow. Closed-circuit towers are more efficient and closed-circuit towers with adiabatic cooling are more efficient yet.

Water and energy savings can be achieved by replacing or retrofitting older low efficiency cooling towers. Applicants proposing cooling system projects should address the following:

- a. How have average annual water savings estimates been determined? Please provide all relevant calculations, assumptions, and supporting data.
- b. Was historical water consumption data evaluated to estimate the percent reduction in water demand?
- c. Specify type (manufacturer and model) of cooling tower system to be installed and/or provide a detailed description of existing system retrofit.

Note that an agreement will not be awarded for an improvement to conserve irrigation water unless the applicant agrees to the terms of Section 9504(a)(3)(B) of Public Law 111-11 (see p. 52 of the NOFO for additional information).

B. Renewable Energy

Maximum Points: 20

Up to 20 points may be awarded based on the extent to which the project increases the use of renewable energy or otherwise results in increased energy efficiency and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

For projects that include construction or installation of renewable energy components, please respond to Subcriterion No. B.1: Implementing Renewable Energy Projects Related to Water Management and Delivery. If the project does not implement a renewable energy project but will increase energy efficiency, please respond to Subcriterion No. B.2. Increasing Energy Efficiency in Water Management. If the project has separate components that will result in both implementing a renewable energy project and increasing energy efficiency, an applicant may respond to both.

Note: an applicant may receive points under both subcriterion No. B.1 and B.2 if the project consists of an energy efficiency component separate from the renewable energy component of the project. However, an applicant may receive no more than 20 points total under both subcriteria No. B.1 and B.2.

Subcriterion No. B.1: Implementing Renewable Energy Projects Related to Water Management and Delivery *Up to 20 points may be awarded for projects that include construction or installation of renewable energy components (e.g., hydroelectric units, solar- electric facilities, wind energy systems, or facilities that otherwise enable the use of renewable energy). Projects such as small-scale solar resulting in minimal energy savings or production will be considered under Subcriterion No. B.2 below.*

Describe the amount of energy capacity. For projects that implement renewable energy systems, state the estimated amount of capacity (in kilowatts) of the system. Please provide sufficient detail supporting the stated estimate, including all calculations in support of the estimate.

Describe the amount of energy generated. For projects that implement renewable energy systems, state the estimated amount of energy that the system will generate (in kilowatt hours per year). Please provide sufficient detail supporting the stated estimate, including all

calculations in support of the estimate. Please explain how the power generated as a result of this project will be used, including any existing or planned agreements and infrastructure.

Describe the status of a mothballed hydro plant. For projects that are brining mothballed hydro capacity back online, please describe the following:

- Clearly describe the work that will be accomplished through the WaterSMART Grant. Note: normal OM&R activities are not eligible for funding. The work being proposed must be an investment.
- Provide information about the capacity (in kilowatts) of the existing hydro system and the expected capacity once it is brought back on-line.
- Provide information about the duration that the hydro system has been offline and the reasons why it has been mothballed. Please include any FERC filings or other documentation regarding the system.

Describe any other benefits of the renewable energy project. Please describe and provide sufficient detail on any additional benefits expected to result from the renewable energy project, including:

- How the system will combat/offset the impacts of climate change, including an expected reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- Expected environmental benefits of the renewable energy system
- Any expected reduction in the use of energy currently supplied through a Reclamation project.
- Anticipated benefits to other sectors/entities.
- Expected water needs, if any, of the system.

AND/OR

Subcriterion No. B.2: Increasing Energy Efficiency in Water Management *Up to 10 points may be awarded for projects that address energy demands and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by retrofitting equipment to increase energy efficiency and/or through water conservation improvements that result in reduced pumping or diversions.*

Describe any energy efficiencies that are expected to result from implementation of the water conservation or water efficiency project (e.g., reduced pumping).

- If quantifiable energy savings is expected to result from the project, please provide sufficient details and supporting calculations. If quantifying energy savings, please state the estimated amount in kilowatt hours per year.
- How will the energy efficiency improvement combat/offset the impacts of climate change, including an expected reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- If the project will result in reduced pumping, please describe the current pumping requirements and the types of pumps (e.g., size) currently being used. How would the proposed project impact the current pumping requirements and energy usage?
- Please indicate whether your energy savings estimate originates from the point of diversion, or whether the estimate is based upon an alternate site of origin.
- Does the calculation include any energy required to treat the water, if applicable?
- Will the project result in reduced vehicle miles driven, in turn reducing greenhouse gas emissions? Please provide supporting details and calculations.
- Describe any renewable energy components that will result in minimal energy savings/production (e.g., installing small-scale solar as part of a SCADA system).

C. Sustainability Benefits

Maximum Points: 20

Up to 20 points may be awarded under this criterion. This criterion prioritizes projects that address a specific water and/or energy sustainability concern(s), including enhancing drought resilience, addressing the current and future impacts of climate change, and resolving water related conflicts in the region. In addition, this criterion is focused on the benefits associated with the project, including benefits to tribes, ecosystem benefits, and other benefits to water and/or energy supply sustainability.

Addressing a specific water and/or energy sustainability concern(s). Will the project address a specific sustainability concern? Please address the following:

- Explain and provide detail of the specific issue(s) in the area that is impacting water sustainability, such as shortages due to drought and/or climate change, increased demand, or reduced deliveries.
- Explain and provide detail of the specific issue(s) in the area that is impacting energy sustainability, such as reliance on fossil fuels, pollution, or interruptions in service.
- Please describe how the project will directly address the concern(s) stated above. For example, if experiencing shortages due to drought or climate change, how will the project directly address and confront the shortages?
- Please address where any conserved water as a result of the project will go and how it will be used, including whether the conserved water will be used to offset groundwater pumping, used to reduce diversions, used to address shortages that impact diversions or reduce deliveries, made available for transfer, left in the river system, or used to meet another intended use.
- Provide a description of the mechanism that will be used, if necessary, to put the conserved water to the intended use.
- Indicate the quantity of conserved water that will be used for the intended purpose(s).

Project benefits. Please provide a detailed explanation of the project benefits and their significance. These benefits may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. **Combating the Climate Crisis:** Presidential Executive Order 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, focuses on increasing resilience to climate change and supporting climate-resilient development. For additional information on the impacts of climate change throughout the western United States, see: <https://www.usbr.gov/climate/secure/docs/2021secure/2021SECUREREport.pdf>. Please describe how the project will address climate change, including the following:
 - a. Please provide specific details and examples on how the project will address the impacts of climate change and help combat the climate crisis.
 - b. Does this proposed project strengthen water supply sustainability to increase resilience to climate change?
 - c. Will the proposed project establish and utilize a renewable energy source?
 - d. Will the project result in lower greenhouse gas emissions?

2. **Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities:** E.O. 14008 and E.O. 13985 support environmental and economic justice by investing in underserved and disadvantaged communities and addressing the climate-related impacts to these communities, including impacts to public health, safety, and economic opportunities. Please describe how the project supports these Executive Orders, including the following:
 - a. Does the proposed project directly serve and/or benefit a disadvantaged or historically underserved community? Benefits can include, but are not limited to, public health and safety through water quality improvements, new water supplies, new renewable energy sources, or economic growth opportunities.
 - b. If the proposed project is providing benefits to a disadvantage community, provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the community meets the disadvantaged community definition in Section 1015 of the Cooperative Watershed Act, which is defined as a community with an annual median household income that is less than 100 percent of the statewide annual median household income for the State, or the applicable state criteria for determining disadvantaged status.

- c. If the proposed project is providing benefits to an underserved community, provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the community meets the underserved definition in E.O. 13985, which includes populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life.
3. **Tribal Benefits:** The Department of the Interior is committed to strengthening tribal sovereignty and the fulfillment of federal tribal trust responsibilities. The President’s memorandum “Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships” asserts the importance of honoring the federal government’s commitments to Tribal Nations. Please address the following, if applicable:
 - a. Does the proposed project directly serve and/or benefit a tribe? Will the project increase water supply sustainability for an Indian tribe? Will the project provide renewable energy for an Indian tribe?
 - b. Does the proposed project directly support tribal resilience to climate change and drought impacts or provide other tribal benefits such as improved public health and safety through water quality improvements, new water supplies, or economic growth opportunities?
4. **Enhancing Drought Resiliency:** Through this subcriterion and other sections above, this NOFO places a priority on projects that enhance drought resiliency. Please provide information regarding how the project will enhance drought resiliency by benefitting the water supply and ecosystem, including the following:
 - a. Does the project seek to improve ecological resiliency to climate change?
 - b. Will water remain in the system for longer periods of time? If so, provide details on current/future durations and any expected resulting benefits (e.g., maintaining water temperatures or water levels).
 - c. Will the project benefit species (e.g., federally threatened or endangered, a federally recognized candidate species, a state listed species, or a species of particular recreational, or economic importance)? Please describe the relationship of the species to the water supply, and whether the species is adversely affected

by a Reclamation project or is subject to a recovery plan or conservation plan under the ESA.

- d. Please describe any other ecosystem benefits as a direct result of the project.
- e. Will the project directly result in more efficient management of the water supply? For example, will the project provide greater flexibility to water managers, resulting in a more efficient use of water supplies?

Projects that are intended to improve streamflows or aquatic habit, and that are requesting \$500,000 or more in Federal funding, must include information about plans to monitor the benefits of the project. Please describe the plan to monitor improved streamflows or aquatic habit benefits over a five-year period once the project has been completed. Provide detail on the steps to be taken to carry out the plan.

- 5. **Other Benefits:** Will the project address water and/or energy sustainability in other ways not described above? For example:
 - a. Will the project assist States and water users in complying with interstate compacts?
 - b. Will the project benefit multiple sectors and/or users (e.g., agriculture, municipal and industrial, environmental, recreation, or others)?
 - c. Will the project benefit a larger initiative to address sustainability?
 - d. Will the project help to prevent a water-related crisis or conflict? Is there frequently tension or litigation over water in the basin?

D. Complementing On-Farm Irrigation Improvements

Maximum Points: 10

*Up to 10 points may be awarded for projects that describe in detail how they will **complement on-farm irrigation improvements** eligible for NRCS financial or technical assistance.*

Note: Scoring under this criterion is based on an overall assessment of the extent to which the WaterSMART Grant project will complement ongoing or future on-farm improvements. Applicants should describe any proposal made to NRCS, or any plans to seek assistance from NRCS in the future, and how an NRCS-assisted activity would complement the WaterSMART Grant project. Financial assistance through EQIP is the most commonly used program by which NRCS helps producers implement improvements to irrigation systems, but NRCS does have

additional technical or financial assistance programs that may be available. Applicants may receive maximum points under this criterion by providing the information described in the bullet points below. **Applicants are *not* required to have assurances of NRCS assistance by the application deadline to be awarded the maximum number of points under this sub-criterion.** Reclamation may contact applicants during the review process to gather additional information about pending applications for NRCS assistance if necessary.

Please note: On-farm improvements themselves are *not* eligible activities for funding under this NOFO. This criterion is intended to focus on how the WaterSMART Grant project will complement ongoing or future on-farm improvements. NRCS will have a separate application process for the on-farm components of selected projects that may be undertaken in the future, separate of the WaterSMART Grant project.

If the proposed project will complement an on-farm improvement eligible for NRCS assistance, please address the following:

- Describe any planned or ongoing projects by farmers/ranchers that receive water from the applicant to improve on-farm efficiencies.
 - Provide a detailed description of the on-farm efficiency improvements.
 - Have the farmers requested technical or financial assistance from NRCS for the on-farm efficiency projects, or do they plan to in the future?
 - If available, provide documentation that the on-farm projects are eligible for NRCS assistance, that such assistance has or will be requested, and the number or percentage of farms that plan to participate in available NRCS programs.
 - Applicants should provide letters of intent from farmers/ranchers in the affected project areas.
- Describe how the proposed WaterSMART project would complement any ongoing or planned on-farm improvement.
 - Will the proposed WaterSMART project directly facilitate the on-farm improvement? If so, how? For example, installation of a pressurized pipe through WaterSMART can help support efficient on-farm irrigation practices, such as drip-irrigation.

OR

- Will the proposed WaterSMART project complement the on-farm project by maximizing efficiency in the area? If so, how?
- Describe the on-farm water conservation or water use efficiency benefits that are expected to result from any on-farm work.
 - Estimate the potential on-farm water savings that could result in acre-feet per year. Include support or backup documentation for any calculations or assumptions.
- Please provide a map of your water service area boundaries. If your project is selected for funding under this NOFO, this information will help NRCS identify the irrigated lands that may be approved for NRCS funding and technical assistance to complement funded WaterSMART projects.

Note: On-farm water conservation improvements that complement the water delivery improvement projects selected through this NOFO may be considered for NRCS funding and technical assistance to the extent that such assistance is available. For more information, including application deadlines and a description of available funding, please contact your local NRCS office. See the NRCS website for office contact information, www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/states/.

E. Planning and Implementation

Maximum Points: 8

Up to 8 points may be awarded for these subcriteria.

Subcriterion E.1— Project Planning Points may be awarded for proposals with planning efforts that provide support for the proposed project.

Does the applicant have a Water Conservation Plan and/or System Optimization Review (SOR) in place? Does the project address an adaptation strategy identified in a completed WaterSMART Basin Study? Please self-certify or provide copies of these plans where appropriate to verify that such a plan is in place. Including a specific excerpt or a link to the planning document may also be considered where appropriate.

Provide the following information regarding project planning:

1. Identify any district-wide, or system-wide, planning that provides support for the proposed project. This could include a Water Conservation Plan, SOR, Drought Contingency Plan or other planning efforts done to determine the priority of this project in relation to other potential projects.
2. Describe how the project conforms to and meets the goals of any applicable planning efforts and identify any aspect of the project that implements a feature of an existing water plan(s).
3. If applicable, provide a detailed description of how a project is addressing an adaptation strategy specifically identified in a completed WaterSMART Basin Study or Water Management Options Pilot (e.g., a strategy to mitigate the impacts of water shortages resulting from climate change, drought, increased demands, or other causes)

For more information on Basin Studies, including a list of completed basin studies and reports, please visit: www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART/bsp.

Subcriterion E.2— Readiness to Proceed Points may be awarded based upon the extent to which the proposed project is capable of proceeding upon entering into a financial assistance agreement. Please note, if your project is selected, responses provided in this section will be used to develop the scope of work that will be included in the financial assistance agreement.

Applications that include a detailed project implementation plan (e.g., estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates) will receive the most points under this criterion.

- Identify and provide a summary description of the major tasks necessary to complete the project. Note: please do not repeat the more detailed technical project description

provided in Section D.2.2.4.; this section should be focused on a summary of the major tasks to be accomplished as part of the project.

- Describe any permits that will be required, along with the process for obtaining such permits.
- Identify and describe any engineering or design work performed specifically in support of the proposed project.
- Describe any new policies or administrative actions required to implement the project.
- Please also include an estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates. Milestones may include, but are not limited to, the following: complete environmental and cultural compliance; mobilization; begin construction/installation; construction/installation (50% complete); and construction/installation (100% complete)

F. Collaboration

Maximum Points: 6

Up to 6 points may be awarded for projects that promote and encourage collaboration among parties in a way that helps increase the sustainability of the water supply.

Please describe how the project promotes and encourages collaboration. Consider the following:

- Is there widespread support for the project? Please provide specific details regarding any support and/or partners involved in the project. What is the extent of their involvement in the process?
- What is the significance of the collaboration/support?
- Will this project increase the possibility/likelihood of future water conservation improvements by other water users?
- Please attach any relevant supporting documents (e.g., letters of support or memorandum of understanding).

G. Additional Non-Federal Funding

Maximum Points: 4

Up to 4 points may be awarded to proposals that provide non-Federal funding in excess of 50 percent of the project costs. State the percentage of non-Federal funding provided using the following calculation:

Non-Federal Funding

Total Project Cost

H. Nexus to Reclamation

Maximum Points: 4

Up to 4 points may be awarded if the proposed project is connected to a Reclamation project or Reclamation activity. No points will be awarded for proposals without connection to a Reclamation project or Reclamation activity.

Describe the nexus between the proposed project and a Reclamation project or Reclamation activity. Please consider the following:

- Does the applicant have a water service, repayment, or O&M contract with Reclamation?
- If the applicant is not a Reclamation contractor, does the applicant receive Reclamation water through a Reclamation contractor or by any other contractual means?
- Will the proposed work benefit a Reclamation project area or activity?
- Is the applicant a Tribe?

E2. Review and Selection Process

Please see Attachment for additional review and selection information and the Full Notice of Funding Opportunity under Section E.2

E3. CFR – Regulatory Information

Please see Attachment for additional regulatory information and the Full Notice of Funding Opportunity under Section F.2

E4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

Reclamation expects to contact potential award recipients and unsuccessful applicants in spring 2022, subject to the timing and amount of final FY 2022 appropriations. Financial assistance agreements will be awarded to applicants that successfully pass all pre-award reviews and clearances. Award recipients will be contacted individually to discuss the time frame for the completion of their agreement.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

F1. Federal Award Notices

Please see Attachment for additional information and the Full Notice of Funding Opportunity

F2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

See the “[DOI Standard Terms and Conditions](#)” for the administrative and national policy requirements applicable to DOI awards.

Data Availability

Per the Financial Assistance Interior Regulation (FAIR), [2 CFR §1402.315](#):

(a) All data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, valuation products or other scientific assessments in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual, resulting from a financial assistance agreement is available for use by the Department of the Interior, including being available in a manner that is sufficient for independent verification.

(b) The Federal Government has the right to:

(1) Obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, produced under a Federal award; and

(2) Authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data, methodology, factual inputs, models, analyses, technical information, reports, conclusions, or other scientific assessments, for Federal purposes, including to allow for meaningful third-party evaluation.

Please see Attachment for additional policy information and the Full Notice of Funding Opportunity under Section F.2

F3. Reporting

Financial Reports

All recipients must use the [SF-425, Federal Financial Report](#) form for financial reporting. At a minimum, all recipients must submit a **final** financial report. Final reports are due no later than 90 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit **interim** financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award.

Recipients will be required to submit a fully completed form SF-425 Federal Financial Report on at least a semi-annual basis and with the final performance report. The SF-425 must be signed by a person legally authorized to obligate the recipient.

Performance Reports

Performance reports must contain a comparison of actual accomplishments with the established goals and objectives of the award; a description of reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate; and any other pertinent information relevant to the project results. Final reports are due no later than 90 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination

date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit **interim** financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award.

The specific terms and conditions pertaining to the reporting requirements will be included in the financial assistance agreement.

Interim performance reports submitted on at least a semi-annual basis, that include the following information:

- A comparison of actual accomplishments to the milestones established by the financial assistance agreement for the period
- The reasons why established milestones were not met, if applicable
- The status of milestones from the previous reporting period that were not met, if applicable
- Whether the project is on schedule and within the original cost estimate
- Any additional pertinent information or issues related to the status of the project

Real Property Reports

Recipients and subrecipients are required to submit status reports on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest. The required frequency of these reports will depend on the anticipated length of the Federal interest period. Reclamation will include recipient-specific real property reporting requirements, including the required data elements, reporting frequency, and report due dates, in the Notice of Award when applicable.

Please see Attachment for additional reporting information and the Full Notice of Funding Opportunity Document under Section F.3

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

Recipients must notify the program immediately in writing of any conflict of interest that arise during the life of their Federal award, including those reported to them by any subrecipient under the award. Recipients must notify the program in writing if any employees, including subrecipient and contractor personnel, are related to, married to, or have a close personal relationship with any Federal employee in the Federal funding program or who otherwise may have been involved in the review and selection of the award. The term employee means any individual engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the Federal award. Recipients may not have a former Federal employee as a key project official, or in any other substantial role related to their award, whose participation put them out of compliance with the legal authorities addressing post-Government employment restrictions. See the [U.S. Office of Government Ethics website](#) for more information on these restrictions. Reclamation will examine each conflict of interest disclosure based on its particular facts and the nature of the project and will determine if a significant potential conflict exists. If it does, Reclamation will work with the recipient to determine an appropriate resolution. Failure to disclose and resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies Reclamation may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338 Remedies for Noncompliance, including termination of the award.

Other Mandatory Disclosures

The Non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Non-Federal entities that receive a Federal award including the terms and conditions outlined in 2

CFR 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338 Remedies for Noncompliance, including suspension or debarment.

Please see Attachment for additional disclosure information and the Full Notice of Funding Opportunity Document under Section F.4

Reporting Matters Related to Recipient Integrity and Performance

If the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds \$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of this Federal award, then you as the recipient during that period of time must maintain the currency of information reported to the System for Award Management (SAM) that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system (currently the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)) about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings in accordance with Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200.

Prior to making an award with a Federal total estimated amount greater than \$150,000, Reclamation is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently Federal Award Performance Integrity Information System [FAPIIS]) (see 41 U.S.C. §2313). An applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM. Reclamation will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIIS, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 CFR §200.205 Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants.

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

G1. Program Technical Contact

For **programmatic technical assistance**, contact:

First Name:

Josh

Last Name:

German

Address:

Telephone:

303-445-2839

Email:

jgerman@usbr.gov

G2. Financial Assistance Administrative Contact

For **financial assistance administrative assistance**, contact:

First Name:

Ned

Last Name:

Weakland

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov

G3. Application System Technical Support

For **Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms and application packages**, contact:

Name:

Grants.gov Customer Support

Telephone:

1-800-518-4726

Email:

Support@grants.gov

H. Other Information

Please see Attachment for additional Environmental Review information and the Full Notice of Funding Opportunity Document under Section H