FY 2024 WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Project Grants

Arizona

Arizona Water Company, Stanfield Groundwater Supply and Treatment Project
Reclamation Funding: $9,114,490

Arizona Water Company operates the community water system serving disadvantaged communities in and around Stanfield. This is Stanfield’s only source of drinking water and comes from groundwater. Stanfield’s supply is impaired by nitrate and arsenic contaminants presenting threats to public health. In response to this critical situation, the company will construct state-of-the-art groundwater treatment systems to lower arsenic and nitrates below the Maximum Contaminant Level. This project is designed to enhance water supply reliability and delivery of safe drinking water to approximately 640 residents.

Maricopa Stanfield Irrigation and Drainage District, SCR2 MSIDD WaterSMART Drought Resiliency and Backup Pump
Reclamation Funding: $546,495.53

The Maricopa Stanfield Irrigation and Drainage District in Pinal County grapples with severe water shortages amidst a 20-year drought. As a partner in the Arizona Drought Contingency Plan, a cooperative initiative focused on water management and conservation, the district engages in strategies to address the water crisis. The plan includes a mitigation agreement whereby agricultural water users can bolster their water resources by utilizing groundwater during periods of water scarcity. Due to water scarcity and water costs, 45 to 50 percent, of agricultural land lies fallow. To mitigates these challenges, the district will construct well SRC-2 and the associated piping and appurtenances to increase water availability by approximately 2,000 acre-feet in water short years. This project will increase drought resiliency and accelerate access to groundwater rights and storage credits earned through in-lieu activities.

Maricopa Stanfield Irrigation and Drainage District, SCR3 MSIDD WaterSMART Drought Resiliency and Backup Pump
Reclamation Funding: $488,596.64

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Plan, a cooperative initiative focusing on water management and conservation, the district engages in strategies to address the water crisis. The Plan includes a mitigation agreement whereby agricultural water users can bolster their water resources by utilizing groundwater during periods of water scarcity. Due to water scarcity and rising water costs, 45 to 50 percent, of agricultural land lies fallow. To mitigate these challenges, the district will construct well SRC-3 and the associated piping and appurtenances to increase water availability by approximately 2,000 acre-feet in water short years. This project will increase drought resiliency and accelerate access to groundwater rights and storage credits earned through in-lieu activities.

California

Cawelo Water District, Reservoir C Auxiliary Recharge Facility
Reclamation Funding: $1,342,111

Cawelo Water District, located in Kern County, will construct a reservoir with a storage capacity of 33 acre-feet, a conveyance pipeline, and a 24-acre recharge facility designed to facilitate the delivery and recharge of treated produced water sourced from a small, independent oil producer. California frequently experiences drought, with occurrences happening in six out of every ten years and with exceptional drought conditions observed in 2021 and 2022. This project will improve the district’s drought resiliency by providing an additional 3,466 acre-feet per year, representing a 6.1% increase in the total annual average water supply. The district is a member of the Poso Creek Integrated Regional Water Management Group, and this project is supported by the Group’s Drought Contingency Plan.

City of Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power, Equipping Division Well No. 9 Project
Reclamation Funding: $500,000

The city of Big Bear Lake, located in San Bernardino County, has recently experienced periods of exceptional drought. To improve drought resiliency and improve water system operational efficiencies, the city will equip a well pumping plant at its new Division Well No. 9. With this project, the city can provide an alternative water supply of 400 acre-feet and afford greater flexibility in water management while bolstering its resilience to drought and wildfires. This project also extends drought protections to Bear Valley by providing water that can be transferred through an existing intertie to the sole neighboring water agency within Bear Valley. The ability to transfer water is significant due to Bear Valley’s isolated mountaintop topography, making the delivery of emergency imported water cost prohibitive. The implementation of this project ensures a sustainable and resilient water management strategy for its own needs and those of the broader Bear Valley community.
The City of Fresno, Increasing Drought Resiliency in a Disadvantaged Community with a Wellhead Treatment System
Reclamation Funding: $734,452

The city of Fresno, located in Fresno County in the central San Joaquin Valley, is susceptible to prolonged droughts resulting in reduced surface water availability for municipal purposes. To alleviate drought impacts, the city will install an on-site wellhead treatment system at well 345-1 to remove naturally occurring contaminants. Contaminants include manganese, present at concentrations exceeding the Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level, and hydrogen sulfide, which imparts an odor and taste to the water, rendering it unsuitable for potable purposes. The project will produce 645 acre-feet per year of high-quality, potable water, helping the city mitigate surface water shortages. This project aligns with the city’s Water Shortage Contingency Plan, which outlines responses to water shortages arising from extended drought or catastrophic supply interruptions. By addressing water quality and scarcity concerns, the city is taking steps to enhance its resilience and ensure a reliable and sustainable water supply.

City of San Buenaventura, State Water Interconnection Project
Reclamation Funding: $5,000,000

The city of Buenaventura, located in Ventura County, has faced numerous severe drought events over the past decade, including a notable 3-year drought. At the peak of recent droughts, the city's surface water availability dwindled to less than one third of normal year supplies. To address water supply inefficiencies, the city will construct a 4.3-mile pipeline, connecting the city to the Calleguas Municipal Water District. This will facilitate access to the City’s existing State Water Project allocation. Once the project is built, Calleguas will convey approximately 5,400 acre-feet per year of the City's SWP supplies to the new connection for municipal use. The project will diversify the city's water supply portfolio, improve water supply reliability, improve water quality by blending lower quality groundwater with the higher quality water, and enhance regional long-term drought resiliency. This project is among the city’s planned water supply projects identified as essential to improve drought resiliency and is supported by the city’s 2020 Urban Water Management Plan.

City of Santa Ana, Pressure Reducing Station No.2 Relocation and Emergency Booster Pump Station Project
Reclamation Funding: $1,801,250

The city of Santa Ana, located in Orange County, will improve its existing infrastructure by relocating its existing Pressure Reducing Station No. 2 and constructing a new Emergency Booster Pump Station. The drought resiliency project will expand the city’s upper zone water supply sources by ensuring reliable water service during shortage periods. Presently, the upper zone relies on three wells and a single connection for imported surface water. However, the upper zone faces challenges, including PFAS contamination within the upper zone wells and ongoing surface water shortages due to drought creating a critical need to develop alternative water sources for the upper zone. Designed to maximize operational flexibility, the project will enable the transfer of up to 7,226 acre-feet per year between the lower and upper zones. The
project aligns with the city’s Urban Water Management Plan, specifically the Water Shortage Contingency Plan and the Drought Risk Assessment. These components emphasize the implementation of drought management actions to mitigate the impacts of drought and enhance water service reliability.

**City of West Sacramento, Well 22 Rehabilitation**

**Reclamation Funding: $1,970,734**

The city of West Sacramento will construct the Well 22 Rehabilitation Project. The Project stands as a critical initiative to ensure a reliable and long-term water supply, specifically addressing the needs of residents in the city’s low-income North Area. This community currently lacks a dependable water supply, a vulnerability highlighted during the 2022 exceptional drought conditions. During this period, the city had to procure emergency water supplies for the North Area, emphasizing the urgency and necessity of the project. The project will serve as a crucial backup water supply for the entire city, ensuring health and safety services in the event of a breakdown in the primary water supply system. Groundwater supplies are an integral component of the city’s water asset, as identified in the 2023 Water Master Plan Update. Bringing Well 22 back online is essential to achieving the goals within the city’s the planning for drought resilience.

**Fresno Irrigation District, Hornor and Laub Recharge Basin Project**

**Reclamation Funding: $5,000,000**

Fresno Irrigation District, located in the San Joaquin Valley of California, serves approximately 247,000 acres of agricultural lands. To bolster drought resiliency and groundwater sustainability, the district will construct two recharge basins totaling 115 acres, along with the installation of monitoring wells, inlet structures, outlet structures, and flow measurement equipment. Once complete, the project will capture and recharge up to 2,350 acre-feet annually of storm and flood waters. The district is located in the Kings Groundwater Subbasin, which is considered critically overdrafted. Recharge is pivotal strategy in achieving sustainability, benefiting all groundwater users within the basin. As a high priority, the project aligns with the goals outlined in the district’s 2021 Drought Management Plan. These goals include reducing overdraft, developing dry-year water supplies, and implementing drought mitigation measures.

**Kern Tulare Water District, Well and Conveyance for Banking Return**

**Reclamation Funding: $2,000,000**

Kern Tulare Water District, located in Kern County, serves 19,000 acres of high-value permanent crops in the Central Valley. The district actively participates in groundwater banking programs with multiple partners that involve the delivery of excess surface water supplies to recharge facilities for later recovery and beneficial use during dry years. Each banking transaction mandates leaving behind a designated portion of the banked water, contributing to aquifer sustainability. The district will construct a new recovery well and conveyance system to the Friant Kern Canal, facilitating the return of previously banked water. The project will also integrate an existing well into the recovery network, resulting in a total return capacity of up to 4,032 acre-
feet during dry years. The district is a member in the Poso Creek Integrated Regional Water Management Group. This project supports priorities outlined in their Poso Creek Drought Contingency Plan including enhancing conjunctive water-use and implementing region-wide water management actions.

**Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Valley Village Park Stormwater Capture Project**

**Reclamation Funding: $5,000,000**

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will construct a stormwater capture project that consists of a storm drain diversion, hydrodynamic separator, and subterranean infiltration gallery. The project is expected to yield approximately 136 acre-feet per year, enough to meet annual water demands of 544 households. The city of Los Angeles is experiencing extreme climate fluctuations and water supply variability. The project aims to address impacts of climate change by replenishing local groundwater basins and enhancing overall water supply reliability. Aligned with the objectives in the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, this project is a collaborative effort involving key partners such as the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and the Los Angeles Department of Public Works.

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Foothill Pump Station Intertie Reclamation Funding: $5,000,000**

The Metropolitan Water District will construct the Foothill Pump Station Intertie project to increase the water supply reliability for the areas served by the Rialto Pipeline in San Bernadino County. The pipeline serves 2.25 million people in the member agencies of Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Three Valleys, and Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District. Dependent solely on raw water deliveries from the East Branch of the State Water Project, the Rialto Pipeline has faced challenges due to drought leading to reductions in allocations. These circumstances have adversely impacted the ability to deliver water to the Rialto Pipeline service area. The project is a collaborative effort between the Metropolitan Water District and the San Bernardino Valley Water District to facilitate the direct delivery of local water to the Rialto Pipeline service area. This involves modifying the existing Foothill Pump Station to increase lift capacity and constructing pipeline interties to link the Inland Feeder pipeline to the Foothill Pump Station. The project will enable the district to deliver water from Diamond Valley Lake to the Rialto Pipeline, which is currently not feasible due to infrastructure and operational constraints. The project will improve water supply reliability and improve system flexibility in drought conditions.

**North Kern Water Storage District, Return Capacity Improvements Reclamation Funding: $4,000,000**

North Kern Water Storage District, located near the city of Bakersfield, currently operates a groundwater banking program whereby the district actively participates in groundwater recharge and storage through the use of spreading ponds and in-lieu recharge activities. To better manage and improve access to previously stored water, the district will construct the
Return Capacity Improvements Project which consists of constructing and equipping a groundwater well and connecting it to the Friant Kern Canal through a discharge pipeline. The district estimates, on average, that the project will recover 1,999 acre-feet of previously banked water per year for return to downstream banking partners. The district is a member of the Poso Creek Integrated Regional Water Management Group, and this project is supported by the Poso Creek Integrated Regional Water Management Group’s Drought Contingency Plan.

**Orland Artois Water District, Orland Artois Water District’s Infrastructure Expansion Implementation Project**

**Reclamation Funding: $3,883,190**

The Orland-Artois Water District will construct new infrastructure consisting of one turnout off the Tehama-Colusa Canal, connections to two existing recharge basins, two booster pumps to increase flows on existing pipelines, and expansion of its buried pipeline conveyance system to deliver supplemental surface water to approximately 4,000 acres of farmland currently dependent on groundwater. The supplemental supplies are expected to reduce groundwater pumping by approximately 4,000 to 8,000 acre-feet per year during normal to wet years. The project will also facilitate the delivery of water to two recharge basins for groundwater storage. California has recently experienced consecutive years of severe to extreme drought, resulting in decreasing groundwater levels. The declining groundwater table has caused land subsidence and adverse impacts to domestic wells. This project will improve delivery efficiencies to the district’s landowners and significantly contribute to the sustainability of the groundwater basin through the reduction in withdrawals. This project aligns with the goals of local and regional water management plans to address water resiliency such as the Colusa Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan and the North Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

**San Luis Water District, Ortigalita Creek Recharge and Recovery Project**

**Reclamation Funding: $3,233,100**

San Luis Water District, located in Los Banos, will construct 93 acres of recharge basins to advance its existing conjunctive use program. The Ortigalita Creek Recharge and Recovery Project will allow the district to store surface water supplies in the confined aquifer for partial recovery in drought years. This project will not only assist with immediate water needs during times of drought, but also contributes to the long-term sustainability of the groundwater basin since a portion of the recharged water will remain in the aquifer. The district estimates that the project will recharge, on average, up to 5,631 acre-feet annually, with the potential to reach up to 16,425 acre-feet in wet years. This project is identified as a high priority project within the district’s Drought Contingency Plan as a way to bolster water resilience and manage water resources effectively in the face of varying climatic conditions within the project area.
Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District, Dressler Recharge Facility
Reclamation Funding: $4,243,590

The Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District in Kern County will construct a 112-acre groundwater recharge facility designed to store uncontrolled flood water and surplus flows from the Kern River and the Central Valley Project. The Dressler Recharge Facility project aims to enhance conjunctive use by expanding recharge capacity by approximately 6,631 acre-feet annually. This project will contribute to groundwater sustainability and will improve drought resiliency, serving to offset water shortages during drought by recovering previously stored water. The district is a member of the Poso Creek Integrated Regional Water Management Group, and this project is supported by the Poso Creek Integrated Regional Water Management Group’s Drought Contingency Plan.

South Coast Water District, Creekside Well Groundwater Recovery Project
Reclamation Funding: $1,250,000

The South Coast Water District will expand its local water portfolio to alleviate impacts of reduced imported surface water supplies resulting from drought conditions. By equipping an existing well in Creekside Park (located in the City of Dana Point) and connecting it to existing water treatment and distribution infrastructure, the district can access an additional 465 acre-feet per year of its permitted groundwater allotment. The district is currently 80% reliant on imported water for its potable water supply, and in extreme drought conditions such as 2021 and 2022, water allocations from the State Water Project were 5% of requested supplies. The district’s 2020 Urban Water Management Plan is the district’s primary drought plan that identifies and supports this project, citing diversifying water supplies and maximizing groundwater production as key strategies to increase water supply reliability for the District and the South Orange County region.

South Tahoe Public Utility District, Improving Community Water Management
Reclamation Funding: $195,185

South Tahoe Public Utility District will develop a decision support tool to inform implementation methodologies for customer water budgets. Water budgets are site and customer-specific methods of calculating the allowable amount of indoor and outdoor water use to maximize efficiency, reduce waste, combat drought impacts, and augment available water supplies. The district’s current water use tracking systems lack essential targeted information such as irrigable areas, hydrologic conditions, and elevation impacts needed for creating water budgets. This project will optimize and enhance existing water use data and technologies for successful implementation of water budgets. The district is 100% reliant of groundwater, and drought and climate-change are expected to alter the amount and location of recharge to groundwater aquifers, causing groundwater levels to lower. Upon full implementation of the project, the district expects to increase water supplies by 15.3% of its current average annual water use.
Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District, Caratan Groundwater Recharge Facility
Reclamation Funding: $2,000,000

The Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District will construct the Caratan Groundwater Recharge Facility by converting 160 acres in Delano to recharge ponds. Recharge ponds allow for the capture of excess flows, facilitating the replenishment of groundwater resources and effective management of stormwater runoff, boosting drought resilience and operational flexibilities. The district estimates that the project will increase average annual water supply by 5,000 acre-feet per year, offsetting groundwater depletions. Given recent drought conditions that have placed considerable strain on groundwater, the recharge facility assumes a critical role in contributing to the long-term sustainability of the groundwater basin. The district is a member of the Poso Creek Integrated Regional Water Management Group, and this project is supported by the Group’s Drought Contingency Plan.

Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District, Driver Road Pipeline Project
Reclamation Funding: $2,165,565

The Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District will construct the Driver Road Pipeline Project, a one-mile pipeline designed to augment conveyance capacity and facilitate the delivery of available wet year surface supplies to district’s spreading ponds. The Driver Road Pipeline addresses water supply challenges faced by the district, particularly the need for increased groundwater recharge capacity during wet years. The San Joaquin Valley faces severe drought conditions, leading to diminished water deliveries when storage reservoirs reach reduced levels. Enhancing groundwater recharge is a critical solution to mitigate the impacts of drought, ensuring a more resilient water supply for the region. SSJMUD’s project aims to increase groundwater recharge by an average of 4,169 acre-feet annually. This project is supported by the Poso Creek Integrated Regional Water Management Group’s Drought Contingency Plan.

Trabuco Canyon Water District, Dove and Tick Creek Pump Station Improvements Drought Resiliency Project
Reclamation Funding: $577,584

The Trabuco Canyon Water District, located in Orange County, will construct the Dove and Tick Creek Pump Station Improvements Drought Resiliency Project. The project involves upgrading two pump stations to enhance pumping capacity, enabling the capture and conveyance of urban runoff and alternative water sources. Additionally, the project includes the construction of a new desilting basin to facilitate water quality improvements. The district anticipates that the project will generate 200 acre-feet per year of non-potable supplies, directly offsetting potable water currently utilized for irrigating greenbelts and a golf course. The district relies on imported water supplies and local groundwater, both of which have been impacted by the recent extreme droughts in the area. The implementation of this project aligns with the 2018 South Orange County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan that underscores the significance of capturing, reusing, and/or infiltrating urban runoff as a key strategy to enhance drought resilience and water supply reliability for the district.
West Kern Water District, North Well 1 Replacement Project
Reclamation Funding: $1,776,354

West Kern Water District operates in the San Joaquin Valley, serving approximately 7,600 metered accounts within the cities of Taft, Maricopa, and several surrounding small communities. West Kern relies on its well fields to meet municipal needs and actively engages in robust groundwater recharge and banking programs to maintain a balanced recharge and pumping system. To date, West Kern has cumulatively banked more than 700,000 acre-feet of water in the Kern Fan aquifer system. In 2021, West Kern faced challenges due to drought conditions impacting shallow aquifer supplies, resulting in the damage of shallow well NW-1. As a result, West Kern lost the ability to recover and serve 6,452 acre-feet of water. To ensure drought resiliency and maintain reliable water supplies, West Kern is undertaking a project to replace well NW-1. West Kern will construct a deep aquifer recovery well capable of supplying up to 3,226 acre-feet per year. This project meets the goals of the District’s Urban Water Management Plan by providing water supply reliability.

Colorado

Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Long Crested Weirs
Reclamation Funding: $2,333,356

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe will construct six long-crested weirs in its laterals along the Pine River Canal, located in La Plata County. The Canal conveys Tribal water and non-tribal water to approximately 3,846 acres of land. With a senior water right of 33,000 acre-feet, the Tribe allocates this resource to support its lands within the Pine River Indian Irrigation Project. The capacity to divert water from the Tribal laterals on the canal relies on the presence of junior, non-tribal water flowing through the canal. If water shortages prevent the conveyance of non-tribal water down the canal, adequate water levels cannot be obtained for Tribal diversions. To address the risks associated with water shortages, such as potential forced livestock sales and crop failure on Tribal lands, the Tribe will install the long-crested weirs to stabilize water levels upstream of Tribal diversions during low flow periods, ensuring consistency even when the canal experiences low-flow fluctuations. By stabilizing water levels, the Tribe can divert its full allocation of water, decoupling the Tribe’s water availability from the presence of non-tribal water in the canal. Improving the Tribe’s diversion structures on the canal is a high priority for the Tribe as evidenced by the Project’s emphasis in its Drought Management Plan.

Town of Crawford, Wiley Spring Collection System Rehabilitation Project
Reclamation Funding: $537,907

The Town of Crawford, located in Delta County, relies on the Wiley Spring and the Wiley Spring Collection System to provide potable water for approximately 400 residents. The system also serves 550 residents of the Crawford Mesa Water Association. Due to drought, the Wiley Spring is experiencing a substantial decrease in flow rates. Since 2020, the System has experienced a 40% decline in production attributed to drought and overall system failure. The city has determined that the rudimentary System has exceeded its lifespan and will continue to fail,
compromising the ability to deliver its only source of water to residents. Crawford will rebuild the Wiley Spring collection system with new technologies and upgraded materials to optimize the System’s capacity. Crawford, predominately a residential area, lacks businesses to provide revenue through sales tax. The absence of tax revenue, combined with the socio-economic vulnerabilities of the small population, poses considerable challenges for Crawford in planning and executing essential capital improvements that are crucial to ensuring a dependable water supply for domestic use.

**Nevada**

**Walker River Paiute Tribe, Domestic Water Supply Project**  
**Reclamation Funding: $2,425,582**

The Walker River Paiute Tribe will construct a 410,000-gallon water storage tank on the Walker River Paiute Reservation. The existing water storage capacity falls short of meeting current codes for fire suppression and fulfilling domestic supply requirements for communities solely dependent on well water. Furthermore, as cited in the 2019 Indian Health Service report, the Tribe’s water supply faces challenges due to low water pressure in the system, leading to health risks associated with bacteria growth in stagnant water. In addition to installing a new water tank, the tribe will build a comprehensive domestic water supply distribution system for deliver water to 100 residences. This project will provide access to clean and safe drinking water and protect the Tribe from severe fire risks within their community. The Walker River Paiute Tribal community has prioritized this project in both their 2021 funding needs analysis and the 2017 Long-term Comprehensive Community Plan. Through these concerted efforts, the Tribe seeks to enhance the well-being and safety of its members by securing a reliable and sustainable water supply for the present and future.

**New Mexico**

**City of Gallup, Drought Resilient Groundwater Well**  
**Reclamation Funding: $9,500,000**

The city of Gallup will construct a new well for potable water supplies to provide water to the city, the Navajo Nation, and parts of McKinley County. The city has no access to surface water supplies, and its failing infrastructure and declining water quality pose a significant threat to public health and safety to communities that are already impacted by socio-economic and housing vulnerabilities. More than 40 percent of Navajo households rely on water hauling to meet daily water needs. The city has experienced a variety of drought impacts including shortages in drinking water supplies, increased risks of wildfires, and most recently in 2018 through 2021. The new well will ensure safe drinking water supplies, which is the number one priority in the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Water Commons Drought Contingency Plan.
Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, Feeder No.3 – Irrigation Efficiency and Strategic Outfall Pump Station
Reclamation Funding: $2,500,000

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District in Albuquerque will construct a pump station at the Feeder No.3 canal to promote irrigation efficiency in the west-side Belen Division. Water is currently diverted at Isleta Dam and routed 25 miles to reach Feeder No.3., and upstream operating constraints and drought are impacting the district’s ability to convey water to the bottom portions of the Belen Division. The Feeder No.3 pump station will also take advantage of drain return flows and river accretion in the Upper Sabinal Riverside Drain to augment irrigation supplies. This will allow farmers to irrigate more reliably by increasing water volume in irrigation ditches that currently struggle to maintain constant head in low water conditions. These improvements will result in more efficient water scheduling and generate a system conservation benefit of approximately 6,500 acre-feet annually. The pump station will support river habitat by increasing the discharge of water to the river via the Feeder No.3 wasteway. This wasteway will serve as a strategic outfall in the area, supporting multiple listed species, including the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow and the Southwest Willow Flycatcher.

Pueblo of Isleta, Pueblo of Isleta Irrigation Water Supply Interconnect Project
Reclamation Funding: $679,604

The Pueblo of Isleta, located south of Albuquerque will construct a pump station, pipeline, and related appurtenances to transport water to approximately 1,500 acres. The project will salvage drainage water to supply irrigated land which has experienced drought conditions exacerbated by the limitations in the irrigation distribution system. The construction of this pump station is identified in the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District’s Bureau of Reclamation Drought Contingency Plan.

Oklahoma

The Chickasaw Nation, The Chickasaw Nation’s Water Supply Project for the Community of Connerville and Town of Wapanucka
Reclamation Funding: $7,673,594

The Chickasaw Nation will construct a domestic water supply project to serve the Community of Connerville and Town of Wapanucka. These communities rely on artesian wells for domestic water supplies which are fed by natural springs, subject to drying during periods of drought. In addition, Connerville and Wapanucka struggle with water quality issues results from Escherichia coli and coliform bacteria, and Connerville has a spreading plume of gasoline in their groundwater supplies. To alleviate water quality concerns, the Tribe will connect Connerville to the Johnston County public water system and construct three treatment systems for existing supplies in Wapanucka. The Chickasaw Nation, currently experiencing an extreme drought, estimates that the project will provide clean drinking water to 560 residents.
Stigler Municipal Improvement Authority, Stigler Lake Dam/Water Supply Project  
Reclamation Funding: $8,516,328

Stigler Municipal Improvement Authority, located in Stigler, Oklahoma, will construct a domestic drinking water supply system to serve approximately 2,703 rural residents of the city of Stigler, and to provide backup emergency supplies when needed to Haskell County (approximately 11,561 residents). Currently, all water available moved through Stigler Lake. Stigler Lake Dam is classified as a high hazard potential due to uncontrolled seepage and severe deterioration of the downstream slope. Failure of the dam would eliminate the Stigler’s entire water supply, resulting in significant property damage, possible loss of life, and devastating impacts on the local economy. The proposed project will raise the dam crest, flatten the downstream slope, add a toe drain to provide hydraulic and slope stability, upgrade the existing spillway, and install a seepage barrier/cutoff system. The project will install new buried pipeline to convey water from Lake John Wells directly to the Stigler Lake Water Treatment Plant, creating a much-needed redundancy in the water system and providing increased reliability for communities that are disproportionately impacted by socio-economic, health, and climate change factors.

Oregon

Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission, Eugene Construction Aggregate and Public Greenspace Class A Recycled Water Facilities Project  
Reclamation Funding: $4,000,000

The Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission is a regional partnership of the cities of Eugene and Springfield and Lane County. The Commission will construct the Eugene Construction Aggregate and Public Greenspace Class A Recycled Water Facilities Project to launch recycled water use in the Eugene/Springfield community. The project involves upgrading existing infrastructure for water filtering, disinfection, storage, and conveyance to deliver up to 1.3 million gallons of Class A recycled water per day for public works and industrial uses. This project will achieve multiple water resource benefits such as reducing the thermal load and nutrients from discharges of treated wastewater to the Willamette River, securing a drought-proof water supply for industrial use, and reducing potable water use by irrigating public greenspaces with recycled water. By adding approximately 850 acre-feet per year to the water supply, accounting for 5% of average water demand in the area, this project will increase the community’s long-term water supply reliability. This project is supported by the Eugene-Springfield Area Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazardous Mitigation Plan.

Tri-City Joint Water & Sanitary Authority, Better Managed Community Water System through Construction of a new 300,000 Gallon Water Storage Tank & Water Distribution System Improvements  
Reclamation Funding: $1,219,558

The Tri-City Joint Water and Sanitary Authority, in Douglas County will construct a new 300,000-gallon potable water storage tank and associated infrastructure to integrate the tank into the existing water supply system. The new tank will work in parallel with an existing 87,000-gallon
storage tank, significantly improving water delivery efficiency and flexibility. The tanks can be filled during off-peak demand periods, strategically bolstering drought resiliency and mitigating the potential impacts of drought or other water supply restrictions. Tri-City ranks in 97th percentile for expected population loss due to natural hazards each year. This project provides critical infrastructure for public health and safety and wildfire risk mitigation. The project is the highest priority capital improvement project identified in Tri City’s Water Master Plan.

South Dakota

Mni Wašté Water Company, Northwest Eagle Butte Drought Resiliency Project
Reclamation Funding: $2,844,400

The Mni Wašté Water Company, a Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe tribal water company, will construct the necessary infrastructure including water distribution pipelines and residential connections to serve reliable drinking water to the rural area northwest of Eagle Butte, an area of the reservation in Dewey County. Residents in the project area currently get water from either private wells or by hauling water from up to 10 miles away. The groundwater wells within the region are of poor quality, insufficient quantity, are costly due to depth, and can be unreliable as proven by past “dry holes” within the region. The Company estimates that the project will provide clean drinking water to a total of 37 residences. Initial planning for this project started in the mid-1990s with the formation of a steering committee which included representatives from Tri-County Rural Water Association, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River House Authority, Indian Health Service, and Reclamation.

WEB Water Development Association, Inc., Waubay and Day County Drought Resiliency Project
Reclamation Funding: $9,995,000

The WEB Water Development Association, Inc. will construct the necessary water infrastructure to ensure a consistent supply of high-quality drinking water for the city of Waubay and rural residents of Day County, communities impacted by socio-economic and natural hazard vulnerabilities. Currently, Waubay and surrounding residents use private wells with poor water quality that does not meet several secondary drinking water standards and requires treatment with hypochlorite for disinfection and phosphates for corrosion control. Waubay frequently experiences water supply emergencies due to well failures, and there are no alternative water sources apart from groundwater for Waubay and neighboring residences. The inadequacy of water supplies has forced numerous households to relocate. Through the construction of two booster stations and approximately 41 miles of pipelines, WEB will reliably bring safe water to 28 residences on tribal lands, 64 rural residences and Waubay, benefiting approximately 722 individuals by enhancing water supply reliability and quality. The project was developed through a collaborative process with Waubay, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe, and WEB.
Texas

City of Santa Rosa, Santa Rosa Water System Drought Resiliency Improvements
Reclamation Funding: $9,553,500

The city of Santa Rosa, located within Cameron County relies on a local irrigation district to deliver its domestic water supplies through an irrigation canal adjacent to the City’s water treatment plant. Since there is no agricultural irrigation demand for this section of canal, all water supplied to the city comes with the necessity of using push water. The canal experiences inconsistent flow volumes, particularly in drought periods. In October 2023, the canal ran dry causing a state of emergency in the city, which lacks water storage and emergency connections to other entities. To safeguard the city’s 2,873 residents and enhance water supply reliability, the city will install a one-million-gallon ground storage tank, a 0.5-million-gallon elevated storage tank, a 7-day raw water reservoir at their water treatment plant, and an emergency interconnection with a neighboring water supplier. The new infrastructure aims to mitigate the impact of inconsistent canal flow and provide a buffer against future water supply emergencies. This project is important for the community’s health and safety, especially given the existing challenges with socio-economic and natural hazard vulnerabilities. This project aligns with the recommended water management strategies in the 2022 State Water Plan and the 2021 Region M Water Plan.

Hidalgo County Irrigation District, Construction of Rio Grande Pump Station for Increased Reliability and Water Better Managed
Reclamation Funding: $1,972,074

Hidalgo County Irrigation District, located in the city of Mission, provides water to various entities, including agricultural producers, Aqua Special Utility District for municipal potable water, Moore Airfield federal research facility, and Frontera Generation for power generation. The district’s current lift station on Rio Grande River has operational limitations, forcing the district to decrease diversions when the river has low water levels. These operational limitations are more prevalent due to persistent, severe droughts. To address the limitations and enhance operational resilience a new pump station designed to improve the reliability of water diversions will be constructed. This project is supported by the Region M Water Planning Group’s 2021 Water Plan that emphasizes comprehensive water management strategies and drought planning.

Texas Water Development Board, Forecast and Planning Tools to Bolster Water Supply Reliability from Multi-purpose Reservoirs in Texas
Reclamation Funding: $718,978

The Texas Water Development Board will adapt forecast tools and develop decision support systems to facilitate the adoption of Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations strategies in multi-purpose reservoirs across Texas. This project will enable reservoir operators to harness the potential of Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations as a water management strategy for routine reservoir operations and for future water planning scenarios. This project will contribute
to developing drought resiliency across Texas by providing access to forecast-based tools and enhanced reservoir evaporation data to inform the adaptive management of surface water reservoirs. This project supports the goals of the 2022 State Water Plan for improved water management.

**Union Water Supply Corporation, Water System Resiliency Improvements**  
Reclamation Funding: $9,436,120

The Union Water Supply Corporation provides water utility services for rural residents in Starr County, which is disproportionately impacted by climate change hazards, high energy costs, lack of indoor plumbing, legacy pollution, and socio-economic and work force development vulnerabilities. To serve its customers, the corporation has a water right from the Rio Grande of 467 acre-foot per year. However, it consistently uses 100% of their permitted right and must lease an additional 433 acre-feet yearly to meet basic demands. To ensure a reliant supply, the corporation will plan, design, and construct a groundwater well and a groundwater treatment plant for potable, domestic use. This project will provide service independence, allowing it to forego leasing water from an external provider to cover supply gaps and create system redundancy when Rio Grande River allocations are reduced. This project decreases possible supply interruptions, benefiting and protecting a population of 6,909.

**Utah**

**Tooele County, Empowering Ibapah’s Disadvantaged and Tribal Community with Reliable Water Access**  
Reclamation Funding: $454,813

Tooele County government will construct a domestic water supply system in unincorporated Ibapah to serve local tribal and non-tribal communities that are disproportionately impacted by climate change hazards, lack of indoor plumbing, legacy pollution, and socio-economic vulnerabilities. The Ibapah community currently grapples with severe limitations in accessing clean and safe drinking water, relying on trucked water, bottled water from the grocery store, and personal wells that are prone to failure. The inadequate water supply not only poses public health and safety hazards but also hampers the local fire station’s emergency response, resulting in delayed responses and increased property damage. To address these issues, Tooele County will construct and equip a well and a distribution system to provide domestic water supplies of up to 10 acre-feet annually. This project will increase water supply reliability, alleviate the impacts of drought, enhance firefighting capabilities, improve public health and safety, enhance climate change resiliency, and stimulate economic growth in the community. The Road Department, Fire Department, Facilities Department, County Manager, and City Council actively participated in the planning of this project, collectively determining that establishing a new water supply system was the most effective way to serve the community’s water needs.
**Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Tribe Water Resiliency: Target Area F Groundwater Development**  
**Reclamation Funding: $6,590,150**

The Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation operates the Ute Tribe Water Systems, providing water service to Tribal members. The water system is supplied by two shallow springs that are subject to productivity fluctuations determined by local hydrology. The current system lacks storage capacity during certain seasons or drought periods; the springs become insufficient to meet demand, necessitating water hauling to Tribal members. Decreased production of the springs has also resulted in low water pressure issues, prompting mandatory boil water orders from the Environmental Protection Agency. To enhance water supply reliability and quality, the Tribe will construct three new domestic water supply wells, a water treatment facility, transmission and distribution pipelines, and a 90,000-gallon water storage tank. This infrastructure will provide up to 168 acre-feet of water per year. The project not only benefits the water system that currently serves over 3,000 tribal members but will also extend its services to residents in the Farm Creek Loop Road area who currently rely on private wells that periodically run dry. This project is part of the Tribe’s 2021 Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Development Plan.

**Washington**

**City of Yakima, Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities**  
**Reclamation Funding: $4,949,298**

The City of Yakima, located in southern Washington, will construct the necessary infrastructure to connect 85 residential properties to the city’s potable water and sanitary sewer systems. Currently these properties rely on private wells for domestic water supplies and septic systems for the wastewater discharges. The existing wells are shallow, ranging from 25 feet to 80 feet below the ground surface and due to limited parcel sizes, septic systems, including drain fields, are typically situated close to the wells. This proximity poses significant health concerns, particularly regarding contaminated water where septic drain fields are situated above groundwater well intakes. The use of shallow wells is further complicated by declining groundwater levels attributed to drought. The targeted areas for conversion to municipal and wastewater services are disproportionately impacted by climate change hazards, health issues, legacy pollution, and socio-economic and workforce development vulnerabilities. The high cost associated with replacing wells due to contamination or drying is economically unfeasible for residents, resulting in the condemnation or abandonment of some properties. By expanding water and wastewater services to these residents, the city aims to protect public health and provide a reliable source of drinking water. This project is identified and prioritized in the city’s 2017 Water System Plan.