

United States Bureau of Reclamation
Department of the Interior

R-CPN - Reclamation – Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region



2023
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A. Program Description

A1. Authority

This FOA 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
15.530

A2. Background, Purpose and Program Requirements

The Department of the Interior’s (DOI’s) WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America’s Resources for Tomorrow) Program provides a framework for Federal leadership and assistance to stretch and secure water supplies for future generations in support of DOI priorities. Through WaterSMART, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) leverages Federal and non-Federal funding to work cooperatively with states, Tribes, and local entities as they plan for and implement actions to increase water supply reliability through investments in existing infrastructure and attention to local water conflicts. The Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP) provides support for priorities identified in Presidential Executive Order (E.O.) 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (E.O. 14008) and aligned with other priorities, such as those identified in Presidential Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government (E.O. 13985).

Drought conditions across the western United States impact a wide range of communities and sectors, including agriculture, cities, Tribes, the environment, recreation, hydropower producers, and others.

Reclamation established the WCFSP in 1996 to encourage recipients of water from Federal water projects to conserve water and to assist agricultural and urban water districts in preparing and implementing water conservation plans in accordance with the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982. Through the WCFSP, Reclamation makes cost-shared financial assistance available for developing water conservation plans, designing water management improvements, identifying water management improvements through System Optimization Reviews (SORs), and improving the understanding of water conservation techniques through demonstration activities.

This WCFSP NOFO provides funding for projects that result in water management planning. These projects support water managers in activities to plan, prioritize, and design projects that conserve and use water more efficiently; mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future

water conflict; and accomplish other benefits that contribute to sustainability in the Western United States.

For further information on the WaterSMART Program, please see www.usbr.gov/watersmart/.

For further information on the WCFSP, please

see <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/wat/fieldservices.html>.

B. Federal Award Information

B1. Total Funding

Estimate contingent upon final Congressional appropriations

Estimated Total Funding

B2. Expected Award Amount

Maximum Award

\$50,000

Minimum Award

\$0

B3. Anticipated Award Funding and Dates

Anticipated Award Date

August 31, 2023

Anticipated Project Completion Date

09/01/2025

B4. Number of Awards

Anticipated Number of Awards

10

B5. Type of Award

Funding Instrument Type

G - Grant

CA - Cooperative Agreement

If a cooperative agreement is awarded, the recipient should expect Reclamation to have substantial involvement in the project.

Substantial involvement by Reclamation may include:

- Collaboration and participation with the recipient in the management of the project and close oversight of the recipient’s activities to ensure that the program objectives are being achieved.
- Oversight may include review, input, and approval at key interim stages of the project.

C. Eligibility Information

C1. Eligible Applicants

Eligible Applicants

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

99 – Unrestricted (i.e. open to any type of entity above), subject to any clarification in the text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility"

Additional Information on Eligibility

Eligible applicants include any state, Tribe, irrigation district, water district, or other organization with water or power delivery authority located in Reclamation’s Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region.

Those not eligible include, but are not limited to, the following entities: Federal governmental entities, institutions of higher education, individuals, and 501(c)(6) organizations.

C2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement

Yes

C3. Other

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

C.5.1. Water Management and Conservation Planning

Water management and conservation plans provide entities an opportunity to document data on current water supply and demand, prepare a forecast for future water demands, identify water conservation goals, and determine conservation measures (e.g., cost/pricing of water, water accounting, landscape efficiency, information and education, water use regulation). Water conservation plans may be modeled after plans described in the Reclamation document titled *Achieving Efficient Water Management: A Guidebook for Preparing Agricultural Water*

Conservation Plans, Second Edition (2000), available at <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/wat/publications/guidemstr.pdf>.

C.5.2. System Optimization Review.

A System Optimization Review (SOR) is used to assess the potential for water management improvements and to identify a plan of action that contains recommendations for implementing specific improvements that have the potential to enhance water management. The review can include an analysis of the entire water delivery system, district, watershed, or a portion thereof. SORs are intended to take a broad look at system-wide efficiency and are not focused on single project-specific planning.

An SOR comprises the following actions:

- Gather information.
- Identify, describe, and prioritize water management issues.
- Establish goals.
- Identify, evaluate, and prioritize potential improvement projects that could mitigate the identified issues and accomplish goals.
- The evaluation of improvement projects could consider: the water management benefits associated with the improvement, anticipated construction and operating costs (as applicable), as well as environmental, regulatory, cultural, and economic impacts.
- As part of the evaluation, efforts to better quantify the associated benefits of the proposed improvement projects are eligible subtasks (e.g., soil infiltration tests, required monitoring activities).

If an applicant's previous planning efforts have addressed some of the components identified above, the applicant can propose funding for the remaining components for a complete system analysis. The SOR Final Report will serve as the final product of the SOR analysis and will summarize the analysis performed.

C.5.3. Designing Water Management Improvements

Upon completion of prior planning efforts (e.g., Water Management and Conservation Plan, SOR) to identify solutions for water management issues, this activity provides funding to design identified water management improvement projects. This activity includes the necessary preliminary work in preparation of the design, such as surveying and gathering of pertinent site-specific information (e.g., hydraulic head available at site, soil testing, determination of groundwater level). Eligible subtasks under this activity also include peer-review for the design; development of a cost estimate, including scoping the costs for regulatory compliance activities (e.g., environmental, cultural); and identification of necessary regulatory requirements (e.g., permits). Land/title acquisition and environmental/cultural resources compliance work are not eligible under this activity.

Examples of eligible design activities include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

- Design for conversion of an open conveyance system (e.g., canal) to a closed conveyance system (e.g., pipeline), resulting in conserved water (i.e., reduced evaporation).
- Design for lining of a canal with proven materials or technology, resulting in conserved water (i.e., reducing/eliminating seepage).

- Design of weirs, flumes, ramps, and other irrigation flow measurement devices in an open channel.
- Design of control structures for an irrigation system (e.g., check structures, drop structures, diversion structures).
- Design for installation of meters within a distribution system, resulting in better water management (i.e., leakage quantification).
- Design for system implementation of supervisory control and data acquisition and automation (SCADA) components intended to result in better water management (i.e., reductions in spills, over-deliveries, and/or seepage).
- Design of irrigation system regulating reservoirs for better management of water supply (i.e., reduced spills, more flexibility in water delivery operations, excess water interception at end of system).

C.5.4. Demonstrating Conservation Projects Technologies

Demonstration activities are those that include the installation or application of a specific technology in a new way, or in a new setting, with the intent of reporting the results to others for wider adoption. The activities should demonstrate innovative technologies in water conservation to increase technical understanding of unfamiliar water management and practices that have been previously used locally.

C.6. Ineligible Projects

Proposals for the development of planning studies are not eligible for funding under this NOFO. This includes proposals for the development of appraisal investigations, feasibility studies, special studies, drought contingency plans, Basin Studies, studies authorized under the Title XVI Water Recycling and Reuse Program, or studies authorized under the Rural Water Program.

D. Application and Submission Information

D1. Address to Request Application Package

Electronic Submittal

Grants.gov can be used to find and apply for grant funding opportunities. To electronically apply, applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. **The registration process can take approximately 2 weeks to complete.**

Applicants have experienced significant delays when attempting to submit through Grants.gov. Applicants are encouraged to submit an application several days prior to the application deadline. If an applicant is registered as a Grants.gov applicant and encounters problems with the submission process, the applicant should contact the Grants.gov Help Desk to obtain a case number.

Hard Copy Submittal

All originals of the hard-copy applications should be hand-delivered or mailed to the Grants Management Specialist listed in Section 1 and received by the deadline.

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

Title Page

Provide a brief, informative, and descriptive title for the proposed work that indicates the nature of the project. Include the name and address of the applicant, and the name and address, e-mail address, and telephone of the Project Manager.

Table of Contents

List all major sections of the proposal in the table of contents.

Problem Statement

Describe the problem to be solved by the proposed project, including why current approaches or technologies are insufficient and how the proposed approach or technology improves on current shortcomings. Describe how the proposed work aligns with one or more of the objectives shown in Section A.3. *Notice of Funding Opportunity Purpose and Objectives*.

Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

The technical proposal and evaluation criteria (limited to 10 pages) should include:

1. Executive summary, which includes:
 1. A one-paragraph project summary that briefly describes the project, the area the project covers, and the project’s connection to Reclamation activities.
 2. The length of time and estimated completion date for the proposed project (month/year).

3. Whether or not the proposed planning efforts are focused on a Federal facility or will involve Federal land.
2. Project location, including a map showing geographic location
3. Technical project description: Provide a clear description of the scope of the project and how it is to be accomplished. This should address activity tasks and discuss the approach and evaluation techniques that will be used to accomplish the project. The benefit(s) and outcome(s) of the project should be discussed, including the ways that the project could lead water reliability and/or a reduction in potential conflict between water users. This discussion should support a comprehensive evaluation of the application and its outcome. See the evaluation criteria for each funding category in Section E.1 for more information regarding the specific project components or outcomes that should be described in the technical description.
4. Evaluation criteria: Section E.1. Technical Proposal: Evaluation Criteria provides a detailed description of each criterion and sub-criterion and points associated with each. The evaluation criteria portion of your application should thoroughly address each criterion and sub-criterion in the order presented to assist in the complete and accurate evaluation of your proposal. Copying and pasting the applicable evaluation criteria and sub-criteria in Section E.1. Technical Proposal: Evaluation Criteria into your applications is suggested to ensure that all necessary information is adequately addressed.

Work Plan and Schedule

Provide a list of the activities required to complete the project and their estimated completion dates, including the start and end dates and general milestones. Provide sufficient details to show that the project can reasonably be completed within the proposed schedule. In general, projects funded under this NOFO should be completed within 2 years of award. Clearly and concisely convey this schedule using a table, Gantt chart, project network diagram, or any other visual format of non-disrupted data collection. Time for final report preparation as described in Section F.3. Reporting Requirements and Distribution should be included in the work plan.

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.

Detailed Budget Narrative

Project Budget

The project budget includes:

1.
 1. Budget proposal
 2. Budget narrative

Pre-award costs will not be allowed for projects awarded from this funding opportunity. Please note that the costs for preparing and submitting an application in response to this NOFO, including developing data necessary to support the proposal, are not eligible project costs under this NOFO and must not be included in the project budget. In addition, budget proposals must

not include costs for the purchase of water or land, or to secure an easement other than a construction easement. These costs are not eligible project costs under this NOFO.

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.

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.

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

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 an individual (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own, operate, or work within), or any entity with an exception to bypass SAM.gov registration with prior approval from the funding bureau or office in accordance with bureau or office policy. All other applicants are required to register in SAM.gov prior to submitting a Federal award application and obtain a [Unique Entity Identifier \(UEI\)](#) which replaces the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet in April 2022. A Federal award may not be made 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 the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. Federal award recipients must also continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s).

Register with the System for Award Management (SAM)

Applicants can register on the [SAM.gov](#) website. The "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. Applicants can contact the supporting Federal Service Desk for help registering in SAM. Once registered in SAM, entities will be assigned a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). 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 made to the entity's IRS information. There is no cost to register with SAM.gov. There are third-party vendors who will charge a fee in exchange for registering entities with SAM.gov; please be aware you can register and request help for free. If applicable, foreign entities who want to receive payment directly to a U.S. bank account must enter and maintain valid, current banking information in SAM.

D4. Submission Dates and Times

Due Date for Applications

01/31/2023

Application Due Date Explanation

Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m., ET, 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

D7. Other Submission Requirements

E. Application Review Information

E1. Criteria

Criterion 1 **Maximum Points: 0**

E.1.1. Water Management and Conservation Planning

Evaluation Criterion	Points
A — Association with Reclamation project water supplies	30
B — Extent to which the completed activity will improve the applicant’s ability to modernize their existing water delivery infrastructure	30
C — Extent to which Federal funding would promote completion of an activity that might otherwise be delayed or postponed	15
D — Reasonableness of cost	10
F — Amount and sources of non-Federal funding	5
G — Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities (see Section 6.5)	10

Criterion 2 **Maximum Points: 0**

E.1.2. System Optimization Reviews

Evaluation Criterion	Points
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A — Association with Reclamation project water supplies	30
B — Extent to which applicant’s Water Management Plan is complete and updated	20
C — Extent to which the proposed analysis is expected to result in an action plan that will improve water conservation and water use efficiency and lead to modernized water delivery infrastructure	15
D — Extent to which the SOR is likely to address water resources challenges	10
E — Reasonableness of cost	5
F — Extent to which Federal funding would promote completion of an activity that might otherwise be delayed or postponed	5
G — Amount and sources of non-Federal funding	5
H — Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities (see Section 6.5)	10

Criterion 3

Maximum Points: 0

E.1.3. Designing Water Management Improvements

Evaluation Criterion	Points
A — Association with Reclamation project water supplies	25
B — Extent to which applicant’s Water Management Plan is complete and updated	20
C — Extent to which the proposed activity will result in the applicant to be better suited to implement a project expected to improve water management and modernize existing water delivery infrastructure	15
D — Extent to which the proposed design is related to a water management improvement project identified in a previous planning effort led by the applicant	10
E — Reasonableness of cost	10
F — Extent to which Federal funding would promote completion of an activity that might otherwise be delayed or postponed	5
G — Amount and sources of non-Federal funding	5
H — Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities (see Section 6.5)	10

Criterion 4

Maximum Points: 0

E.1.4. Demonstration of Conservation Project Technologies

Evaluation Criterion	Points
A — Association with Reclamation project water supplies	20
B — Extent to which the proposed activity will demonstrate innovative conservation technologies for improving water use efficiency	15
C — Extent to which applicant’s Water Management Plan is complete and updated	15
D — Applicant’s strategy for monitoring performance and reporting and disseminating results	10
G — Extent to which the proposal demonstrates a sound implementation strategy	10

H — Likelihood that any environmental and cultural resources issues associated with the proposal can be addressed at low cost and in a timely manner	5
I — Reasonableness of cost	5
J — Extent to which Federal funding would promote completion of an activity that might otherwise be delayed or postponed	5
K — Amount and sources of non-Federal funding	5
L — Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities (see Section 6.5)	10

E2. Review and Selection Process

E3. CFR – Regulatory Information

E4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

F. Federal Award Administration Information

F1. Federal Award Notices

Successful applicants from this NOFO will receive notification that the proposal has been recommended for funding. This notification is not an authorization to begin performance of the work. An official Notice of Award is the authorizing financial assistance agreement signed by the recipient and then executed by the Reclamation Grants Officer. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified that their proposal was not selected for award.

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.

Automated Standard Application for Payments Registration

All applicants must also be registered with and willing to process all payments through the Department of Treasury Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system. All recipients with active financial assistance agreements with Reclamation must be enrolled in ASAP under the appropriate Agency Location Code(s) and the DUNS Number prior to the award of funds. If a recipient has multiple DUNS numbers, they must separately enroll within ASAP for each unique DUNS Number and/or Agency. All of the information on the enrollment process for recipients, including the enrollment initiation form, will be sent to you by ASAP staff if selected for award.

Note that if your entity is currently enrolled in the ASAP system with an agency other than Reclamation, you must enroll specifically with Reclamation in order to process payments.

Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

All projects being considered for award funding will require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) before any ground-disturbing activity may begin. Compliance with all applicable state, Federal and local environmental, cultural, and paleontological resource protection laws and regulations is also required. These may include, but are not limited to, Clean Water Act (CWA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), consultation with potentially affected Tribes, and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office.

Prior to awarding financial assistance, Reclamation must first ensure compliance with Federal environmental and cultural resources laws and other regulations (“environmental compliance”). Every project funded under this program will have environmental compliance activities undertaken by Reclamation and the successful applicant. Reclamation will be the lead Federal agency for NEPA compliance and will be responsible for evaluating technical information and ensuring that natural resources, cultural, and socioeconomic concerns are appropriately addressed. As the lead agency, Reclamation is solely responsible for determining the appropriate level of NEPA compliance. Further, Reclamation is responsible to ensure that findings under NEPA, and consultations, as appropriate, will support Reclamation’s decision on whether to fund a project. Environmental and cultural resources compliance costs are considered project costs. These costs will be considered in the ranking of applications.

Depending on the potential impacts of the project, Reclamation may be able to complete its compliance activities without additional cost to the successful applicant. Where environmental or cultural resources compliance requires significant participation by Reclamation, Reclamation will add a line item for costs incurred by Reclamation to the budget during development of the financial assistance agreement and cost shared accordingly (i.e., withheld from the Federal award amount). Any costs to the successful applicant associated with compliance will be identified during the process of developing a final project budget for inclusion in the financial assistance agreement.

Note: If mitigation is required to lessen environmental impacts, the applicant may, at Reclamation’s discretion, be required to report on progress and completion of these commitments. Reclamation will coordinate with the applicant to establish reporting requirements

and intervals accordingly.

Under no circumstances may an applicant begin any monitoring, measurement, or other ground-disturbing activities before environmental and cultural resources compliance is complete and Reclamation provides written notification that all such clearances have been obtained. This pertains to all components of the proposed project, including those that are part of the applicant's non-Federal cost-share. An applicant that proceeds before environmental and cultural resources compliance is complete may risk forfeiting Reclamation funding under this NOFO.

Approvals and Permits

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

Geospatial Data and Data Tools

All geospatial data collected for or produced through the use of the Department of the Interior financial assistance funds are required to meet all relevant standards established by the Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) as authorized by Geospatial Data Act of 2018, P.L. 115-254, Subtitle F – Geospatial Data, §751-759C, codified at 43 U.S.C. §2801–2811. the Department requires fully compliant metadata on all Geographic Information Systems files developed for financial assistance projects. If a funded financial assistance project involves acquiring or collecting geospatial data, the successful applicant is required to search GeoPlatform.gov to determine that no existing Federal, State, local or private data meet the Government's needs and are available at no cost before acquiring or collecting additional geospatial data.

Any spatially explicit data or tools developed in the performance of an award made under this NOFO must be developed in industry standard formats that are compatible with geographic information system (GIS) platforms.

Real Property, 2 CFR §200.311

Real property, equipment, and intangible property that are acquired or improved with a Federal award must be held in trust by the non-Federal entity as trustee for the beneficiaries of the project or program under which the property was acquired or improved (2 CFR §200.316 *Property trust relationship*). Title to real property acquired or improved under a Federal award will vest upon acquisition in the non-Federal entity. Except as otherwise provided by Federal statutes or by Reclamation, real property will be used for the originally authorized purpose as long as needed for that purpose, during which time the non-Federal entity must not dispose of or encumber its title or other interests. When real property is no longer needed for the originally authorized purpose, the non-Federal entity must obtain disposition instructions from Reclamation. As required by 2 CFR §200.329 *Reporting on real property*, recipients will be required to submit reports on the status of real property acquired or improved under a financial assistance agreement issued under this NOFO.

Application of Buy America Preference

Section 70914 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and [OMB Memorandum M-22-11](#) require that, unless a waiver is approved, funding made available for Federal financial assistance programs for infrastructure may only be obligated to projects where all of the iron, steel, and manufactured goods used in the project are produced in the United States.

Please note, the Buy America preference applies to all funding—both BIL funding and annual appropriations—provided through this NOFO.

Wage Rate Requirements (Davis-Bacon Act)

Section 41101 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requires that all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractor in the performance of construction, alteration, or repair work on a project assisted in whole or in part by funding made available under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58) shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar projects in the locality, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with Subchapter IV of Chapter 31 of Title 40, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Davis-Bacon Act).

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 semiannual basis and with the final performance report. The SF-425 must be signed by a person legally authorized to obligate the successful applicant.

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.

Interim Performance Reports

The specific terms and conditions pertaining to the reporting requirements will be included in the financial assistance agreement. Interim performance reports will be submitted at least semiannually, which include:

- 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

Final Performance Report

Recipients will be required to submit a final performance report encompassing the entire period of performance. The final performance report must include, but is not limited to, the following information:

- Whether the project objectives and goals were met.
- Photographs documenting the project are also appreciated.

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.

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. The Bureau will include recipient-specific real property reporting requirements, including the required standard form or data elements, reporting frequency, and report due dates, in the Notice of Award when applicable.

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.

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.

G. Federal Awarding Agency Contact(s)

G1. Program Technical Contact

For **programmatic technical assistance**, contact:

First Name:

Leah

Last Name:

Meeks

Address:

1150 North Curtis Rd., Ste. 100

Telephone:

208-378-5025

Email:

lmeeks@usbr.gov

G2. Financial Assistance Administrative Contact

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

First Name:

Nate

Last Name:

Moeller

Address:
1150 North Curtis Rd., Ste. 100
Telephone:
208-378-5211
Email:
nmoeller@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