2008 Water Conservation Field Services 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 within the administrative boundaries of the Yuma Area Office.

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.

The primary purposes of the Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP) are to:
- Assist in developing effective water management and conservation plans;
- Encourage and promote implementation of water efficiency measures;
- Demonstrate conservation technologies; and
- Promote and support water education and training.

Applicants may propose a grant or cooperative agreement. A grant is an agreement for financial assistance only. A cooperative agreement includes technical assistance as well as financial assistance.

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 financial award should not exceed $80,000. Total funding for the program is anticipated to be $190,000. Funds for FY 2010 are currently not available. Once the FY 2010 appropriations become available, awards will be made. It is anticipated the funds and awards may become available by March 2010. Deadline for submission of an application is Dec 18, 2009.

To apply for a 2010 WCFSP grant or cooperative agreement you can go online to the following website: www.grants.gov. Search by funding opportunity number (FON): 10SF340001.

Please be advised and consider that additional requirements for agricultural districts will be included in any 2010 agreements due to Public Law 111-11. For example, in Section 9504(a)(3)(B), the financial assistance recipient “…shall not use any associated water savings to increase the total irrigated acreage of the Recipient or otherwise increase the consumptive use of water.”

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.

Annual Water Conservation Workshops Presented by the Bureau of Reclamation

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

“Basic Principles and Developments in Flow Measurement” is offered January 12-14, 2010. 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 February 1 through February 5, 2010. This workshop covers modern methods to
upgrade the operation of existing canals, including supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) 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 Water Resources Research Laboratory Internet site at: www.usbr.gov/pmts/hydraulics_lab. Then click on “training”.

Irrigation District School of Irrigation - Short Courses Offered at Cal-Poly, San Luis Obispo

The Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC) at Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo, California, are again offering the Irrigation District School of Irrigation short courses in 2010. These classes are co-sponsored by Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region. The series of short classes include:

- Flow Measurement – Pipelines (1 day)
- Flow Measurement – Canals (1 day)
- Canal Operation (1 day)
- SCADA (4 days)
- Pumps I (1 day) and Pumps II (2 days)

Classes are scheduled for January through March, 2010. For more information on these and other classes offered by ITRC, please visit their website at www.itrc.org. Click on “classes”.

On-Farm Irrigation Workshop and Flow Measurement Demonstrations

The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension is presenting a workshop for on-farm irrigation management and on-farm flow measurement techniques in Yuma on November 18, 2009. The workshop will be conducted at the Yuma Valley Agricultural Center, 6425 West 8th Street, Yuma. Registration starts at 8:30 and the workshop will end at noon. For more information on this workshop please contact Kurt Nolte at 928-726-3904 or Charles Sanchez at 928-782-3836.

The University of California Cooperative Extension will host a similar workshop in the Imperial Valley on November 19, 2009, from 8:00 – 11:00. The workshop will be conducted at the University of California Desert Research and Extension Center, located at 1050 E. Holton Road, Holtville, CA.

Materials for this workshop will be available for you if you register before the workshop. To register just email your name to Khaled Bali, kmbali@ucdavis.edu, call 760-352-9474 Ext 28, or fax 760-352-0846.

A map of a section of the Gila Gravity Main Canal. The color-coding shows the average electrical conductivity of the soil beneath the canal. Conductivity is correlated to clay content, which is an indicator of canal seepage. Apparent higher seepage areas are blue and lower seepage areas are red. The full report and other technical reports can be found on our Internet site: www.usbr.gov/lc/yuma. Click on “Water Conservation”, then on “Technical Reports”.

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation