

## **WATER CONSERVATION UPDATE**

### **2009 Water Conservation Program Request for Grant Proposals**

The Bureau of Reclamation, Yuma Area Office, is advertising a request for proposals for grants or cooperative agreements for water conservation projects to be funded in fiscal year 2009 (FY2009). FY2009 starts October 1, 2008.

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 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 five cooperative agreements or grants will be awarded. The maximum amount of any individual award should not exceed \$80,000. Total funding for the program is anticipated to be \$240,000. The amount which can be obligated will depend upon the passage of the FY2009 appropriations by Congress. Award will be made upon receipt of FY2009

appropriations. **Deadline for submission of an application is Friday, October 10, 2008.**

To apply for a 2009 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: 09SF340001.

A grant is an agreement to share in the cost of a project only. A cooperative agreement not only shares in the cost, but Reclamation agrees to be substantially involved in the project, usually through technical assistance.

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@usbr.gov](mailto:gcasares@usbr.gov).



**Demonstration flow measurement and accounting project in Imperial Valley. Flow is measured with a two broad-crested weirs (one of them shown in foreground) The volume of water delivered is totalized and the information is sent by radio to the farm headquarters several miles away.**



## Annual Water Conservation Workshops Offered by the Bureau of Reclamation

For the twelfth year in a row, the Water Resources Research Laboratory (WRRL) in Denver, Colorado, is offering water conservation workshops.

“Basic Principles and Developments in Flow Measurement” is offered January 13-15, 2009. This workshop deals specifically with flow measurement concepts, devices, design, and instrumentation in both open channels and closed pipelines. A lab workshop session gives each student hands-on experience using different techniques and types of water measurement equipment. A computer laboratory session allows hands-on experience with the latest flow measurement related software.

“Modern Methods in Canal Operation and Control,” is offered January 26-30, 2009. This workshop covers modern methods to upgrade the operation of existing canals, including canal automation techniques and equipment. The class is suitable for canal operators, water masters, engineers, and other technical staff.

For more information on these classes, please visit the WRRL Internet site at:

[http://www.usbr.gov/pmts/hydraulics\\_lab/](http://www.usbr.gov/pmts/hydraulics_lab/)

Then click on “training”.



**Farm delivery turnout with automatic flow rate control and volumetric measurement. A flume can be seen in the background. This is a trial project in Imperial Valley. A similar project is under construction in the Yuma valley. Both are in cooperation with Sutron, Inc., who provided the controllers/recorders.**



**Venturi meter constructed with standard PVC, bell-reducer fittings. This installation measures drainage flow for a research project with the University of California in Palo Verde Irrigation District. As the flow speeds up through the small section of smaller diameter pipe, the pressure drop is measured to determine the flow rate. We are investigating the use of standard PVC fittings to provide economical flow measurement in pipes.**

## Irrigation District School of Irrigation - Short Courses Offered at Cal-Poly

The Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC) at Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo, California, is again planning offers a series of irrigation-related short-courses in 2009 through its “Irrigation District School of Irrigation”. These classes are co-sponsored by Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region. Tuition is reduced for irrigation districts.

Next year’s classes should include courses on flow measurement, canal operation, supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) for beginners and advanced, and pumps.

Classes are normally scheduled for January through March. The class schedule and sign-up should be available by mid-October. For more information on these and other classes offered by ITRC, please visit their website at

[www.itrc.org/classes/](http://www.itrc.org/classes/)



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation