

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

May 2006  
Lower Colorado Region  
Yuma Area Office

## ***WATER CONSERVATION UPDATE***

### **2006 Water Conservation Program Request for Grant Proposals**

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Yuma Area Office is re-advertising its request proposals to fund projects for activities in support of its Water Conservation Program within the Yuma area in Federal fiscal year 2006.

Eligible applicants include agricultural and/or municipal/industrial water districts and small entities (public or private) that have contracts for water with Reclamation, Native American Tribes, universities, states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

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

- The applicant must be an entity currently involved in the development or implementation of water management or water conservation practices.
- The project must be located within the Yuma Area Office administrative boundaries.
- The applicant must share in the cost of the project at least 50%. Cost-share may be in cash or in-kind contributions of services, equipment, labor, and materials.

It is anticipated between two and four cooperative agreements will be awarded for the Yuma area depending on the grant amount of funding requested by successful proposals. Total funding for the program is \$90,000. **Deadline for submission of an application is May 26, 2006.** Proposals must be evaluated on a competitive basis. Funding period for each grant is two years. It is anticipated that awards will be made around June 15, 2006.

To apply for a 2006 Water Conservation Program grant you can go online to the following website: [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Search by this name: Water Conservation Program or by funding opportunity number: 06SF3400005.

For 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.

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



**Irrigation evaluation of a citrus orchard on the Yuma Mesa, Arizona.**



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

## On-Farm Water Measurement Flumes for Irrigation Management Workshop and Demonstration

The University of Arizona will present a workshop on Thursday, May 25, 2006, on methods to improve on-farm flow measurement and water management. The objective of this workshop is to provide information on the use of irrigation cutoff time methods on the sandy soils for the Yuma Mesa and a cost-sharing program for flow measurement structures. After the event farmers may apply for one of these user-friendly water measurement devices. The cost-share rate of an installed flume will be 75%.

The program will begin at the Yuma County Cooperative Extension Office, 2200 W. 28<sup>th</sup> Street, at 10:00 a.m. on May 25. A brief presentation will be followed by a visit to field sites with flumes in operation. Lunch will be provided at the University of Arizona's Yuma Mesa Agricultural Center (County 15<sup>th</sup> and Avenue A).

Please RSVP Jean Carter at [jmcarter@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:jmcarter@ag.arizona.edu), or call the Cooperative Extension Office at (928) 726-3904.

## Irrigation School for Irrigation District Water Operators

The Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC) of California Polytechnic State University will present two 1-day classes on canal operations and flow measurement for canal operators. The main subjects that will be covered are:

- Operation of check structures
- Flow control vs. level control
- Gate settings
- "Real-world problems"
- Operation of meter gates
- Flumes and weirs
- Weir sticks
- Quick introduction into SCADA

Emphasis will be on canal operations and conditions in the Yuma Valley.

There will be ½-day of class room lectures and ½-day of hands-on field work. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, June 20, and Wednesday, June 21, at the Yuma County Water Users' Association office located at 3800 W. County 15<sup>th</sup> Street (end of Avenue C), Somerton, Arizona. The workshop schedule will be either two morning or two afternoon sessions to accommodate operator work schedules for a total of 8 hours. The workshop is free of charge.

A more detailed agenda will be set the first week in June. If you would like to sign up for the class or receive more information, please contact Mark Niblack at (928) 343-8253 or email [mniblack@lc.usbr.gov](mailto:mniblack@lc.usbr.gov), or Ty Mull at (928) 343-8231 or email [tmull@lc.usbr.gov](mailto:tmull@lc.usbr.gov).

## Canal Flow Meter for On-Farm Flow Measurement

Reclamation's Yuma Area Office and Denver Office Water Resources Research Laboratory are field testing a new Canal Flow Meter (CFM) in the Yuma area. The CFM is designed to be an inexpensive recorder for a weir or flume. It is made from commercially available parts and provides users with a flow rate and a total volume of water used over a user-specified time. For more information on the CFM, contact Ty Mull at (928) 343-8231 or email [tmull@lc.usbr.gov](mailto:tmull@lc.usbr.gov)



Photo of the new Canal Flow Meter developed by Tom Gill of Reclamation's WRRL in Denver, Colorado.

