

WATER CONSERVATION UPDATE



From the left, Jim Cherry, Yuma Area Office Manager; Ms. Evelyn Berryman, Bard Water District Board President; Ron Derma, Bard Water District Manager; Bob Johnson, Lower Colorado Regional Director; and Jennifer McCloskey, Yuma Area Office, Deputy Area Manager; display the crystal water drop and plaque after the Commissioner's Water Conservation Award Ceremony.

Bard Water District Recognized with Commissioner's Award

On Thursday, February 2nd, the Bureau of Reclamation presented the Bard Water District (Bard) with the 2005 Commissioner's Water Conservation Award.

Reclamation Lower Colorado Regional Director Bob Johnson presented the award to Ron Derma, Bard Manager, at noon during a brief ceremony at Reclamation's Yuma Area Office. Jim Cherry, Yuma Area Office Manager, Jennifer McCloskey, Deputy Area Manager, and Ms. Evelyn Berryman, Bard Board President, also participated in the event.

"The Bard Water District has taken many steps to improve water management and conservation," Johnson said. "Through application of conservation measures and collaboration with a variety of partners, Bard has implemented system improvements and better

management practices to enhance water distribution efficiencies within its irrigation distribution system. The Bard Water District has done an outstanding job in raising funds for improvements internally and externally."

Bard has implemented a water measurement and accounting program for the last ten years. Recently, Bard has implemented a three-year water infrastructure upgrade project that will save an estimated 10,000 acre-feet of water annually. The upgrade includes measures such as concrete ditch lining, improved water control and flow measurement structures and devices, and a remote monitoring system.

The Commissioner's Water Conservation Award recognizes outstanding accomplishments by Federal water users and partners in the areas of planning, demonstration, information/training, and implementation of water-use efficiency measures.



Water 2025 Request for Proposals (RFP) for Water 2025 in Fiscal Year 2006 (FY2006) Announced

The RFP for *Water 2025* Challenge Grants for water conservation in FY2006 has been posted. The application deadline is May 5, 2006. This RFP will be open to irrigation and water districts and Western states. Awards for selected projects may be made with either FY2006 or FY2007 funding.

The objective of the RFP is to invite irrigation and water districts and state governmental entities with water management authority to cost-share with Reclamation on projects that will make more efficient use of water supplies. Projects will be selected through a competitive process focused on achieving the long-term goals of the *Water 2025* Program.

Projects selected for funding under this RFP may be awarded with FY2006 or FY2007 funding. Because all funding appropriated for *Water 2025* in FY2006 was earmarked, Reclamation anticipates realigning about \$1 million to *Water 2025* later this fiscal year to provide funding for 5 to 10 Challenge Grant projects in FY2006. Reclamation expects that additional grants could be awarded under the same RFP with FY2007 funding, if the funds are enacted by Congress for the 2007 budget. The RFP provides that applicants may request up to \$300,000 in Federal funding per project, but that meritorious proposals requesting \$100,000 or less in Federal funding may be awarded in FY2006. Those proposals requesting more than \$100,000 will not likely be awarded until FY2007.

For a copy of the RFP and instructions on applying for a Challenge Grant, please go to the *Water 2025* Internet site at www.doi.gov/water2025, or go to www.grants.gov and use the keyword "Water 2025."



Long-throated flume at the Apache Lateral under construction in the Bard Water District (Bard) in 2000. This structure was cost-shared by the Water Conservation Field Services Program. Bard has been steadily implementing water management and conservation practices for many years.

Reminder: RFP for Yuma Area Water Conservation Program, Proposals are Due March 31.

Proposals for cost-share and technical assistance on water conservation projects in the Yuma Area (administrative area of Reclamation) are due March 31. This RFP is separate from the *Water 2025* Program. This RFP was initially announced in the January 2006 *Water Conservation Update*.

For this RFP, grants or cooperative agreements up to \$75,000 per agreement in 50% cost-share is available to eligible entities. The proposal may include technical assistance from Reclamation's Water Conservation Field Services Program. Projects that include technical assistance are cooperative agreements, whereas cost-share funds only without technical assistance are called grants.

To apply for a 2006 Water Conservation Program Grant you can go online to the following website: www.grants.gov. Keyword search: "Water Conservation Program Yuma", or by funding opportunity number: 06SF340003.



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