



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

# Small Storage Program

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Program Update  
August 21, 2025

# Getting Started

- Cameras and microphones are muted.
- Submit questions and comments via the Q&A box. We will answer them after the presentation.
- Turn on auto-generated captions by selecting More > Language and Speech > Show live captions.
- A copy of the slides and a recording of the webinar will be made available on our website: <https://www.usbr.gov/smallstorage/>





# Agenda

- Overview of Small Storage Program
- Current program status
- Feasibility study report requirements
- Program resources
- Questions





# Small Storage Program Overview

- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was enacted on November 15, 2021.
  - Provides \$100 million from Fiscal Years 2022 to 2026 to establish and implement a new competitive grant program for small water storage and groundwater storage projects.
- Small storage projects are defined by:
  - A water storage capacity of not less than **200\*** acre-feet and not more than 30,000 acre-feet and must:
    - increase surface or groundwater storage; or
    - convey water, directly or indirectly, to or from surface water or groundwater storage

*\*as amended by Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (P.L. 117-328)*



# Small Storage Program Funding

- Eligible Non-Federal Project Sponsors:
  - Within the 17 Western States, Alaska, or Hawaii, and;
  - A state, regional, or local authority;
  - Indian tribe or tribal organization; or
  - Other entities such as a water district or a water association
- Funding:
  - Awards are limited to the lesser of \$30 million or 25% of project costs
  - Funding is allocated through a competitive process



# Additional Requirements under IIJA

- The project is technically and financially feasible in accordance with the guidelines developed and reclamation law
  - [CMP TRMR 127](#), *Small Surface Water and Groundwater Storage Projects Feasibility Study Review Process*
  - Section 40903 of Pub. L. 117-58 (as amended by Pub. L. 117- 328)
  - Other relevant Federal and reclamation law
- The project provides a federal benefit
- There is sufficient non-Federal funding to complete the project



# Program Priorities Established by IIJA

The Secretary shall give priority to projects that meet 1 or more of the following criteria:

- Projects that are likely to provide a more reliable water supply for States, Indian Tribes, and local governments.
- Projects that are likely to increase water management flexibility and reduce impacts on environmental resources from projects operated by Federal and State agencies.
- Projects that are regional in nature.
- Projects with multiple stakeholders.
- Projects that provide multiple benefits, including water supply reliability, ecosystem benefits, groundwater management and enhancements, and water quality improvements.



# Eligibility Summary

Category	Eligible Projects
Project purpose	Increases surface water or groundwater storage for beneficial use
Capacity	200 AF – 30,000 AF
Project & applicant location	17 Western States, Alaska, or Hawaii
Applicant type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A state, regional, or local authority;</li><li>• Indian tribe or tribal organization; or</li><li>• other non-Federal entities such as a water district or water association</li></ul>
Feasibility	Reviewed feasibility study that demonstrates technical and financial feasibility
Timeframe	Completed within approximately 3 years
Federal cost share	Does not exceed smaller of 25% or \$30,000,000. Sufficient non-federal funding to complete project.





# Current Status

- Two funding opportunity cycles complete
- Funding opportunity reposted July 2025
- About \$43.5 million remains to be awarded
- Expected final funding opportunity for the program given available funding

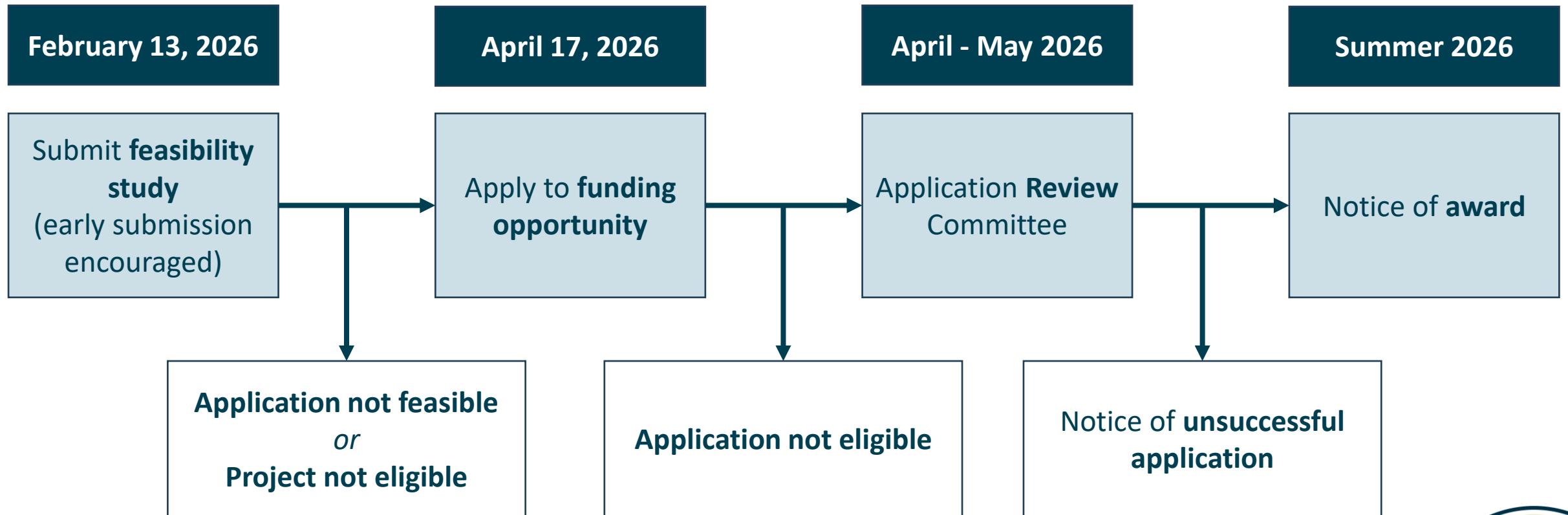


# Summary of previously funded projects

- Six projects have been funded with \$55 million in total awards
  - 4 projects received maximum federal cost share
- Project water uses (for beneficial use): irrigation, municipal water supply
- Aquifer storage and recovery: 4 projects
  - Injection wells + recovery pumps, delivery pipelines
  - Recharge ponds + recovery wells, delivery pipelines
  - Capacity 2,000 AF – 28,000 AF
- Surface reservoirs: 2 projects
  - Surface reservoir construction + conveyance pipelines
  - Capacity 2,100 AF – 3,600 AF



# Small Storage Project Application Process



# How to Become Eligible for Small Storage Project Funding

A completed feasibility study must be submitted and found to meet all requirements of Reclamation's relevant Directives and Standards

Directive & Standard	Reference
Small Surface Water and Groundwater Storage Projects Feasibility Study Review Process (CMP TRMR-127)	<a href="https://www.usbr.gov/recman/temporary_releases/cmp_trmr-127.pdf">https://www.usbr.gov/recman/temporary_releases/cmp_trmr-127.pdf</a>
Review Process Flow Chart (CMP TRMR-127 Appendix A)	<a href="https://www.usbr.gov/recman/temporary_releases/cmp_trmr-127-AppA.pdf">https://www.usbr.gov/recman/temporary_releases/cmp_trmr-127-AppA.pdf</a>



# Small Storage Feasibility Study Requirements

## Report Contents:

1. Introductory Information
2. Statement of Problems and Needs
3. Small Storage Opportunities
4. Description of Alternatives
5. Economic Analysis
6. Selection of the Proposed Project
7. Risk and Uncertainty
8. Environmental Consideration and Potential Effects
9. Legal and Institutional Requirements
10. Sufficient Non-Federal Funding





# Small Storage Feasibility Study Requirements (cont'd)

- **Flexibility Concerning Format (Paragraph 3.A.)**
  - Existing feasibility studies and related technical information may be utilized to meet the feasibility study requirements
  - A standalone document must be submitted that follows Reclamation's requirements for the small storage feasibility report
- **Description of Alternatives (Paragraph 3.B.(4))**
  - Alternatives considered and analyzed must be included, and should support the selected alternative/proposed project
  - Lifecycle costs must be included (i.e., capital cost and operations, maintenance, and replacement over the useful life of the project)
  - Utilizing the lifecycle costs and estimated yield, provide the projected cost per acre-foot of supply
- **Economic Analysis (Paragraph 3.B.(5))**
  - The analysis should report the expected benefits relative to costs
  - The economic analysis may be scaled to complexity, risk, and cost of the project



# Next Steps

## *Submission of Small Storage Feasibility Studies*

- Approved feasibility studies are required to apply for future funding opportunities
- Reclamation accepts studies at any time; however, the review process can take up to 180 days. Early submissions are highly encouraged
  - Reclamation will work to make reviews as timely as possible
- Project sponsors are encouraged to submit studies as early as possible to be considered for funding eligibility

## *Notice of Funding Opportunity*

- The Fiscal Year 2025/2026 NOFO re-opened in July 2025
- Posted to Program Website: <https://www.usbr.gov/smallstorage/>



# Small Storage Program Resources

- Small Water Storage Program Website (including link to subscribe for more information):
  - <https://www.usbr.gov/smallstorage/>
  - Feasibility study requirements, program information, fact sheets, status updates, and contact information are all posted here
- Additional funding opportunities can be found at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)
- Contacts:
  - Austin Olah, Program Manager, [aolah@usbr.gov](mailto:aolah@usbr.gov), (303) 445-2835
  - Anna Wright, Program Coordinator, [awright@usbr.gov](mailto:awright@usbr.gov), (303) 445-2898
  - Small Storage Program Mailbox, [bor-sha-smallstorage@usbr.gov](mailto:bor-sha-smallstorage@usbr.gov)
  - Financial Assistance Inbox, [bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov](mailto:bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov)





# Questions



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