

## Drought Contingency Planning Grants

### California

#### **Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Chino Basin Drought Contingency Plan**

**Reclamation Funding: \$200,000**

**Total Project Cost: \$402,610**

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency, located in Southern California, will update its existing Drought Contingency Plan to account for economic impacts to customers, increased reclaimed water supplies, conservation, climate change, population and other factors not considered in their original plan. The updated plan will incorporate five regional water management plans in order to provide a holistic approach to improving water resources management for the region rather than relying solely on imported water supply as written in their original drought plan. Given the region's susceptibility to drought and the wide ranging impacts of recent drought on the surrounding communities, the Agency will partner with regional cities and its member agencies to conduct planning activities.

### Montana

#### **Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Building Drought Resilience in the Missouri River Headwaters in Montana**

**Reclamation Funding: \$200,000**

**Total Project Cost: \$400,000**

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation will develop nine watershed drought resilience plans for each tributary of the Missouri River headwaters basin in southwestern Montana. The core elements and data of each individual watershed plan will then be incorporated into a regional Headwaters Basin Drought Resilience Plan that considers downstream effects and evaluates impacts at the regional scale. The Missouri headwaters basin covers 14,700 square miles and is at risk from frequent drought and the changes in the timing of run-off, which will occur earlier in the year as a result of climate change. The State of Montana will partner with the National Drought Resilience Partnership, a consortium of federal agencies working to build long-term drought resilience, as well as state and local stakeholders to conduct these planning efforts.

### Nebraska

#### **Lower Platte River Consortium, Lower Platte River Drought Contingency Plan**

**Reclamation Funding: \$200,000**

**Total Project Cost: \$400,000**

The Lower Platte River Consortium, a partnership that consists of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, the Lower Platte North and South Natural Resources Districts, the Pappio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, Lincoln Water System, and Metropolitan Utilities District, will develop a drought contingency plan for the Lower Platte River in Nebraska. The Lower Platte River is a key source of water for over 80% of Nebraska's population including supplies for Omaha and Lincoln, thousands of businesses, and over 2 million irrigated acres. Risks from drought conditions include impacts to municipal water supplies, water supplies for irrigation, in-stream flows, and hydropower generation facilities. Projected water supply deficits under future drought scenarios are expected to occur as early as 2018, increasing concerns about the region's susceptibility to potential drought. To mitigate their sensitivity to future droughts, the consortium will use this planning effort to identify water supplies and demands to enhance

water supply reliability, leverage existing infrastructure investments, facilitate water transfers and improve the area's resiliency to future droughts.

## **New Mexico**

### **City of Gallup, Gallup/Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP) Water Commons - Drought Contingency Plan**

**Reclamation Funding: \$35,000**

**Total Project Cost: \$70,000**

The City of Gallup, New Mexico will partner with local and state governmental agencies to create a regional drought contingency plan for a community of about 20,000 people including numerous disadvantaged communities throughout McKinley County, and the Zuni and Navajo Reservations. The area that Gallup serves has a history of chronic poverty and more than 40 percent of Navajo households rely on water hauling to meet daily water needs. Reclamation's Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP) is currently in the planning and design-build stages to bring a dependable potable water supply source to the Navajo Nation and the City of Gallup. The drought contingency plan will help the City manage the future system and regional NGWSP water supplies. The Plan is critical to the protection and management of the existing and future water supplies from drought conditions.

### **Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, Drought Contingency Plan**

**Reclamation Funding: \$200,000**

**Total Project Cost: \$400,013**

The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, located in central New Mexico, will create a drought contingency plan to identify and prioritize actions to ensure a dependable water supply to its customers while reducing exposure and vulnerability to prolonged water shortages. The District provides irrigation water to farmland, four counties and six Pueblos within the middle Rio Grande Valley. Water shortages from long term and persistent drought, lasting over a decade, have created intense challenges for the District to balance responsibilities. In addition to serving irrigators, the District's system of ditches and drains support a number of environmental services including 30,000 acres of a unique and contiguous riparian forest known as the Rio Grande Bosque, and providing critical habitat for several endangered species, such as the silvery minnow, the southwestern willow flycatcher, the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse and the western yellow-billed cuckoo. The plan will support the requirements of the new 2016 Biological Opinion, and assist the state in carrying out its Rio Grande Compact delivery obligations. The District will collaborate with a diverse group of municipal, county, state, tribal and non-profit organizations to conduct the planning efforts.

## **Texas**

### **Gulf Coast Water Authority, Drought Contingency Plan Update**

**Reclamation Funding: \$150,000**

**Total Project Cost: \$315,000**

The Gulf Coast Water Authority in Texas City will update its 2012 Drought Contingency Plan with additional information to aid in the Authority's ability to ensure reliable water supplies during times of drought. The Authority is a water wholesaler that provides water to over 1 million people, and to the agriculture and petro-chemical industries. The Authority's service area has been routinely plagued by drought. In 2011, over 88% of Texas was classified as being in a state of exceptional drought causing over \$8 billion in losses to the Texas economy. The existing

drought plan, while sufficient per state law, does not adequately address issues related to drought monitoring and supply planning. The Authority will partner with local municipalities, industrial companies, and stakeholders with environmental interests when preparing the updated plan.

## Utah

### **Salt Lake City Corporation, Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities Drought Contingency Plan Update**

**Reclamation Funding: \$78,000**

**Total Project Cost: \$188,730**

The Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities (SLCDPU) will partner with a variety of local stakeholders to update their 2003 Drought Contingency Plan to improve the drought monitoring process, refine the actions taken in response to drought, and develop an improved administrative framework. SLCDPU, located in Salt Lake County, Utah, serves 340,000 residential and 1,200 industrial customers in its 135-square-mile service area and its water supplies are increasingly at risk from both drought and population growth. This project will update the 2003 plan to guide SLCDPU in securing resilience in their water supply in anticipation of more frequent, prolonged, and severe drought; impacts from climate change; and increases in residential and industrial demands. Specific update items include a formal process for stakeholder involvement, long-term mitigation actions, and identifying potential drought indicators and triggers.

### **Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, Drought Contingency Plan**

**Reclamation Funding: \$170,000**

**Total Project Cost: \$350,000**

Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, located in northern Utah, will prepare a Drought Contingency Plan for all the facilities and water users within its service area. This effort will build off an existing plan that does not provide insight into the severity of potential future drought, or address the long-term impacts of drought. This is critical for the area as the basin has been in a drought for six of the last ten years and the District has junior water rights which are vulnerable during droughts. Currently, the district serves over 50 customer agencies and provides water for nearly 600,000 people whose health and economic livelihood are increasingly at risk from drought and the accompanying degradation of water quality. Due to its favorable climate, the area anticipates growth of 1 million people by 2060. This new plan, with collaboration from city, county, state, commercial, and environmental stakeholders, will engage the public in the decision making process while being more responsive to their needs.

## Washington

### **Public Utility District No. 1 of Whatcom County, Drought Contingency Plan**

**Reclamation Funding: \$100,000**

**Total Project Cost: \$200,000**

The Public Utility District No. 1 of Whatcom County, in northwest Washington, will lead the preparation of a drought contingency plan with assistance from a drought planning task force whose membership represents a diverse range of water interests. Whatcom County covers 2,503 square miles with a population of over 200,000 and is a major agricultural area, cultivating most of the State's blueberry and raspberry production, and is an important salmon fishing area, all of which are highly susceptible to drought. The area experienced drought in 2014 and 2015 because much of the mountain precipitation fell as rain rather than snow, and the following spring and summer were unusually dry. Many rivers experienced record low flows, causing injury to crops

and aquatic species. The preparation of the plan is supported by local municipalities and agencies, the Lummi Nation, and Washington State University, among others. The plan's mitigation actions, which include evaluation of the potential to develop a water market, are expected to assist irrigators and other water users in securing a reliable supply of water during future droughts.