



2021 Water Marketing Strategy Grants Projects

California

City of Vallejo Water Department, Water Marketing Strategy Development for Lake Curry Reservoir
Reclamation Funding: \$200,000 Total Project Cost: \$495,995

The City of Vallejo, located in Solano County, in northern California, will develop a water marketing strategy to support the beneficial use of Lake Curry. The lake formerly provided water to residents of the city but due to changes in state water quality standards it is no longer utilized. The goal is to identify and address physical, regulatory, and legal barriers to utilize Lake Curry water more broadly to support multiple users and the movement of water efficiently through the area to make the best use of the resource. The water marketing strategy will bring together farmers, ranchers; rural, domestic, and municipal users; environmental groups; and federal, state, and local governments to explore the development of a water market benefitting agricultural, municipal, and ecological needs.

San Luis Rey Indian Water Authority, San Luis Rey Indian Water Authority (SLRIWA) Water Marketing Strategy Plan
Reclamation Funding: \$200,000 Total Project Cost: \$400,000

The San Luis Rey Indian Water Authority (IWA), located in Northern San Diego County, California, will partner with five local Tribal Bands to develop a water marketing strategy to address both surface and groundwater resources. The goal of the strategy is to reduce dependence on imported water by developing water rights and infrastructure use agreements to move water to parts of the reservation that are not able to meet their demands, especially during times of drought. Along with the five Tribal Bands, the IWA is planning stakeholder outreach activities that include eight additional municipal water districts, two community service districts, six mutual water companies, and farm bureau and agricultural interests. In addition, the IWA will conduct a surface and groundwater inventory, and establish a format for ongoing coordination between the IWA, the Bands, and non-Indian entities to support water supply reliability.

Colorado

City of Thornton, City of Thornton Northern Properties Stewardship Plan: Water Optimization Market Feasibility Study
Reclamation Funding: \$275,000 Total Project Cost: \$550,000

The City of Thornton, in Colorado, will develop a water marketing strategy for Larimer and Weld Counties in northern Colorado, where the city owns 18,751 acres of farmland and associated water rights. The project will include: (1) legal assessment; (2) land use assessment; (3) farmland conservation assessment; (4) market analysis; (5) economic modeling; and (6) hypothetical case study scenarios. The city will explore market transactions that could be used to optimize application of limited water supplies with the goal of creating a Water Optimization Market to retain more prime farmland in production, while meeting the needs of expanding municipalities. Committed partners and stakeholders include Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the City of Greeley, the Water Supply and Storage Company, Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Poudre Runs Through It, Metro Roundtable, and Colorado Open Lands.

Rio Grande Water Conservation District, Colorado's Rio Grande Basin Water Cooperative Project
Reclamation Funding: \$212,755 Total Project Cost: \$425,511

The Rio Grande Water Conservation District (RGWCD), located in Alamosa, Colorado, will conduct outreach and planning in collaboration with local groundwater management subdistricts to develop a water marketing strategy to

maintain agricultural production in the San Luis Valley and prevent permanent dry-up of historically irrigated lands. Development of a water marketing program, combined with ongoing efforts including land fallowing and withdrawal reductions, will help groundwater management subdistricts manage impacts from groundwater pumping to surface streams, and address a 16,000 acre-foot per year shortfall in order to sustain continued agricultural irrigation. The effort will include analysis of potential water rights for participation in a water market, storage and infrastructure needs, and potential benefits or impacts to socio-economic, environmental, and recreational values within the basin. Committed partners include the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Colorado Open Lands, Trout Unlimited, the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust and the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center at Adams State University.

Utah

Mt. Nebo Water Agency, South Utah County Water Banking Strategy

Reclamation Funding: \$44,000

Total Project Cost: \$88,460

The Mount Nebo Water Agency will develop a water banking strategy for southern Utah County, located southwest of Provo, Utah. Utah County is the second most populated county in the state and agriculture remains dominant in the area, with 55,647 acres of irrigated farmland. Water supplies in this area are overallocated and interim water supplies historically provided to agricultural irrigators from the Central Utah Project are now being shifted to municipal use. The water agency, which includes a group of eight, local municipal and agricultural water users, will conduct outreach to water users throughout southern Utah County, detailed scoping activities, and will develop a South Utah County Water Banking Strategy for submittal to the Utah Board of Water Resources to establish the Mount Nebo Water Bank under Utah's recently passed water marketing legislation.

Washington

Selah Moxee Irrigation District, Easy Moxie Declining Groundwater Area Water Marketing Strategy

Reclamation Funding: \$150,000

Total Project Cost: \$480,000

The Selah Moxee Irrigation District (SMID), in Yakima County, Washington, will expand on their current water marketing strategy to address the declining groundwater in the East Moxee Area of the Yakima Basin. Water users in this area, which includes over 7,400 acres of irrigated farmland, commercial business, and municipal uses, rely on groundwater, which is declining as much as 13 feet per year for the last few decades. SMID will build on support for the water marketing concept garnered through their 2018 WaterSMART Water Marketing Strategy Grant to expand landowner outreach, integrate consideration of out-of-basin supply, evaluate potential economic impacts, and develop inter-local agreements for water marketing. A water market strategy document that will detail SMID's water market structure including implementation and operation. This project will benefit multiple water sectors by increasing the overall water supply and is supported by local farmers, local and state government entities, including Washington's Department of Ecology, Department of Commerce and state legislature.

TransAlta Centralia Generation, LLC, TransAlta Centralia Water Marketing Strategy

Reclamation Funding: \$60,000

Total Project Cost: \$120,000

TransAlta Centralia Generating, a power plant in Centralia, in western Washington, will explore the potential to utilize their year-round water right as a water bank to supplement agricultural, municipal, environmental, and recreational uses within the Chehalis River Basin. TransAlta is anticipating a large decline in water use for energy production as they are transitioning away from coal-based power production and plan to cease coal-based operations completely in 2025. The Chehalis watershed faces competing water needs for irrigated agriculture, instream flow requirements for water quality and fish migration, including flows benefitting the Chinook, Coho, Winter Steelhead and Cutthroat Trout populations in the Skookumchuck River, population growth, and low summer and early fall streamflows. The new water bank has the potential to increase the overall water supply, improve water reliability, increase drought resiliency, and provide protection for environmental flows. The City of Centralia and the State Department of Ecology are collaborating with TransAlta to support planning and outreach activities as part of the study.

