BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Water Conservation: Funding Opportunities



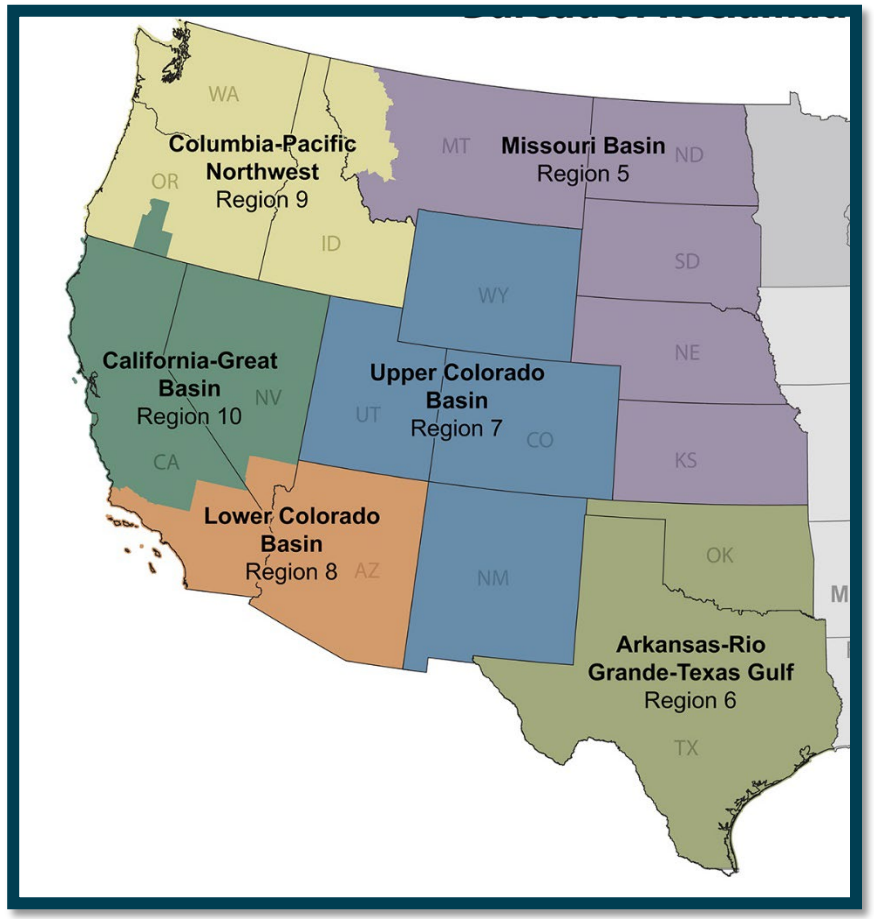
U.S. Department of the Interior
Fall 2026

Bureau of Reclamation – Five Regions

17 States comprise Five Regions:

- California-Great Basin
- Columbia-Pacific Northwest
- Lower Colorado Basin
- Missouri Bain and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf
- Upper Colorado Basin

California is in both the CGB and LCB Regions



Reclamation's Water Conservation Team

Region	Team Member	Telephone Number	Email Address
CGB	Shalese P. Henderson	916-978-5271	SPhenderson@usbr.gov
CGB	Deb Page	775-884-8392	DPage@usbr.gov
LCB	Troy Thompson	951-695-5310	TThompson@usbr.gov
CGB	David T. White	916-978-5208	DWhite@usbr.gov

Reclamation Funding Opportunities

CGB Region

- Bay-Delta CALFED Water Use Efficiency
- Agricultural Water Use Efficiency
- Native American Affairs Technical Assistance Program

All Reclamation Regions

WaterSMART

www.usbr.gov/watersmart

- Applied Science Grants
- Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program
- Basin Studies and Baseline Assessments
- CWMP – Cooperative Watershed Management Program
- Drought Program: Contingency Planning, Emergency Response, and Resiliency
- Environmental Water Resources Projects
- Project Design
- Reservoir Operations Pilot
- SWEP – Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
- Title XVI Program and Desalination Construction
- Water Conservation Field Services Program
- Water Marketing Strategy Grants
- WEEG – Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Program	Eligible Applicants	Federal/Non-Federal Cost Share
Water and Energy Efficiency Grants (WEEG) On-the-ground water management improvement projects, including projects that conserve water and address water supply reliability. Program Contact: Josh German jgerman@usbr.gov	Category A Applicants: States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority. Category B Applicants: Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership and with the agreement of an entity described above. Applicants must be located in: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming (the "17 Western States"), Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.	Up to $500,000 for projects to be completed within two years; up to $5 million for large projects to be completed within three years. Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater.
Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects (SWEP) Small water efficiency improvements that have been identified through previous planning efforts. Program Contact: Nickie McCann nmccann@usbr.gov	Same as WEEG.	Up to $125,000 for projects to be completed within two years. Total project costs cannot exceed $250,000. Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater.
Drought Resiliency Projects (DRP) On-the-ground projects and modeling tools that will increase water reliability and improve water management. Program Contact: Sheri Looper slooper@usbr.gov	Same as WEEG.	Up to $750,000 for projects to be completed within two years; up to $3 million for projects to be completed within three years. Non- Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater. Up to $10 million and three years for domestic water supply projects for Tribes or disadvantaged communities that do not have reliable access to water supplies. Non-Federal Cost Share: 5%, with possible waiver available.

Program	Eligible Applicants	Federal/Non-Federal Cost Share
Environmental Water Resources Projects Water conservation and efficiency projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values; water management or infrastructure improvements to mitigate drought-related impacts to ecological values; and watershed management or restoration projects benefitting ecological values that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management. Program Contact: Katherine Tucker ktucker@usbr.gov	Applicant eligibility is as described above with the addition of Category C Applicants as described below. Category C Applicants: Non-profit conservation organizations submitting an application for a project to implement a nature-based solution on Federal land may submit an application without a Category A partner, if they demonstrate that entities described in Category A from the applicable service area have been notified and do not object to the project.	In general, up to $3,000,000 in Federal funding may be awarded for projects to be completed within three years and with total project costs no greater than $6,000,000. Up to $5,000,000 in Federal funding may be awarded to a watershed group, which meets the definition in Section 6001(6) of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act, to be completed within five years, with no total project cost limitation. Non-Federal Cost Share: 25% of total project costs
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program Funding for the study, design and construction of aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that are collaboratively developed, have widespread regional benefits, and are for the purpose of improving the health of fisheries, wildlife, and aquatic habitat through restoration and improved fish passage. Program Contacts: Katherine Tucker ktucker@usbr.gov	Category A Applicants: States, Tribes, irrigation or water districts, state, regional, or local authorities, agencies established under State law for the joint exercise of powers, and other entities or organizations that own a dam that is eligible for upgrade or modification located in the 17 Western States, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands. Category B Applicants: Nonprofit conservation organizations acting in partnership with an entity above, with respect to a project involving land or infrastructure owned by the Category A entity.	Non-Federal Cost Share: 35%
Cooperative Watershed Management Program - Phase I Watershed group development, watershed restoration planning, and watershed management project design. Program Contact: Irene Hoiby IHoiby@usbr.gov	States, Indian tribes, local and special districts (e.g., irrigation and water districts), local governmental entities, and non-profit organizations located in the 17 Western States, Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.	Up to $300,000 may be awarded to an applicant per year, for a period of up to three years. Non-Federal Cost Share: No non-Federal cost-share required.

Program	Eligible Applicants	Federal/Non-Federal Cost Share
Planning and Project Design Grants Collaborative planning and design projects to support water management improvements, include the following activities: **Water Strategy Grants (WSG):** Planning projects to support water management solutions, such as water marketing, water conservation, drought resilience, and ecological resilience. **Project Design Grants (PDG):** Projects to develop the final design of on-the- ground water management construction and restoration projects. **Drought Contingency Planning (DCP):** Projects to develop a new or update an existing Drought Contingency Plan. Program Contacts: WSG/PDG Irene Hoiby IHoiby@usbr.gov DCP Sheri Looper slooper@usbr.gov	Category A Applicants: States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority. Category B Applicants*: Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership and an entity described above. *Ineligible for DCP funding. Applicants must be located in the 17 Western States, Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.	Up to $400,000 for projects that can be completed within 3 years. Non-Federal Cost Share: 25 - 50%. Proposals for the planning or design of projects to provide domestic water supplies to disadvantaged communities may be eligible for 0% non-Federal cost share.
Applied Science Grants Projects to develop hydrologic information and water management tools, improve modeling and forecasting capabilities, and nature-based solutions. Program Contacts: Stephanie Micek smicek@usbr.gov	States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, universities, non-profit research institutions, organizations with water or power delivery authority, or non-profit organizations located in the 17 Western States, Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.	Up to $400,000 per agreement for a project that can be completed within two years. Non-Federal Cost Share: 25-50% or greater.

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Program	Eligible Applicants	Federal/Non-Federal Cost Share
Title XVI Authorized Projects Funding for planning, design, and construction of specific congressionally authorized water recycling and reuse projects. Program Contact: Maribeth Menendez mmenendez@usbr.gov	Sponsors of water reclamation and reuse projects specifically authorized for funding under Title XVI of P.L. 102-575.	Federal funding is limited to 25% of the total project cost, up to $20 million, unless otherwise specified by Congress. Non-Federal Cost Share: 75% or greater.
Title XVI WIIN Act Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects Funding for planning, design, and construction of WIIN Act water recycling and reuse projects. Program Contact: Maribeth Menendez mmenendez@usbr.gov	Sponsors of water reclamation and reuse projects with completed feasibility studies that have been submitted to Reclamation for review. Entities must be located in the 17 Western States, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands.	Federal funding is limited to 25% of the total project cost, up to $30 million. Non-Federal Cost Share: 75% or greater.
Desalination Construction Funding for planning, design, and construction of WIIN Act brackish groundwater and ocean desalination projects. Program Contacts: Maribeth Menendez mmenendez@usbr.gov	Sponsors of desalination projects with completed feasibility studies that have been submitted to Reclamation for review. Entities must be located in the 17 Western States.	Federal funding is limited to 25% of the total project cost, up to $30 million. Non-Federal Cost Share: 75% or greater.
Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects Funding for planning, design, and construction of Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects with a total project cost greater than $500 million. Program Contact: Maribeth Menendez mmenendez@usbr.gov	Sponsors of water recycling projects with a total project cost greater than $500 million with completed feasibility studies that have been submitted to Reclamation for review. Entities must be located in the 17 Western States.	Federal funding is limited to 25% of the total project cost. Non-Federal Cost Share: 75% or greater.
Water Recycling and Desalination Planning Funding for planning and pre-construction activities, including the development of water recycling and desalination feasibility studies, to facilitate project development under the Title XVI Program, the Desal Construction Program, and the Large-Scale WR Program. Program Contacts: Maribeth Menendez mmenendez@usbr.gov	States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; and any state, regional, or local authority located in the 17 Western States, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands.	Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater for planning and pre-construction activities for Title XVI and Desalination Construction projects. Non-Federal Cost Share: 75% or greater for planning and pre-construction activities for Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects with a total project cost greater than $500 million.

Reclamation Financial Assistance

General Information



Up to 50% of the project's cost and no more than $25 million



States, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other entities with water or power delivery authority



Awards are made through a competitive process



Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) are posted to www.grants.gov

CGB: Bay-Delta CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grants

- Eligible applicants must be located within the CALFED Solution Area
- Significant benefits to the Bay-Delta
- Recent NOFO: 25AS00432



EBMUD Leak Detection

CGB: Agricultural Water Use Efficiency Grants

- Partnership with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) - Fostering District/Farmer Partnerships
- Increase the capability of on-farm water conservation projects
- Encourage supplier/grower partnerships to identify district/regional needs and opportunities
- Recent NOFO: R21AS00553



South San Joaquin Irrigation Dist.

Application Advice and Insight

- Read the entire NOFO and ask questions.
- The Application Review Committee does not know your project and will not conduct additional research.
- The non-Federal cost-share could come from a variety of sources, such as state funding and loans.
- Copy the criteria from the NOFO and answer each part of the question.
- You can divide large projects in phases, with each one being separately funded.
- You can request a debrief if your application was not successful.

Resources and Additional Information

www.usbr.gov/mp/watershare

www.usbr.gov/watersmart

www.usbr.gov/lc/socal/wtrcons.html

www.grants.gov

- Notice of Funding Opportunities
- Previously Funded Projects
- Performance Measures
- Newsletter
- Water Management Planning Tools