

Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcement Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program

The Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Region, (Reclamation) will be soliciting applications for reducing salinity contributions to the Colorado River through a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) that will open around the first of August 2012 and close around the middle of November 2012. Such applications may propose measures to reduce salinity contributions originating from saline springs, leaking wells, irrigation sources, municipal and industrial sources, erosion of public and private land, or other sources in the upper basin of the Colorado River. All salinity projects are required to replace incidental wildlife habitat losses concurrent with construction of salinity control features. Applications will be evaluated and selected through a competitive process based on the cost effectiveness of the project to reduce salt loading to the Colorado River.

The purpose of this announcement is to provide advance notice of the upcoming FOA. Reclamation will publish a Funding Opportunity Summary at www.Grants.gov and other sources around the first of August 2012. To get an advanced idea what a FOA looks like, the contents of the 2010-11 FOA, R-10-SF-40-008, can be reviewed and downloaded at www.usbr.gov/uc/progact/salinity.

Reclamation will also be holding workshops to help potential applicants understand the requirements of the FOA and the FOA process. Reclamation is planning to hold workshops sometime during the last two weeks of May in Lyman WY, Roosevelt UT, Price UT, and Montrose CO. The dates, locations, and times of the workshops will be provided in later notices and posted at www.usbr.gov/uc/progact/salinity. To facilitate receiving notices from Reclamation in the future, please provide an e-mail address to Brad Parry, Salinity Control Program Coordinator. His e-mail address is provided below.

In this FOA, applications will be accepted for off-farm projects that cost the Salinity Control Program \$6 M or less and control more than 300 tons of salt. The following are general guidelines on how applications will be selected for award.

1. Highest ranking applications with more than 1,000 tons will be selected to be awarded and funded under Reclamation's Basinwide Program.
2. Additional high ranking applications with more than 1,000 tons could be selected to be awarded under the Basinwide Program but funded by Basin States Program (BSP) administered by Reclamation.
3. Highest ranking applications with more than 300 tons but less than 1,000 tons by state will be selected to be funded under the BSP and awarded agreements administered by a state agency or administered by Reclamation.

Applications will be selected through a competitive process under the evaluation criteria set forth in the FOA. Applications will be evaluated and ranked by a ranking committee composed of representatives of the Colorado River Basin States and Reclamation. Reclamation or the state agency will then proceed to award agreements to the proposers of the highest ranked applications.

An agreement or agreements will not be awarded to a proposer of multiple high ranking applications if the combined funding in the agreements from the Salinity Control Program exceeds \$8 M. Also, an agreement or agreements will not be awarded to a proposer if the proposer already has an agreement or agreements for Salinity Control Program funds and the unobligated amount of Salinity Control Program funds in the existing agreement or agreements combined with the amount of a new agreement would exceed \$8 M.

In preparation to receive Federal funds, (now or in the future), entities must be registered in the Central Contractor Register (CCR). The CCR is a web-enabled government-wide application that collects, validates, stores, and disseminates business information about the federal government's trading partners in support of the contract award, grants, and the electronic payment process. Entities can register at www.ccr.gov. It may take some time for the process to be completed so register as soon as possible.

Reclamation is continuing its efforts to confirm salt loading estimates from irrigation in various high salinity areas and to disaggregate irrigation water distribution system, on-farm irrigation, and other salt loading sources. This work is often complicated by data availability and conflicting information and can be quite time-consuming. Reclamation's goal is to be able to furnish each potential proposer for irrigation source control with a salt load reduction value that can be used in the preparation of their application. However, at this time, Reclamation does not have salt loading estimates for all the irrigation areas in the upper basin. The attached maps provide general locations of the areas for which Reclamation has salt loading estimates. The Utah/Wyoming map shows those areas under the jurisdiction of Reclamation's Provo Area Office. The Colorado/New Mexico map shows those areas under the jurisdiction of Reclamation's Western Colorado Area Office. Entities interested in submitting applications should **first** contact the salinity coordinator in the nearest Reclamation office to determine if there is a salt load allocation for their project area. The Reclamation offices are listed below.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Historically, total annual salt loading to the Colorado River has been approximately 9 million tons per year. About one half of the present salt load can be attributed to natural sources such as erosion of lands and saline springs. The remainder of the salt load is human-induced, originating from irrigation practices and municipal and industrial sources. Damages resulting from salt loading and the concentrating effects due to the consumptive use of water are estimated to be almost \$300 million annually. These impacts accrue mainly to agricultural, municipal, and industrial water users in the Lower Basin of the Colorado River.

The objective of the salinity control program is to minimize the salt loading in the Colorado River Basin. In June 1974, Congress enacted the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act, Public Law 93-320 (Act), which directed the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to proceed with a program to enhance and protect the quality of water available in the Colorado River for use in the United States and Republic of Mexico. Public Law 104-20 of July 28, 1995, amended the Act and authorizes the Secretary, acting through Reclamation, to implement a basinwide salinity control program (Basinwide Program). The Secretary may carry out the purposes of the Act directly, or make grants, enter into contracts, memoranda of agreement, commitments for grants,

cooperative agreements, or advances of funds to non-federal entities under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may require. Reclamation, through the Basinwide Program, has funded over 50 salinity control projects. Most of these projects consist of placing off-farm irrigation canals and laterals in pressure pipelines, generally utilizing either PVC or a high-density polyethylene pipeline that eliminate canal and lateral seepage that carries salt into the river system. Some also supply pressure irrigation for on-farm sprinkler irrigation systems. The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service can assist producers with on-farm practices. Salinity control occurs best when off-farm and on-farm control measures occur in the same area sequentially.

RECLAMATION OFFICES:

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program Manager

Mr. Kib Jacobson
125 South State Street. Room 6107
Salt Lake City, UT 84138
801-524-3753
kjacobson@usbr.gov

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program Coordinator

Mr. Brad Parry
125 South State Street. Room 6107
Salt Lake City, UT 84138
801-524-3723
bjparry@usbr.gov

RECLAMATION AREA OFFICE COORDINATORS:

Colorado River Basin in Utah and Wyoming:

Mr. Ben Radcliffe
Provo Area Office
302 East 1860 South
Provo UT 84606-7317
801-379-1213
bradcliffe@usbr.gov

Colorado River Basin in Colorado and New Mexico including San Juan River and Dolores River Basins:

Mr. John Sottolare
Western Colorado Area Office
2764 Compass Drive
Grand Junction CO 81506
970-248-0640
jsottolare@usbr.gov

STATE OFFICER COORDINATORS:

State of Colorado:

Colorado State Soil Conservation Board

Mr. Jim Currier

2738 Crossroads Blvd., Suite 104

Grand Junction CO 81506

970-243-5068 x116

james.currier@co.nacdnet.net

State of Utah:

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

Mr. Mark Quilter

350 North Redwood Road

P.O. Box 146500

Salt Lake City, UT 84414-6500

801-538-9905

mquilter@utah.gov

State of Wyoming:

Wyoming Water Development Commission Office

Mr. Mike Hackett

6920 Yellowtail Road

Cheyenne, WY 82002

307-777-7626

mike.hackett@wyo.gov

FUTURE PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES IN AREAS WITHOUT SALT LOADING ESTIMATES

Salt loading information is sparse in some irrigation areas of the upper basin and Reclamation may not be able to develop a salt load reduction estimate for certain areas in the time frame needed to compete in the 2012 FOA. However, if there is local interest in a project and there is sufficient indication of high salt loading from that area, new detailed studies to identify sources and potential reductions could be undertaken. Often these studies and their integral data collection efforts require several years or more to complete. Once the salt load reduction estimate is developed, interested proposers could participate in future FOAs, which typically occur about every 2-3 years. Interested entities should further discuss these opportunities with their local Reclamation salinity coordinator.