



Small Storage Program

Water storage is an important component of resiliency to growing water demands and climate variability. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), enacted in November 2021, authorized \$100,000,000 for small surface water storage and groundwater storage projects and established the Small Storage Program. This section clarifies eligibility and requirements for planning, design, and construction funding for non-Federal small storage projects under this program.

Overview

This competitive grant program is an opportunity for non-Federal project sponsors to apply for Federal cost-shared funding of eligible small surface water and groundwater storage projects in the 17 Western States, Alaska, and Hawaii. Awards for eligible projects are determined through a competitive process. The first Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was released in 2022, a second was released in 2023, and a third [NOFO](#) was released on September 4, 2024.

What is an Eligible Project?

Small surface water storage and groundwater storage projects that have a feasibility study which has been found to meet all the requirements of Temporary Reclamation Manual Release [CMP TRMR-127](#) by the dates specified in the NOFO are eligible to apply for funding. For an eligible project to receive funding, the Secretary of the Interior must determine that: the project is technically and financially feasible, it provides a Federal benefit, and sufficient non-Federal funding is available to complete the project. The project must meet the following minimum eligibility requirements:

- water storage capacity of not less than 200 acre-feet and not more than 30,000 acre-feet; and
- increases surface water or groundwater storage; or
- conveys water, directly or indirectly, to or from surface water or groundwater storage.

Funding and Timing

The BIL provides \$100,000,000 over 5 years for eligible projects. The Federal cost share of any eligible project cannot exceed the lesser of:

- 25% of the total project cost; or
- \$30 million per project.

As of September 2024, Reclamation has awarded \$55 million to six projects located in California and Utah.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications are evaluated against the criteria in the NOFO. The evaluation criteria incorporate the prioritization outlined in Section 40903 of the BIL. Please see www.usbr.gov/smallstorage for more information.

Next Steps

Reclamation strongly encourages non-Federal sponsors to submit small storage feasibility studies for review by Spring 2025. For questions regarding the requirements of CMP TRMR-127, project eligibility, or program status, please reach out to the point of contact below.

Additional Information

<https://www.usbr.gov/smallstorage>

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