

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

January 2007  
Lower Colorado Region  
Yuma Area Office

## ***WATER CONSERVATION UPDATE***

### **2007 Water Conservation Program Request for Grant Proposals**

The Bureau of Reclamation, Yuma Area Office, is advertising a request for proposals for grants to cost-share water conservation projects.

Eligible applicants include agricultural and municipal water districts, small entities that have individual contracts for water with Reclamation, Native American Tribes, universities, states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

Emphasis will be on projects that involve:

- Accurate flow measurement
- Canal operations modernization
- Outdoor (agricultural or landscape) irrigation water management
- Soil salinity management

To be eligible for financial assistance, a proposed activity must meet all of the following criteria:

- The applicant must be one of the eligible types of entities.
- The project must be located within the Yuma Area Office administrative boundaries.
- The applicant must share in the cost of the project by at least 50%. Cost-share may be in cash, or may be from "in-kind" contributions of services, equipment, labor, and materials.

It is anticipated that between two and four cooperative agreements or grants will be awarded. The maximum amount of any individual award should not exceed \$100,000. Total funding for the program is anticipated to be \$236,500. The total funds which can be obligated will depend upon the passage of the FY2007 appropriations by Congress.

**Deadline for submission of an application is March 23, 2007.** Proposals will be evaluated and awarded on a competitive basis.

To apply for a 2007 Water Conservation Program grant or cooperative agreement you can go online to the following website: [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Search by the phrase "Water Conservation Program" or by funding opportunity number: 07SF340002.

For free assistance in writing a grant proposal in Arizona, please contact the Lower Colorado River Resource Conservation and Development Council: Danny Markus (USDA-NRCS) at (928) 669-9826 ext. 101. In California, contact the Southern Low Desert Resource Conservation and Development Council: Sam Cobb (USDA-NRCS) at (760) 391-9002.

All eligible applicants are encouraged to submit a proposal. This is an opportunity to leverage your finances for a water conservation project.

For questions on this request for proposals, please contact the Grants and Cooperative Agreements Representative, Gerald Casares, at (928) 343-8262 or by email at [gcasares@lc.usbr.gov](mailto:gcasares@lc.usbr.gov).



**Flow measurement field day at the Parker Valley NRCD on October 20, 2006. Attendees are shown an acoustic-Doppler flow meter which will display and log flow rate and volume without head loss. The advantages and drawbacks of this and other flow measurement devices were explained at the field day (see other side).**



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## Flow Measurement Field Day in Parker

On October 20, 2006, the Parker Valley Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCD) held a field day on flow measurement. The NRCD has built a small open-ditch irrigation system near their office on Ehrenburg Road that demonstrates several flow measurement devices that can be used on-farm or at a district delivery point.

This demonstration project was a cooperative effort between the NRCD, the Colorado River Indian Tribes, USDA-NRCS, the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Bureau of Indian Affairs Colorado River Agency, Mace, Ltd., and YAO.

The demonstration site includes a:

- Broad-crested weir (ramp flume)
- Long-throated (open-bottom) flume
- “Mace Agri-Flow” acoustic flow meter
- “Greyline OCF-IV” flume recorder
- “Princo SmartSensor” flume recorder
- “Sutron Stage-Discharge Recorder”

The site has a footbridge where current meters can be easily demonstrated. The site is located on Ehrenburg Road and accessible to the public. Information on each of the devices is available from the NRCD or U of A Extension.



**Long-throated flume and recorder at the NRCD demonstration site Parker Valley. The long-throated flume has an open bottom to facilitate maintenance and eliminate upstream ponding. A sensor is shown upstream of the flume and above the ditch. This sensor measures the water level which is converted to flow rate.**



**From left, Mark Buehler, CVWD; Joe Lord, JM Lord Inc., consulting engineer, and Steve Powell, Peter Rabbit Farms. A cost-share check is presented for 50% reimbursement for construction of a farm reservoir, for side-by-side demonstration of conversion from surface irrigation to sprinkler irrigation on carrots.**

## Coachella On-Farm Conservation Program and Intrinsic Water Market

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) held one of a series of stakeholders’ meetings on January 17 to gather input and report on the progress of their agricultural conservation program. The program provides technical assistance to growers to apply efficient water management practices, and quantifies the actual water savings resulting from those practices in order to develop an intrinsic market within CVWD for transfers of water from agriculture to municipalities.

Quantifying the water savings from adoption of more efficient water management practices is not easy due to the many variables that affect agricultural water use. For example, changes in crops, weather, soils, ownership, and irrigation systems are such variables.

CVWD applies use of statistical analysis plus use of tools such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to track and analyze the data. It is realized that use of more efficient water use practices sometimes results in more water use due to deficit irrigation or less than adequate leaching. But, on the average, less water is used. The apparent water savings for the most important practices is then verified in demonstration projects through intensive data collection in a side-by-side comparison.



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