

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NO. R22AS00195

WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for FY 2022

PROJECT TITLE: SCADA and Metering for Commercial Properties Project

PROJECT CATEGORY: Municipal Metering / SCADA



Applicant (Category A)

Town of Van Horn

1801 W Broadway St, Van Horn, TX 79855

Project Manager

Edward Torres, Utilities Manager

1801 W Broadway St, Van Horn, TX 79855

79etorres21@gmail.com | (432) 283-2050

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I	TECHNICAL PROPOSAL AND EVALUATION CRITERIA	3
A.	Executive Summary	3
B.	Project Location	3
C.	Technical Project Description	5
D.	Evaluation Criteria	6
D.1.	Evaluation Criterion A. Project Benefits (35 points)	6
D.2.	Evaluation Criterion B. Planning Efforts Supporting the Project (30 points)	10
D.3.	Evaluation Criterion C. Project Implementation (20 points)	10
D.4.	Evaluation Criterion D. Nexus to Reclamation (5 points)	12
D.5.	Evaluation Criterion E. Presidential and DOI Priorities (10 points)	13
II	PROJECT BUDGET	15
A.	Funding Plan and Letters of Funding Commitment	15
B.	Budget Proposal	15
C.	Budget Narrative	16
III	ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE	17
IV	REQUIRED PERMITS OR APPROVALS	18
V	UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER AND SAM	18
VI	APPENDIX	19
A.	Official Resolution	19
B.	Letters of Project Support	20
C.	Equipment Specifications	21

I TECHNICAL PROPOSAL AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

A. Executive Summary

Date: April 25, 2022
Applicant Name: Town of Van Horn
City, County, State: Van Horn, Culberson County County, Texas
Applicant Category: Category A

Project Summary

The Town of Van Horn, located in Culberson County, Texas, will purchase and install municipal meters and SCADA telemetry that will be used to increase system-wide water use efficiency. The project will allow the Town of Van Horn to transition 159 commercial properties from using defunct or manual meter registers to AMI meters. AMI and SCADA installations will also allow provide improved system-wide data, allowing the Town of Van Horn to identify, locate, and address irregular water use and system leaks faster.

Estimated Project Schedule

The project will be accomplished within the two-year allowance. The project will take 24 months from the expected date of funding authorization (assumed to be August 2023) with equipment installation expected by February 2024. The proposed project completion date is June 30, 2025.

Federal Facility

The project is not located on a federal facility.

B. Project Location

The SCADA and Metering for Commercial Properties Project is located within the incorporated limits of the Town of Van Horn, Culberson County, Texas. City Hall is located at latitude 31°02'16.4"N and longitude 104°51'10.6"W (31.037879, -104.852936). A location map is available for reference in Figure 1.

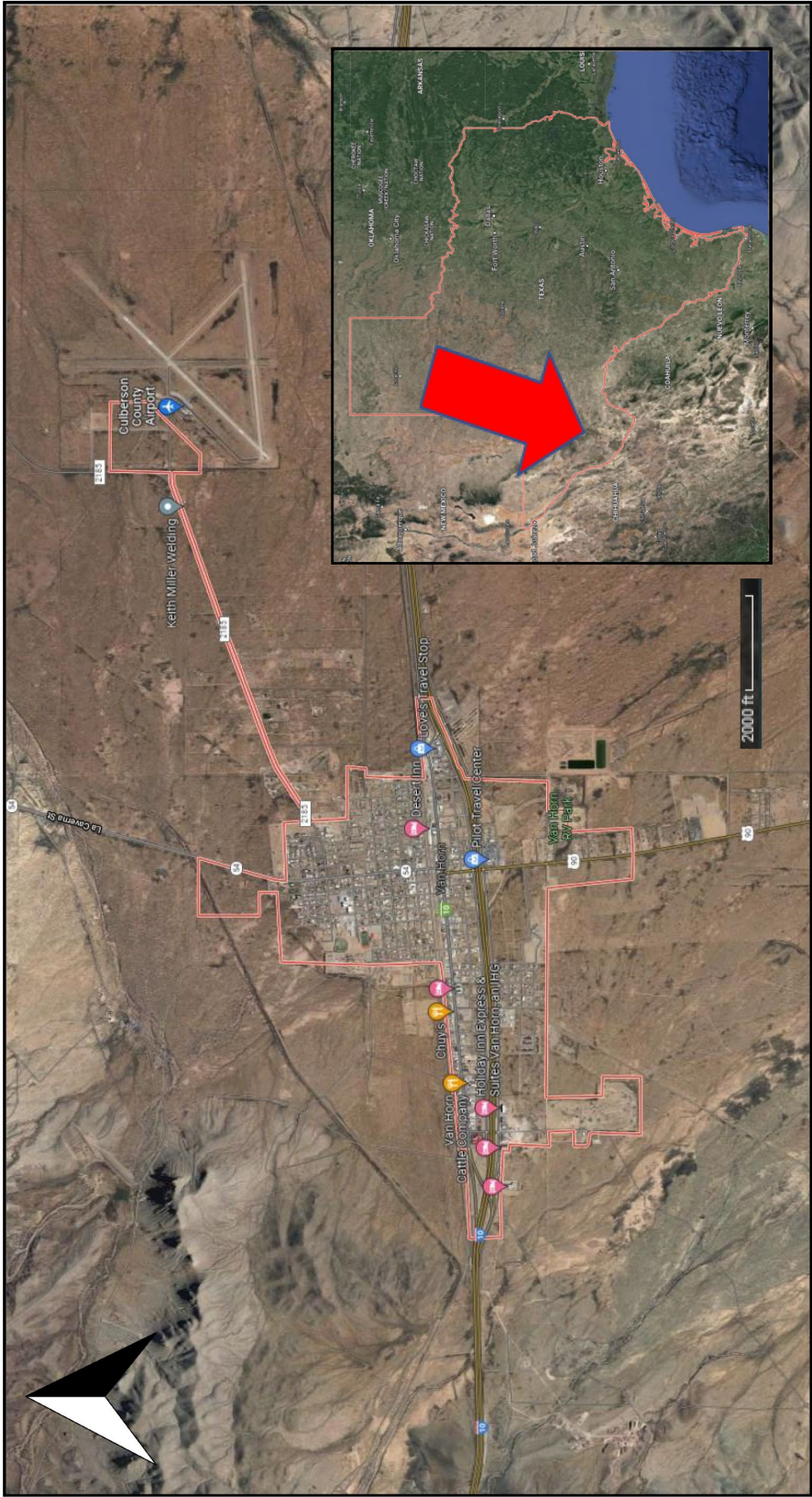


Figure 1. Project Location Map

C. Technical Project Description

The SCADA and Metering for Commercial Properties Project involves purchasing and installing municipal meters and new SCADA equipment. Specifications for the equipment that will be purchased as part of the project are available for reference in Appendix C. All new installations will be linked to Van Horn's existing SCADA system.

Task 1. Environmental and Cultural Compliance

Van Horn will work with USBR staff to perform necessary environmental and cultural compliance work. The project is anticipated to fall within a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to NEPA and will not require further compliance measures. All compliance activities will be completed prior to any ground-disturbing activities.

Task 2. Procurement of Equipment and Materials

Van Horn will solicit competitive bids to purchase 159 municipal meters and SCADA equipment for three sites. All other equipment and materials will be procured using the Town of Van Horn's Purchasing Policy. Public notices will conform to the requirements of provisions in Appendix 11 to 2 CFR Subtitle A Chapter 2 Part 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. Van Horn expects that no purchase will be made for the Project that will exceed the Simplified Acquisition Threshold as described in 2 CFR §200.318 (General Procurement Standards).

Task 3. Equipment Installation and Configuration

Van Horn water department staff will install and configure municipal meters. Product specifications are available in Appendix C.

The programming of SCADA equipment will be subcontracted. No permits or special approvals are needed for the implementation of the project. The SCADA System consists of two fabricated standard SCADA enclosures that will enable communication between the Airport North and South Wells to the Airport Booster. A third SCADA enclosure will allow for communication at the Houston Elevated Water Tank. All three sites consist of wireless 900 MHz radios and antennas, including an uninterruptable power supply, allowing all three sites true run, auto, and alarm status to be viewed and responded to remotely.

Task 4. Grant Administration, Reporting, and Technical Support

Van Horn staff will complete administrative, grant reporting, and technical work necessary to fulfill contractual obligations as required by the USBR. Work shall include but not be limited to developing performance reports and a final report as specified in Sections F.3.1, F.3.2, and F.3.3 of the FY2022 WaterSMART Small Scale Water Efficiency Projects FOA and the technical content required for them.

D. Evaluation Criteria

D.1. Evaluation Criterion A. Project Benefits (35 points)

Up to 35 points may be awarded based upon evaluation of the benefits that are expected to result from implementing the proposed project. This criterion considers a variety of project benefits, including the significance of the anticipated water management benefits and the public benefits of the project. This criterion prioritizes projects that modernize existing infrastructure in order to address water reliability concerns, including making water available for multiple beneficial uses and resolving water related conflict in the region.

Describe the expected benefits to the Category A applicant's water delivery system:

- ***Clearly explain the anticipated water management benefits to the Category A applicant's water supply delivery system and water customers.***

The benefits of accelerating the Van Horn's meter replacement initiative from defunct or manual reading to AMI municipal metering program are improved water consumption accuracy and data and billing transparency, system-wide water waste and leakage detection, and improved conservation messaging for customers. These benefits will result in measurable water savings.

Water consumption accuracy: Installing municipal AMI at commercial meter sites will allow customers to make better water use decisions and identify potential unknown leaks on their plumbing system. Water use data will be made available to both customers and Van Horn water staff to evaluate and resolve unusual water usage patterns. This will allow customers to have better control over usage and lead to savings in their water bill.

System-wide water waste and leakage detection: With funding from the USBR, Van Horn will add AMI infrastructure to 159 commercial properties. As more properties in Van Horn are added to Van Horn's central AMI and SCADA system, Van Horn water staff is able to better evaluate system-wide water use trends and investigate discrepancies between metered water usage and total water usage to search for water waste and detect leaks.

Improved conservation messaging for customers: Improved water consumption data will allow the Town of Van Horn to better communicate water savings goals to customers as described in Section 13.08.060 of the Town of Van Horn's Water Conservation Plan and Drought Contingency Plan. Specifically, additional data will improve Van Horn's ability to personalize communications by water user and use level categories, including during the distribution of educational materials, periodic newspaper publications announcing leaks and outages, and conservation information when applying for service. Topics included in the communications also include the purpose and goals of the water conservation and drought contingency plan, economic benefit to customers due to reduced water bills, indoor and outdoor water conservation techniques, and water conservation strategies for commercial property owners and businesses.

Estimated water savings (acre-feet): The total expected water savings per year for the proposed project is 12.6 acre-feet per year. Water savings estimates are a combination of system-wide efficiency gains and savings from losses from water service line breaks. More detailed

historical water use data is not available for these estimates due to the prevalent use of manual metering and defunct meters in Van Horn (which USBR funding will support in resolving).

According on the 2021 Water Use Survey developed in conjunction with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), Van Horn has 874 billed residential meters, 2 apartment complexes, and 155 commercial meters. The proposed project will install 159 AMI municipal meters on commercial properties. Based on a nationwide study from the American Water Works Association (2000), small retail commercial properties similar to those in Van Horn utilize approximately 61 gallons per 1000 square feet per day (g/ksf/d). Average square footage is estimated by the size of the meter (3/4-inch = less than 2,000 square feet, 1-inch = 2,001 – 6,000 square feet, and 2 inch = over 6,001 square feet). The estimated total square footage of the 159 commercial properties where AMI installations will occur is approximately 616,000 square feet. This is equivalent to 37,576 gallons per day, equivalent to 0.3539 acre-feet per day, equivalent to 42.01 acre-feet per year. Van Horn estimates a savings of 30 percent, equivalent to 12.6 acre-feet per year.

- ***Explain the significance of the anticipated water management benefits for the Category A applicant's water delivery system and customers. Consider:***

- ***Are customers not currently getting their full water right at certain times of year?***

Because of aging infrastructure, Van Horn municipal water users are impacted by recurring water shortages, main line breaks, and boil water notices. In January of 2020, the Town of Van Horn adopted a Water Moratorium limiting new commercial, residential, and public development until new infrastructure is constructed to meet Van Horn's growing water supply and pressure demands that can abide by Texas Administrative Code (TAC) regulations. The moratorium limits new development due to inadequate water pressure that is below the minimum 35-psi required by TAC. For context, only 48 residential permits were approved in 2020, despite increasing demand. The Town of Van Horn has issued the following boil water notices in recent years, shown in Table 1 below.

To resolve water system issues, the Town of Van Horn developed the Water and Wastewater Capital Improvement Plan FY2022 – 2031. This \$15.4 million, 10-year plan addresses the majority of water and wastewater infrastructure needs for Van Horn. For context, the FY21-2022 budget for the Town of Van Horn is \$4.7 million. Funding from the USBR would help Van Horn offset the cost of SCADA and municipal commercial metering that would help staff identify leaks faster and prevent breaks and boil water notices, ensuring that customers receive water during the entire year.

- ***Does this project have the potential to prevent lawsuits or water calls?***

Making improvements to water infrastructure in Van Horn has the potential to reduce legal conflict. The Town of Van Horn is currently in litigation with the Hudspeth County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1. The pending lawsuit can be identified by Cause No. 2020-DCV3703. The lawsuit is linked to a contract between the Town of Van Horn and Hudspeth County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 where Van Horn provides potable water supplies to the community of Sierra Blanca, Texas.

Table 1. Boil Water Notices from 2017 – 2021 in Van Horn, Texas

No.	Date	Area Affected
1	7/26/2017	All of town – there wasn’t a valve specific to the area at this time
2	8/16/2017	All of East Broadway
3	3/14/2018	West of La Caverna & north of West 1 st Street
4	3/19/2018	Properties adjacent to FM 2185
5	3/21/2018	1201 West Broadway
6	4/19/2018	3 rd & Austin Hyd. Repair
7	11/08/2018	601 East Broadway
8	1/3/2020	West Gramma & Laurel Street
9	2/4/2020	501 East 3 rd Street
10	4/20/2020	West 1th Street (6” AC line)
11	6/23/2020	Properties adjacent to FM 2185
12	7/13/2020	1306 West Broadway
13	9/15/2020	300 Lamar Street
14	9/17/2020	Properties adjacent to FM 2185
15	1/19/2021	Installing Inserta Valve @ Van Horn High School
16	10/25/2021	Properties adjacent to FM 2185
17	12/20/2021	West 6 th Street & Fannin Street

○ ***What are the consequences of not making the improvement?***

Continued water losses will have negative social, health and economic impacts on Van Horn water users.

○ ***Are customer water restrictions currently required?***

As previously stated, the Town of Van Horn adopted a Water Moratorium limiting new commercial, residential, and public development until new infrastructure is constructed to meet Van Horn’s growing water supply and pressure demands that can abide by Texas Administrative Code (TAC) regulations.

Broader Benefits: Describe the broader benefits that are expected to occur as a result of the project. Consider:

• ***Will the project improve broad water supply reliability at sub-basin or basin scale?***

The West Texas Bolsons Aquifer where Van Horn draws its water supply is part of an endorheic watershed. Water savings in this watershed help sustain the limited water supplies of the region.

• ***Will the proposed project increase collaboration and information sharing among water managers in the region? Please explain.***

Water conservation efforts such as installing advanced metering and telemetry will inform groundwater management best practices in the arid Far West Texas region. The methodology and benefits of the proposed project will be made available to neighboring groundwater districts in the region that face similar water supply issues, including the Culberson County Groundwater Conservation District, Jeff Davis County UWCD, Presidio County UWCD, and Reeves County GCD.

- **Will the proposed project positively impact/benefit various sectors and economies within the applicable geographic area (e.g., impacts to agriculture, environment, recreation, and tourism)? Please explain.**

As previously stated, the Town of Van Horn adopted a Water Moratorium limiting new commercial, residential, and public development until new infrastructure is constructed to meet Van Horn’s growing water supply and pressure demands that can abide by Texas Administrative Code (TAC) regulations. The proposed installation of advanced meters and SCADA will support Van Horn’s efforts in resolving problems in its water system, which will ultimately allow Van Horn to lift the water moratorium.

For context, in 2022, the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded Van Horn with \$1.7 million to construct a water tower, water supply lines, and appurtenances necessary to lift the water moratorium. The project is expected save 350 high-paying jobs linked to space tourism, engineering, and technical support activities by Blue Origin. The project will also lead to the construction of 3 hotels that in total will bring \$30 million in private investment and over 50 jobs created. Unfortunately, this project does not include metering / SCADA as part of the scope of work (no duplication of efforts). Funding from the USBR will complement and synergize with funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

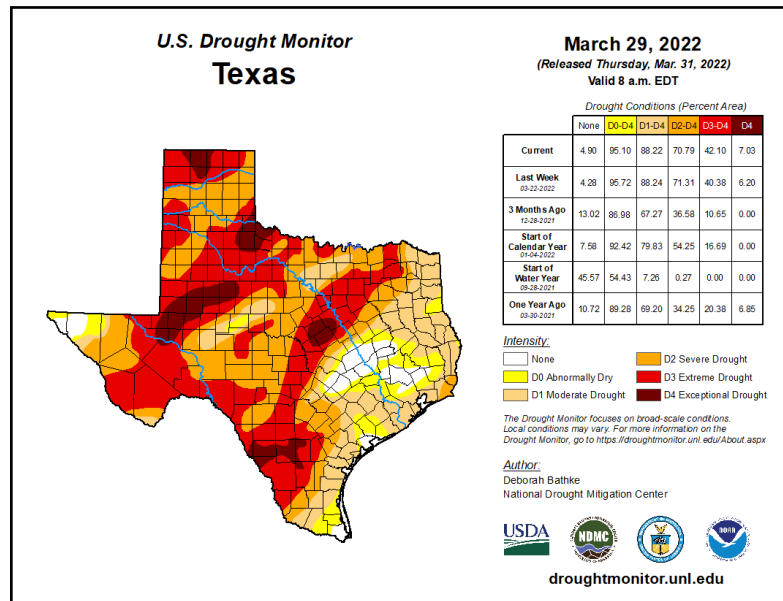
- **Will the project complement work being done in coordination with NRCS in the area (e.g., the area with a direct connection to the district’s water supply) Please explain.**

This question does not apply to the proposed project.

- **Will the project help address drought conditions at the sub-basin or basin scale? Please explain.**

Culberson County, along with the majority of West Texas, is currently experiencing drought conditions. Water conserved as a result of the proposed project will help alleviate drought and will help ensure that the West Texas Bolson Aquifer does not go into overdraft due to increased groundwater extractions overtime.

Figure 2.
U.S. Drought Monitor
March 29, 2022



D.2. Evaluation Criterion B. Planning Efforts Supporting the Project (30 points)

Up to 30 points may be awarded based on the extent to which the proposed on-the-ground project is supported by an applicant's existing water management plan, water conservation plan, System Optimization Review, or identified as part of another planning effort led by the Category A applicant. This criterion prioritizes projects that are identified through local planning efforts and meet local needs.

Plan Development: Describe how your project is supported by an existing planning effort. Identify the planning effort and who developed it. Support for the Project: Describe to what extent the proposed project is supported by the identified plan. Address the following:

- ***Is the project identified specifically in the planning effort?***

2021 Region E Far West Texas Water Plan

The proposed project has been added as a Recommended Water Management Strategy (WMS) in the upcoming *2025 Region E Far West Texas Water Plan* as part of the sixth cycle of state water planning. The plan is developed by the Far West Texas Water Planning Group (FWTWPG). The Region E water planning effort can be referenced at <http://westtexaswaterplanning.org>. A Letter of Support from the FWTWPG with additional details is included in Appendix B.

- ***Explain whether the proposed project implements a goal or addresses a need or problem identified in the existing planning effort.***

Water Management Strategies (WSM) included in the *2025 Region E Far West Texas Water Plan* for Van Horn include major water infrastructure investments such as elevated storage, wells, pumps, pipes, metering, and SCADA. Small projects such as the proposed metering and SCADA investment with the USBR are more difficult to fund using state funding and loans because these programs require population-based investment justifications versus conservation investments. The USBR's WaterSMART SWEP program is ideal for Van Horn's scope of work and water conservation goals.

- ***Explain how the proposed project has been determined as a priority in the existing planning effort as opposed to other potential projects/measures.***

Water Management Strategies (WSM) are developed at the utility-level, meaning that Van Horn's WSM are tailored to match the town's water demand, infrastructure, and conservation needs. The proposed project scope of work will fill a particular equipment purchase needs that is difficult to fund using state funding or should be funded using local tax dollars. As such, Van Horn prioritized applying for funding for the proposed metering and SCADA equipment investments because the USBR WaterSMART SWEP program is an ideal fit for Van Horn's planned water conservation efforts.

D.3. Evaluation Criterion C. Project Implementation (20 points)

Up to 20 points may be awarded based upon the extent to which the applicant is capable of proceeding with the proposed project upon entering into a financial assistance agreement.

- ***Describe any permits that will be required, along with the process for obtaining such permits.***

There are no required permits or approvals necessary for this project.

- ***Describe any new policies or administrative actions required to implement the project.***

No new policies or administrative actions are required.

- ***Identify and describe any engineering or design work performed specifically in support of the proposed project.***

Van Horn will continue utilize advanced meters and SCADA that were designed as part of previous meter and SCADA installations. With funding from the USBR, Van Horn will procure and purchase a similar / compatible metering system and integrated into the town's existing SCADA system. I.e., the proposed project involves purchasing equipment to enhance and accelerate the implementation of a SCADA system that was already designed to meet the needs of Van Horn's water users.

- ***Describe the timeline for completion of environmental and cultural resource compliance. Was the timeline for completion of environmental and cultural resource compliance discussed with the local Reclamation office?***

According to staff from Reclamation's Albuquerque Area Office and support from staff from the El Paso Field Division Office (Woody Irving, Planner), it is expected that a Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC) will be sufficient to meet environmental and cultural resource compliance. This process is expected to take a couple of months and will not hold the project timeline.

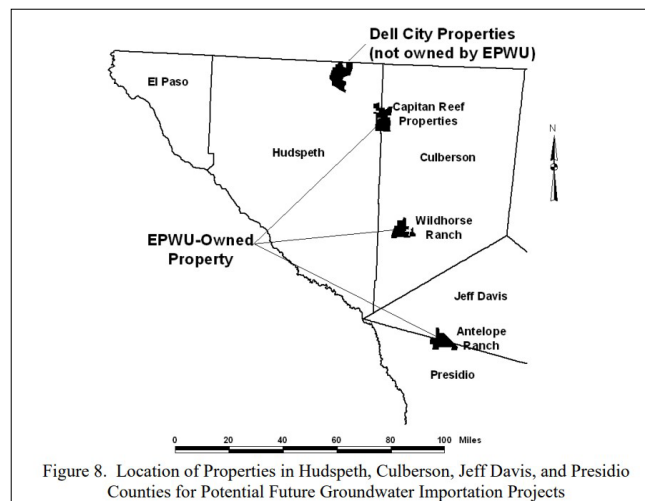
D.4. Evaluation Criterion D. Nexus to Reclamation (5 points)

Up to 10 points may be awarded based on the current extent that the proposal demonstrates a nexus between the proposed project and a Reclamation project or activity. Describe the nexus between the proposed project and a Reclamation project or activity, including:

- ***Is the proposed project connected to a Reclamation project or activity? If so, how? Please consider the following:***
 - ***Does the applicant receive Reclamation project water?***
No.
 - ***Is the project on Reclamation project lands or involving Reclamation facilities?***
No.
 - ***Is the project in the same basin as a Reclamation project or activity?***
Yes, the proposed is located in the Rio Grande Basin.
 - ***Will the proposed work contribute water to a basin where USBR project is located?***

The City of El Paso is by far the largest population center in Far West Texas. As water supplies in El Paso become increasingly strained due to increased demand and prolonged drought conditions, El Paso Water has developed cross-basin water importation strategies. One area owned by El Paso Water Utilities is the Wildhorse Ranch in Culberson County, Texas (see Figure 4 below). Wildhorse Ranch is located adjacent to Van Horn and both areas rely on groundwater from the West Texas Bolson Aquifers. As such, water savings achieved by Van Horn will ultimately also benefit El Paso Water Utilities, which is a Rio Grande Project water user (EP Water leases or owns approximately 70,000 acre-feet per year in water rights from the Rio Grande Project).

Figure 4. Future Groundwater Importation Projects by EP Water (EP Water 2008)



D.5. Evaluation Criterion E. Presidential and DOI Priorities (10 points)

Sub-criterion No. E1. Climate Change

Points will be awarded based on the extent the project will reduce climate pollution, increase resilience to the impacts of climate change; protect public health; and conserve our lands, waters, oceans, and biodiversity. Address the following as relevant to your project.

- *Please provide specific details and examples on how the project will address the impacts of climate change and help combat the climate crisis.*

Some parts of the West Texas Bolson Aquifers are located within the endorheic Tularosa basin. Groundwater users in Van Horn will need to manage water effectively to secure their water future since aquifer recharge depends primarily on rain events. The region continues to be impacted by prolonged drought conditions and other water users continue to use the area's limited, non-renewable water resources (including oil fracking occurring within Culberson County).

- *Does this proposed project strengthen water supply sustainability to increase resilience to climate change? Does the proposed project contribute to climate change resiliency in other ways not described above?*

The requested USBR funds will be used to purchase measurement equipment necessary to inform water management strategies and ensure that the region has sustainable water supplies.

Sub-criterion No. E2. Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities

Points will be awarded based on the extent to which the Project serves economically disadvantaged or underserved communities in rural or urban areas.

- *Will the proposed project serve or benefit a disadvantaged or historically underserved community? Benefits can include, but are not limited to, public health and safety by addressing water quality, new water supplies, or economic growth opportunities.*

Culberson County (FIPS: 48109) is included in the Department of Commerce’s 2021 Persistent Poverty Counties list. Water savings and lifting the current Water Moratorium will bring economic growth opportunities to Van Horn.

- ***Please describe how the community is disadvantaged on a combination of variables:***

- ***Low income, high and/or persistent property***

Poverty figures place Culberson County as one of the most disadvantaged counties in the nation, being number 3103 from a total of 3141. The Median Household Income in 2019 was \$25,514 (American Community Census 2019 5-year Averages).

- ***High transportation cost burden and/or low transportation access***

This question does not apply to Van Horn because it is a rural community.

- ***If the proposed project is providing benefits to an underserved community, provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the community meets the undeserved definition in E.O. 13985***

In E.O. 13985, the term “underserved communities” refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, as exemplified by the list in the preceding definition of “equity.” 71% of the population of Van Horn identifies as Hispanic or Latino (American Community Survey 2019 5-year Averages). As such, Van Horn meets the definition of underserved in E.O. 13985.

Sub-criterion No. E.3. Tribal Benefits

Points will be awarded based on the extent to which the Project will honor the Federal government’s commitments to Tribal Nations.

- ***Does the proposed project directly serve and/or benefit a Tribe? Will the project improve water management for a Tribe?***

This question does not apply to the project.

- ***Does the proposed project support Tribal resilience to climate change and drought impacts or provide other Tribal benefits such as improved public health and safety by addressing water quality, new water supplies, or economic growth opportunities?***

This question does not apply to the project.

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

There is no overlap between the proposed project and any other active or anticipated proposals or projects in terms of activities, costs, or commitment of key personnel. This proposal does not in any way duplicate any proposal or project that has been or will be submitted for funding consideration to any other potential funding source.

Uniform Audit Reporting Statement

The Town of Van Horn did not expend more than \$750,000 in federal awards in previous fiscal years. Requirements for a single federal audit do not apply in this situation.

II PROJECT BUDGET

A. Funding Plan and Letters of Funding Commitment

The total project cost is \$188,691.30. Van Horn will contribute \$5,845.63 in cash and \$88,500.02 as in-kind to the project, which is 50% of the total project costs. Van Horn is requesting a \$94,345.65 grant from Reclamation, which is 50% of the total project costs. There are no additional funding partners for this project.

Van Horn Funding	\$94,345.65	=	50%
Reclamation Funding	\$94,345.65	=	50%
Total Project Funding	\$188,691.30	=	100%

There are no additional funding partners for this project. There are no costs incurred before the anticipated proposed project start date.

B. Budget Proposal

Table 1. Total Project Cost Table

FUNDING SOURCES	AMOUNT
Costs to be reimbursed with requested Federal funding	\$ 94,345.65
Costs to be paid by the applicant	\$ 94,345.65
Value of third-party contributions	\$ 0
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$ 188,691.30

Table 2. Budget Proposal

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	COMPUTATION		Quantity Type	Van Horn Funding	USBR Funding	TOTAL COST
	\$/unit	Quantity				
Salaries and Wages						
Utilities Director	\$34.37/hour	455	Labor	\$ 15,638	\$ -	\$ 15,638
Chief Operator	\$28.60/hour	455	Labor	\$ 13,013	\$ -	\$ 13,013
City Administrator	\$56.25/hour	10	Labor	\$ 563	\$ -	\$ 563
Finance Director	\$39.47/hour	1	Labor	\$ 39	\$ -	\$ 39
Billing Clerk	\$27.58/hour	16	Labor	\$ 441	\$ -	\$ 441
Utilities Clerk	\$26.55/hour	20	Labor	\$ 531	\$ -	\$ 531
					Subtotal	\$ 30,226
Fringe Benefits						
Utilities Director	\$21.06/hour	455	Labor	\$ 9,584	\$ -	\$ 9,584
Chief Operator	\$17.53/hour	455	Labor	\$ 7,976	\$ -	\$ 7,976
City Administrator	\$34.96/hour	10	Labor	\$ 350	\$ -	\$ 350
Finance Director	\$24.19/hour	1	Labor	\$ 24	\$ -	\$ 24
Billing Clerk	\$16.91/hour	16	Labor	\$ 271	\$ -	\$ 271
Utilities Clerk	\$16.27/hour	20	Labor	\$ 325	\$ -	\$ 325
					Subtotal	\$ 18,529
Equipment						
Installation equipment (market rate)	\$74.85/hour	455	Equipment	\$ 34,057	\$ -	\$ 34,057
Fuel and use fees (market rate)	\$12.50/hour	455	Equipment	\$ 5,688	\$ -	\$ 5,688
					Subtotal	\$ 39,744
Supplies and Materials (meters)						
3/4" Meters	\$245.54/ea	79	each	\$ -	\$19,398	\$ 19,398
Curing Compound	\$460.57/ea	57	each	\$ -	\$26,252	\$ 26,252
GeoFabric Liner	\$1,158.89/ea	23	each	\$ -	\$26,654	\$ 26,654
SCADA Equipment	\$27,887.28/ea	1	each	\$ 5,846	\$22,041	\$ 27,887
					Subtotal	\$ 100,192
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS				\$94,346	\$94,346	\$188,691

C. Budget Narrative

Salaries and Wages (in-kind)

The following Town of Van Horn personnel will be involved in this project. The labor costs are based on the approximate number of hours needed to switch out meters. The expected hours needed to complete each meter replacement are based on completion history of similar projects.

Utilities Director will be responsible for project supervision, quality control, safety, operating of equipment, equipment installations, and generating cost and equipment use records necessary for reporting. Utilities Director loaded hourly rate is \$55.43.

Chief Operator will be responsible for installation and equipment use records. The Chief Operator loaded hourly rate is \$46.13.

Certification of Labor Rates

The labor rates of identified personnel included herein represent the labor rates of personnel bearing the same title in Fiscal Year 2022. Additional verification is available as needed pursuant to an award contract with the USBR.

Fringe Benefits (in-kind)

The in-kind fringe benefits for Town of Van Horn personnel involved in this project personnel included herein represent the rates of personnel bearing the same title in Fiscal Year 2022. For application purposes, the fringe rate included herein is 38%.

Equipment

Equipment used for meter installations is estimated at \$75 per hour plus 10% in fuel adjustment. This is provided as in-kind to the project and is based on market rate installation fees incurred in other metering and SCADA projects.

Materials and Supplies

The Town of Van Horn will procure and purchase 159 meters for commercial properties and SCADA and transmission equipment necessary for two sites. The cost of each meter varies depending on its size. The cost of 1-inch meters is estimated at \$460.57 based on pricing determined in October of 2021 (57 meters are included). The cost of 3/4-inch meters is estimated at \$245.54 per unit (79 meters are included). The cost of 2-inch meters is estimated at \$1,158.89 per unit (23 meters are included).

Indirect Costs

Indirect costs are not included as part of the project. The Town of Van Horn will document direct administrative costs incurred as part of the project (in-kind employee hours). Total administrative costs are estimated at \$2,544 composed of 47 labor hours of 4 different Van Horn employees as described in Table 2. Budget Proposal.

Total Amount of Project Costs

The total cost of the project is \$188,691.30. The Bureau of Reclamation requested share is \$94,345.65. Van Horn will contribute \$5,845.63 in cash and \$88,500.02 as in-kind to the project

III ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE

Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment?

There are no anticipated adverse impacts to the environment surrounding the meter installation sites.

Are you aware of any species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitat in the project area? If so, would they be affected by any activities associated with the proposed project?

There are no anticipated impacts to threatened and endangered species by the proposed project.

Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that fall under CWA jurisdiction as “waters of the United States?”

There are no surface waters inside the project boundaries that fall under CWA jurisdiction.

When was the water delivery system constructed?

The Town of Van Horn, Texas was incorporated in 1945 and water infrastructure has been replaced continuously since then.

Will the proposed project result in any modifications or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system? If so, state when those features were constructed and describe the nature and timing of any extensive alterations or modifications to those features completed previously.

The project will not result in any modifications or effects to individual features of an irrigation system.

Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?

There are no known historical sites in the proposed project area.

Are there any known archeological sites in the proposed project area?

There are no known archeological sites in the proposed project area.

Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?

There are no anticipated negative impacts on minority populations or low-income communities. The proposed project is likely to have a beneficial impact on residential and public properties in the Town of Van Horn, Texas.

Will the proposed project limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands?

There are no anticipated limits to access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites or adversely impact tribal lands.

Will the proposed project contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area?

There are no anticipated contributions to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species.

IV REQUIRED PERMITS OR APPROVALS

Van Horn owns, operates, and maintains the project sites, equipment, and rights-of-way. There are no required permits or approvals necessary for the proposed project.

V UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT

System for Award Management (SAM) Registration

Town of Van Horn maintains an active SAM registration and all information is up to date.

EIN Number: 74-6002432

Department of Treasury Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP)

The Town of Van Horn is currently enrolled in ASAP and is ready to engage in active financial assistance agreements with the USBR.

VI APPENDIX

A. Official Resolution

RESOLUTION NO: 22-04-004

WHEREAS, the Town of Van Horn, Texas, is experiencing water reliability issues, including insufficient pressure, system leaks and breaks caused by decades-old water pipes, and periodic boil-water orders; and,


WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Van Horn adopted a Water Moratorium on January 14, 2020, limiting new commercial and residential development due to inadequate water pressure and existing infrastructure is insufficient to meet existing demand from the private sector; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Van Horn is pursuing external funding from the United States Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects program to install commercial meters and SCADA; and,

WHEREAS, the SCADA and Metering for Commercial Properties Project will lead to quantifiable water savings and efficiency improvements.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Van Horn hereby authorizes Mayor Rebecca L. Brewster to submit a grant application to the USBR FY2022 SWEP program and authorizes Mayor Rebecca L. Brewster to take any administrative action required to negotiate and enter into a grant agreement with the USBR, including working with the USBR to meet established deadlines for entering into a grant or cooperative agreement; and, if the Town of Van Horn is selected to receive a grant, authorizes the use funds and/or in-kind contributions specified in the Funding Plan in the application.

RESOLUTION PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ON THIS 25th DAY OF APRIL 2022.



Rebecca L. Brewster
Mayor

ATTEST:


Fran Malaffronte
City Secretary

B. Letters of Project Support

Letter of Support from the Far West Texas Water Planning Group



April 5, 2022

Ms. Robin Graber
Water Resources and Planning Office
United States Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 25007, MS 86-6300
Denver, CO 80225

RE: Letter of Support for the Metering and SCADA Project Proposed by Van Horn, Texas

Dear Ms. Graber:

The Town of Van Horn is applying for funding under the WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2022 for a project titled *SCADA / Metering for Commercial Properties Project*. Van Horn is proposing to install new advanced municipal meters to conserve water from potential leaks and incentivize water use savings.

The Far West Texas Water Planning Group (WPG) pursuant to the State of Texas Water Code §16.05 is designated to develop the Region E Far West Texas Regional Water Plan with support from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The Far West Texas WPG is composed of voting members from 7 counties in West Texas representing 15 water use interest categories and non-voting representatives of public stakeholder agencies, including the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Staff from the Town of Van Horn also serves as a voting member in the Far West Texas WPG.

The Region E Far West Texas Regional Water Plan includes water management strategies that, when implemented, would develop, deliver, or treat additional water supply volumes or conserve water. The project proposed by the Town of Van Horn was submitted to become a recommended water management strategy as part of the 6th Cycle of Water Planning and will be listed in the upcoming 2026 Far West Texas Regional Water Plan. The plan is currently in development.

Because the *SCADA / Metering for Commercial Properties Project* was developed as part of the aforementioned planning efforts, the Far West Texas Water Planning Group supports the project proposed by the Town of Van Horn and recommends its funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jesus Reyes".

Jesus Reyes
Chair