

Proposal for Funding the Growth of the Coconino Plateau
Watershed Partnership through Collaborative Project
Implementation and Education with the Goal of Achieving
Water Supply Sustainability

Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-18-F005
WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program
FY 2018

Phase I Grant Application Technical Proposal

Applicant:
Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership



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Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.0 Executive Summary

Date: January 31, 2018
Applicant Name: Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership
Physical Location: Flagstaff and surrounding area, Coconino and Navajo Counties, Arizona

Project Summary:

The semi-arid Coconino Plateau of northern Arizona faces many water challenges. Population growth and economic development pose increased water demand, while the landscape's future capacity for receiving, storing, and providing water to people and the natural environment is uncertain due to climate and land cover changes. Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership (CPWP; <http://cpwac.org/>) takes responsibility for future generations by guiding responsible water management in Northern Arizona today. The Partnership is a diverse group of organizations, agencies, tribes, cities and towns cooperating for the purpose of identifying and supporting ways to assist in meeting the water needs of the Coconino Plateau. Consistent with Tasks A and B of the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), we seek to expand our existing watershed group's ability to provide key information to regional decision makers. We propose four tasks (noted in **bold** below) that fit within the Partnership's current watershed group framework of activities:

- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
 - 2018 private well owners' forum
 - Annual CPWP field trip
 - Sustainable Water Management framework development
 - Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment Phase 1
 - Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment Phase 2 – **Proposed**
 - C & R Aquifer Groundwater Withdrawal Simulations – **Proposed**
 - CPWP water source and demand maps update – **Proposed**
 - Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership forum/workshop – 2019/20 - **Proposed**
- Educational Outreach activities
 - Annual 4th grade water ethics contest
 - Annual Earth Day event participation
 - Annual Colorado River Days event participation
 - 2019 Water Art Exhibition planning
- Strategic Plan – review every two years, amend as needed
- Website: www.cpwac.org

The following projects have been identified by the TAC as consistent with the goals of the WaterSMART FOA to support sustainable development of water resources in collaboration with diverse stakeholders:

- **C and R Aquifer Groundwater Modeling** – Groundwater withdrawal simulations will inform a sustainable water management framework for northern Arizona. New

modeling is needed to characterize changes specific to the Coconino Plateau since the Northern Arizona Regional Groundwater Flow Model was completed in 2010.

- **Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment Phase 2** – The Partnership will build on the Phase 1 identification of ecosystems services relevant to regional stakeholders, including water provisioning, water regulating, and cultural services. Phase 1 was initiated January 26, 2018 and will be completed by September 30, 2018. In Phase 2, we will evaluate the current state and trends in ecosystems services function. Causes of change in services will be addressed. Recommendations will be made for a discrete set of ecosystems services to be used as indicators of water sustainability and to guide water resources management decision-making.
- **Update the CPWP water source and demand maps** – Using groundwater modeling results and regional datasets assembled during the Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment, we will use GIS to create an updated map of water sources and water demand centers for use in sustainable water management decision-making.
- **Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership Educational Forum/Workshop** – The Partnership will plan and implement a one-day workshop to provide outreach to stakeholders and community members with an interest in the watersheds of the Coconino Plateau. Topics will include results of the groundwater modeling simulations and the Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment. The workshop will be designed to educate the CPWP and interested public on the complex relationships and outcomes of projects that comprise development of a Sustainable Water Framework. Workshop videos and outcomes will be disseminated via traditional and social media.

Project Timeline:

The work proposed herein for the projects and activities identified above by the CPWP TAC will be completed within two years following the contract award as scheduled:

C and R Aquifer Simulations Groundwater Modeling – A scope of work will be developed in 2018 based on the Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment results from Phase 1 data. Model simulations will be initiated in October 2018 and completed by April 2019.

Phase 2 Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment – The current Phase 1 is scheduled to be complete by September 2018. Phase 2 will begin in October 2018 and be completed by June September 2019.

CPWP Water Source and Demand Maps – The maps will be updated in 2019, prior to the CPWP Forum and Technical Workshop.

Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership Educational Forum/Technical Workshop – Planning for the event will begin in Spring 2019. The forum/workshop will be hosted in Fall of 2019.

Federal Facility:

The project work described in this application is not located on a Federal facility.

2.0 Background Data

Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership:

The Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership (CPWP) is a self-sustaining, cooperative watershed group, as described in FOA No. BOR-DO-18-F005. It is also a legally incorporated nonprofit corporation in the State of Arizona. The Partnership is seeking funding for activities associated with Watershed Group Development, and Watershed Restoration Planning. Their goal is to become a more effective partnership consistent with the purpose of the WaterSMART program; specifically, by working to coordinate activities that meet challenges identified in the November 2017 WaterSMART FOA program information (pg. 1):

- ✓ *Restoring trust with local communities by improving relationships and communication with states, tribes and local governments, communities, landowners and water users,*
- ✓ *Encouraging diverse stakeholders to develop collaborative solutions to address their water management needs,*
- ✓ *Supporting the sustainable development of water resources,*
- ✓ *Improving the ecological resilience of rivers and streams, and*
- ✓ *Conserving water for multiple uses using collaborative conservation efforts.*

The Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership promotes water planning, policy, and practices to coordinate efforts on a regional scale, incorporating varied interests and needs in northern Arizona. The CPWP takes responsibility for future generations by striving to guide responsible management and use of water today.

CPWP Mission Statement

The Partnership coordinates and cooperates in the identification, prioritization and implementation of comprehensive policies, projects and programs to assist in meeting the water needs of the Coconino Plateau.

CPWP Vision Statement

The Vision of the Partnership is to be a leader in ensuring an adequate, long-term, sustainable supply of water is available to meet the current and future reasonable needs while preserving the health of the environment on the Coconino Plateau.

Recent climate variability and increasing demands for water has resulted in water scarcity adding greater stress to natural resources throughout the Coconino Plateau. The geography of the region supports a variety of microclimates and ecosystems adapted to survive in extreme climate conditions by means that are not well documented or understood. With the impacts of drought diminishing runoff and stream base-flows, and a loss of groundwater storage to meet municipal, agricultural and industrial water demands, the sustainability of ecosystem water supplies and domestic water use is becoming more uncertain.

Water resource concerns identified in water resource studies, through surveys, and from other sources include:

- Continued growth throughout entire plateau region
- Limited and deep groundwater supplies
- Drought sensitive surface water supplies of Williams, Flagstaff and other communities
- Groundwater salinity issues in central and northeastern part of plateau
- Endangered or threatened species concerns with groundwater usage and impacts on perennial streams
- Potential impacts on springs in Grand Canyon National Park and on supplies and cultural values of the Havasupai and Hualapai Tribal Nations
- Limited groundwater and surface water data for entire region
- Limited funding resources for planning, projects, infrastructure and studies
- Expensive and politically and environmentally challenging water augmentation projects
- Modifications to the current Arizona Department of Water Resources' criteria for determining adequacy of water supplies for domestic use

Partnership Matters:

The CPWP was formed out of an increasing awareness of the impacts of drought and growth on our water supply. The need to understand the current and future needs for water in our area and what can be done to ensure an adequate supply brought the participants together. In recent years there have been numerous challenges.

The CPWP members participate on a volunteer basis, representing local, state, and federal agencies, tribal entities, as well as non-profits who are directly impacted by water quantity and quality issues in the watershed. The agencies and organizations that are now working toward finding answers to our water issues are challenged by the desire to protect the health and beauty of our environment without compromise.

Several members of the CPWP and the CPWP TAC are also participants involved with Arizona's Governor's work groups and the Governor's Water Augmentation Council that have been tasked to improve Arizona's statewide water picture, not just for economic opportunity, but to instill confidence for those already here, and to protect the state's limited water resources for future generations. Recently, several proposals designed to better manage the state's water resources were brought forth by the Governor's work groups.

The Governor's groundwater work group proposals benefiting rural areas of the state and specifically the C and R aquifers in northern Arizona were recently reviewed and discussed by the CPWP TAC and were determined to be sound, consistent with the sustainable water management framework, and worthy of providing letters of support from the Partnership to the Governor.

A decision to send support letters, however, was not made due to lack of consensus by the Partnership. The dissenting Partnership members expressed that a *lack of information, education, and opposition to regulation* were the reasons for their lack of support. The members who voted against providing letters of support from the CPWP represent ranching and tribal interests, which are important components of the Partnership. **It was the first time a**

full consensus within the Partnership could not be reached underlying a need to address information gaps and facilitate better communication amongst members

CPWP Bylaws – Article IV, Section IV.8

Partnership decisions and recommendations will be reached through consensus and every effort will be made to reach consensus by discussing issues thoroughly. In advance of a Partnership decision, an informational briefing will be sent to all participants for review.

Consensus for the Partnership is defined as a proposed solution or decision that participants can support or abide by and to which they do not object. In order to ensure productive Partnership meetings, participants agree to make decisions by consensus of all participants present at the time of decision; participants should make every effort to attend meetings in person, send an alternate, or designate a proxy to effectively convey their preferences. If consensus cannot be reached, the Partnership will identify a mechanism for conflict resolution.

The groundwater proposal is a significant nexus to the CPWP. It involves a proposed change to an existing regulation that includes hydrologic criteria for determining the adequacy of the groundwater supply available from the C and R aquifers.

It is therefore essential to the health of water supplies on the Coconino Plateau that the TAC complete the Sustainable Water Management Framework in the next two years and provide this as a tool for consensus among the Partnership. The TAC is seeking funding to complete the remaining components of the Framework that are explained in more detail below.

Sustainable Water Management Framework:

The CPWP *Strategic Plan* includes developing a Sustainable Water Management Framework for the Coconino Plateau that can be used by stakeholders as a tool to develop a watershed management plan that promotes the sustainable use of water resources. The CPWP Technical Advisory Committee has been charged with developing the framework. The TAC has approached this task over recent years by considering at-risk water resources and their vulnerability to increased water use resulting from growth and climate change. Reports and information on past efforts may be found on the Partnership's website at www.cpwac.org and include:

- *North Central Water Supply Study Phase 1 – ADWR (1999)*
- *Growth on the Coconino Plateau – Morrison Institute (2001)*
- *North Central Arizona Water Demand Study Phase 1 Report – Rocky Mountain Institute (2002)*
- *North Central Water Supply Appraisal Study – BOR (2006)*
- *Hydrogeology of the Coconino Plateau and Adjacent Areas, Coconino and Yavapai Counties, Arizona – USGS*
- *Statistical Examination of Water Data in the Coconino Plateau for Use as Sustainability Indicators - Natalie Coston*

- *Developing a Methodology for Identifying and Prioritizing At-Risk Water Resources for the Coconino Plateau: Coconino Plateau At-Risk Waters Project – Arizona Water Institute*
- Water Source and Demand Maps

Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment – Phase 1

The CPWP has begun Phase 1 of an Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment as part of the proposed framework for sustainable water management on the Coconino Plateau. This Assessment is intended to focus on the services provided by the surface water and groundwater resources of the Coconino Plateau. Assessment of these services, specifically their importance and relative trends in their function, will help inform future water management decisions.

The Phase 1 Assessment is intended to identify the water-related services that are relevant to sustainable water resource management. The purpose of the Assessment is to help participants prioritize the services they receive from their water supplies so that appropriate consideration and discussion will be given when allocating available resources and development of future resources. A consultant selected through a competitive process, will conduct interviews of the Partnership members. The Assessment is an important component of the framework that will result in a useful decision-making tool for all Partnership participants.

Phase 2 of the Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment

The activities needed to complete Phase 2, for which a portion of this grant funding is being sought, will include definition of the assessment study area and selection of a method and metrics for performing the Assessment. The final product will be a document summarizing the current state of those water related ecosystems services most important to the Partnership's stakeholders, along with providing existing trends for each of the functions of the evaluated services including the cause of noted changes. The Phase 2 work product will include recommendations for reassessment of the ecosystems services and provide guidance to the participants, along with a timeframe for reevaluation.

C and R Aquifer Simulations

To provide support to ADWR on the groundwater sustainability proposal, and to better define what the specific criteria should be, the CPWP TAC is proposing to commission groundwater flow model simulations using an existing USGS groundwater flow model to estimate what amount of groundwater could be sustainably withdrawn to avoid any potential impacts to streams and springs within the area of use.

The ADWR will not provide the hydrologic analysis to support the proposal but is instead proposing that at least 50% saturated thickness should be remaining in the aquifer after 100 years of pumping additional water. The CPWP TAC desires to understand what limit in the amount of groundwater withdrawals and the estimated remaining saturated aquifer thickness would be more protective of the aquifer and not diminish groundwater resources in areas that are the source of supply to surface waters.

The model data will be used to educate the Partnership members and interested public. It will support hydrologic criteria for determining water adequacy in Coconino County in areas where the source of supply is from the C and R aquifers. A portion of the funding from this grant opportunity will be used to obtain the services of groundwater flow modeler experienced in northern Arizona with the USGS model (updated Northern Arizona Regional Groundwater Flow Model).

CPWP Water Source and Demand Maps

In 2016 TAC volunteers created a series of three maps for the entire Coconino Plateau, showing all known surface and groundwater resources, water source and water volume consumed in 2015, and water demand in 2050. The maps will be updated in early 2019 based on the 2018 data. Available data from the modeling simulations will be included on the updated maps and made available to the Partnership and the public on the Partnership's website. The maps will be used to educate Partners during the CPWP Forum and Technical Workshop.

Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership Forum and Technical Workshop.

Based on recent concerns by members of the Partnership who were against providing letters of support to ADWR, as well as concerns on how a water related ecosystems services assessment can help our partners, the TAC recognized the need for a comprehensive educational event of relevant importance to the Partnership. The goal for this event is to include Partnership Board members and a broader stakeholder population, such as planners and managers from the various organizations, and any interested community members.

In 2017, the CPWP Board of Directors underwent leadership changes. The January and February 2017 Board elections resulted in new officers for the CPWP. Flagstaff Mayor Coral Evans was elected Board Chair, Sedona Vice-Mayor John Martinez was elected Vice-Chair and Coconino County Supervisor Jim Parks was elected as the new Secretary/Treasurer. The Board members, while dedicated, have varying amounts of experience with the Partnership. CPWP Participants (a.k.a. stakeholders) consist of many public, private, tribal, and non-profit entities whose representation changes over time due to personnel changes. The CPWP TAC, however, has remained mostly consistent with active members that represent the Vision and Water Ethic of the Partnership.

To remain an effective organization, continue to exist, and realize the Mission and Vision of the CPWP, the TAC will need to periodically provide educational support to members of the Partnership, and, at times, a more in-depth level of assistance to the Board. Funding from this grant will be used to organize and sponsor an inclusive forum and workshop that:

- examines the hydrogeology of the Coconino Plateau,
- presents the results of groundwater withdrawal simulations focused on the C and R aquifers with respect to ADWR regulations and adequate groundwater supplies,
- provides the results of Phases 1 and 2 of the Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment with respect to sustainability, and
- offers a setting for the discussion of topics of concern to the diverse group of stakeholders that make up the CPWP.

The forum will include an in-depth overview of the CPWP activities for the development and edification of the Partnership's Board, participants, and community to encourage involvement and build consensus that aligns with the Partnership's Mission and Vision.

3.0 Project Location

The boundary that encompasses the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership includes portions of four of the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) *Strategic Vision* (2014) planning areas, and portions of three six-digit USGS Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUCs); Colorado-Grand Canyon Watershed, Little Colorado Watershed, and Verde Watershed. Portions of the following ADWR planning areas are included in the boundaries of the CPWP: Navajo/Hopi, Central Plateau, Verde and Western Plateau.

Land owners and water suppliers within the boundary include the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Navajo, Hopi, Hualapai, San Juan Southern Piute and Havasupai Indian reservations, cities of Flagstaff, Page, Sedona, Williams, and towns of Valle, Tusayan, Grand Canyon Village and Peach Springs (Figure 1).

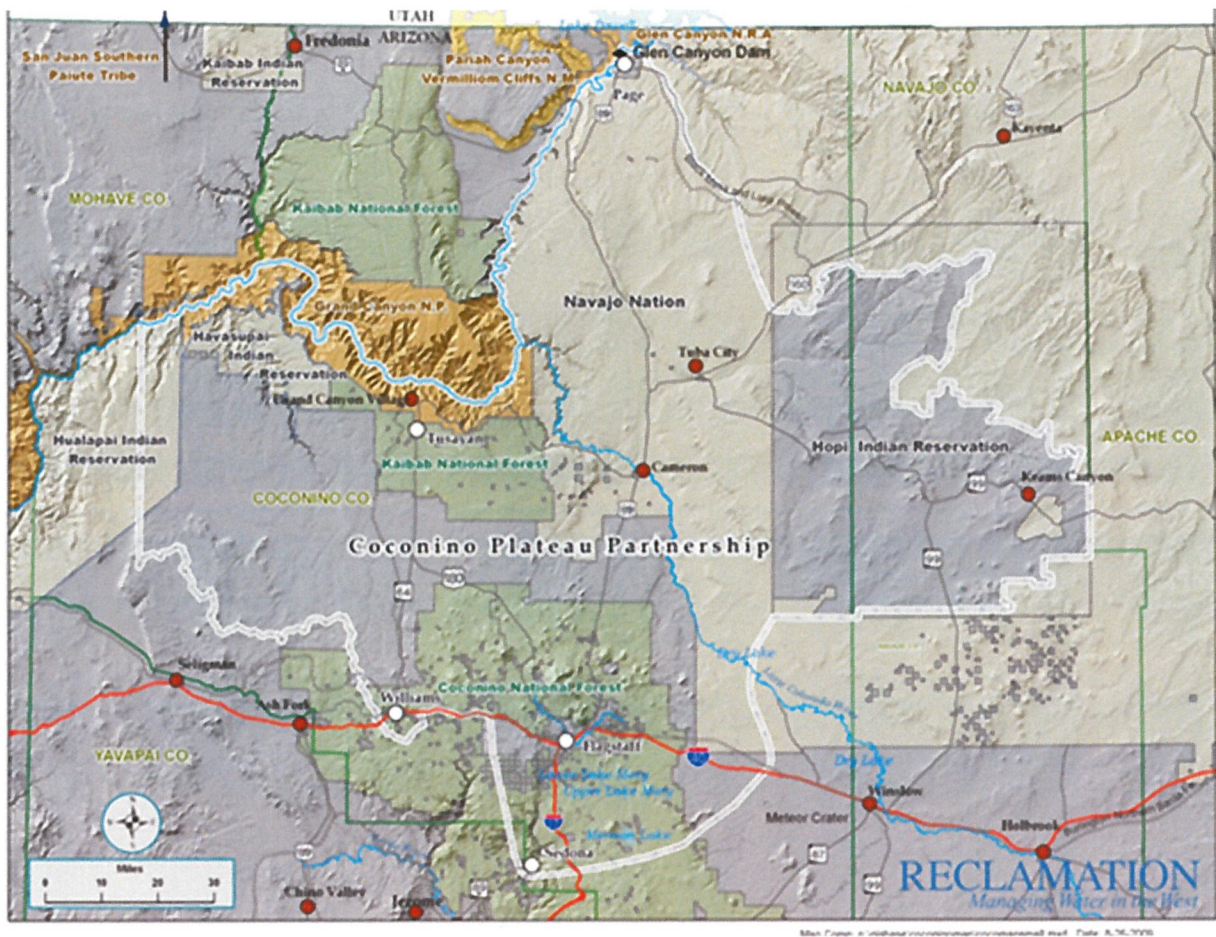


Figure 1. Map showing the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership boundary area in northern Arizona.

4.0 Technical Project Description

Applicant Description:

The **Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council** was formed out of an increasing awareness of the impacts of drought and growth on the water supply. The underlying concept of the Partnership is that federal, state, county, and local governments, Native American tribes, academia, and environmental and conservation organizations learn and work together as partners to ensure an adequate long-term supply of water is available to meet the current and future reasonable needs while preserving the health of the environment on the Arizona Coconino Plateau.

The agencies and organizations that are now working toward finding answers to water issues are also dedicated to protecting the health and beauty of the watershed environment. In 2013 an affiliate organization, the applicant; **Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership**, was formed to provide a separate entity apart from the Council's purposes of lobbying and funding efforts, to focus on technical advice, and public outreach.

Within this concept, the Partnership acts exclusively to: 1) provide a venue for education that addresses regional water and land resource management and conservation; 2) coordinate and cooperate in the identification, prioritization and implementation of comprehensive policies, projects and programs to assist in meeting the water needs of the Coconino Plateau; and 3) assist the participants in attaining the highest degree of cooperation possible in order to plan and prepare for the rational and efficient development and use of water resources within the region in promoting orderly growth and development and preserving the health of the environment.

What has made the CPWP historically one of the more successful watershed partnerships in Arizona is its location in northern Arizona, along with the consistent, unwavering support and participation from core member partners, the dedicated efforts of the Coordinator, the CPWP Public Outreach Committee, and the Technical Advisory Committee. Stakeholders include members of the public as well as those representing interests such as Federal and State land and resource management agencies, Municipal and County government, state universities, environmental advocate groups, neighboring watershed groups, ranching and natural resource conservation districts.

The area of interest of the Partnership is defined as the Arizona Coconino Plateau. The general boundaries of which are the Colorado River on the north including the community of Page, the Hualapai Reservation on the west, the Navajo Reservation on the east and the City of Sedona on the south as depicted in the Partnership boundary map. The region is home to numerous State and National Parks and Forests, the San Francisco Peaks, Native American communities and lands, significant cultural resources, and Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

Applicant Eligibility:

The CPWP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and meets the definition of an *Existing Watershed Group*. The Partnership meets all the eligibility requirements as described in Section

C.1. of the FOA. Its mission, vision, ethic statement, activities, and members are consistent with the statutory definition of a “watershed group”:

...a grassroots, non-regulatory entity that addresses water availability and quality issues within the relevant watershed, is capable of promoting the sustainable use of water resources in the watershed, makes decisions on a consensus basis, and represents a diverse group of stakeholders, including hydroelectric producers, livestock grazing, timber production, land development, recreation or tourism, irrigated agriculture, the environment, municipal water supplies, private property owners, Federal, state and local governments, and tribes.

Goals:

With this grant request, the CPWP is seeking funds for the "expansion of an existing watershed group." The long-term goal of the Partnership is a long-term sustainable water supply to serve the regional needs of the Coconino Plateau. The Partnership and Technical Advisory Committee desire to keep the goal in focus and maintain an atmosphere of cooperation that eliminates competition between its participants by encouraging and strengthening the stakeholder process where they can work together instead of competing with one another.

Approach:

The Partnership is applying for funding for eligible activities that are included or directly associated with **Task A – Watershed Group Development** and **Task B – Watershed Restoration Planning** as described in the Cooperative Watershed Management Program criteria. The planned activities are intended to provide new watershed data related to ecosystems services, information for advancing the Partnership’s knowledge on water supply sustainability, and opportunities for expanding and educating the Partnership. The approach developed by the TAC to complete these tasks is described below:

▪ **Watershed Restoration Planning**

1) C and R Aquifer Groundwater Modeling

One of the primary sources of water supply for the Coconino Plateau is groundwater from the primary regional C and R aquifers (Coconino-Supai and Redwall-Muav aquifer system) that are accessed by the major water users in the area. The Northern Arizona Regional Groundwater Flow Model was developed by the USGS and used to estimate hydrologic changes resulting from groundwater withdrawal scenarios based on growth and the construction of a pipeline that would deliver Colorado River water.

Surface water availability and the construction of the pipeline is not currently in the future of the Colorado Plateau. Water demands will continue to be supplied from existing, limited water sources. The Arizona Department of Water Resources requires that communities demonstrate the adequacy of their water supplies for new developments. Although regional water supplies have been determined to be sufficient, the impact of future groundwater withdrawals has not been evaluated with respect to specific levels of aquifer saturated thickness and the sustainability of springs and streams. The TAC would like to know what amount of aquifer saturated thickness is necessary for maintaining environmental flows. With a better

understanding of the impacts of groundwater withdrawals, the TAC can propose recommendations for determination of criteria for evaluating the adequacy of water supplies for future growth, sustainable water management planning for the CPWP, and restoration of areas impacted by historic groundwater pumping.

2) Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment – Phase 2

The TAC recognizes that to fully address the goal of long-term sustainable water supply, which also preserves the health of the environment, additional work is needed. Although a significant amount of valuable data and information for the Coconino Plateau has been collected by the Partnership toward the development of a sustainable water management framework, an ecosystems services assessment was missing. The CPWP agreed to begin Phase 1 of assessment, focusing primarily on interviews with Partnership stakeholders and identifying the water-related ecosystems services in the watershed.

To complete the assessment, Phase 2 will evaluate the state of those services, provide baseline information, and provide a tool in the form of a plan for the Coconino Plateau that identifies what type of improvements are needed in the watershed. Phase 2 will continue to work with Partnership members to prioritize projects for developing the sustainable water management framework.

3) CPWP Water Source and Demand Maps

The Water Source Maps include a series of three maps representing Surface Water Features, Groundwater Aquifers, and Water Demand and Use. The maps are an important tool for Partnership members and for use in public outreach activities. Data compiled through the Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment and collected for the groundwater withdrawal scenarios will be used in a complete GIS update of each map by the Partnership. Full-size versions of the maps can be viewed at www.cpwac.org.

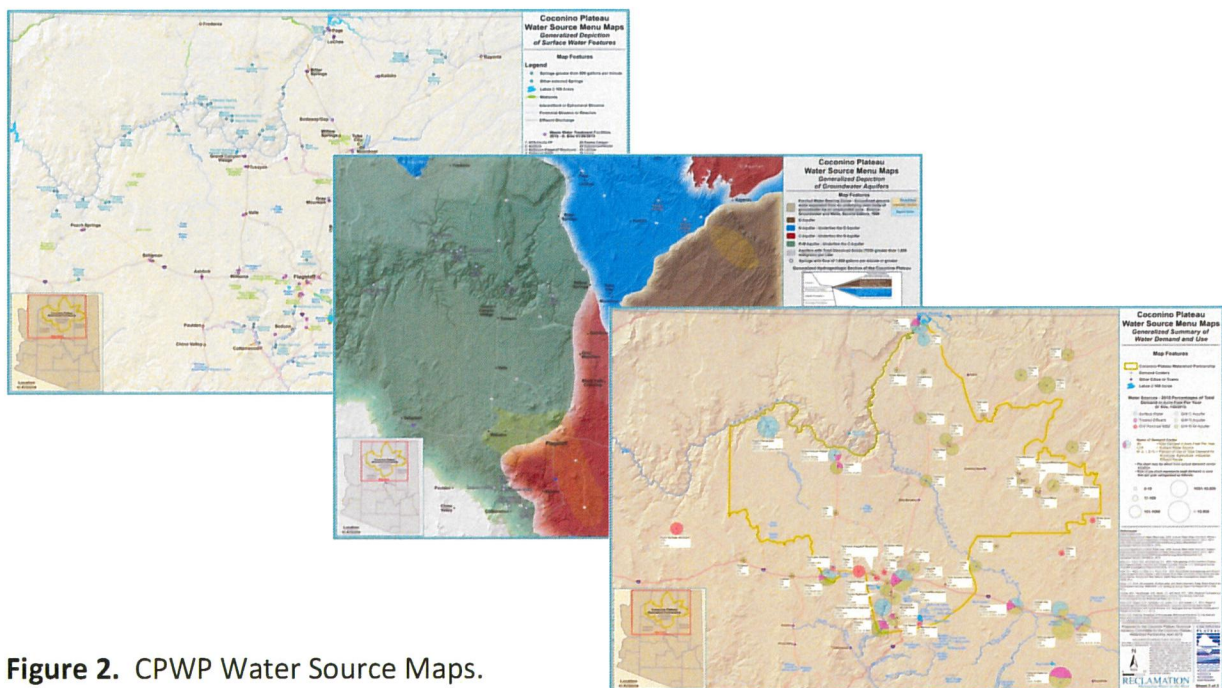


Figure 2. CPWP Water Source Maps.

▪ Watershed Group Development

Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership Forum and Technical Workshop

The CPWP is intended to be a diverse organization representing a common goal. The Partnership has identified a set of values including a Mission, Vision, and Water Ethic. The CPWP's projects, programs, technical assistance, and public outreach activities are all consistent with the CPWP values. Recent member changes to the Partnership have resulted in difficulty finding agreement on measures to implement the Mission and have, in effect, created roadblocks, demonstrating a need for a more comprehensive approach. The Partnership prefers consensus over exclusion and believes that education and outreach may improve accord over matters that have a direct impact on water sustainability. The CPWP TAC plans to provide an educational forum intended to address the concerns of new participants, as well as inform the overall Coconino Plateau community. The agenda will include presentations and panel discussions/workshop:

- Presentations by the groundwater modeler reviewing the results of the scenario runs and their applicability to the State of Arizona rules addressing the designation of adequate water supplies outside active management areas; and by the Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment consultant that includes its intent, results, and applicability for use as a water resources decision tool by decision makers.
- Two panel discussions/workshops: 1) ranchers and environmental organization representatives that will each provide a brief presentation of their background and what their "takeaway" is from the morning's presentations, 2) water providers on the Coconino Plateau presenting a brief discussion of their water resources and the ability of current resources to meet projected water demands. Discussion will focus on how useful the Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment may be to their organization and how they may be able to use the results in water resource planning decisions.

It is anticipated there will be approximately 100 attendees. The forum/technical workshop will be held at a major conference facility in Flagstaff including professional meeting amenities (lunch, refreshments, audio/visual facilities, etc.). A keynote speaker appropriate for the diversity of the group will be invited to address the group during lunch. Planning and administration of the forum/technical workshop will be performed by the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership Technical Advisory Committee. Registration fee will be minimal to encourage attendance. Workshop information, videos, and highlights will be made available via traditional and social media.

The Partnership will collaborate on compiling and summarizing the results of the forum/technical workshop into a white paper for use by the Partnership in informing elected officials about the activities and research of the CPWP.

5.0 Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criterion A – Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope

A1. Watershed Group Diversity – Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership

The location, and concern over water resources on the Coconino Plateau is conducive to the active participation of a diverse and broad range of stakeholders which are well represented in the CPWP:

Communities

City of Flagstaff
City of Page
City of Sedona
Tusayan
City of Williams

Tribes

Havasupai Tribe
Hopi Tribe
Hualapai Tribe
Navajo Nation

Coconino County

Water Providers

Doney Park Water Company
Tusayan Sanitary District

Natural Resource Conservation and Environmental Groups

Coconino NRCD
The Nature Conservancy
The Sierra Club
Grand Canyon Trust

Watershed Groups

Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D
Friends of the Verde River
Oak Creek Watershed Council

State

AZ Department of Environmental Quality
AZ Department of Water Resources
AZ Game and Fish
AZ State Land Department
AZ State Parks

Schools

Northern Arizona University

Federal

Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
National Park Service
Coconino National Forest
Kaibab National Forest
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Geological Survey
Natural Resources Conservation Service

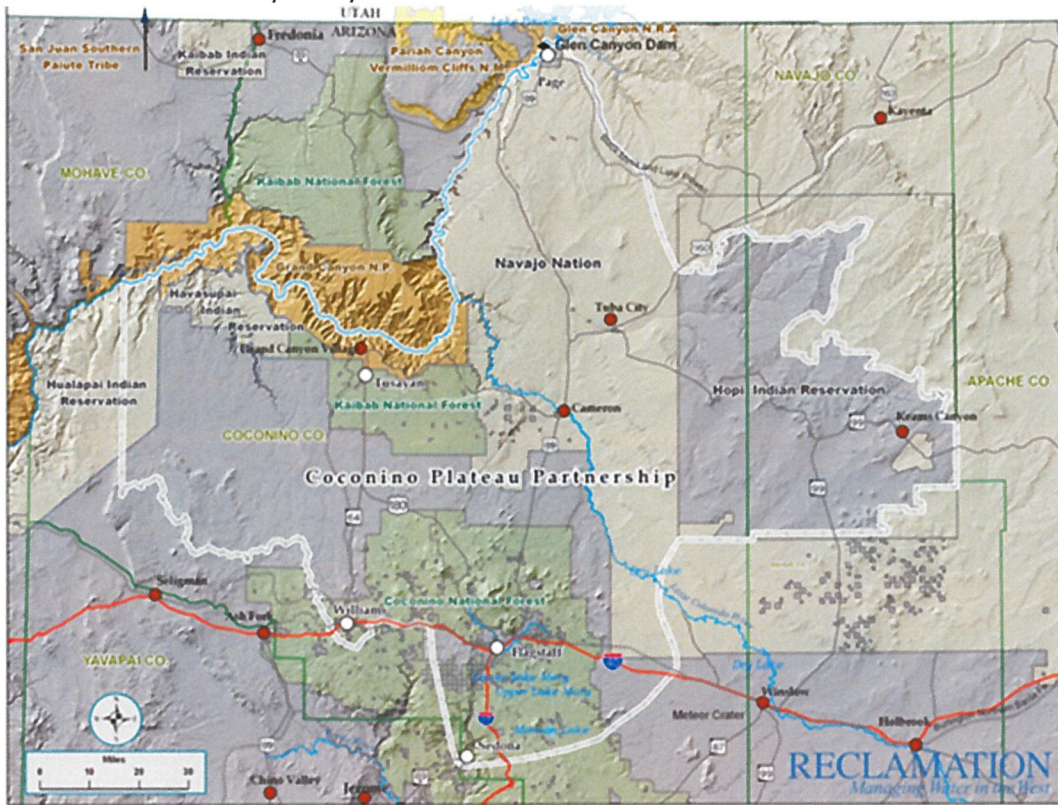
Communities in the Coconino Plateau area of northern Arizona are rural in nature. Representatives, including voting and non-voting members, of many of the local participants listed above include ranchers, farmers, outdoor recreational enthusiasts, as well as environmentalists, conservationists, and scientists. In the west “...water’s for fightin’ over.” The CPWP avoids this. However, the education, trade, and economic background of the various member representatives influences their perspective on water and policy. By continuing education of new members, public outreach to the community, and working on projects that all members support, it is anticipated that the cooperation and effectiveness of the existing group will improve, continue to remain diverse, and new members will be interested in participating.

The different viewpoints on the definition of sustainable water resource planning and interpretation of rules and regulations that apply to water resource issues reflects the diversity of the participants. The Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment will identify the

importance of all water uses and provide an easy to utilize tool that is understandable by all participants and useful in their decision-making process. The intent is that the application of this tool will be understood and accepted by all participants thereby supporting the goal of consensus among members when it comes to taking formal actions on water issues.

A2. Geographic Scope

As shown in **Figure 1** included in section **3.0 Project Location** (page 10) and shown below, the CPWP includes lands that are managed or owned by CPWP participants: U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Navajo, Hopi, Hualapai, and Havasupai Indian reservations, cities of Flagstaff, Page, Sedona, Williams, and towns of Tusayan, Grand Canyon Village, and Peach Springs. Although the CPWP boundary encompasses a significant area of land, its location is in an area where the boundaries of several smaller watersheds come together. The uniqueness of the area, geography, hydrogeology, and culture were considered in the original geographic determination of the Partnership's boundary which was established by ADWR for a Bureau of Reclamation feasibility study.



Partnership meetings are held in Flagstaff, a hub for community members in northern Arizona. Participants from state and federal agencies, outlying communities, and Tribes, all regularly attend monthly meetings. Although the geographic scope of the partnership is typically well-represented by the current members, there are areas to improve. The CPWP Public Outreach Committee will evaluate current activities and member attendance to ensure awareness of the CPWP meetings, website, and promote the CPWP educational forum and technical workshop.

Evaluation Criterion B — Addressing Critical Watershed Needs

B1. Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

Since the Partnership has been in existence, the group has recognized the need for a water-focused group that represents and advocates for the diverse stakeholders that make up the communities located in the Coconino Plateau area of northern Arizona. This need was shaped by the unique landscape, geographical location, and water resource conditions of the plateau area in combination with projected growth, increased water demands, and drought. 20 years since the first meeting, and one year since the Partnership agreed to place a feasibility study for a pipeline project on hold due to funding and water availability, the Partnership must re-focus efforts to ensure the CPWP's Vision of an adequate, long-term, sustainable supply of water, while preserving the health of the environment on the Coconino Plateau.

No less than 10 critical water resources issues have been identified and are listed on page 5 under **Section 2.0 Background Data**. The Partnership is faced with the difficulty of addressing issues with no easy solution. Because the Partnership's strategic plan, mission, vision, and goals were developed collaboratively, and include the development of a sustainable water management framework, the TAC is proceeding with efforts that address this task, with the goal to alleviate the severity of impacts from groundwater use.

Sustainable Water Management. Without additional alternative water supplies, communities within the CPWP area will continue to rely on groundwater as the primary water source, increasing the potential for impacts to surface water supplies and riparian ecosystems. By providing the Partnership with a tool for use in sustainable water management, Communities on the Coconino Plateau can take a greater responsibility for preserving environmental health.

Reducing Conflict, Improving Collaboration, and Moving Forward. A recent lack of consensus has led to the Partnership's inability to provide support to the Arizona Department of Water Resources on proposals intended to better manage the State's water resources for current and future generations. Recommendations to support the proposals were provided by the CPWP Technical Advisory Committee which has functioned in an analytical and scientifically sound role for the benefit of the Partnership for 20 years. The TAC is looking to minimize future conflicts and misunderstanding by completing specific groundwater withdrawal scenarios, water related ecosystems services studies, and providing education and outreach.

B2. Developing Strategies to Address Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

The Partnership previously developed a strategic plan (**Figure 3.**) that includes continuing the development of the sustainability and science framework, developing planning alternatives in place of the feasibility study, continuing education awareness and outreach efforts, expanding partnerships with other groups, and reviewing the strategic plan biennially to amend as needed.

Watershed Planning

Priorities identified by the Partnership include work that will supplement the previously completed studies for the area and do not focus solely on human demand:

- Northern Arizona Regional Flow Groundwater Model Scenarios

- Use model to identify at-risk environmental resources
 - Consider water withdrawal impacts on Oak Creek
 - Use scenarios and models for regional planning for use in the Sustainable Water Management Framework
- Sustainable Water Management Framework – this is a renewed priority which the Partnership will continue to develop as part of a watershed management plan with the following goals:
 - Completion of the Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment work
 - Identify funding opportunities to support regional groundwater monitoring and develop thresholds for ecosystem water needs
 - Analysis of potential for development rights purchase
 - Increase emphasis on demand/supply management strategies
 - Identify water conservation opportunities/incentives and new technologies
 - Recommend water conservation strategies

CPWAC/CPWP Strategic Plan Adopted April 25, 2014	
<p>Mission Statement The Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership and Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council are affiliate organizations formed to facilitate and implement sound water resource management and conservation strategies on the Coconino Plateau. The Partnership coordinates and cooperates in the identification, prioritization and implementation of comprehensive policies, projects and programs to assist in meeting the water needs of the Coconino Plateau. The Council provides regional water education for elected officials and lobbying that supports sustainable water supplies on the Coconino Plateau.</p> <p>Vision Statement The Vision of the Council and Partnership is to be a leader in ensuring an adequate, long-term, sustainable supply of water is available to meet the current and future reasonable needs while preserving the health of the environment on the Coconino Plateau.</p> <p>Values Statements/Guiding Principles Water is life. As individuals and as a community, we take responsibility for our region's water. We value water for its social, cultural, and environmental roles. We have an ethical obligation to manage water and use it in a purposeful manner, recognizing our choices and their consequences. To quote Aldo Leopold, "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."</p> <p>Competitive Advantage The competitive advantage of the Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council is that it eliminates competition between its participants by providing a stakeholder process where they can work together instead of competing with one another.</p> <p>Long-term Goal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A long term sustainable water supply to serve the regional needs of the Coconino Plateau </p> <p>Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the completion of the feasibility study (FS) • Continue sustainability and science framework • Develop planning alternatives if the feasibility study is not completed • Inform and engage state and federal legislators • Build a diverse funding base • Continue education awareness and outreach efforts • Expand partnerships • Review the WASIT analysis to identify items that fall under committee work efforts • Review the strategic plan biennially and amend as needed </p> <p>Action Items/Plans (Committees) <i>Executive Committee</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a plan for alternatives to complete the FS if federal funding is not available • Pursue federal funding for FS • Prioritize strategic plan strategies and action items/plans at the annual meeting </p>	<p><i>Technical Advisory Committee</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Partnership informed of progress and cost of FS • Identify scope of work for Sustainable Water Management Framework (SWM) • Pursue funding opportunities for SWM • Develop a water source menu for meeting the needs of the Coconino Plateau • Evaluate the requirements to complete the FS using a private entity <p><i>Government Affairs Committee</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor a legislative water briefing biennially, pursue partners • Meet with state elected officials annually to discuss water legislation • Meet with federal elected officials as needed for FS support • Review state water legislation annually • Review federal legislation as needed • Maintain lobbyist registration • Craft comment letters as required by CPWAC on proposed legislation • Invite state elected officials to speak to CPWAC <p><i>Public Outreach Committee</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in Earth Day and similar events to reach out to public • Complete water ethics educational film and identify how it will be used • Administer annual water ethics content in schools across the Plateau • Improve booth and display equipment and information • Stock up on handouts for event participation • Identify speaker's bureau for CPWP • Develop a "current" PowerPoint to be used by speakers bureau (Who are we? What are we doing?) • Develop a "communications plan" for the CPWP • Promote school awards on web site, TV, newspaper • Develop archival photos of water that can be used for outreach <p>Key Performance Indicators (Committees) <i>Executive Committee</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal funding for FS <i>Technical Advisory Committee</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual and quarterly presentation to CPWP on status of FS • Successful grant applications to complete SWM Framework • Completion of SWM Framework and final status report • Completion of water source menu • Completion of the FS <i>Government Affairs Committee</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPWAC participation in legislative water briefings • Information provided annually to CPWAC/CPWP on proposed water bills • Submission of CPWAC comments as needed on proposed water legislation <i>Public Outreach Committee</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate budget to complete action items • Greater public awareness of the CPWAC/CPWP • Regular reports to CPWP identifying progress • Active speakers bureau </p>

Figure 3. Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership (CPWP) Strategic Plan.

Stakeholder Outreach and Partnership Building

Partnership building is critical to the success and effectiveness of the CPWP. Although achieving consensus on recent actions has been unsuccessful, the members agree that critical needs exist, and compromise is needed to move forward with the Watershed Planning priorities that are identified above, and not to only complete studies. Partnership building activities identified by the TAC and the Public Outreach Committee include:

- Engage participants to encourage collaboration and reduce conflict

- Provide Educational Forum and Technical Workshop for Partnership participants
- Update the Strategic Plan
- Prepare and circulate white paper to elected officials at local, state, and federal level.
- Develop social media presence to convey the Technical Workshop components.
 - Post videos of presentations;
 - Enlist traditional media sources to report workshop information and outcomes
- Continue and increase public outreach with follow-on presentations from the CPWP Forum/Workshop to communities and entities throughout the CPWP area.

Evaluation Criterion C – Implementation and Results

The CPWP TAC activities and proposed projects are planned with the expectation of maintaining the Partnership's momentum in addressing water supply issues facing current and future residents. The Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) – Program Information describes challenges that are shared by the Partnership. The activities that have been previously described in this proposal are separate projects that are interconnected with equal significance to the Partnership and designed to address those challenges.

C1. Understanding of and Ability to Meet Program Requirements

The proposed activities of the Partnership fall under the categories included in the CWMP Eligible Projects. Because the Partnership has initiated Phase 1 for the Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment demonstrates commitment to their Mission. A scope of work has been completed for Phase 2. If funding becomes available for the proposed projects, the Phase 1 project will have been completed, and Phase 2 can proceed immediately. The timeline for all proposed work is included on page 4. Upon finalization of a grant agreement with Reclamation, the Partnership will be ready to immediately proceed with planning and project implementation for all activities.

Table 1. Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership Tasks, Milestones, Schedule, and Costs.

Major Tasks/Proposed Projects/Activities	Milestones	Start Date	End Date	Cost
Phase 2 Ecosystems Services Assessment	Complete Phase 1 (in progress), Phase 2 begins with funding	10/2018	06/2019	\$42,080
C&R Aquifer Groundwater Modeling Scenarios	Scenario development with consultant after funding	01/2019	04/2019	\$32,080
Water Source & Demand Maps Update	2018 annual data becomes available from ADWR	06/2019	08/2019	\$3,060
CPWP Educational Forum/Technical Workshop	Planning begins after funding, one year prior to selected date	08/2018	09/2019	\$26,908
Public Outreach Committee Outreach Presentations	Follow-on presentations to CPWP after Forum/Workshop	10/2019	10/2020	-
Grant Administration	Duration of project	10/2018	09/2020	\$2,340
Total Cost				\$106,468

Table 1 shows the milestones, approximate start and end dates, and estimated costs for the proposed projects to be completed by the CPWP in a period of one to two years after funding is secured. Project descriptions and details are included in the Technical Proposal.

C2. Building on Relevant Federal State, or Regional Planning Efforts.

The proposed project work is being planned and completed at a point in time in Arizona when the Governor has initiated a Governor's Water Augmentation Council, and the Governor's Water Solutions project to advance water management policies and programs in the State. Coconino County, Arizona is working with the Partnership to investigate water management alternatives for the County.

Evaluation Criterion D – Nexus to Department of the Interior Initiatives

The geographic location of the CPWP is within the area of both the Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (DLCC) and Rocky Mountain Conservation Cooperative (RMCC). Reclamation and the USFWS are co-leads of the DLCC. These two agencies plus the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Arizona Game and Fish Department are represented on the DLCC Steering Committee and well as the CPWP. The DLCC Science Working Group consists of members of previously mentioned agencies as well as Dr. Abe Springer of Northern Arizona University who is an active CPWP TAC member and CPWP participant. Brenda Smith of the USFWS serves on the Executive Committee of the CPWP.

This project will address concerns of the USFWS regarding potential impact of groundwater pumping from regional demand centers on threatened or endangered aquatic species. Specifically, species in Clear Creek and Chevelon Creek located in the Mogollon Rim Area adjacent to the City of Flagstaff's Red Gap Ranch and the Cholla Power Plant at Joseph City, Arizona.

Concerns regarding groundwater pumping by proposed development around Tusayan, Arizona (immediately adjacent to Grand Canyon National Park) have been expressed by the Grand Canyon National Park as well as concerns voiced by the Havasupai Tribe regarding groundwater pumping by the City of Williams. Groundwater modeling scenarios will identify surface water flow impacts with reduced aquifer storage levels at pumping locations that supply significant water demand centers such as Tusayan, Flagstaff, Joseph City and Williams. The reduced aquifer storage levels being modeled will consider State of Arizona proposed changes to rules for determining adequate water supplies outside of Active Management Areas.

The project will also address remaining questions identified in the USGS Report; *Investigation of the Geology and Hydrology of the Coconino Plateau of Northern Arizona: A Project of the Arizona Rural Watershed Initiative*. Specific questions identified in the report that will be addressed by this project include: 1) *How do groundwater and surface water systems interact?* and, 2) *How will current and projected groundwater use affect surface water and spring resources in aquifer discharge areas?*

Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

None of the project activities included in this application require monitoring, measurement, or other field work. There are no environmental or cultural resources compliance required.

Required Permits or Approvals

No permits or other approval are required for the execution of the scope included in this proposal.

Project Budget

Funding Plan

A portion of the cost for planning and organizing the CPWP Educational Forum/Technical Workshop, Public Outreach Activities, and project management will be provided by in-kind services from members of the CPWP TAC and Public Outreach Committee.

Table 2. Summary of funding sources.

Funding Sources	Funding Amount
Members (in-kind)	\$7,800
Requested Reclamation Funding	\$98,668
Total Project Funding	\$106,468

Budget Proposal

Table 3. Budget Proposal Estimated Project Costs – Reclamation funding request.

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	COMPUTATION		QUANTITY TYPE	TOTAL COST
	\$/UNIT	QUANTITY		
Salaries and Wages				
CPWP Coordinator	\$65/hr.	184	Hourly rate	\$11,960
Fringe Benefits (N/A)				
Travel				
Forum Speaker Lodging	\$200/night	6	room night	\$1,200
Forum Administrator Lodging	\$200/night	4	room night	\$800
Forum Speaker and Administrator mileage	\$.545/mi	1500	miles	\$818
Equipment (N/A)				
Supplies and Materials				
Forum Packets	\$25/ea.	100	color packets	\$2,500
Forum Presentation Graphics	\$58/ea.	5	each	\$290
Contractual/Construction				
Consultant WRESA	N/A	N/A	lump sum	\$40,000
Consultant GW Modeling	N/A	N/A	lump sum	\$30,000
GIS Specialist	\$50/hr.	30	hourly rate	\$1,500
Other				
Forum Speaker Stipends	\$150/hr.	4	lump sum	\$600
Forum Facilities Fee	\$90/person	100	per person	\$9,000
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS				\$98,668
Indirect Costs (N/A)				
In-kind Contribution				\$7,800
Request				\$98,668
Total Project Cost				\$106,468

Budget Narrative

Salaries and Wages

Project manager Ron Doba has served as the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership Coordinator on contract since 2012. The current hourly wage rate for Coordinator services applicable to this project is \$65/hr. which includes all overhead - office space, computer, other office equipment and expenses.

In-kind contributions from Technical Advisory Committee and Public Outreach Committee are estimated based on an accounting of donated time at an assigned volunteer rate of \$25/hour.

The hours shown in the budget Table 3 for Salaries and Wages are broken down into components of the project as follows:

- ✓ Administrative work efforts for the technical analysis/scenario planning of groundwater withdrawals from the C and R aquifers in northern Arizona to be used for determination of metrics for completion of the Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment Phase 2. (32 hours)
 1. Craft RFP/review with TAC
 2. Advertise RFP
 3. Submittal review with TAC and develop short list of applicants
 4. Consultant interviews
 5. Negotiate contract and award through CPWP Board
 6. Manage consultant contract
- ✓ Administrative efforts for the completion of Phase 2 of the Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment. Tasks are similar to those for the technical analysis/scenario planning of groundwater withdrawals contract and will not be repeated here. (32hours)
- ✓ Planning and implementation of a one-day Coconino Plateau Watershed workshop/forum to provide outreach that includes the results of the technical analysis and Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment to stakeholders and all community members with an interest in the watersheds of the Coconino Plateau. (60 hours)
- ✓ Data research for updating the water source and demand maps. (24 hours)
- ✓ Required Reporting to include quarterly financial reports, quarterly performance reports, 270-day sufficiency report, and final performance report. (36 hours)

Fringe Benefits

Fringe benefits are not applicable to this grant application as all salaries are those of independent contractors that include their insurance, overhead, etc. They are not broken out separately for billing purposes.

Travel

All travel identified in the budget is related to the Water Forum and Technical Workshop. Travel expenses are estimated and include lodging for three speakers for two nights each and lodging for two administrators for two nights each. Speakers and two administrators will be

traveling from Phoenix, Arizona to the Forum destination in Flagstaff, Arizona. Mileage is estimated based on the 2018 Federal mileage rate of \$.545 for business purposes. Lodging prices in Flagstaff vary by season and location. An estimate of \$200/night is used for the purposes of this application.

Equipment

Equipment is not part of this grant proposal.

Materials and Supplies

Materials and supplies include handouts and visual display graphics that will be used for the Water Forum and Technical Workshop. Handouts will involve copying expenses and will include agenda information and summary documentation regarding the results of the groundwater modeling scenarios and the Water Related Ecosystems services Assessment. Visual display graphics will include posters for use during the Workshop and that can be continually utilized by the Public Outreach Committee of the CPWP at regional water events (Earth Day, Flagstaff Festival of Science, Colorado River Days, etc.). Cost are estimated based on local color copy costs and experience having posters printed by the Public Outreach Committee.

Contractual

Consultants have not been selected for the groundwater modeling effort, the completion of Phase 2 of the Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment or the GIS efforts required to complete another update of the water source and demand maps. Requests for proposals (RFP) have not been developed at this time that include a detailed scope of work and cost for various tasks. Cost included in the budget are estimates. The procurement process for consulting services used by the CPWP includes advertisement of an RFP, review of submittals by the TAC and a recommendation for a contract approval by the CPWP Board of Directors. It is recognized that a recommendation for approval of a contract will require a request for approval from the grantor prior to any contract award should this grant application be successful. The request for approval will have a breakdown of all tasks and detailed budget estimate as well as how the costs for the contractor has been considered fair and reasonable.

Environmental and Regulatory Costs

The project does not include monitoring, measurement or other field work requiring environmental compliance.

Other Expenses

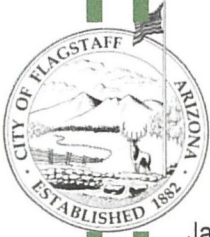
Costs listed as "Other" in the budget include stipends for two speakers to present at the Water Forum and Technical Workshop. The speakers will include the groundwater modeler and the consultant selected to complete Phase 2 of the Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment. Stipends are based on estimated hourly rates for consultants at \$150/hr. Also included is the facilities fee that include room use, snacks, lunch and the use of audio visual equipment from the provider. The estimated cost for the facilities fee was derived from information provided by the High Country Conference Center in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Indirect Costs

There are no indirect costs included in this grant proposal.

Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

The Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership is an active registrant in the System for Award Management. The unique identifier number for the CPWP in its application is 079258928. Registration was activated December 10, 2017 and remains valid until December 10, 2018 at which time it will renew its registration.



City of Flagstaff

January 26, 2018

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Support Section
Attn: Mr. Darren Olson
Mail Code: 84-27814
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Letter of Support – WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants for FY 2018 (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-18-F005)

Dear Grant Committee Members,

The City of Flagstaff is a participant in the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership (CPWP) and supports its goal "to ensure an adequate long-term supply of water is available to meet the current and future reasonable needs while preserving the health of the environment on the Coconino Plateau." The CPWP provides a venue for diverse stakeholder participation with a purpose of developing consensus for water programs and projects that will enhance the sustainability of the area's water supplies.

The financial assistance being applied for in this grant application will be used to complete Phase II of a Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment (ESA) currently underway. The ESA will identify benefits provided by water related ecosystems as well as metrics that will be used by decision makers to utilize available water resources in a sustainable manner. Currently, the State of Arizona is considering adopting rule modifications for determining adequate water supplies outside of active management areas using the C and the R Aquifers. The proposed rule may use a *percent of groundwater in storage* within the area of the groundwater withdrawal for the determination. Groundwater model runs included in this grant application will identify the impact of establishing this rule on surface waters and springs associated with potential withdrawals. This information will be made available to interested stakeholders in an educational public outreach forum and may be used as relevant data in the public rulemaking process.

Our organization strongly supports the application by the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership for the *WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants for FY 2018* and urges the grant selection panel to consider the benefits of providing funding assistance to support the activities of the Partnership.

If you need any further information regarding my experiences with the CPWP please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Erin Young
Water Resources Manager, City of Flagstaff, Water Services Division



**THE NAVAJO NATION
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

P.O. BOX 678 • FORT DEFIANCE, ARIZONA 86504 • (928)729-4003/4004 • FAX (928)729-4029 /4126

RUSSELL BEGAYE
PRESIDENT

JONATHAN NEZ
VICE PRESIDENT

January 25, 2018

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Support Section
Attn: Mr. Darren Olson
Mail Code: 84-27814
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Letter of Support – WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants for FY 2018 (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-18-F005)

Dear Grant Committee Members,

The Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources is a participant in the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership (Partnership) and supports its goal “to ensure an adequate long-term supply of water is available to meet the current and future reasonable needs while preserving the health of the environment on the Arizona Coconino Plateau.” The Partnership provides an important forum for diverse stakeholder participation for the purpose of developing consensus for water studies, programs, and projects that will enhance the sustainability of the area’s water supplies.

The financial assistance being applied for in this grant application will be used to complete Phase II of a Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment (ESA) currently underway, which will identify benefits provided by water related ecosystems as well as metrics that will be used by decision makers to utilize available water resources in a sustainable manner. The State of Arizona is considering adopting rule modifications for determining adequate water supplies outside of active management areas using the C and the R Aquifers, which are located in Northern Arizona. The proposed rule may use a percent of the groundwater within a defined withdrawal area for the determination. Groundwater model runs included in this grant application will identify the impact of establishing this rule on surface waters and springs associated with potential withdrawals. This information will be made available to interested stakeholders in a public outreach forum and may be used as relevant data in the public rulemaking process.

Our organization supports the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership application for the WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants for FY 2018 and urges the grant selection panel to consider the benefits of providing funding assistance to support the activities of the Partnership.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources, please feel free to contact me at 928-729-4003 or email at rbenally@frontiernet.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ray Benally".

Ray Benally, P.E., R.L.S.
Director, Department of Water Resources
Navajo Nation

Working Collaboratively for a Healthy Verde River



January 24, 2018

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Support Section
Attn: Mr. Darren Olson
Mail Code: 84-27814
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Letter of Support – WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants for FY 2018 (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-18-F005)

Dear Grant Committee Members,

Friends of the Verde River (Friends) is a participant in the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership (the Partnership) and supports its goal "to ensure an adequate long-term supply of water is available to meet the current and future reasonable needs while preserving the health of the environment on the Coconino Plateau." The Partnership provides an important forum for diverse stakeholder participation for the purpose of developing consensus for water studies, programs, and projects that will enhance the sustainability of the area's water supplies.

The financial assistance being applied for in this grant application will be used to complete Phase II of a Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment (ESA) currently underway. The ESA will identify benefits provided by water related ecosystems as well as metrics that will be used by decision makers to utilize available water resources in a sustainable manner. Currently, the State of Arizona is considering adopting rule modifications for determining adequate water supplies outside of active management areas using the C and the R Aquifers. The proposed rule may use a *percent of groundwater in storage* within the area of the groundwater withdrawal for the determination. Groundwater model runs included in this grant application will identify the impact of establishing this rule on surface waters and springs associated with potential withdrawals. This information will be made available to interested stakeholders in an educational public outreach forum coordinate by Friends in the Verde Valley and may be used as relevant data in the public rulemaking process.

Friends strongly supports the application by the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership for the *WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants for FY 2018* and urges the grant selection panel to consider the benefits of providing funding assistance to support the activities of the Partnership.

Sincerely,

Nancy L.C. Steele
Executive Director

PHONE (928) 641-6013

P. O. Box 2535, Cottonwood, AZ 86326 www.VerdeRiver.org



United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Arizona Ecological Services Office
9828 N. 31st Avenue Ste C3
Phoenix, AZ 85051



Telephone: (602) 242-0210 Fax: (602) 242-2513

In Reply Refer to:
AESO/SE

January 9, 2018

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Support Section
Attn: Mr. Darren Olson
Mail Code: 84-27814
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Letter of Support – WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants
for FY 2018 (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-18-F005)

Dear Grant Committee Members:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is a participant in the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership (the Partnership) and supports its goal “to ensure an adequate long-term supply of water is available to meet the current and future reasonable needs while preserving the health of the environment on the Coconino Plateau.” The Partnership provides an important forum for diverse stakeholder participation for the purpose of developing consensus for water studies, programs, and projects that will enhance the sustainability of the area’s water supplies. The FWS supports the application by the Partnership for the WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants for FY 2018.

The financial assistance being applied for in this grant application will be used to complete Phase II of a Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment (Assessment) that is currently underway. The Assessment will identify benefits provided by water-related ecosystems, as well as metrics that will be used by decision makers to plan sustainable use of available water resources. Currently, the State of Arizona is considering adopting rule modifications for determining adequate water supplies outside of active management areas using the C and the R Aquifers, located in northern Arizona. The proposed rule may use a percent of groundwater in storage within the area of the groundwater withdrawal for the determination. Groundwater model runs included in this grant application will identify the impact of establishing this rule on surface waters and springs associated with potential withdrawals. This information will be made available to interested stakeholders in an educational public outreach forum and may be used as relevant data in the public rulemaking process.

The FWS mission is “working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people”. As the primary agency responsible for management of federally-listed species and migratory birds, FWS faces the challenge of meeting recovery and conservation needs for these species in a rapidly growing area that is primarily dependent on its groundwater resources. The Assessment will help to inform water resource managers on the Colorado Plateau of the impacts of water use and development, and can be used to assess the potential impacts to both species and quality of life in this area. We urge the grant selection panel to consider the benefits of

providing funding assistance to support the activities of the Partnership through funding of this grant application.

If you need any further information regarding our experiences with the Partnership, please feel free to contact Brenda Smith at (928) 556-2157 or Shaula Hedwall at (928) 556-2118.

Sincerely,



Steven L. Spangle
Field Supervisor

C:\Users\brsmith\Documents\Brendas Documents\Water\Coconino County WAC\Sustainable Water Mgmt\FWS WaterSmartGrant Letter of Support.docx

TOWN OF TUSAYAN

at the entrance to Grand Canyon National Park



Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Support Section
Attn: Mr. Darren Olson
Mail Code: 84-27814
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

January 9, 2018

RE: Letter of Support – WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants for FY 2018 (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-18-F005)

Dear Grant Committee Members,

The Town of Tusayan, AZ is a participant in the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership (the Partnership) and supports its goal "to ensure an adequate long-term supply of water is available to meet the current and future reasonable needs while preserving the health of the environment on the Coconino Plateau." The Partnership provides an important forum for diverse stakeholder participation for the purpose of developing consensus for water studies, programs, and projects that will enhance the sustainability of the area's water supplies.

The financial assistance being applied for in this grant application will be used to complete Phase II of a Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment (ESA) currently underway. The ESA will identify benefits provided by water related ecosystems as well as metrics that will be used by decision makers to utilize available water resources in a sustainable manner. Currently, the State of Arizona is considering adopting rule modifications for determining adequate water supplies outside of active management areas using the C and the R Aquifers. The proposed rule may use a *percent of groundwater in storage* within the area of the groundwater withdrawal for the determination. Groundwater model runs included in this grant application will identify the impact of establishing this rule on surface waters and springs associated with potential withdrawals. This information will be made available to interested stakeholders in an educational public outreach forum and may be used as relevant data in the public rulemaking process.

Our organization strongly supports the application by the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership for the *WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants for FY 2018* and urges the grant selection panel to consider the benefits of providing funding assistance to support the activities of the Partnership.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding the Town of Tusayan, AZ please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Eric A. Duthie
Town Manager

1/8/18

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Support Section
Attn: Mr. Darren Olson
Mail Code: 84-27814
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Letter of Support – WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants for FY 2018 (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-18-F005)

Dear Grant Committee Members,

The Hopi Tribe is a participant in the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership (the Partnership) and supports its goal "to ensure an adequate long-term supply of water is available to meet the current and future reasonable needs while preserving the health of the environment on the Coconino Plateau." The Partnership provides an important forum for a diverse stakeholder group, including several tribal representatives, for the purpose of developing consensus for water studies, programs, and projects that will enhance the sustainability of the area's water supplies.

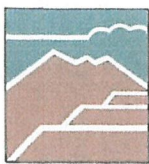
The Hopi Tribe supports the efforts of the Partnership in its efforts to develop sustainable regional solutions to water supply issues, including efforts to obtain funding to achieve its goals. The protection of aquifers and ecologically important surface waters is of great importance both culturally and environmentally to the Hopi people.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding the Hopi Tribe and their concern for sustainable, long term aquifer management please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



James A. Duffield, R.G.
Hydrogeologist
Water Resources Program
The Hopi Tribe



COCONINO COUNTY ARIZONA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Jay Christelman
Director

January 17th, 2018

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Support Section
Attn: Mr. Darren Olson
Mail Code: 84-27814
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Letter of Support – WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants for FY 2018 (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-18-F005)

Dear Grant Committee Members,

The Coconino County Community Development Department (the Department) is a participant in the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership (the Partnership) and supports its goal “to ensure an adequate long-term supply of water is available to meet the current and future reasonable needs while preserving the health of the environment on the Coconino Plateau.” The Partnership provides an important forum for diverse stakeholder participation for the purpose of developing consensus for water studies, programs, and projects that will enhance the sustainability of the area’s water supplies.

The Department supports the efforts of the Partnership in its efforts to develop sustainable regional solutions to water supply issues, including efforts to obtain funding to achieve its goals.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding the Community Development Department please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jay Christelman
Director, Community Development
Coconino County

Commission Members

Charles Paradzick, Chair
Pat Jacobs, Vice Chair
Paul Brick
Michael Macauley
Roy Pierpoint
William Schock
Mark Holmes

Executive Director

Karen Modesto, Acting
Manager

Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission

1110 West Washington, Suite 310, Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-771-8528

**Ex-Officio Members**

Tom Buschatzke, Director
ADWR
Lisa Atkins, Commissioner
AZ SLD

Advisory Members

AZ State Senator -
Gail Griffin
AZ State Rep. -
Kate Brophy-McGee

January 22, 2018

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Support Section
Attn: Mr. Darren Olson
Mail Code: 84-27814
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Letter of Support – WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants for FY 2018 (Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-18-F005)

Dear Grant Committee Members,

The Arizona Water Protection Fund supports the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership's goal "to ensure an adequate long-term supply of water is available to meet the current and future reasonable needs while preserving the health of the environment on the Coconino Plateau." The Partnership provides an important forum for diverse stakeholder participation for the purpose of developing consensus for water studies, programs, and projects that will enhance the sustainability of the area's water supplies.

The financial assistance being applied for in this grant application will be used by the Partnership to complete Phase II of a Water Related Ecosystems Services Assessment currently underway. The assessment will identify benefits provided by water related ecosystems as well as metrics that may be used by decision makers to utilize available water resources in a sustainable manner. Groundwater model simulations included in this grant application will be used by the Partnership to identify the impact of groundwater withdrawals on surface waters and springs. This information will be made available by the Partnership to interested stakeholders in an educational public outreach forum and may be used as relevant data in a sustainable water management plan.

Our organization supports the application by the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership for the *WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants for FY 2018* and urges the grant selection panel to consider the benefits of providing funding assistance to support the activities of the Partnership.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding the Arizona Water Protection Fund, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Modesto".

Karen Modesto
Acting Manager

Web Site: www.azwpf.gov
FAX: 602-771-8686

RESOLUTION NO. 0104

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COCONINO PLATEAU WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE WATERSMART
COOPERATIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PHASE I GRANTS FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2018**

WHEREAS, the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership non-profit corporation is organized to provide a forum for discussion, analysis and input into the development of federal, state, and regional water resource policies and planning which are of interest or concern to the public for educational purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership is an eligible non-profit 501 (c)(3) watershed group to obtain funding assistance from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for the purpose of a WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grant; and

WHEREAS, the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership is capable of providing funding and/or in-kind contributions specified in the funding plan; and

WHEREAS, the Chair of the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership has the authority to enter into an agreement with Reclamation by virtue of the organization's bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership is seeking to obtain funding that will assist in the sustainable management of water resources on the Arizona Coconino Plateau and serve to benefit its residents by performing critical need projects; and

WHEREAS, the Coordinator of the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership has reviewed and supports the application submitted; and

WHEREAS, the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership is capable and willing to work with Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a grant or cooperative agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Coconino Plateau Watershed Partnership Board of Directors; hereby:

Approves the submittal of a grant application to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation for a WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grant

for Fiscal Year 2018 to be used to assist in the sustainable management of water resources on the Arizona Coconino Plateau.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 26th day of January, 2018.

COCONINO PLATEAU WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP



Mayor Coral Evans, Board Chair