

WATER CONSERVATION UPDATE

Request for Proposals Posted for Water 2025 Challenge Grant Program for Western States

Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner John Keys announced a new Water 2025 Challenge Grant Program that seeks proposals for cooperative projects between Western state governments and the Bureau of Reclamation to make more efficient use of existing water supplies in the region.

The program is focused on achieving the goals identified in Secretary Norton's Water 2025 initiative to avoid crises and conflict in the West, particularly the development and use of water markets, structural modifications that will conserve water and improve water management, and other approaches. Among these measures are the use of analytical tools that will help states better administer or more efficiently manage water rights, comply with interstate compacts, or otherwise stretch scarce water supplies.

The Challenge Grant Program for Western States is similar to the Water 2025 Challenge Grant Program. However, in the new program announced today, eligible applicants are limited to state government water management agencies and authorities in the western United States, as identified in the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902, as amended and supplemented. The regular Water 2025 Challenge Grant Program, which is open to local government, municipal and private irrigation districts and water associations as well as tribal water authorities, will continue as established.

The deadline for submitting proposals for the new Challenge Grant Program for Western States is June 10, 2005. The selections and awards are scheduled to be announced by August. Reclamation may make additional awards at a later date, depending on the availability of funds.

Priority consideration will be given to those projects with practical applications that will reduce the likelihood of conflict over water and can be completed within 24 months from the date of award.

The Request for Proposals for the Water 2025 Challenge Grant Program for Western States is available online at www.grants.gov (keyword search: Water 2025). Additional information about the Water 2025 Challenge Grant Program for Western States is available at www.doi.gov/water2025.

You may also contact Mark Niblack at (928) 343-8253, mniblack@lc.usbr.gov, or Ty Mull at (928) 343-8231, tmull@lc.usbr.gov.



Figure 1 Technician performing a system check as part of Coachella Valley Water District's Irrigation Management Program. (Photo courtesy JM Lord Inc.)



Water 2025 Challenge Grants for 2005 Have Been Awarded

Interior Secretary Gale Norton has approved \$9.9 million in Water 2025 Challenge Grants for water conservation projects across the West. The grants will help to fund 43 projects in 13 states. Including the matching contributions of non-federal partners, the selected projects represent a combined investment of more than \$27 million in water improvements.

Water 2025 encourages voluntary water banks and other market-based measures as authorized under state law, promotes the use of new technology for water conservation and efficiency, and removes institutional barriers to increase cooperation and collaboration among federal, state, tribal and private organizations. The Yuma Area Office would like to congratulate the following grant recipients for 2005: Bard Water District, Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, and Yuma County Water Users Association. The following projects will be partially financed by the Water 2025 Grants.

Bard Water District, Winterhaven: The water district will pipe a half mile of unlined canals that serve Quechan Tribal and private lands. The district also will replace two existing checks on the main canal and install four high water alarms. The piping will reduce seepage losses, and the replacement of the checks and four high water alarms will increase water delivery efficiencies and service to water users while protecting against crop and home damage due to flooding. The project is anticipated to save 195 acre-feet of water per year. The total project cost is \$602,288, including a Water 2025 contribution of \$229,680.

Coachella Valley Water District: The water district's demonstration project will include quantifications of current and historic water use using GIS, detailed field monitoring,

implementation of conservation practices on demonstration fields and quantification of water savings. The project is anticipated to save at least 1,000 acre-feet of water per year. The total project cost is \$909,840, including a Water 2025 contribution of \$300,000.

Imperial Irrigation District: The district will install automatic gates to be operated remotely at the heads of 10 lateral canals. The project also will include linking the automatic gates into an existing Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system. The project is estimated to save 912 acre-feet of water per year. The total project cost is \$857,548, including a Water 2025 contribution of \$300,000.

Yuma County Water Users Association: The Association will line 5.8 miles of canals. The sealing of these canals with concrete will reduce seepage losses and increase water delivery efficiencies. This project is estimated to save 7,583 acre-feet of water annually and will make more water available to other Colorado River users. The total project cost is \$2 million, including a Water 2025 contribution of \$300,000.



Figure 2. Construction work on new over shot gate at Edwards check structure in the Yuma County Water Users' Association, part of their 2004 Water 2025 Challenge Grant program.

