



## **WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for Fiscal Year 2023**

Bureau of Reclamation Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R23AS00008

### **Santa Barbara County Water Agency Water-Wise Landscape Rebate Program**



**July 28, 2022**

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## Contents

<b>TECHNICAL PROPOSAL AND EVALUATION CRITERIA .....</b>	<b>2</b>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	2
PROJECT SUMMARY .....	3
PROJECT LOCATION .....	3
TECHNICAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION .....	4
<b>EVALUATION CRITERIA .....</b>	<b>7</b>
E.1.1. EVALUATION CRITERION A—QUANTIFIABLE WATER SAVINGS (28 POINTS).....	7
E.1.2. EVALUATION CRITERION B—RENEWABLE ENERGY (20 POINTS) .....	17
E.1.2. EVALUATION CRITERION B—RENEWABLE ENERGY (20 POINTS) .....	17
<i>E.1.2.2. Subcriterion No. B.2: Increasing Energy Efficiency in Water Management .....</i>	<i>17</i>
MOST WATER SYSTEMS IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY USE RENEWAL ENERGY THROUGH 3CE.....	21
E.1.3. EVALUATION CRITERION C—SUSTAINABILITY BENEFITS (20 POINTS).....	21
E.1.4. EVALUATION CRITERION D—COMPLEMENTING ON-FARM IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENTS (10 POINTS) .....	29
E.1.5. EVALUATION CRITERION E—PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION (8 POINTS).....	29
<i>E.1.5.1. Subcriterion E.1—Project Planning .....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>E.1.5.2. Subcriterion E.2—Readiness to Proceed.....</i>	<i>32</i>
E.1.6. EVALUATION CRITERION F—COLLABORATION (6 POINTS) .....	33
E.1.7. EVALUATION CRITERION G—ADDITIONAL NON-FEDERAL FUNDING (4 POINTS) .....	35
E.1.8. EVALUATION CRITERION H—NEXUS TO RECLAMATION (4 POINTS) .....	35
PERFORMANCE MEASURES .....	37
<b>PROJECT BUDGET .....</b>	<b>38</b>
BUDGET PROPOSAL AND FUNDING PLAN .....	38
BUDGET NARRATIVE.....	40
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>REQUIRED PERMITS OR APPROVALS.....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>LETTERS OF SUPPORT .....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>LETTERS OF PARTNERSHIP .....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>OFFICIAL RESOLUTION .....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>OVERLAP OR DUPLICATION OF EFFORT STATEMENT .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>UNIFORM AUDIT REPORTING STATEMENT.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS.....</b>	<b>47</b>
ATTACHMENT 1: EPA’S POWER PROFILER FOR THE CAMX REGION	
ATTACHMENT 2: EPA GREENHOUSE GAS EQUIVALENCIES CALCULATOR	
ATTACHMENT 3: U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE INFORMATION FOR PLANNING AND CONSULTATION (IPAC)	

WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2023 – R23AS00008  
Santa Barbara County Water Agency *Water-Wise Landscape Rebate Program*

- ATTACHMENT 4: BUREAU OF RECLAMATION DAC MAPPING TOOL
- ATTACHMENT 5: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU STATISTICS
- ATTACHMENT 6: LETTERS OF COMMITMENT
- ATTACHMENT 7: LETTERS OF SUPPORT
- ATTACHMENT 8: 2015 RWEPP MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
- ATTACHMENT 9: 2021 RWP POLICY MEMORANDUM
- ATTACHMENT 10: U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY
- ATTACHMENT 11: OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

## TECHNICAL PROPOSAL AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

### Executive Summary

Date:	July 28, 2022
Applicant Name:	Santa Barbara County Water Agency
City, County, and State:	Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, California
Category Applicant:	Category A
Funding Group:	Group 1
Project Duration:	Two years, ending 24 months after start date
Estimated Project Completion Date:	June 2025
Located on Federal Facility:	This project is not located on any Federal Facility

## Project Summary

Located on the Central Coast of California, Santa Barbara County is experiencing the driest 10-year period in more than 100 years of record. Water conservation remains essential for the preservation of our region's safe and reliable drinking water supplies. Since 1945, the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (SBCWA) has administered the Cachuma Project and Twitchell Dam Project contracts with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), providing regional water services including coordinating the Regional Water Efficiency Program (RWEP) amongst member unit agencies. RWEP initiatives has helped save billions of gallons of water, improving our region's water reliability and security by reducing demand on local and imported water sources. Through this proposed Project, SBCWA along with seven partnering local water purveyors will administer a regional *Water Wise Landscape Rebate Program* (Project) to provide funding incentives for increased outdoor water savings. The Project will improve water efficiency by reducing outdoor water usage through measures such as turf removal, irrigation efficiency, native and water-wise plants. The Project will result in an estimated recurring annual savings of 122.7 acre-feet per year (AFY) after replacing 1,251,800 square-feet (sqft) of lawn with water-wise landscapes by the end of the two-year installation (project) period. The cumulative impact is estimated to result in a total of 1,840.5 AF of water savings over the life of the project (15 years<sup>1</sup>). The Project is supported by SBCWA and water purveyors' Water Management Plans, 2018 Water Conservation and Drought Planning Legislation SB 606 and AB 1668, and statewide emergency regulations for water conservation in effect.

## Project Location

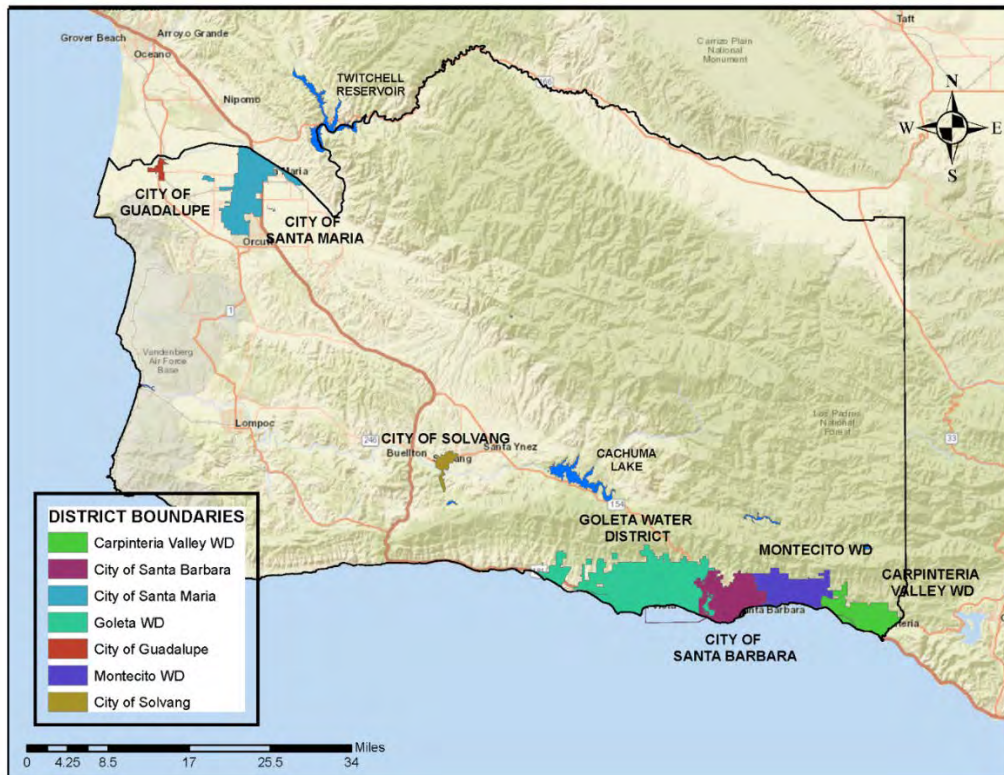
The proposed Project is located within participating water purveyor service areas in Santa Barbara County, California as outlined in the map below. Santa Barbara County is on the Central Coast of California, approximately 100 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. The Project consists of landscape upgrades located on private property in service areas of the following participating water purveyors in Santa Barbara County:

1. Carpinteria Valley Water District
2. Montecito Water District
3. City of Santa Barbara
4. Goleta Water District
5. City of Solvang
6. City of Guadalupe
7. City of Santa Maria

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<sup>1</sup> The average life expectancy for drip irrigation system is 12-20 years. The landscape conversions in this Project will convert sprinkler systems to drip irrigation or to landscapes with no irrigation.

<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/agriculture/subsurface-drip-irrigation-sdi-4-716/>



**Figure 1: SBCWA District Boundaries**

### Technical Project Description

SBCWA and participating local water purveyors in Santa Barbara County propose to collaborate on Project to offer landscape rebates to non-agricultural customers for water efficient landscape upgrades. The goals of the Project are to remove turf, retrofit irrigation systems for efficiency, and increase water and energy savings.

### Customer Rebate Eligibility

Any non-agricultural potable water customer of a participating water purveyor may be eligible to participate, including schools and other public facilities. Participation in the Project is voluntary. The water purveyor will determine their customer’s eligibility to participate; each water purveyor can set its own eligibility criterion which is at least as strict as the general program eligibility requirements.

Customers must meet eligibility requirements before starting any aspect of the Project. Funding will be first-come, first-served. After completion of the project, a post-inspection (virtual, onsite, or online upload of documents) is required to determine the rebate amount. Funding is not retroactive. Properties must have a current or a recent history of living, watered turf grass. Irrigation must be present and functioning to be eligible for the upgrade, and a functioning irrigation controller must be installed to be eligible for upgrade funding.

### What is Eligible for Rebates?

The Project includes landscape design assistance, efficient irrigation, water wise plants, and/or turf grass replacement rebates to provide flexibility for interested and eligible water customers to participate. Only retrofitted/replaced items are eligible for rebates; no new items will be eligible that are not replacing the same kind of item unless they are part of a major system-wide or process change pre-approved by the water purveyor. Each water purveyor will have at least one of the following items as the foundation of their rebate program (1) turf replacement, (2) irrigation efficiency retrofits (overhead sprinkler to drip retrofit or eliminate), (3) native and water-wise plant selections. Some purveyors will incentivize optional items such as the incorporation of watershed wise landscaping.

### Eligible Efficient Irrigation Equipment

- Retrofit existing spray nozzles to low precipitation nozzles
- Retrofit existing spray irrigation to drip
- Smart irrigation controller
- Pressure reducing valve for irrigation supply line
- Laundry to landscape graywater components
- Rain capture features, ie. rain barrels, that offset irrigation water use with rainwater

### Rebate Specifications

The program covers a portion of the cost of approved eligible items, such as certain equipment, landscaping material, etc.

- The rebate amounts will not exceed 50% of the products/items eligible for the rebate
- Rebates may be set dollar amounts based on the square footage of landscape converted
- The rebate can cover up to 50% of design costs for the new landscape, up to a maximum of \$250, which is included in the maximum rebate for each customer
- Landscape retrofits may qualify for a maximum rebate of up to \$1,500 per residential customer, up to \$2,500 per commercial meter (Commercial Industrial and Institutional (CII), Multi-Family Residential (MFR) with 5+ Units, and Home Owners Association (HOA)), and up to \$5,000 per facility. However, any participating water purveyor may set a lower limit on rebate amounts and may allow only some of the equipment and/or materials to be eligible, e.g. “cash for grass” only or some other factor not to exceed the limits stated above.

### The Water Wise Landscape Rebate Program Customer Process

#### 1. *Direct Application to Participating Water Purveyor*

Interested water customers must apply to start the review process for their landscape rebate project. Documentation, such as “before” photos of the entire area in which the landscape retrofit is proposed to take place, square footage of irrigated turf to be removed, water usage, etc., will be required. SBCWA will host a webpage on the existing regional water conservation website with rebate program instructions and additional information with direct links to participating water purveyor webpages to apply.

### *2. Pre-Qualifying Irrigation and Site Assessment*

Free to customers, each participating local water purveyor will schedule and conduct a Pre-Qualifying Site Assessment onsite or virtual of the property to confirm minimum eligibility requirements and to determine whether removal and/or conversion of the landscape is possible given existing conditions of the customer's irrigation system and property.

Rebate amounts must be approved by participating water purveyors before the start of each project, as part of the water conservation evaluation by the water purveyor. The water purveyor may preauthorize water conservation items and/or water wise plants. Customers cannot begin their project until they have been notified to proceed by their water purveyor.

### *3. Performance Period*

After the water purveyor deems the property eligible for participation, the property owner is given up to 120 days to complete a landscape conversion. Subject to approval, participants may be granted extensions. The purveyor will stipulate a time period during which the installation/implementation must occur to be eligible for a rebate.

### *4. Post-Conversion Site Inspection*

Upon notice from the customer that a conversion is complete, the water purveyor will inspect the landscape conversion site to ensure the appropriate installation of pre-approved products/items and to determine the square footage eligible for the rebate. Participants can request an extension of up to 60 days. Water purveyors may perform the evaluation and verification virtually and/or via submitted photographs and landscape plans. Water purveyor enters and maintains data on retrofits and costs, calculates rebate amount, and provides the customer with a rebate check.

### **Rebate Application Timeline**

On average, the entire process will take approximately one to five months from the initial submittal of the customer's an application form.

### **Project Management and Roles**

SBCWA will manage the Project and will work with participating water purveyors to administer the Project in their direct service areas. SBCWA's matching funds will be used for outreach, training, and pre-assessment survey assistance in support of the Project. Outreach includes advertising, public workshops, website management and informational materials (e.g. videos, flyers) to promote the program and educate participants. Landscape design trainings or workshops may be organized to promote a watershed approach, sustainable landscaping design and installation as well as provide training for water purveyor staff to perform landscape site assessments and evaluations. SBCWA will contract out to assist water purveyors with conducting larger landscape pre-assessments and surveys for CII, Multi-Family Residential (5+



Units), and HOA participating customers. It is not anticipated that additional equipment will be needed to perform the Project.

Water purveyors' matching funds will be used for rebate dollars to customers deemed eligible. Reclamation grant funds will be available on a first come first served basis for participating water purveyors who have the cash match. Participating water purveyors will provide an instant rebate upon installation, that will be invoiced to SBCWA, based on the square footage of turf replaced with sustainable landscaping.

### Grant Reporting

Water purveyors will send quarterly progress reports and cost/rebate data to SBCWA using agreed-upon forms/formats. Purveyors will ensure their expenditures meet or exceed the grant agreement's "local match" requirement. SBCWA will send reimbursement check to water purveyors quarterly.

SBCWA will compile data into a single progress report and cost/rebate data into financial report to Reclamation. SBCWA will invoice Reclamation for reimbursement for payments made to participating water purveyors.

### Data Tracking

Water purveyors will track participating customers' monthly water usage at the end of the grant period. Purveyors will report water usage data to SBCWA for reporting to Reclamation.

## Evaluation Criteria

### E.1.1. Evaluation Criterion A—Quantifiable Water Savings (28 points)

- 1) **Describe the amount of estimated water savings.** For projects that conserve water, please state the estimated amount of water expected to be conserved (in acre-feet per year) as a direct result of this project.

During the two-year project period, SBCWA expects to convert 1,251,800 sqft of turf under the Project eligibility requirements, which will result in 245.4 AF of water savings after Project completion. It is unlikely that all the savings will be realized in one year and accrued over the two-year project window. The expected life of improvements of the project is to be 15 years. Thus, the cumulative water savings is estimated to be 1,840.5 AF over life of the project.

The following Table 1 is inclusive of the water savings of the complete rebate program: the combination of turf removal, efficient irrigation system upgrades, and replacement with water-wise plants. The water savings reflect the amount of water saved when sprinkler-watered turfgrass is replaced with water-wise plants and drip irrigation.

**Table 1: Summary of Estimated Average Total Water Savings**

Customer Type	Avg Sq Ft per Project	Avg Annual Savings per Project (Gallons)	Total Estimated Number of Rebate Projects	Anticipated Savings (Gallons/Yr)	Anticipated Savings Total (AFY)	Anticipated Savings Total of 15 Year Lifetime of Project (AF)
Single Family and Small Multi-Family	1,200	38,886	639	24,848,154	76.3	1,144.5
Dedicated Irrigation and Large Multi-Family	3,000	93,418	90	8,407,620	25.8	387
Commercial and HOA	5,000	155,706	43	6,695,358	20.6	309
<b>Total</b>			<b>772</b>	<b>39,951,132</b>	<b>122.7</b>	<b>1,840.5</b>

**Table 2: Estimated Number of Rebates and Annual Water Savings per Water Purveyor**

Water Purveyor	Estimated Total Number of Rebates	Estimated Annual Water Savings (AF)*
City of Santa Barbara	172	34.0
Montecito WD	70	10.1
City of Solvang	6	0.9
Goleta Water District	300	41.1
Carpinteria Valley WD	52	9.7
City of Guadalupe	80	12.2
City of Santa Maria	92	14.8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>122.7</b>

\*Annual water savings will be realized in the year after 772 landscape conversion projects are installed over the two-year Project and will begin in Year 3.

2) **Describe current losses:** Please explain where the water that will be conserved is currently going and how it is being used. Consider the following:

a) Explain where current losses are going (e.g., back to the stream, spilled at the end of the ditch, seeping into the ground)?

Water that will be conserved by this project would currently be lost through a variety of pathways, including water loss due to evaporation as a result of inefficient overhead irrigation practices, water loss due to urban runoff due to overwatering and poorly managed

irrigation, and excessive water loss due to transpiration from plants with high evapotranspiration (ET) such as turf grass. It is estimated that as much as 50% of the water applied outdoors is wasted through evaporation, wind, and runoff according to [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) WaterSense Water Efficiency Management Guide, 2017](#). Water loss below the root zone due to overwatering is currently the only 'recoverable' water.

b) If known, please explain how current losses are being used. For example, are current losses returning to the system for use by others? Are current losses entering an impaired groundwater table becoming unsuitable for future use?

Per 3.2 Watershed Characterization in the [2018 Santa Barbara County-Wide Integrated Stormwater Resource Plan](#), most water is currently lost to either ET or to storm drains and the ocean while a small percentage of water would infiltrate into the groundwater table. Water conserved by this project will remain in local surface water reservoirs such as Lake Cachuma, within local groundwater basins, or remain unrequested water via the State Water Project (SWP). These savings will help reduce pressure on local and statewide water supplies and provide an additional buffer during times of drought.

c) Are there any known benefits associated with where the current losses are going? For example, is seepage water providing additional habitat for fish or animal species?

This program will be in urban areas where runoff from overwatering typically flows toward the street and into the storm drains. As it is conveyed into the receiving water, this non-rain, urban runoff becomes contaminated with pollutants such as organic debris (grass clippings, etc), trash, and may also contain fertilizers and pesticides from turf and gardens. These excess flows do not provide healthy habitat for fish or animal species. This program will reduce the amount of non-storm runoff by increasing moisture retention in landscaped areas and decreasing irrigation. According to Per 3.2 Watershed Characterization in the [2018 Santa Barbara County-Wide Integrated Stormwater Resource Plan](#), reduced non-storm runoff results in 1) less pollutants entering receiving waters and 2) restoring the natural hydrologic regime and watershed processes. These outcomes will improve riparian health of receiving waters, improving habitat for terrestrial and aquatic life.

3) ***Describe the support/documentation of estimated water savings:*** Please provide sufficient detail supporting how the estimate was determined, including all supporting calculations. Note: projects that do not provide sufficient supporting detail/calculations may not receive credit under this section. Please be sure to consider the questions associated with your project type (listed below) when determining the estimated water savings, along with the necessary support needed for a full review of your proposal.

*In addition, please note that the use of visual observations alone to calculate water savings, without additional documentation/data, are **not** sufficient to receive credit under this section. Further, the water savings must be the result of reducing or eliminating a current, ongoing loss, not the result of an expected future loss.*

Annual water savings estimates are calculated using standard equations for landscape water budgeting in reference to California’s Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) and Irrigation Association’s *Landscape Irrigation Best Management Practices*. Landscape water budgeting is a process of comparing the landscape water allowance to the estimated landscape irrigation requirement. The calculation is done using reference evapotranspiration data and an adjustment factor to modify the ET. The adjustment factor should reflect the available water for maintaining the landscape or other goals that are established by the owner of the project or a green initiative such as the EPA WaterSense, LEED, Sustainable Sites, or local ordinances such as California’s MWELO. Many programs use the peak demand month (highest reference ETo and least amount of rainfall) to determine the landscape water allowance (LWA), therefore influencing the type of plants that should be used.

#### Landscape Water Allowance (LWA)

For this post-rebate calculations below, full project completion is used. That entails turf removal, drip irrigation retrofits, and installation of water-wise or native plants. Following is a general formula for calculating an LWA for any time period:

$$\mathbf{LWA = ETo \times AF \times LA \times 0.623 \times LF}$$
 \*where LWA = landscape water allowance {gallons}

**ETo** = reference evapotranspiration for the time period {in.}

**AF** = an ET adjustment factor can be used as follows: Normally  $\leq 1.0$ , reflecting water needs of the plant material. The maximum water a purveyor or regulatory authority will provide or allow to be used for landscape irrigation. It is typically set between 0.60 and 0.80, depending on the available water supply or to promote conservation. Takes into account Plant Factor (PF) and Irrigation Efficiency (IE).

**LA** = landscape area of the irrigated landscape in square feet {sqft}

**0.623** = conversion factor to convert inches to gallons of water.

**LF** = leaching factor (optional), greater than 1.0 based on water quality and soil type. This is an optional multiplier used in cases of poor water quality (i.e., recycled, surface, or brackish sources).

#### *Landscape Water Need Calculations Pre and Post Rebate Project*

$$\mathbf{LWA = ETo \times PF/IE \times LA \times .62 = X \text{ gallons/year}}$$

#### *Countywide Average Square Feet of Turf Replaced per Customer Type in Square Feet (sqft)*

WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2023 – R23AS00008  
 Santa Barbara County Water Agency *Water-Wise Landscape Rebate Program*

Single Family and Small Multi-Family (1-4 dwelling units):	1,200 sqft
Dedicated Irrigation and Large Multi-Family (5+ dwelling units):	3,000 sqft
Commercial, Institutional, Industrial and HOA:	5,000 sqft

*Single Family Residential/Small Multi-Family Property*

Pre-Rebate

LA = Landscape Area of Lawn in square feet (sqft)	1,200
ETo = Reference Evapotranspiration (County of Santa Barbara Avg)	49”*
*See Table 3 for reference	
PF = Plant Factor (turfgrass)	70%*
*Average of warm season (60%) and cool season (80%) grass= 70% <sup>2</sup>	
IE = Irrigation Efficiency (old pop-ups)	50%

$$LWA = ETo \times PF/IE \times LA \times .62 = X \text{ gallons/year}$$

$$LWA = 49 \times 70/50 \times 1200 \times .62 \text{ (gallon conversion)} = 51,038 \text{ gallons/year needed for lawn}$$

Post-Rebate

Change the landscape to low water using plants and convert the irrigation to drip. The plant factor is 30%, and the irrigation efficiency is 90%

ETo Reference Evapotranspiration (same)	49”
PF = Plant Factor (water wise plants)	30%
IE = Irrigation Efficiency (drip)	90%
LA = Landscape Area of Lawn in square feet (sqft)	1,200

$$LWA = ETo \times PF/IE \times LA \times .62 = X \text{ gallons/year}$$

$$LWA = 49 \times 30/90 \times 1,200 \times .62 = 12,152 \text{ gallons/year for water-wise landscape}$$

**Savings:**

$$51,038 - 12,152 = \text{Savings of } 38,886 \text{ gallons per year per Single Family Residential project}$$

*Dedicated Irrigation and Large Multi-Family (5+ dwelling units) Property:*

Pre-Rebate:

ETo = Reference Evapotranspiration (same)	49”
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<sup>2</sup>

[https://ucanr.edu/sites/UrbanHort/Water\\_Use\\_of\\_Turfgrass\\_and\\_Landscape\\_Plant\\_Materials/Turfgrass\\_Crop\\_Coefficients\\_Kc/](https://ucanr.edu/sites/UrbanHort/Water_Use_of_Turfgrass_and_Landscape_Plant_Materials/Turfgrass_Crop_Coefficients_Kc/)

WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2023 – R23AS00008  
 Santa Barbara County Water Agency *Water-Wise Landscape Rebate Program*

PF = Plant Factor (turfgrass)	70%*
*Average of warm season (60%) and cool season (80%) grass= 70% <sup>3</sup>	
IE = Irrigation Efficiency (old pop-ups)	50%
LA = Landscape Area of Lawn in square feet (sqft)	3,000

$LWA = ETo \times PF/IE \times LA \times .62 = X \text{ gallons/year}$

$LWA = 49 \times 70/50 \times 3,000 \times .62 = 127,596 \text{ gallons/year for lawn}$

Post-Rebate:

Change the landscape to low water using plants and convert the irrigation to a combination of high-efficiency rotating nozzles and drip. The plant factor is 30%, and the irrigation efficiency is 80% to account for rotating nozzles.

ETo = Reference Evapotranspiration (same)	49"
PF = Plant Factor (water wise plants)	30%
IE = Irrigation Efficiency (rotating nozzles)	80%
LA = Landscape Area of Lawn in square feet (sqft)	3,000

$LWA = ETo \times PF/IE \times LA \times .62 = X \text{ gallons/year}$

$LWA = 49 \times 30/80 \times 3,000 \times .62 = 34,178 \text{ gallons/year for water-wise landscape}$

**Savings:**

127,596 – 34,178 = Savings of 93,418 gallons per year per Multi-Family Residential project.

*CII and HOA:*

Pre-Rebate:

ETo = Reference Evapotranspiration (same)	49"
PF = Plant Factor (turfgrass)	70%*
*Average of warm season (60%) and cool season (80%) grass= 70% <sup>4</sup>	
IE = Irrigation Efficiency (old pop-ups)	50%
LA = Landscape Area of Lawn in square feet (sqft)	5,000

$LWA = ETo \times PF/IE \times LA \times .62 = X \text{ gallons/year}$

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<sup>3</sup>

[https://ucanr.edu/sites/UrbanHort/Water\\_Use\\_of\\_Turfgrass\\_and\\_Landscape\\_Plant\\_Materials/Turfgrass\\_Crop\\_Coefficients\\_Kc/](https://ucanr.edu/sites/UrbanHort/Water_Use_of_Turfgrass_and_Landscape_Plant_Materials/Turfgrass_Crop_Coefficients_Kc/)

<sup>4</sup>

[https://ucanr.edu/sites/UrbanHort/Water\\_Use\\_of\\_Turfgrass\\_and\\_Landscape\\_Plant\\_Materials/Turfgrass\\_Crop\\_Coefficients\\_Kc/](https://ucanr.edu/sites/UrbanHort/Water_Use_of_Turfgrass_and_Landscape_Plant_Materials/Turfgrass_Crop_Coefficients_Kc/)

WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2023 – R23AS00008  
 Santa Barbara County Water Agency *Water-Wise Landscape Rebate Program*

LWA =  $49 \times 70/50 \times 5,000 \times .62 = 212,660$  gallons / year needed for lawn

Post-Rebate:

Change the landscape to low water using plants and convert the irrigation to a combination of high efficiency rotating nozzles and drip. The plant factor is 30%, and the irrigation efficiency is 80% to account for rotating nozzles.

ETo = Reference Evapotranspiration (same)	49"
PF = Plant Factor (water wise plants)	30%
IE = Irrigation Efficiency (rotating nozzles)	80%
LA = Landscape Area of Lawn in square feet (sqft)	5,000

LWA =  $ETo \times PF/IE \times LA \times .62 = X$  gallons/year

LWA =  $49 \times 30/80 \times 5000 \times .62 = 56,963$  gallons / year for new landscape

**Savings:**

$212,660 - 56,963 =$  Savings 155,698 gallons per year for CII/HOA project

**Table 3: California Irrigation Management Information System's (CIMIS) Monthly Average ETo Report for Santa Barbara (Countywide ETo Average in/yr)**

California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS)

**CIMIS Monthly Average ETo Report**

Rendered in ENGLISH Units.  
 Printed on Friday, June 10, 2022

Average Countywide ETo = 49.09 in

Average ETo Values by Station

Stn Id	Stn Name	CIMIS Region	Jan (in)	Feb (in)	Mar (in)	Apr (in)	May (in)	Jun (in)	Jul (in)	Aug (in)	Sep (in)	Oct (in)	Nov (in)	Dec (in)	Total (in)
84	Santa Ynez	CCV	1.85	2.44	3.79	5.06	6.01	6.42	6.64	6.17	4.82	3.68	2.33	1.61	50.82
88	Cuyama	CCV	2.16	2.60	4.08	5.56	7.22	8.30	8.71	7.96	6.03	4.37	2.85	1.94	61.58
107	Santa Barbara	CCV	1.77	2.39	3.63	4.51	5.02	4.95	5.44	5.19	4.04	3.24	2.14	1.66	43.98
165	Sisquoc	CCV	2.23	2.67	3.98	4.90	5.90	6.26	6.36	5.75	4.57	3.55	2.44	1.78	50.35
231	Lompoc	CCV	2.13	2.43	3.68	4.65	5.39	4.80	4.51	3.92	3.12	2.64	1.70	1.53	40.50
232	Santa Maria II	CCV	2.13	2.71	3.92	4.76	5.57	5.58	5.58	5.12	4.30	3.56	2.33	1.77	47.33

CIMIS Region Abbreviations		
BIS - Bishop	CCV - Central Coast Valleys	ICV - Imperial/Coachella Valley
LAB - Los Angeles Basin	MBY - Monterey Bay	NCV - North Coast Valleys
NEP - Northeast Plateau	SAV - Sacramento Valley	SBE - San Bernardino
SFB - San Francisco Bay	SJV - San Joaquin Valley	SFH - Sierra Foothill
SCV - South Coast Valleys		

The rebate dollar amount is determined by each water purveyor's rebate program, not to exceed a maximum rebate of up to \$1,500 per residential customer, up to \$2,500 per commercial meter (CII, Multi-Family Residential with 5+ Units, and HOA), and up to \$5,000 per

facility. Participating water purveyors may set a lower limit on rebate amounts and may allow only some of the equipment and/or materials to be eligible (e.g. “cash for grass”) or some other factor not to exceed the limits stated above. Calculations for rebates are determined by each water purveyor’s project funding amount, which is listed under the Project budget Section.

**4) Please address the following questions according to the type of infrastructure improvement you are proposing for funding.**

**Turf Removal**

- a) How have average annual water savings estimates been determined? Please provide all relevant calculations, assumptions, and supporting data.

Average annual water savings estimates are determined using the theoretical irrigation requirement to calculate the difference between pre and post-project water consumption. More specifically, estimated water savings are determined by the total estimated quantity of turf to be removed, the estimated historical annual average quantity of water applied per unit area of turf, and the estimated amount of water to be applied to any replacement landscape vegetation. In areas where winter irrigation occurs and dedicated irrigation meter data are not available, weather data can be used to estimate theoretical irrigation demand. These calculations consider ET values from local weather stations, a crop coefficient for the type of grass, and an assumed average irrigation efficiency rate. Calculations, assumptions, and supporting data for estimated water savings are detailed in Section E.1.1.3 Evaluation Criterion A – Quantifiable Water Savings.

- b) What is the total surface area of turf to be removed and what is the estimated average annual turf consumptive use rate per unit area?

The total surface area of turf to be removed is 1,251,800 sqft as shown in Table 4 below.

**Table 4: Estimated Average Total Surface Area of Turf to Be Removed**

Customer Type	Avg Sqft per Project	Total Estimated Number of Rebate Projects Countywide	Total Estimated Area of Turf Removed (Sqft)
Single Family and Small Multi-Family	1,200	639	766,800
Dedicated Irrigation and Large Multi-Family	3,000	90	270,000
Commercial and HOA	5,000	43	215,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>772</b>	<b>1,251,800</b>

The estimated average annual turf consumptive use rate saved is 31.9 gallons per square foot (sqft) per year as calculated below:



Estimated total water savings per year = 122.7 AF

Estimated total surface area of turf to be removed per year = 1,251,800 sqft

1 AF = 325,851.4 gallons

$122.7 \text{ AF} \times (325,851.4 \text{ gallons} / 1 \text{ AF}) = 39,981,966.8 \text{ gallons saved annually}$

$39,981,966.8 \text{ gallons} / 1,251,800 \text{ ft}^2 = 31.9 \text{ gallons/sqft}$

- c) Was historical water consumption data evaluated to estimate average annual turf consumptive use per unit area? If so, did the evaluation include a weather adjustment component?

Water consumption data is compared pre and post-project landscape conversion using the historical average amount of water applied for turf irrigation based on actual water consumption data. Water savings in the City of Santa Barbara from a previous turf removal program corroborate the current estimates used in the proposed project.

For example, the average water savings per water customer that received a rebate for the City of Santa Barbara's past turf removal rebate program was 0.2 AFY. Consumption data before and after the rebate was compiled for each account that received a rebate during the run of the program, a total of 1,585 accounts with rebate dates ranging from April 2009 to November 2020. The consumption data for each account was analyzed to find the average usage before and after the account received the rebate. Consumption data before the landscape rebate date was averaged starting with data in January 2006. All available consumption data after each account's rebate date was averaged as well, ending with April 2022 data. The average consumption in hundred cubic feet (HCF) after the rebate was subtracted from the average consumption in HCF before the rebate to obtain the average difference in consumption per month. The average difference in HCF consumption per month was multiplied by the total months participating in the rebate program (from the rebate check date to April 2022). Finally, the total savings number was then converted to AF and divided by the total number of years since receiving the rebate to find the average AF saved per year. The data did not include an adjustment for periods of water use restrictions or weather.

From 2014-2020, square feet of turf replaced during the project was recorded for 841 accounts that received a rebate from 2014-2020. During this that six-year time period of the rebate program, a total of 984,592 sqft square feet of turf was replaced, with water savings of 236 gallons per sqft of turf replaced, resulting in total water savings of 118 AFY water saved per year.

Total Water Saved over 6 years of Rebate Program = 232,067,535 gallons

Total Turf Replaced = 984,592 sqft

$232,067,535 \text{ gallons} \div 984,592 \text{ sqft} = 236 \text{ gallons/sqft}$

Acre Feet of Savings per Year:

$$\frac{236 \text{ gal/sf} \times 984,592 \text{ sqft}}{325,851 \text{ gal/AF}} = 712 \text{ AF}$$

$$325,851 \text{ gal/AF}$$

$$712 \text{ AF} \div 6 \text{ Years} = 119 \text{ AFY}$$

d) Will site audits be performed before applicants are accepted into the program?

Yes, water purveyors will perform site audits of their customers to verify the installation of pre-approved products/items and to measure the turf removal eligible for the rebate. Purveyors may perform the evaluation and verification virtually and/or via submitted photographs and landscape plans. Each water purveyor will enter and maintain data on retrofits and costs, calculates the rebate amount, and provides the customer with a rebate check.

e) How will actual water savings be verified upon completion of the project?

Post-project methods will be used to quantify water savings upon completion of rebate projects. Before and after water use data for each site will be evaluated using at least one year of pre and post-project data.

#### E.1.1.4.5 Smart Irrigation Controllers, Controllers with Rain Sensor Shutoff, Drip Irrigation, and High Efficiency Nozzles

a) How have average annual water savings estimates been determined? Please provide all relevant calculations, assumptions, and supporting data.

The quantifiable water savings in the section above include the water savings of the new landscape after turf removal when switching from conventional pop-up sprinklers to drip irrigation for projects on single-family residential, small multi-family residential, dedicated irrigation meters, and large multi-family irrigation properties. For HOA and CII properties the quantifiable water savings above were determined by assuming a portion of the replaced turfgrass area would be watered with overhead irrigation with high-efficiency nozzles and a portion would be drip, based on water supplier's past rebate experience. Some rebate participants may choose to not install in-ground irrigation in the replaced water wise landscape which will result in even greater savings than if drip and high-efficiency nozzles were used.

b) Was historical water consumption data evaluated to estimate the percent reduction in water demand per unit area of irrigated landscape? If so, did the evaluation include a weather adjustment component?

Historical water consumption data was used to estimate the reduction in water demand per unit of irrigated landscape as described in 4c. The data did not include an adjustment for periods of water use restrictions or weather.

c) What types (manufacturer and model) of devices will be installed and what quantity of each?

Customers will have the ability to select the drip irrigation and high-efficiency nozzle manufacturer of their choosing. For the estimated quantifiable water savings, it was assumed that of the 772 total projects, 729 would convert from conventional sprinklers to drip irrigation and 43 would convert from conventional sprinklers to a combination of high-efficiency nozzles and drip irrigation. Some customers may choose to not install any new irrigation, which will result in increased water savings for the new landscape.

d) *Will the devices be installed through a rebate or direct-install program?*

Eligible devices will be installed through rebate program as part of the turf conversion rebate, there is no separate rebate program solely for irrigation components.

e) *Will site audits be performed before and after installation?*

Yes, water purveyors will perform site audits of their customers to verify the installation of pre-approved products/items and to measure the square footage of turf removal eligible for the rebate. Purveyors may perform the evaluation and verification virtually and/or via submitted photographs and landscape plans. Each purveyor will enter and maintain data on retrofits and costs, calculates the rebate amount, and provides the customer with a rebate check.

f) *How will actual water savings be verified upon completion of the project?*

Post-project methods will be used to quantify water savings upon completion of rebate projects. Before and after water use data for each site will be evaluated using at least one year of pre and post-project data.

### E.1.2. Evaluation Criterion B—Renewable Energy (20 points)

Not applicable.

### E.1.2. Evaluation Criterion B—Renewable Energy (20 points)

#### E.1.2.2. Subcriterion No. B.2: Increasing Energy Efficiency in Water Management

*Describe any energy efficiencies that are expected to result from implementation of the water conservation or water efficiency project (e.g., reduced pumping).*

- *If quantifiable energy savings is expected to result from the project, please provide sufficient details and supporting calculations. If quantifying energy savings, please state the estimated amount in kilowatt hours per year.*

Water savings from the Project are expected to reduce the energy required to extract, convey, treat, and deliver water. Water treatment and delivery are energy intensive. The proposed Project will save an estimated 122.7 AFY or 39,951,132 gallons of water annually. Thus, the total Project water savings yield an estimated 95,738 kilo-Watt hours (kWh) of energy conserved each year. Total estimated energy savings under the proposed Project are estimated

by calculating the power required to treat and deliver one AF of water to the average customer in each water purveyors’ service area as listed in Table 5.

Below are calculations to estimate the weighted average energy usage per AF and estimated Project savings for water purveyors. The City of Santa Barbara, a Project participating water purveyor, has the most diverse water supply portfolio and energy intensity water supplies in Santa Barbara County and, thus, was used as an example for these calculations. Below is energy usage in reference to the City of Santa Barbara’s [2020 Enhanced Urban Water Management Plan \(as Table 12\)](#):

**Table 5: Unit Energy Requirements (kWh/AF)**

Supply <sup>1</sup>	Transport, Production	Treatment	Distribution	Total
Lake Cachuma	--	140	310	450
Gibraltar Reservoir	--	140	310	450
Mission Tunnel	--	140	310	450
Groundwater, No Treatment	200	-- <sup>2</sup>	310	510
Groundwater, with Treatment	1,300	-- <sup>2</sup>	310	1,610
Desalination	5,310	-- <sup>3</sup>	-- <sup>3</sup>	5,310
State Water Project	2,520	140	310	2,970

Notes:

1. Estimates are the average of electrical consumption data from 2017 and 2018, except for desalination, which is from FY20.
2. Treatment component for groundwater is included in the production estimate.
3. Desalination energy for production, treatment, and distribution is combined because they are measured through a single electrical meter.

Water Year 2024 Supply Portfolio, excluding Recycled Water and Water Supplied to Montecito Water District, and Assuming Full Desal Production of 3,125 AFY:

- Cachuma: 4,901 AF
- Gibraltar/Mission Tunnel: 528 AF
- Desalination: 3,125 AF
- Groundwater (no treatment): 840 AF
- Groundwater (treatment at Ortega GWTP): 1,740 AF
- Imported SWP and/or Water Purchases: 0 AF
- Total: 11,134 AF

*Weighted Average Energy Usage per AF Calculation:*

- Cachuma: 4,901 AF \* 450 kWh/AF = 2,205,450 kWh
- Gibraltar/Mission Tunnel: 528 AF \* 450 kW-hr/AF = 237,600 kWh

- Desalination: 3,125 AF \* 5,310 kW-hr/AF = 16,593,750 kWh
- Groundwater (no treatment): 840 AF \* 510 kW-hr/AF = 428,400 kWh
- Groundwater (treat at Ortega GWTP): 1,740 AF \* 1,610 = 2,801,400 kWh
- Imported State Water Project and/or Water Purchases: 0 AF

The sum of the weighted energy usage = 22,266,600 kWh

This sum of weighted energy usage, 22,266,600 kWh divided by total AF energy use, 11,314 AF, to equal 2,000 kWh/AF weighted average for the City of Santa Barbara

Estimated Energy Savings from proposed Project:

Quantifiable water savings for one year for the City of Santa Barbara = 34 AF

2,000 kW-hr/AF \* 34 AF = 68,000 kWh of savings annually

**Table 6 – Estimate Project Energy Savings**

Water Purveyor	Project Water Savings (AF)	Energy System Intensity Weighted Average (kWh/AF)	Estimated Project Energy Savings (kWh/Yr)
Carpinteria Valley Water District	9.7	361	3,610
City of Guadalupe	12.2	575	7,015
City of Santa Barbara	34	2,000	68,000
City of Solvang	0.9	293*	293
Goleta Water District	41.1	158	6,494
Montecito Water District	10.1	447	4,515
City of Santa Maria	14.8	400	5,920
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>122.7</b>	<b>4,234</b>	<b>95,738</b>

\*Does not include water treatment.

- How will the energy efficiency improvement combat/offset the impacts of climate change, including an expected reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition to reduced energy associated with providing water, most water systems in Santa Barbara County use renewal energy through [3CE, California Coastal Clean Energy Program](#) (3CE). 3CE is a Community Choice Energy agency established by local communities to source clean and renewable electricity for counties in Central Coast California while retaining the utility provider’s traditional role of delivering power and maintaining electric infrastructure as well as billing.

The amount of carbon that would have been emitted by producing the power to treat and deliver the saved water is estimated using the EPA’s Power Profiler for the CAMX (California)

region. This is the *Emissions & Generation Resource Integrated Database (eGRID)* CAMX subregion covers the Santa Barbara County region, which predominantly receives electricity and produces approximately 0.5135 pounds (lbs.) of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions per kWh as shown in Attachment 1.

Using the [EPA Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator](#), the proposed Project avoids an estimated annual use of 149,579 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> or 67.8 metric tons (MT) as shown in Attachment 2. This is equivalent to removing 14.6 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles driven for one year. These savings compound annually as the non-functional turf is removed permanently.

- [If the project will result in reduced pumping, please describe the current pumping requirements and the types of pumps \(e.g., size\) currently being used. How would the proposed project impact the current pumping requirements and energy usage?](#)

A portion of the energy savings would come from reduced groundwater pumping. All participating water purveyors own and operate groundwater pumps as needed to produce groundwater supplies. As drought persists, local purveyors depend more on groundwater sources, which are more energy intensive than local surface water resources. The anticipated impact from the proposed Project is reduced groundwater pumping and associated energy usage.

There are a range of pump sizes among all participating water purveyors. The following are examples from the three largest water purveyors. Goleta Water District operates six active of nine total wells that range in production capacity from 125 gallons per minute (GPM) to 850 GPM with a pumping limit of 2,500 AFY plus any pumping of stored water. The City of Santa Barbara operates ten production wells with a pumping range of 250 GPM to 490 GPM and a motor range of 50 horsepower (HP) to 125 HP. Lastly, the City of Santa Maria operates six wells with a pumping range of 1,900 to 2,400 GPM and a motor range of 300 to 350 HP.

- [Please indicate whether your energy savings estimate originates from the point of diversion, or whether the estimate is based upon an alternate site of origin.](#)

Estimated energy savings by each water purveyor listed in Table 6 includes both treatment via their operated facilities and conveyance within their distribution system for each of their water supplies. Estimated energy savings originates from the point of diversion as most purveyor's supplies are locally produced and treated.

- [Does the calculation include any energy required to treat the water, if applicable?](#)

Water treatment is included in each water purveyor's calculation for the production and delivery of their supplies except for the City of Solvang. The City of Santa Barbara includes energy used in its desalination process at the Charles E. Meyer Desalination Plant.

- [Will the project result in reduced vehicle miles driven, in turn reducing greenhouse gas emissions? Please provide supporting details and calculations.](#)

Yes, using the [EPA Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator](#), the proposed Project avoids an estimated annual use of 149,579 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> or 67.8 MT, which is equivalent to removing 14.6 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles driven for one year. These savings compound annually as the non-functional turf is removed permanently.

- Describe any renewable energy components that will result in minimal energy savings/production (e.g., installing small-scale solar as part of a SCADA system).

Most water systems in Santa Barbara County use renewal energy through 3CE.

### E.1.3. Evaluation Criterion C—Sustainability Benefits (20 points)

***Enhancing drought resiliency. Please provide information regarding how the project will enhance drought resilience by benefitting the water supply and ecosystem, including the following:***

- Does the project seek to improve ecological resiliency to climate change?

The proposed Project seeks to improve ecological resiliency to climate change by conserving water and related resources. The Project will incentivize urban water customers to replace turf with water-efficient landscaping, which will provide permanent water savings from limited local water supplies like [Reclamation's Cachuma Project](#). SBCWA actively encourages the use of climate appropriate, low water use plants, and manages a localized [Santa Barbara County Plant Database](#) as a resource for drought-tolerant and native plant selections suitable for the region's climate. Turf replacement will help enhance plant and wildlife diversity through these landscape conversions.

Turf lawns also carry a heavy carbon cost associated with maintenance. Although the equipment is often overlooked as a significant source of pollution, gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment is estimated to consume around 800 million gallons of gasoline in America every year according to Princeton University's ["Lawn Maintenance and Climate Change" Study](#). This lawn equipment poses a clear environmental hazard, specifically gas-powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers.

- Will water remain in the system for longer periods of time? If so, provide details on current/future durations and any expected resulting benefits (e.g., maintaining water temperatures or water levels).

The proposed Project will increase water conservation and efficiency, which supports sustainable management of regional water supply. Santa Barbara County obtains most of its drinking water from three sources: storm runoff collected in reservoir systems (40%), groundwater withdrawal (40%), and the SWP (14%).

Reclamation's Cachuma Project is the main surface water reservoir in Santa Barbara County. Downstream discharges from Cachuma Reservoir are a major contributor to groundwater

recharge for communities, agriculture, and private homes and ranches along the lower Santa Ynez River. Among Cachuma Project member units and Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) members, this proposed Project will allow for maintenance of water levels in Lake Cachuma by increasing carryover storage. Water savings will also reduce demand for SWP water and drawdown of groundwater supplies. Project water savings overtime will preserve these main water supplies and help achieve a more sustainable long-term potable water demand in Santa Barbara County.

- Will the project benefit species (e.g., federally threatened or endangered, a federally recognized candidate species, a state listed species, or a species of particular recreational, or economic importance)? Please describe the relationship of the species to the water supply, and whether the species is adversely affected by a Reclamation project or is subject to a recovery plan or conservation plan under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The measurable conserved water from the project will reduce the County's dependence on its current water sources, especially the sources that are relied on during drought: groundwater and imported water from the SWP. By reducing demand throughout the County, the conserved water will remain in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) and river systems which will help maintain in-stream flows and overall ecosystem health. The Project will provide more water to the natural environment and to species reliant on water from these sources. The Project will make more water available for in-stream flows for the sources of the Delta.

The SWP water flows through the Delta which is a large estuary that provides habitat for many bird and fish species at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. SWP water is delivered to Santa Barbara County through the Coastal Branch of the aqueduct system and released into Lake Cachuma. The availability of annual SWP allocations for the City is dependent on the amount of precipitation (snowpack and rainfall) in the Feather River watershed and the available water in Oroville Reservoir.

The proposed grant funded landscape projects will improve the status of multiple species in the county by reducing diversions of water from Lake Cachuma and local groundwater basins and improving natural flows. Listed species and critical habitats subject to the [Endangered Species Act](#), such as the [Southern Steelhead Trout \(\*Oncorhynchus mykiss\*\)](#), [Tidewater Goby \(\*Eucyclogobius newberryi\*\)](#), and [Red Legged Frog \(\*Rana draytonii\*\)](#) as well as other species listed per Santa Barbara County *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation* (iPaC) as shown in Attachment 3, will benefit from these projects in many ways. The listed species are at risk due in part to alteration of natural stream flow patterns, degraded water quality, and excessive sedimentation, all of which are impaired by surface water diversions, groundwater extraction, and urbanization. While the benefits to the listed species will not be directly measured, the projects will address specific impairments and threats outlined in the recovery plans for these listed species, specifically; reduced diversions and groundwater pumping from the Santa Ynez River and Santa Ynez, Santa Maria River, Santa



Maria and Santa Barbara Coastal watersheds, improved groundwater recharge, and reduced peak flow, sedimentation, and urban runoff related pollution

- Please describe any other ecosystem benefits as a direct result of the project.

The proposed Project supports the removal of turf and direct installation of native and water-wise plants. With more climate appropriate plantings, this will increase the diversity of pollinators and wildlife, including beneficial insects, birds, and butterflies, that are important for ecosystem functions. Reduced water demand for turf irrigation will save water in reservoirs, like Reclamation’s Cachuma Project and local groundwater basins. These water savings will also preserve native habitats and natural creek flows within local watersheds.

- Will the project directly result in more efficient management of the water supply? For example, will the project provide greater flexibility to water managers, resulting in a more efficient use of water supplies?

Water savings from the proposed Project will result in more efficient management of water supply by reducing water demands and extending the availability of supply sources. Water use efficiency is important as the Santa Barbara County arid region experiences more frequent droughts. Landscape conversions under the proposed Project will provide permanent water savings, which will allow water managers greater flexibility with existing resources. Increased water supply reliability will also increase energy efficiency by depending less on energy-intensive supplies, like imported State water, groundwater pumping, and desalination. It is estimated that 95,738 kWh each year will be avoided as a result from the proposed Project.

In addition, SBCWA and local water purveyors’ regional collaboration will create efficiencies to manage local water supply. As the grant applicant, SBCWA is committing not only staff time to coordinate the program but also contract dollars to fund landscape design training, site assessment support, and outreach efforts that will cover all the participating water providers’ service areas. SBCWA will work with the participating agencies to implement such regional programs. Thus, this grant proposal helps continue and expand regional collaboration in Santa Barbara County by allowing water managers to operate as a network. Some of those water providers could have decided to apply for this grant independently without regard for cooperation with SBCWA or with other water providers. Instead, they are collaborating as they understand the importance of taking a regional approach to water conservation and water management more broadly.

***Addressing a specific water and/or energy sustainability concern(s). Will the project address a specific sustainability concern? Please address the following:***

- Explain and provide detail of the specific issue(s) in the area that is impacting water sustainability, such as shortages due to drought and/or climate change, increased demand, or reduced deliveries.

Santa Barbara County's water supply is vulnerable in several ways. With the lack of water in the Cachuma Reservoir (42% capacity), in conjunction with the drought, Santa Barbara County is now in the third driest consecutive year-to-date over in the past 128 years (January-May 2022) with precipitation measuring 11.04 inches below normal. On July 8, 2021, Governor Newsom added Santa Barbara County to the list of California counties experiencing a drought and subject to his emergency proclamation initially declared on April 10, 2021. On July 13, 2021, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors proclaimed a Local Drought Emergency within the county as SWP water deliveries were at 5% and unlikely to improve without significant rain and snowpack. In August 2021, Santa Barbara County saw the driest and hottest August on record since reporting. And most recently, on June 14, 2022, the [State Water Board adopted an emergency regulation](#) banning irrigation of non-functional turf on commercial, industrial, and institutional CII sites. With these drought conditions and the State's mandates to address them, Santa Barbara County's regional water agency partners are focused on this project incentivizing residents to reduce demand and comply with new regulations.

- Explain and provide detail of the specific issue(s) in the area that is impacting energy sustainability, such as reliance on fossil fuels, pollution, or interruptions in service.

Water conservation by urban water suppliers results in a direct saving of energy used to transport, treat, and distribute water. The energy saved varies significantly depending on the supply source; imported water through the SWP consuming significantly more energy than groundwater or other sources. Some partners also have energy-intensive desalination as part of their supply. Where water providers can reduce potable demand, the more expensive and energy intensive water supply sources, like desalination, will often be the first to be avoided, greatly reducing the energy embedded within potable water used by participating providers.

- Please describe how the project will directly address the concern(s) stated above. For example, if experiencing shortages due to drought or climate change, how will the project directly address and confront the shortages?

Santa Barbara County residents obtain their water from several sources: groundwater withdrawal, storm runoff collected in local reservoirs (namely Lake Cachuma), SWP, desalination, and recycled water. The specific concern addressed by this rebate program would be the need to reduce demand on the most relied upon water supplies in the county, the Cachuma Project, where the reservoir is being rapidly depleted under the current drought conditions, and the Santa Maria Valley and Santa Ynez Groundwater Basins.

SBCWA has been concerned about the existing volume of water in Lake Cachuma and how long that amount of water can serve the needs of member units. This concern is based on various water users and demands, including downstream releases for fish habitat, per the [National Marine Fisheries Service's Biological Opinion](#), and downstream releases under the [Cachuma Project Settlement Agreement \(WR89-18 releases\)](#) for downstream water rights holders; and sedimentation due to major large fires in the Cachuma watershed in the past few years.

- Please address where any conserved water as a result of the project will go and how it will be used, including whether the conserved water will be used to offset groundwater pumping, used to reduce diversions, used to address shortages that impact diversions or reduce deliveries, made available for transfer, left in the river system, or used to meet another intended use.

Most of the water that will be conserved via this project is currently lost to either ET or to storm drains and the ocean while a small percentage of water would infiltrate into the groundwater table. Water conserved by this project will remain in local surface water reservoirs such as Lake Cachuma, remain within local groundwater basins, or remain unrequested water that is not requested via SWP. These savings will help reduce pressure on local and imported water supplies and provide an additional buffer during times of drought.

- Provide a description of the mechanism that will be used, if necessary, to put the conserved water to the intended use.

For the projects where rainwater or stormwater capture is onsite, rainwater captured from the roof and/or site will be redirected to and retained in the landscape. This will thus help eliminate polluted runoff if not entirely. Distributed treatment measures that would be constructed by the proposed projects will reduce the need for large, end-of-pipe stormwater treatment systems, which are generally less cost-effective and more maintenance-intensive than smaller, natural systems.

- Indicate the quantity of conserved water that will be used for the intended purpose(s).

The estimated 122.7 AF of water conserved from the Project will increase local water supply by reducing overall water demand. Rebate projects that incorporate irrigation efficiency retrofits and rain/stormwater capture features will minimize water runoff and redirect water into the landscape for supplemental irrigation.

***Other project benefits. Please provide a detailed explanation of the project benefits and their significance. These benefits may include, but are not limited to, the following:***

1. **Combating the Climate Crisis:** E.O. 14008: “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad”, focuses on increasing resilience to climate change and supporting climate resilient development. For additional information on the impacts of climate change throughout the western United States, see: <https://www.usbr.gov/climate/secure/docs/2021secure/2021SECUREREport.pdf>. Please describe how the project will address climate change, including the following:
  - Please provide specific details and examples on how the project will address the impacts of climate change and help combat the climate crisis.

Santa Barbara County continues to experience climate change effects through higher frequency and intensity of droughts and reduced rainfall breaking historical records. Climate-related wildfires have impacted and destroyed large amounts of wildlife habitat. In urban areas with high amounts of residential and CII water users, a landscape rebate program that incentivizes

conserving water will allow this conserved water to be utilized for other purposes, i.e. drinking water and create drought-tolerant and climate-appropriate habitat for wildlife that urbanization has erased.

- [Does this proposed project strengthen water supply sustainability to increase resilience to climate change?](#)

Yes. The water infrastructure currently in place was not built for the variability of climate change, with longer lasting and more frequent drought. County water purveyors need to adjust to more decentralized methods of water management, like demand reduction, to ensure that existing supplies can meet the most critical needs. Improving landscape management practices and reducing landscape irrigation in urban areas, through this proposed Project, ensures this conserved water will be stored and/or available for use to increase the resiliency of our water sources.

- [Will the proposed project establish and utilize a renewable energy source?](#)

Many partners are already members of the 3CE, where most if not all of the energy used for water production and treatment is from renewable energy.

- [Will the project result in lower greenhouse gas emissions?](#)

Using the [EPA Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator](#), the proposed Project avoids an estimated annual use of 149,579 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> or 67.8 MT. This is akin to removing 14.6 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles driven for one year. These savings compound annually as the non-functional turf is removed permanently.

**2. Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities:** E.O. 14008 and E.O. 13985 support environmental and economic justice by investing in underserved and disadvantaged communities and addressing the climate-related impacts to these communities, including impacts to public health, safety, and economic opportunities. Please describe how the project supports these Executive Orders, including:

- [Does the proposed project directly serve and/or benefit a disadvantaged or historically underserved community? Benefits can include, but are not limited to: public health and safety through water quality improvements, new water supplies, new renewable energy sources, or economic growth opportunities.](#)

The proposed Project will reach water service areas that are within designated Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) as shown in Attachment 4, *Bureau of Reclamation DAC Mapping Tool for Santa Barbara County*. This Project provides environmental and public health benefits and economic opportunities to water purveyors' entire service areas. Benefits include permanent water savings, improved water quality by maintain surface and groundwater water levels, ecosystem benefits, and reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from reduced water-energy demand.

The proposed Project will also support professions in the landscape maintenance, irrigation, and nursery industries. Landscape rebates will monetarily assist disadvantaged community

members to make important changes to their irrigation and landscaping. These conversions to more water-wise landscaping will have a greater impact on community members by helping lower their water bills.

- If the proposed project is providing benefits to a disadvantaged community, provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the community meets the disadvantaged community definition in Section 1015 of the Cooperative Watershed Act, which is defined as a community with an annual median household income that is less than 100 percent of the statewide annual median household income for the State, or the applicable state criteria for determining disadvantaged status.

According to the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), the California annual median household income is \$78,672 in 2020 dollars. The proposed Project will provide indirect benefits to service areas that meets the disadvantaged community definition in Section 1015 of Cooperative Watershed Act, including Cities of Guadalupe, Santa Maria, and Carpinteria, as shown in the Table 7 below.

**Table 7 - U.S. Census Bureau Income & Poverty Population Estimates**

The image shows two screenshots of the U.S. Census Bureau data tool. The first screenshot displays data for California, Guadalupe city, Solvang city, and Santa Maria city. The second screenshot displays data for Goleta city, Santa Barbara city, Montecito CDR, and Carpinteria city. Both screenshots show population estimates and income & poverty statistics for July 1, 2021.

Category	California	Guadalupe city, California	Solvang city, California	Santa Maria city, California
Population Estimates, July 1 2021, (V2021)	39,237,836	8,546	6,048	109,711
<b>Income &amp; Poverty</b>				
Median household income (in 2020 dollars), 2016-2020	\$78,672	\$55,511	\$82,838	\$67,634
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2020 dollars), 2016-2020	\$38,576	\$17,695	\$56,853	\$21,945
Persons in poverty, percent	11.5%	24.0%	7.3%	12.7%

Category	Goleta city, California	Santa Barbara city, California	Montecito CDR, California	Carpinteria city, California
Population Estimates, July 1 2021, (V2021)	32,855	88,255	X	13,122
<b>Income &amp; Poverty</b>				
Median household income (in 2020 dollars), 2016-2020	\$98,035	\$81,618	\$181,316	\$74,868
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2020 dollars), 2016-2020	\$42,952	\$49,666	\$107,319	\$42,554
Persons in poverty, percent	9.6%	12.3%	5.3%	7.8%

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

The Project will reach water service areas that are within communities in Santa Barbara County that meet the underserved definition in E.O. 13985, as shown in Attachment 5 *U.S. Census Bureau Statistics for Santa Barbara County*.

3. **Tribal Benefits:** The Department of the Interior is committed to strengthening tribal sovereignty and the fulfillment of Federal Tribal trust responsibilities. The President’s memorandum “Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships” asserts the importance of honoring the Federal government’s commitments to Tribal Nations. Please address the following, if applicable:

- Does the proposed project directly serve and/or benefit a Tribe? Will the project increase water supply sustainability for an Indian Tribe? Will the project provide renewable energy for an Indian Tribe?

The project will not impact any ceremonial use of Indigenous sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands.

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

The project will not result in impacts on tribal lands.

4. **Other Benefits:** Will the project address water and/or energy sustainability in other ways not described above? For example:

- Will the project assist States and water users in complying with interstate compacts?

This Project is not involved with interstate compacts.

- Will the project benefit multiple sectors and/or users (e.g., agriculture, municipal and industrial, environmental, recreation, or others)?

Yes, the reduction of water for landscape irrigation in urban areas means that there is less water removed from all sources, including aquifers, lakes, and rivers. These water supplies serve water to other agencies for agricultural, municipal, industrial, environmental, and recreational purposes. Any water savings reduces the overall demand on our water supplies, which maximizes our supply reliability.

Improved outdoor water efficiencies, like turf replacement, water-wise, native plants, and rainwater installations, directly benefit the environment. Such examples will eliminate or minimize water runoff onsite that would otherwise leak into the storm drains and pollute our watersheds, creeks, and ocean.

- Will the project benefit a larger initiative to address sustainability?

The proposed Project supports larger initiatives to preserve Santa Barbara County’s water supply and be less dependent on imported and energy intensive water supplies, such as SWP water, groundwater, and desalination. Since July 2021, Santa Barbara County and the State of California have experienced a declared drought emergency. As a result, Santa Barbara County’s SWP water allocation is at 5% and unlikely to improve without significant rain and snowpack. Local groundwater basins have not fully recovered from the recent historical six-year drought

from 2012-2018. With these drought conditions persisting and the State’s mandates to address them, SBCWA and local water purveyors are focused on incentivizing customers through this Project to reduce demand in the region and to comply with new regulations for sustainable water use.

- Will the project help to prevent a water-related crisis or conflict? Is there frequently tension or litigation over water in the basin?

Yes, current water sources are not able to keep up with demand and are vulnerable to climate change. Below are descriptions of surface and groundwater tensions in Santa Barbara County. Other water purveyors in the County may benefit from the example and experiences of water purveyors participating in this program and be willing to enhance their conservation efforts by joining in future collaborative efforts modeled on this program. Regional conservation will help preserve all water (Cachuma Project, SWP water, and groundwater) supplies.

Surface Water: Increased water conservation in the Santa Ynez Valley and in south coast communities helps to ameliorate tensions surrounding Santa Ynez River water rights and usage. These are tensions that have been evident for over 80 years, with litigation in the late 1920s and early 1930s eventually resulting in a State Supreme Court decision (the Gin Chow Agreement) and subsequently in a series of Santa Ynez River Operations Agreements.

Groundwater: The Santa Maria groundwater basin adjudication involves water rights litigation among numerous public agencies and private well owners in northern Santa Barbara County and southern San Luis Obispo County.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA): Two partnering agencies, Carpinteria Valley and Montecito Water Districts are listed as High and Medium priority basins (respectively) under SGMA. SGMA requires medium- and high-priority basins to develop groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs), develop groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) and manage groundwater for long-term sustainability.

#### E.1.4. Evaluation Criterion D—Complementing On-Farm Irrigation Improvements (10 points)

If the proposed project will complement an on-farm improvement eligible for NRCS assistance, please address the following:

Not applicable.

#### E.1.5. Evaluation Criterion E—Planning and Implementation (8 points)

##### E.1.5.1. Subcriterion E.1—Project Planning

***Does the applicant have a Water Conservation Plan and/or System Optimization Review (SOR) in place? Does the project address an adaptation strategy identified in a completed WaterSMART Basin Study?*** Please self-certify or provide copies of these plans where appropriate to verify that such a plan is in place. Including a specific excerpt or a link to the planning document may also be considered where appropriate.

***Provide the following information regarding project planning:***

1. Identify any district-wide, or system-wide, planning that provides support for the proposed project. This could include a Water Conservation Plan, SOR, Drought Contingency Plan or other planning efforts done to determine the priority of this project in relation to other potential projects.

Multiple plans have been developed by or for SBCWA and participating water purveyors to address water supplies, water reliability, and water quality. Five of the seven participating water providers are defined as Urban Water Suppliers by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and thus required to develop their own plans. Below are summaries of these plans:

- [2015 and 2020 Urban Water Management Plans \(UWMP\)](#) of the Carpinteria Valley Water District, Goleta Water District, Montecito Water District, City of Santa Maria, and City of Santa Barbara. UWMP provides a framework for the utility to manage water supplies and includes water conservation actions and drought planning. These plans are updated every five years, and the 2020 UWMPs were submitted and are in review by DWR. The same agencies and SBCWA are also required to submit *Water Management Plans (WMP)* to Reclamation every five years.
- [2015 Long Term Supplemental Water Supply Alternatives Report](#). A regional report was created to address water supply and system challenges, quantify water supply and system reliability needs, identify potential projects to meet those needs, and develop an adaptive strategy for implementation.
- [2019 Santa Barbara County Integrated Water Resources Plan \(IRWMP\)](#). A regional plan that addresses long-range water supply planning, water supply reliability, understanding changing needs, and determining how individual actions can cost-effectively address challenges for member agencies.
- [2030 County of Santa Barbara Climate Action Plan \(CAP\)](#). Currently being drafted, the County of Santa Barbara set a goal to reduce its emissions 50% by 2030 through the implementation of emission reduction measures, including water use efficiency.
- [2018 Santa Barbara County-Wide Integrated Stormwater Resource Plan](#). A regional, watershed-based plan intended to improve the management of stormwater resources



that enhance the reliability of local water supplies, improve surface water quality, and flood management, and provide environmental, educational, and recreational benefits.

- [California Model Water Efficiency Landscape \(MWELo\) Ordinance](#), adopted in 2015. Planning and review for managing water efficient landscapes, and establish provisions for water management practices and water waste prevention for existing landscapes.
2. Describe how the project conforms to and meets the goals of any applicable planning efforts and identify any aspect of the project that implements a feature of an existing water plan(s).
- *2015 and 2020 Urban Water Management Plans (UWMP)*. The Carpinteria Valley Water District, Goleta Water District, Montecito Water District, City of Santa Maria, and City of Santa Barbara each have their own adopted 2015 and 2020 UWMP. Their UWMP provides a framework for the utility to manage water supplies sustainably and includes water conservation actions. The same agencies and SBCWA are also required to submit *Water Management Plans (WMP)* to Reclamation every five years. The Project supports each purveyor's sustainable water management objectives, including water demand reduction efforts and drought planning, per their UWMP and WMP.
  - *2015 Long Term Supplemental Water Supply Alternatives Report*. The Project supports 5.2 Demand and Water use Efficiency Planning by having regional stakeholders look at comprehensive solutions to meeting supply and demand projections.
  - *2019 Santa Barbara County Integrated Water Resources Plan (IRWMP)*. Pursue outdoor water use efficiency for increased water savings through incentives, education, outreach, and other programs.
  - *2030 County of Santa Barbara Climate Action Plans (CAP)*. Supports the proposed measure to reduce the energy intensity of water treatment and conveyance through water savings.
  - *2018 Santa Barbara County-Wide Integrated Stormwater Resource Plan*. Objective contributes to watershed-based approach to treating stormwater and dry weather runoff as a resource rather than an environmental nuisance or flood hazard. The plan identifies water conservation as a multi-benefit to stormwater management.
  - *2015 California Model Water Efficiency Landscape (MWELo) Ordinance*. The Project promotes and follows water efficient landscape standards in place to increase water efficiency and improve environmental conditions in the built environment.

3. If applicable, provide a detailed description of how a project is addressing an adaptation strategy specifically identified in a completed WaterSMART Basin Study or Water Management Options Pilot (e.g., a strategy to mitigate the impacts of water shortages resulting from climate change, drought, increased demands, or other causes).  
Not applicable.

#### E.1.5.2. Subcriterion E.2—Readiness to Proceed

***Applications that describe a detailed project implementation plan (e.g., estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates) will receive the most points under this criterion.***

- Identify and provide a summary description of the major tasks necessary to complete the project. Note: please do not repeat the more detailed technical project description provided in Section D.2.2.2. Application Content. This section should focus on a summary of the major tasks to be accomplished as part of the project.

The SBCWA and committed participating water purveyors, as noted in each of their *Letters of Commitment* as shown in Attachment 6, have budgeted and established programs and processes in place to be able to proceed, if approved, as soon as an agreement is entered.

As listed in Table 8 project milestones include 1) Project development and securing contracts for outreach, landscape design training, and large site assessments for Project support, 2) *Water-Wise Landscape Rebate Program* implementation, and 3) water savings data collection, analysis, and reporting to SBCWA and Reclamation. The planned start date and completion date are included in Table 8.

SBCWA has current contracts in place and has received quotes for services for outreach, landscape design training, and large landscape site assessments to initiate current contract change orders or set ups for the proposed Project.

During the program implementation, the initiation of projects will depend on the willingness of end-use customers to apply but proper preparation by water purveyors, including developing program logistics and reporting tools, advertising, and other components will help ensure applicants can proceed efficiently through the process once begun.

Due to the small footprint of these individual water conservation projects, no major construction or environmental permits are anticipated by project participants, reducing permitting delays typical of larger projects.

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

No permits are required to implement the project.

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

Any engineering or landscape design work for the Program will be performed on residential or commercial property by the customer and is a step in the Program participation process. Pre-Site Assessment is completed before the design is completed to verify Rebate Program eligibility for improved water efficiency. Design conditions include new water-wise and/or native plants and rain catchment system installations.

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

No new policies or administrative actions are required to implement the project.

- Please also include an estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates. Milestones may include, but are not limited to, the following: complete environmental and cultural compliance; mobilization; begin construction/installation; construction/installation (50% complete); and construction/installation (100% complete). Was the expected timeline for environmental and cultural compliance discussed with the local Reclamation Regional or Area Office?

**Table 8: Project Schedule Major Milestone Summary\***

Project Milestone/Activity	Planned Start Date	Planned Completion Date
Secure any Contracts and Develop Project Support Materials, including Outreach Materials, Landscape Design Trainings, Data Tracking Forms/Spreadsheet, and Standard Invoicing and Reporting for Purveyors and SBCWA	Winter 2022	June 2023
Environmental Review	Not applicable	Not applicable
Water-Wise Landscape Rebate Program	June 2023	May-June 2025
Water Savings Analysis	July 2023	May-June 2025

\*Actual start dates are flexible and can be adjusted to comply with grant award

#### E.1.6. Evaluation Criterion F—Collaboration (6 points)

Please describe how the project promotes and encourages collaboration. Consider the following:

- Is there widespread support for the project? Please provide specific details regarding any support and/or partners involved in the project. What is the extent of their involvement in the process?

WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2023 – R23AS00008  
Santa Barbara County Water Agency *Water-Wise Landscape Rebate Program*

Multiple entities from the community support the proposed Project and provided *Letters of Commitment* and *Letters of Support*. Seven water purveyors in Santa Barbara County provided *Letters of Commitment* as shown in Attachment 6 to commit an overall total of \$580,000 funds towards the Project, including:

Carpinteria Valley Water District District Engineer, Brian King  
Water Purveyor in Santa Barbara County with funding match of \$30,000 for this proposed Project. Phone number: (805) 684-2816

Goleta Water District Water Supply & Conversation Manager, Ryan Drake  
Water Purveyor in Santa Barbara County with funding match of \$150,000 for this proposed Project. Phone number: (805) 964-6761

City of Guadalupe Public Works Department Director/City Engineer, Shannon Sweeney  
Water Purveyor in Santa Barbara County with funding match of \$60,000 for this proposed Project. Phone number: (805) 356-3910

Montecito Water District Assistant General Manager, Adam Kanold  
Water Purveyor in Santa Barbara County with funding match of \$60,000 for this proposed Project. Phone number: (805) 969-2271

City of Santa Barbara Water Resources Manager, Joshua Haggmark  
Water Purveyor in Santa Barbara County with funding match of \$160,000 for this proposed Project. Phone number: (805) 564-5460

City of Santa Maria Director of Utilities, Shad Springer  
Water Purveyor in Santa Barbara County with funding match of \$90,000 for this proposed Project. Phone number: (805) 925-0951

City of Solvang City Manager, Xenia Bradford  
Water Purveyor in Santa Barbara County with funding match of \$30,000 for this proposed Project. Phone number: (805) 688-5575

Four organizations provided *Letters of Support* as shown in Attachment 7, including:

U.S. Congressman, 24<sup>th</sup> District, Salud Carbajal. Phone number: 805.730.1710

Senator 19<sup>th</sup> District, Monique Limón. Phone number: (805) 965-0862

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Executive Director, Ted Morton. Phone: (805) 563-3377

Heal the Ocean Executive Director, Hillary Hauser. Phone: (805) 965-7570

- **What is the significance of the collaboration/support?**

SBCWA greatly values collaboration with and involvement from the community. It is important to SBCWA to interact with a diversity of stakeholders, interested parties, and the public in a meaningful way and get involved in a wide variety of subjects encompassing most SBCWA functions. SBCWA has effective working relationships with local water purveyors and independent advocacy groups in the Santa Barbara County region. The net positive result of this comprehensive effort to collaborate with the community is a greater level of perceived governmental transparency and resulting in broader community support for critical countywide programs and projects.

This grant also meets regional collaborative objectives per the Regional Water Efficiency Program (RWEF) of Santa Barbara County's *2015 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* and *2021 Policy Memorandum (PM)* as shown in Attachments 8 and 9, including to improve the collective ability to obtain State and Federal agency grants and to ensure the continued collaboration among the County and local water purveyors. As mentioned above, other water purveyors in the County may benefit from the example and experiences of water purveyors participating in this program and be willing to enhance their conservation efforts by joining in future collaborative efforts modeled on this program. Regional conservation will help preserve all water (Cachuma, SWP water, and groundwater) supplies.

- **Will this project increase the possibility/likelihood of future water conservation improvements by other water users?**

The success and popularity of the proposed Project is likely to motivate other water purveyors to offer a Rebate Program for their customers.

- **Please attach any relevant supporting documents (e.g., letters of support or memorandum of understanding).**

Included with this application are Attachments 6-9 for *Letters of Commitment, Letters of Support, RWEF MOU and PM* in support for the proposed Project.

#### E.1.7. Evaluation Criterion G—Additional Non-Federal Funding (4 points)

$$\frac{\text{Non-Federal Funding} = \$830,000.00 \text{ (65.5\%)}}{\text{Total Project Cost} = \$1,266,6667.00}$$

#### E.1.8. Evaluation Criterion H—Nexus to Reclamation (4 points)

***Describe the nexus between the proposed project and a Reclamation project or Reclamation activity. Please consider the following:***

SBCWA is involved with the management of two Reclamation Projects and those water supplies, the Cachuma Lake and Santa Maria Projects.

SBCWA is the master contractor for Reclamation’s Cachuma Project located in Mid-Santa Barbara County as shown in the Project Map. The Cachuma Project is the primary water supply source for many water purveyors in the County, especially for customers who reside in the water provider service areas impacted by this proposed project. Although SBCWA holds the master contract, SBCWA does not have a direct entitlement to Cachuma Project water. Entitlements under the master contract are held for the Member Units, each of which has a defined share of Cachuma Project production. The four Reclamation Cachuma Project Member Units participating in this project are the City of Santa Barbara, Goleta Water District, Montecito Water District, and Carpinteria Valley Water District.

Per Standard Article 22 Water Conservation under SBCWA’s [Reclamation Contract Agreement No. 175r-1802R for the Cachuma Project](#), SBCWA works with water purveyors who are contractors or sub-contractors to coordinate to implement water conservation best management practices and reports annually to Reclamation. To meet the best sustainable water management practices, the Regional Water Efficiency Program of Santa Barbara County (RWEF) was inaugurated in December 1990 to promote the efficient use of water supplies in Santa Barbara County, and to provide information and assistance to the eighteen local water purveyors within the county. The RWEF provides coordination for cooperative efforts among purveyors, acts as a clearinghouse for information on water efficiency technology, and monitors local, state, and national legislation concerning efficient water use. The RWEF serves approximately 452,217 customers across Santa Barbara County.

Located in North Santa Barbara County as shown in the Project Map, Reclamation’s Santa Maria Project contains Twitchell Dam and is maintained by the Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District. SBCWA helps fund sediment projects and capacity studies to improve flood control and wastewater conservation management of the Project. The Santa Maria Project releases regulated water from storage to recharge the Santa Maria Valley Groundwater Basin. The two other Project water purveyor participants, the Cities of Guadalupe and Santa Maria, depend heavily on groundwater supplies from the Santa Maria Valley Groundwater Basin, downstream from the Santa Maria Project

SBCWA was previously awarded a *WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant* from Reclamation for FY2014 for a similar landscape rebate program. That grant was effective in improving water efficiency and in building a collaborative regional water efficiency program in Santa Barbara County.

- [Does the applicant have a water service, repayment, or operations and maintenance \(O&M\) contract with Reclamation?](#)

No, SBCWA works with Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB) for water service, repayment, or operations and maintenance (O&M) for Reclamation’s Cachuma Project.

- [If the applicant is not a Reclamation contractor, does the applicant receive Reclamation water through a Reclamation contractor or by any other contractual means?](#)

Three water purveyor Project participants who are not Reclamation sub-contractors are downstream of Reclamation Projects. The City of Solvang is downstream of Reclamation's Cachuma Project and the Cities of Guadalupe and Santa Maria are downstream of Reclamation's Santa Maria Project, where groundwater agencies are recharged by flows from the reservoirs. These downstream water purveyors rely heavily, if not entirely, on groundwater, which is under the influence of releases into the Santa Ynez River from Lake Cachuma and releases into the Santa Maria River from Twitchell Reservoir.

- [Will the proposed work benefit a Reclamation project area or activity?](#)

Yes. The proposed Project will directly reduce potable water demand from both Reclamation operated Lake Cachuma and Twitchell Reservoir as well as in local groundwater basins and SWP water deliveries. The proposed projects will not be on Reclamation property but will reduce water demand from and increase carryover storage for the Reclamation operated Lake Cachuma and Twitchell Reservoir.

- [Is the applicant a Tribe?](#)

No.

## Performance Measures

[Provide a brief summary describing the performance measure that will be used to quantify actual benefits upon completion of the project \(e.g., water saved or better managed, energy generated or saved\). For more information calculating performance measure, see Appendix A: \*Benefit Quantification and Performance Measure Guidance.\*](#)

Performance measures for this proposed Project will be calculated in number of rebates issued, turf converted, and actual water saved. Total performance measures include the issuance of \$966,667.00 in rebates, 1,251,800 sqft of turf converted, and the recurring annual water savings of 122.7 AFY. Pre and post-project water use budgets for each project, using theoretical irrigation requirements and historical data, will be assessed to calculate the difference in water saved and to compare pre-project estimates vs. actual savings. Project benefits will be thoroughly analyzed in partnership with participating water purveyors.

To compare pre and post-project water use, at the conclusion of the program SBCWA will request from all participating water purveyors the monthly water use history for all applicants. SBCWA will analyze monthly water use records, identifying each project implementation date and establishing a period prior to implementation that will create twelve months of baseline water use. Twelve months of post project water use data will also be analyzed to compare against the initial baseline data. Staff will also attempt to compare pre and post-project twelve-month periods with similar weather.

SBCWA will develop a master data tracking and management system to serve as the primary method for tracking and monitoring performance measures for the proposed Project. Participating water purveyors will collect and report data to SBCWA, including rebate application information, site assessment information, converted square footage, and rebate amounts. Information will be utilized to run queries and reports on regional program participation, track quality assurance, and monitor Project effectiveness. Project results and findings can be made available to Reclamation through quarterly progress reports or as needed.

At the end of the Project, SBCWA will prepare a closeout report for Reclamation, which will outline the actual project performance results achieved for the number of rebates issued, sqft converted, AFY of water saved, and any other relevant information.

For landscape retrofits that install native or water-wise plants, the post project analysis will fall within the typical establishment period for new plants. The initial plant establishment period is one where water use is higher than the period several years out from initial planting. Plant water needs and associated irrigation will reduce over time as plants establish, which will be after the post project analysis and reporting. These projects will likely result in additional water savings over the expected life of these projects, but may not be captured in the total water savings reported within the two-year grant reporting window. Annual water savings will be realized after 772 projects are installed beginning in Year 3 after two-year Project period.

## PROJECT BUDGET

### Budget Proposal and Funding Plan

Non-Federal Entity's share of the non-Reclamation funds will be provided by SBCWA and seven local water purveyors who have committed funds as shown in Attachment 6 *Letters of Commitment*. The mix of regional funding sources help ensure the financial stability and capacity for this Proposed Project. The identity and level of funding by all participating agencies submitted in their letter of comment is shown in the Table 9. SBCWA and water purveyors are ready to proceed with funding as soon as award of the grant.

No in-kind contributions are incorporated into this proposal. No other Federal funds have been requested or received as of the date of this proposal.

The proposed Project will incur two types of costs: contractual expenses for outreach, design trainings, and large site audit assistance and rebates to customers. SBCWA will fund contractual expenses to support regional program implementation while water purveyors will fund qualified customer rebates. Water purveyors will fully fund the rebates and then invoice SBCWA which in turn will invoice USBR for 40% of the total rebate costs. Non-Federal Entity and Reclamation shares will fund both types of costs. Overall, the non-federal contribution is 65.5% and the federal contribution is 45.5%.



To ensure an efficient flow of funds, the participating water providers will issue appropriate rebate payments directly to their customers; customers won't have to wait for SBCWA or USBR reimbursement. The water providers will then invoice SBCWA quarterly for reimbursement; and SBCWA will pay those invoices without waiting for USBR's reimbursement. SBCWA will invoice USBR quarterly or semiannually as specified in the final grant agreement. This process has worked efficiently in previous grant-funded programs.

SBCWA and water purveyors may incur some costs during this fiscal year between the date of the grant application and the date of award of grant. If such costs are incurred, they will be counted toward the local match, and those costs would be above and beyond the estimated match shown in Table 9 (and in the Budget Form). Thus, any pre-award local expenditure will increase the percentage of local match, thereby decreasing USBR's percentage of program funding. The local match is currently estimated to be 65.5% of total costs, while USBR's share would be only 45.5% of total costs, and possibly lower.

All local agencies rely on annual or biennial funding approval, as does Reclamation. Some of the participating agencies already have sufficient funds in their current fiscal year operating budgets to implement the proposed program at this time; while other agencies will need to obtain their Board's or Council's approval of subsequent fiscal year operating budgets. However, as indicated in each letter of commitment, each of the participating agencies fully expects to be able to fund its share of the local match. Moreover, if an agency should be unable to fund its portion of the program, SBCWA anticipates that SBCWA or one or more of the other participating agencies will be willing and able to incur additional costs and issue additional rebates than it is currently anticipating. There may also be other water providers in the County who ask to participate in the place of any agency that is unable to meet its commitment.

**Table 9 Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources**

<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>
<b>Non-Federal Entities</b>	
1. Santa Barbara County Water Agency (applicant)	\$250,000.00
2. Montecito Water District	\$60,000.00
3. Goleta Water District	\$150,000.00
4. City of Solvang	\$30,000.00
5. City of Guadalupe	\$60,000.00
6. City of Santa Barbara	\$160,000.00
7. Carpinteria Valley Water District	\$30,000.00
8. City of Santa Maria	\$90,000.00

<b>Non-Federal Subtotal</b>	\$830,000.00
<b>REQUESTED RECLAMATION FUNDING</b>	<b>\$436,667.00</b>
Project Total	\$1,266,667.00

**Table 10: Sample Budget Proposal Format**

<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Costs to be reimbursed with the requested Federal funding	\$436,667.00
Costs to be paid by the applicant	\$830,00.00*
Value of third-party contributions	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>\$1,266,667.00</b>

\*This includes both SBCWA and local purveyors’ total funding as outlined in Table 9: Budget Proposal and Funding Plan

### Budget Narrative

For the proposed Project, the Total Direct Costs is \$1,266,667.00 and Indirect Charges is \$0. The Direct Costs Total includes contractual expenses (outreach, landscape training, and large site audit assistance) and other direct costs (rebate dollars) that are necessary for successful project implementation as itemized in Table 11. Project costs for salaries/wages, fringe benefits, travel, equipment and other supplies and materials are not being requested for consideration as either match or reimbursable expenditures.

To ensure an efficient flow of funds, the participating water providers will issue appropriate rebate payments directly to their customers; customers won’t have to wait for SBCWA or USBR reimbursement. The water providers will then invoice SBCWA quarterly for reimbursement; and SBCWA will pay those invoices without waiting for USBR’s reimbursement. SBCWA will invoice USBR quarterly or semi-annually as specified in the final grant agreement. This process has worked efficiently in previous grant-funded programs.

**Table 11: Budget Summary Table**

<b>Summary</b>			
<b>6. Budget Object Category</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Federal Estimated Amount</b>	<b>Non-Federal Estimated Amount</b>
<b>a. Personnel</b>	<b>\$0</b>		
<b>b. Fringe Benefits</b>	<b>\$0</b>		
<b>c. Travel</b>	<b>\$0</b>		
<b>d. Equipment</b>	<b>\$0</b>		
<b>e. Supplies</b>	<b>\$0</b>		
<b>f. Contractual</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>		
<b>g. Construction</b>	<b>\$0</b>		

<b>h. Other Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$966,667.00</b>		
<b>i. Total Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$1,266,667.00</b>		
<b>i. Indirect Charges</b>	<b>\$0</b>		
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$1,266,667.00</b>	<b>\$436,667</b>	<b>\$830,000.00</b>
<b>Cost Share Percentage</b>		<b>34.5%</b>	<b>65.5%</b>

**Personnel**

Not applicable as SBCWA and partner water purveyors will assume all overhead costs necessary to operate the project successfully, including staffing and project administration.

**Fringe Benefits**

Not applicable.

**Travel**

Not applicable as all travel is local, within each water purveyor’s service area.

**Supplies**

Not applicable.

**Equipment**

Not applicable.

**Contractual/Construction**

The following shows a detailed breakdown of the contractual costs to support the successful implementation of the proposed Project, including marketing, landscape design training, and large landscape site evaluation and audit support. Costs are based on quotes from local providers of services and historical expenses for past program expenses. Actual costs may vary.

**Table 12: Contractual Costs**

<b>Contracts</b>				
<b>Contractor Name</b>	<b>Purpose and Contracting Method</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Description of costs</b>	<b>Basis of cost</b>
Media Vendors and Outreach Consultant	Conduct outreach planning and materials, ad placements with local media vendors for program promotion	<b>\$80,000</b>	Personnel costs, promotional material, and media vendor ad buys	Quotes from local media vendors and provider of services
Water-Wise Landscape Design Trainings and	Conduct water-wise and watershed-approach landscape design trainings and workshops for	<b>\$20,000</b>	Personnel costs, training instruction, registration,	Quote from local provider of services

WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2023 – R23AS00008  
 Santa Barbara County Water Agency *Water-Wise Landscape Rebate Program*

Workshops Consultant	professionals and homeowners		reporting, minor customization	
Cachuma Resource Conservation District	Large landscape site assessments and audits	\$200,000	Personnel costs	Quote from local provider of services
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$300,000</b>		
<b>TOTAL CONTRACTUAL</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>			

**Other**

The majority of the estimated project costs include the rebate dollars that will be awarded to each participating water purveyor’s customers who are approved for rebates for making water efficient changes to their landscapers and excludes contractual costs mentioned under “Contractual/Construction.” The seven Project participating water purveyors are committed to matching funds for customer rebate dollars, as shown in Attachment 6 *Letters of Commitment*.

The Project estimates an average of 3,066.7 sqft of turf removed per project countywide, calculating an approximate average rebate cost of \$2.50 per sqft of turf removed countywide. Estimates vary by water purveyor as they may set a lower limit on rebate amounts and may allow only some of the equipment and/or materials to be eligible (e.g. “cash for grass”) or some other factor not to exceed the limits stated above.

A total of 9,972 square-feet of turf is estimated to be removed under the overall Project total cost of \$1,266,667. Based on these estimates, of the funds disbursed from the rebate pool, 76% would be allocated toward the project’s rebate participants.

**Table 13 Other Direct Costs**

<b>Other</b>					
<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Quantity (Projects)</b>	<b>Average Unit Cost (\$/Sq-Ft)</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Basis of Cost</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Qualified Landscape Rebate Projects	772	\$1,252.16	<b>\$966,667.00</b>	Estimated Average Rebate Cost of Countywide Average Sq-Ft of Turf Removed	To provide rebates for approved water-wise landscapes and turf removal projects
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$966,667.00</b>		

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<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>	<b>\$966,667.00</b>
--------------------	---------------------

**Indirect Costs**

Not included.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE

- *Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment (e.g., soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat)? Please briefly describe all earth-disturbing work and any work that will affect the air, water, or animal habitat in the project area. Please also explain the impacts of such work on the surrounding environment and any steps that could be taken to minimize the impacts.*

The proposed projects will all take place in the built urban environment on residential and CII properties and will not cause disturbance to native habitats or other natural resources. Additionally, the scale of these small projects is not expected to exceed the level of earth disturbance that would require permitting within the Land Use Development Code (>2500 Sq Ft for CII or >5000 Sq Ft for residential properties).

- *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?*

Listed species and critical habitats in Santa Barbara County are shown in Attachment 3 *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service IPaC*. The proposed Project will take place on existing residential and commercial properties within the built urban environment that are considered by the [California Environmental Quality Act \(CEQA\) as Categorical Exemptions](#). The proposed Project is not expected to encounter or have project boundaries overlap with any critical habitat for listed or proposed federally threatened or endangered species. Therefore, we do not expect any impacts to listed species and/or critical habitat.

- *Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as “Waters of the United States?” If so, please describe and estimate any impacts the proposed project may have.*

According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service *National Wetlands Inventory* (NWI) as shown in Attachment 10, project areas under the proposed Project are within boundaries identified as Estuarine and Marine Wetland and Other. Project sites are located on existing residential and commercial properties within the built urban environment that are considered CEQA categorical exempt within these wetland boundaries. No wetlands or other surface waters are expected to be impacted by the proposed projects occurring on existing developed residential and commercial sites.

- *When was the water delivery system constructed?*

The age of the water delivery systems for the seven participating water providers varies considerably. The common water delivery system for three of the participating providers (Carpinteria Valley Water District, City of Santa Barbara, Montecito Water District and Goleta Water District) relates to the USBR operated Bradbury Dam and associated Lake Cachuma on the Santa Ynez River. Built in the early 1950s, this water supply and flood control reservoir has a 6.4-mile-long tunnel that delivers water to the three mentioned water providers, as well as other communities on Santa Barbara's south coast. Once water flows through the tunnel, it continues along the South Coast Conduit, where it is distributed to the providers. This project will not alter or modify the existing water delivery system in any way.

SBCWA has no water related facilities as it does not distribute or deliver water directly to customers.

- *Will the proposed project result in any modification of or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes)? 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.*

These projects will upgrade individual residential and commercial irrigation systems. The age of these systems vary considerably but according to water conservation field crews, are usually 20-30 years old and are either very inefficient or failing in some way (leaking valves, broken spray heads, inefficient equipment, etc.).

- *Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places? A cultural resources specialist at your local Reclamation office or the State Historic Preservation Office can assist in answering this question.*

Not applicable.

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

No. Work will be performed on residential and commercial with existing facilities.

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

The proposed Project will not have any disproportionately high and adverse effects on low income or minority populations. The landscape rebates will help disadvantaged SBCWA residents make important changes to their irrigation and landscaping. Water conservation techniques, like turf removal, are considered the cheapest source of "new" water. Reducing the need to produce more water from our current sources (aquifers, Lake Cachuma, desalination,

SWP water) will save money and energy and lessen the need to increase the production among the more expensive water sources.

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

No. All work will be performed on residential and commercial with existing facilities.

- *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?*

It is not expected that this Project will contribute in a significant way to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area. Water purveyor will review project plans and plant lists prior to the approval of each project. They will review for some of the common invasive species present on lists such as the [Center of Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health's California Invasive Plant Inventory](#) and advise applicants to avoid these species.

## REQUIRED PERMITS OR APPROVALS

No permits or approvals from outside agencies are required for the proposed project.

Property owners, depending on the scope of their project, may seek permits applicable to the work being performed. Acquisition of such permits are the responsibility of the property owner. In the case, such projects are subject to review and permitting through the County of Santa Barbara or local City Planning and Development Department, who is the lead agency for CEQA and code compliance, and will make findings of significance before issuing a permit.

## LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letters of support from the following entities are included in Attachment 7:

1. U.S. Congressman 24<sup>th</sup> District Salud Carbajal
2. Senator 19<sup>th</sup> District Monique Limón
3. Santa Barbara County Non-profit Organization Channelkeeper
4. Santa Barbara County Non-profit Organization Heal the Ocean

## LETTERS OF PARTNERSHIP

Not applicable.

## OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

Included with the application under Attachment 11 is the official resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of SBCWA on July 12, 2022. The resolution authorizes the Public Works Director or his/her designee, on behalf of SBCWA, to submit a grant application and execute an

agreement with Reclamation for the implementation of the proposed project. The resolution agrees to meet the requirements of the financial and legal obligations associated with receipt of financial assistance award under this grant.

### **OVERLAP OR DUPLICATION OF EFFORT STATEMENT**

No overlap exists between the proposed project and any other active or anticipated proposals or projects.

The proposal submitted for consideration under this program does not duplicate any proposal or project that has been or will be submitted for funding consideration to any other potential Federal or non-Federal funding source.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE**

There are no actual or potential conflicts of interest that exist at the time of submission.

### **UNIFORM AUDIT REPORTING STATEMENT**

Not applicable.

### **CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING**

A completed SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form is attached with submittal of this application.

### **UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT**

SBCWA's registration is active for System for Award Management and Unique Entity Identifier is P1RMMKQQ1EC5.



COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COAST GUARD AND MARITIME  
TRANSPORTATION, CHAIRMAN

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

WATER RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
STRATEGIC FORCES, VICE CHAIR

TACTICAL AIR  
AND LAND FORCES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
BIOTECHNOLOGY,  
HORTICULTURE, AND RESEARCH

NUTRITION, OVERSIGHT, AND  
DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

GENERAL FARM  
COMMODITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT



Salud O. Carbajal  
24th District, California

2331 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3601

360 SOUTH HOPE AVENUE, C-301  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93105  
(805) 730-1710

1411 MARSH STREET, SUITE 205  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401  
(805) 546-8348

1619 S. THORNBURG STREET  
SANTA MARIA, CA 93458  
(805) 730-1710

[CARBAJAL.HOUSE.GOV](http://CARBAJAL.HOUSE.GOV)

July 20, 2022

Camille Calimlim Touton  
Commissioner  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20240-0001

Dear Ms. Touton,

I write to express my support for the Santa Barbara County Water Agency ("County")'s Fiscal Year 2023 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation ("Reclamation") *WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant* application for the proposed *Water Wise Landscape Rebate Program* ("Project").

Santa Barbara County, located in the Central Coast California, is experiencing extreme drought conditions. This past decade resulted in the driest 10-year period in more than 100 years of record. As the region's main surface water supply source, Reclamation's Cachuma Reservoir has not filled to capacity since 2011, whereas historically it would fill an average of every three years. Water conservation remains essential for the preservation of our water supplies.

The County's proposed Project will be a critical component in supporting regional water conservation by promoting greater outdoor water use efficiency through sustainable, water-wise landscape transformations. The County previously succeeded in securing a landscape rebate grant from Reclamation in Fiscal Year 2014, which achieved a total water savings of 65,235,455 gallons over the two-year grant period. Further grant funding from Reclamation would allow the County to continue improving water and energy efficiency through rebate incentives and reach more water customers through the participation of additional water purveyors.

The partnership between the County and local water purveyors for this Project shows our region's collaboration and commitment in ensuring efficient use of water supplies. This cooperative grant opportunity also supports water conservation objectives required by the County's agreement with Reclamation for Cachuma Reservoir.

For these reasons, I want to urge you to give the Santa Barbara County Water Agency's application for the proposed *Water Wise Landscape Rebate Program* your full and fair consideration, consistent with all relevant rules and regulations. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Wendy Motta in my Santa Barbara District Office at (805) 730-1710.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Carbajal", is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**SALUD CARBAJAL**  
Member of Congress

CAPITOL OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL, RM. 3092  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4019

SANTA BARBARA DISTRICT OFFICE  
222 E. CARRILLO ST., STE. 309  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101  
TEL (805) 965-0862  
FAX (805) 965-0701

OXNARD DISTRICT OFFICE  
300 E. ESPLANADE DR., STE. 430  
OXNARD, CA 93036  
TEL (805) 988-1940  
FAX (805) 988-1945

WWW.SENATE.CA.GOV/LIMON  
SENATOR.LIMON@SENATE.CA.GOV

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**MONIQUE LIMÓN**  
NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES  
BANKING & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
CHAIR

HEALTH

NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON  
PANDEMIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON THE NONPROFIT SECTOR  
CHAIR

July 14, 2022

Camille Calimlim Touton  
Commissioner  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20240-0001

**RE: Support for the Water Wise Landscape Rebate Program as proposed by Santa Barbara County Water Agency for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation *WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Application*, funding opportunity No. R23AS00008**

Dear Commissioner Touton,

As the State Senator representing Santa Barbara County, I write in support of full and fair consideration for the Water Wise Landscape Rebate Program proposed by Santa Barbara County Water Agency.

Santa Barbara County, located in Central Coast California, is experiencing extreme drought conditions. This past decade resulted in the driest 10-year period in more than 100 years of record. The Cachuma Reservoir, the region's main surface water supply source, has not filled to capacity since 2011, whereas historically it would fill an average of every three years. Water conservation remains essential for the preservation of our water supplies.

The proposed project will be a critical component in supporting regional water conservation by promoting greater outdoor water use efficiency through sustainable, water-wise landscape transformations. The County previously succeeded in securing a landscape rebate grant from the Bureau of Reclamation in Fiscal Year 2014, which achieved a total water savings of 65,235,455 gallons over the two-year grant period. Further, grant funding from the Bureau of Reclamation would allow the County to continue improving water and energy efficiency through rebate incentives and reach more water customers through the participation of additional water purveyors.

The partnership between the County and local water purveyors for this project shows our region's collaboration and commitment in ensuring efficient use of water supplies. This cooperative grant opportunity also supports water conservation objectives required by the County's agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation for the Cachuma Reservoir.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for full and fair consideration for the Water Wise Landscape Rebate Program. Should you have any questions you may contact Samantha Omana in my Sacramento Office at 916-319-2137 or via email at [Samantha.Omana@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Samantha.Omana@sen.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monique Limón". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "M".

**MONIQUE LIMÓN**  
Senator, 19<sup>th</sup> District



July 15, 2022

714 Bond Avenue  
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

tel: 805.563.3377

info@sbck.org

www.sbck.org

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Commissioner  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20240-0001

**RE: Support for Santa Barbara County Water Agency's U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Application, funding opportunity No.  
R23AS00008**

Dear Commissioner Touton,

I am writing to express my support for the Santa Barbara County Water Agency's ("County") 2023 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation ("Reclamation") *WaterSMART Water & Energy Efficiency Grant* application for a *Water Wise Landscape Rebate Program* ("Project"). Santa Barbara County, located in Central Coast California, is experiencing extreme drought conditions. This proposed Project, "*Water Wise Landscape Rebate Program*" will be a critical component in supporting regional water conservation by providing incentives for upgrading high water use landscapes to water wise landscapes.

Reclamation grant funding would support local water agencies throughout the County in establishing or expanding rebate programs that help customers replace turf grass with water wise, native plants, efficient irrigation, and/or rainwater catchment systems. The above strategies directly align with our efforts to champion a shift to a more sustainable water supply portfolio that includes recycled water, rainwater capture and reuse, and increased conservation and water use efficiency. As a non-profit that is dedicated to protecting and restoring the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (Channelkeeper) has played an active role in science-based advocacy, education, field work and enforcement, to defend our community's right to clean water. The proposed Project will not only reduce water use, but can also help recharge groundwater, reduce urban runoff (oftentimes laden with synthetic fertilizers that are harmful to the ocean) and enhance wildlife habitat. Outdoor residential irrigation represents at least 50% of water use in our region, so reducing outdoor water use is a great place to start.

In 2016, Channelkeeper commissioned a study to analyze the financial, energy and environmental costs of the various water supply sources currently used in southern Santa Barbara County as well as several new supply and demand reduction options that could be developed in the future. The study demonstrated that there is significant untapped potential to reduce demand and increase supply by improving water use efficiency, capturing rainwater, and recycling and reusing wastewater, while at the same time cutting energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, saving money, reducing pollution, and increasing our preparedness for future droughts.



The partnership amongst the County and local water agencies for this Project shows our region's collaboration and commitment in ensuring efficient use of water supplies. Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for the County's grant application for a *Water Wise Landscape Rebate Program*. I thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ted Morton", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ted Morton, Executive Director  
Santa Barbara Channelkeeper



July 12, 2022

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Hillary Hauser

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
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Thomas Dabney  
Hillary Hauser  
Heather Hudson  
Charles Vinick  
Tom White  
Jonathan Wygant

Camille Calimlim Touton  
Commissioner  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20240-0001

**HONORARY BOARD**

J'Amy Brown  
Jack Canfield  
Brian Hodges  
Jack Johnson  
Julia Louis-Dreyfus  
Adam Rhodes

Re: Support for Santa Barbara County Water Agency's U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Application, funding opportunity No. R23AS00008

Dear Commissioner Touton,

**ADVISORY BOARD**

Carol Behar  
Jim DeArkland  
James Hawkins  
Michael Hurley  
Nora McNeely Hurley  
Dan Johnson  
Eric Peterson  
Maire Radis  
Sam Scranton

I am writing to express my support for the Santa Barbara County Water Agency's ("County") 2023 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation ("Reclamation") *WaterSMART Water & Energy Efficiency Grant* application for a *Water Wise Landscape Rebate Program* ("Project"). Santa Barbara County, located in Central Coast California, is experiencing extreme drought conditions. This proposed Project, "*Water Wise Landscape Rebate Program*" will be a critical component in supporting regional water conservation by providing incentives for upgrading high water use landscapes to water wise landscapes. Reclamation grant funding would support local water agencies throughout the County in establishing or expanding rebate programs that help customers replace turf grass with water wise, native plants, efficient irrigation, and/or rainwater catchment systems.

**DIRECTORS IN MEMORIAM**

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John Robinson

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Rick Merrifield

**OPERATIONS & POLICY ANALYST**

Alison Thompson

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

Harry Rabin  
Alison Thompson


**EVENT MANAGER**

Heather Hudson

As a non-profit that focuses on ocean health, *Heal the Ocean* has played an active role in the development of recycled water infrastructure for local wastewater plants, and the initiation of a study of groundwater/ocean interaction. The proposed Project will not only reduce water use, but can also help recharge groundwater, reduce urban runoff (oftentimes laden with synthetic fertilizers that are harmful to the ocean) and enhance wildlife habitat. Improved water quality remains important and essential for the preservation of ocean health.

[www.HealTheOcean.org](http://www.HealTheOcean.org)

1430 CHAPALA STREET, SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101

 PO Box 90106, SANTA BARBARA, CA 93190 • (805) 965-7570 • FAX (805) 962-0651 • [INFO@HEALTHEOCEAN.ORG](mailto:INFO@HEALTHEOCEAN.ORG)

*HTO Founding Board/Emeritus Directors: Jeff Young (HTO Co-Founder); Sally Bromfield; Jean-Michel Cousteau\*; Stan Harfenist; Hillary Hauser\*; Joseph Liebman; Françoise Park; Sam Scranton; Charles Vinick\*; Jonathan Wygant\*; Jana Young (\*still active)*

The partnership between the County and local water agencies for this Project shows our region's collaboration and commitment in ensuring efficient use of water supplies. Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for the County's grant application for a *Water Wise Landscape Rebate Program*. I strongly urge your thoughtful consideration of the Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hillary Hauser". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Hillary Hauser, Executive Director



**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY WATER AGENCY  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING TO )  
APPLY FOR, RECEIVE, AND APPROPRIATE )  
GRANT FUNDS FROM THE U.S. BUREAU OF )  
RECLAMATION WATERSMART WATER )  
AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANTS ) RESOLUTION NO: 22-164**

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Barbara County Water Agency ("Water Agency") works collaboratively with local partner water agencies through the Regional Water Efficiency Program to promote efficient use of water supplies, including the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation ("Reclamation"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Reclamation announced opening of applications for *WaterSmart Water and Energy Efficiency Grants* ("Grant") for Fiscal Year 2023 to provide funding for projects that result in quantifiable water savings, implement renewable energy components, and support broader sustainability benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, the Water Agency and participating agencies in Santa Barbara County are partnering on a grant application for a regional water-wise landscape rebate program to provide incentives to conserve and use water more efficiently; and

**WHEREAS**, the Water Agency intends to act as the single eligible grant recipient responsible for administration of the Grant Application on behalf of the participating partner agencies.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board does resolve as follows:

1. Authorize and direct the Public Works Director or his/her designee to sign and file, for and on behalf of the Water Agency, a *WaterSmart Water and Energy Efficiency Grant* Application ("Grant Application") for a grant from the Reclamation in the amount not to exceed \$500,000.
2. Authorize the Public Works Director, or his/her designee, to acknowledge and approve of the Grant Application and the information submitted for consideration, and to certify that the Water Agency has and will provide the amount of funding and/or in-kind contributions specified in the funding plan.
3. Authorize the Public Works Director, or his/her designee to negotiate and execute a grant and any amendments or change orders thereto on behalf of the Water Agency and will work with Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a grant or cooperative agreement and to comply with any and all other Reclamation requirements.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara County Water Agency, State of California, on this 12th day of July, 2022 by the following vote:

**AYES:** Supervisors Williams, Hart, Hartmann, Nelson, and Lavagnino

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ATTEST:**

Mona Miyasato  
County Executive Officer  
Ex Officio Clerk of Board of Directors  
of the Santa Barbara County Water  
Agency

By: *Sheila Diaberna*  
Deputy Clerk

**ACCEPT AND AGREED:  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY WATER  
AGENCY**

By: *Joan Hartmann*  
Joan Hartmann, Chair, Board of  
Directors

Date: 7-12-22

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

Rachel Van Mullem  
County Counsel

By: DocuSigned by:  
*Johannah Hartley*  
BD0FDC916C3B466...  
Deputy County Counsel

**APPROVED AS TO ACCOUNTING FORM:**

Betsy M. Schaffer, CPA  
Auditor-Controller

By: DocuSigned by:  
*Robert Gais*  
926010E2AF004BE...  
Deputy

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

Greg Milligan, ARM  
Risk Manager

By: DocuSigned by:  
*Greg Milligan*  
53ABAAB708BA4D7  
Risk Management