

## **Acequia Restoration & Conservation Cost Share Project**

*A proposal to manage, restore, and recover the health of historic acequias whose integrity has been severely compromised through an aged infrastructure and extreme deterioration. Funding will expand a small-scale conservation cost share program designed to assist landowners in restoring compromised acequias, improve irrigation efficiency, and improve water supply reliability.*

Submitted to:

Bureau of Reclamation  
WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale  
Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2017

CFDA Number 15.507  
Funding Opportunity Funding Opportunity BOR-DO-17-F011

Deadline: May 15, 2017

Applicant:

Guadalupe Soil & Water Conservation District  
586 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Santa Rosa, NM 88435

DUNS #: 078733476  
SAMS #: CAGE Code 7AUL5  
EIN #: 85-0317675

Project Manager:

Vincent Cordova, Chairman  
586 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
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May 11, 2017

Guadalupe Soil & Water Conservation District  
586 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Santa Rosa, NM 88435

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Guadalupe Soil & Water Conservation District is committed to manage, restore, and recover the health of compromised lands within the District boundaries. The current health of many historic acequias is of great concern, and their integrity severely compromised. Within the boundaries of Guadalupe SWCD lie approximately 3,000 acres of irrigated farmland operated by an approximate 250 landowners. All farmland in the District is fed by one of 12 historic acequias which are some of the oldest in the United States. The current method of delivering irrigation waters through unlined, dirt ditches is highly inefficient and limits best management practices; contributing to erosion, sediment, spread of undesirable plant species, and the accumulation of debris leading to extensive maintenance. Farm sizes within the District range from 0.5 acres to 20 acres; with an average of 6 acres. Due to small farm size, District farmers are at a disadvantage in competing for ongoing annual NRCS/EQIP assistance which up until recently has been the main source for water efficiency funding in the area. This results in only 2 or 3 irrigation efficiency projects being funded per year by those programs. As part of the specific and ongoing water management and natural resource conservation plan in place through which Guadalupe SWCD operates, the District is prepared at this time and stage in the plan to begin actively assisting landowners with irrigation efficiency improving infrastructure projects. The funding sought through this partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation will assist to further implement an ongoing small-scale conservation cost share program which restores compromised acequias, improves irrigation efficiency, and halts their degradation. The cost share program significantly increases the number of in need landowners who receive assistance each year and improves water delivery efficiency through the installation of acequia piping in open dirt ditches.

The structure of the cost share program is as follows. Currently there are approximately 25-35 applicants a year who seek efficiency funding within the District area, this partnership seeks to actively engage 18-24 small scale efficiency projects over a two year period. To engage the public, the District seeks applicants by public service announcements throughout the tight knit communities in the area, via the most public and visible means possible. Upon fielding applications and selecting the most critical projects, the District and local NRCS officials partner to design an NRCS official best practices certified project site plan for each property. This plan meets the needs of both the environment and agricultural pursuit, while defining the cost of materials to be reimbursed at completion through standard NRCS government pricing per material line item incorporated in the design. At formation of this official plan and after review of it with the landowner, the landowner will then operate independently to source materials and implement the infrastructure improvement. Several of the most at need landowners will also receive direct hands on District funded assistance during the implementation. At completion each project will be inspected by District officials and approved for completion via the agreed upon site plan. It is upon this completion and approval that the District will reimburse landowners for material costs incurred on the project at the previously agreed upon amount in the plan, which is attained by using the national standard NRCS government pricing on all specific line item materials required for completion.

Partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation through the WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects provides the opportunity for cost-shared financial assistance on 18-24 small-scale water management projects totaling at least \$150,000 over 2 years. The financial match for the cost-shared projects will come from Guadalupe SWCD and landowner participants. The District will provide \$10,000 comprised of in-kind and cash contribution through use of District owned equipment, fuel, and hands on labor by District paid employees to assist on critical projects at the Districts discretion. Participants as a whole will contribute at a minimum, \$65,000 cumulatively in-kind through labor and non-reimbursed receipt accounted for expenses incurred to install efficiency piping on their properties. The \$75,000 WaterSMART funding will be utilized to reimburse landowners for specific site plan approved materials only, upon approval and completion of each project. The combined total of \$150,000 would allow partnership on 18-24 water efficiency projects within the District based upon program format and critical need.

This project “**Acequia Restoration & Conservation Cost Share Project**” has a 2 year duration. The estimated final completion date for the overarching project as a whole is May 2019.

This project is not located on a Federal facility.

## **BACKGROUND DATA**

### **Source of Water Supply & Uses**

The Pecos River, the District’s source of water supply, dissects Guadalupe County from the northwest corner flowing to the southeast corner. Within the boundaries of Guadalupe SWCD lie approximately 3,000 acres of irrigated farmland. Farm sizes within the District range from 0.5 acres to 20 acres; with an average of 6 acres. Irrigated farms are fed by one of 12 historic acequia associations dating back to the 1800’s. Six separate acequias lie within the District: Labadie Community Ditch, East Puerto de Luna Acequia Association, West Puerto de Luna Acequia Association, Hormigoso Community Ditch, Vado de Juan Paiz Community Ditch, Tecolotito Community Ditch, and Anton Chico Community Ditch. Acequias, brought to New Mexico in 1598 by the Spanish, are managed by an acequia association appointed Mayordomo who oversees the smooth transfer of water from landowner to landowner. The water is communal; however, each individual landowner is completely responsible for their portion of the irrigation ditch and its maintenance.

The main uses of irrigation water from the Pecos River are agriculturally related endeavors. Major crops grown in the area include hay, grass silage and greenchop, vegetables, and chili peppers.

### **Water Rights**

There is no exchange of assets, water rights, property purchases, or capital improvements involved in this project. Landowners are responsible for the maintenance of their own water rights.

### **Shortfalls in Water Supply**

The current health of historic acequias is of great concern, and their integrity severely compromised. Several factors contribute to a shortfall in water supply. The age of the acequias is quite remarkable with an average age of 120 years; however, the continual use of dirt ditches has led to excessive erosion and ground seepage; as well as the extensive amount of time involved

annually in cleaning and maintenance. With severe drought conditions lasting more than 10 years the loss of water through seepage and evaporation drastically adds to the lack of adequate water supply, and unreliability, for not only agricultural pursuits but also the community at large throughout the Pecos River. The current method of delivering irrigation waters through unlined, dirt ditches is highly inefficient, costly, and limits best management practices; contributing to erosion, sediment, spread of undesirable plant species, and the accumulation of debris leading to extensive maintenance. The acequia restoration and conservation project will educate, assist, and work with landowners to pro-actively control the loss of irrigation water through ground seepage and evaporation by installing acequia lining or piping. It will further allow control over the contamination of irrigation water from silt, sediment, and trash; the overwhelming spread of seed from detrimental and noxious plants; and the excessive time required to maintain unlined dirt ditches. By utilizing such control methods, both ranchers and farmers will be the benefactors of increased water volume and quality.

**Maps of Cost Share Project Areas (4):**



**Map 1. Overall project area outline.**  
**Map 2. Project areas located south of Santa Rosa and slightly west of the three areas were located south of Puerto de Luna along the Pecos River and Pintada Creek.**



**Map 3. Project areas in the northwest corner of the land and Anton Chico along the Pecos River.**

**Acequia Restoration & Conservation Cost Share Project  
Guadalupe Soil & Water Conservation District  
Santa Rosa, New Mexico**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Guadalupe Soil & Water Conservation District (GSWCD, “the District”) is committed to manage, restore, and recover the health of compromised lands within the District boundaries. The objective of this conservation project is to improve water delivery efficiency through the installation of acequia lining or piping in open dirt ditches. The current method of delivering irrigation waters through unlined, dirt ditches is highly inefficient and limits best management practices; contributing to erosion, sediment, spread of undesirable plant species, and the accumulation of debris leading to extensive maintenance. The health of historic acequias is of great concern and their integrity severely compromised. With the entire state experiencing drought for over 10 years, the restoration of the District’s acequias is essential to protect our precious commodity, water. An area rich in history, tradition, and cultural vibrancy the vital relationship of water for survival has been passed on for generations.

Guadalupe SWCD serves the citizens of the District by addressing soil and water conservation issues and implementing sensible solutions. The District is comprised of rangeland, farmland, and small communities that historically have depended on agricultural success to remain economically viable. In an area with a large historically underserved population much of the land has been passed down for many generations, some dating back to Spanish colonial time. Significant portions of the population are elderly and still active in agricultural pursuits.

Situated in Guadalupe County, the District has a population of 4,371; 79.2% of Hispanic descent and 16.2% of Anglo descent, the remaining 4.6% of mixed descent. The estimated median household income in 2007 was \$26,929; while personal income per capita in 2006 was \$17,047. The county’s median and personal incomes are significantly lower than the state average of \$41,509. In 2007, 25.5% of the total county population and 30% age 18 and under were below poverty level. Guadalupe County has been designated as a Persistent Economically Depressed Area.

Within the District boundaries lie approximately 3,000 acres of irrigated farmland; all fed by one of 12 historic acequias. Farm sizes range from 0.5 acres to 20 acres; with an average of 6 acres. When compared to the average size of New Mexico farms irrigated from the Pecos River, District farmers are at a disadvantage in competing for NRCS/EQIP assistance; thus resulting in only 2 or 3 irrigation efficiency projects funded per year. Guadalupe SWCD desires to assist landowners through a small-scale conservation cost share program to restore compromised acequias, significantly improve irrigation efficiency, and halt their degradation. The cost share program will significantly increase the number of landowners assisted in their irrigation efficiency projects; possibly from 2 or 3 per year to 8-12 per year. The benefits of such a program bridge throughout the entire community at large.

Situated on the Pecos River the District is home to 12 historic acequia associations dating back to the 1800’s. Six separate acequias lie within the District: Labadie Community Ditch, East Puerto de Luna Acequia Association, West Puerto de Luna Acequia Association, Hormigoso Community Ditch, Vado de Juan Paiz Community Ditch, Tecolotito Community Ditch, and Anton Chico Community Ditch. Acequias were brought to New Mexico in 1598 by the Spanish who learned the technique of water delivery to crops from the Moors. They are managed by an acequia association appointed Mayordomo who oversees the smooth transfer of water from

landowner to landowner. The water is communal; however, each individual landowner is completely responsible for their portion of the irrigation ditch and its maintenance.

This project would assist in retaining the cultural, and traditional, farming practices of this remote community. Should the District not assist landowners in this small-scale restoration project the alternative would be stagnation or a possible decrease in agricultural related pursuits. The average age of principal operators involved in agricultural related decisions within the county is 61.7 years of age. This fact, combined with a decline in available labor, makes the efficient maintenance of acequias increasingly difficult and threatens their viability.

Within the specific guidelines of the small-scale conservation project, landowner/participants in the project will be responsible for labor, equipment, and preparation of the acequia. Guadalupe SWCD will match the participant's in-kind through the cost reimbursement of materials. The total number of acres restored will determine the amount of cost share paid by the District, not to exceed \$3,000 per project or \$6,000 for laterals. Once complete the participant will assume the operation and maintenance of the acequia on their land. The amount of land disturbed through this project will be minimal; however, native vegetation shall be allowed time to reestablish before manually re-seeding. Recent land restoration projects on the Pecos River, through Guadalupe SWCD, have shown that native vegetation returns voluntarily within one growing season.

#### **Objectives:**

- Drastically improve irrigation efficiency by the installation of acequia lining or piping to historic infrastructures.
- Increase the number of small-scale acequia irrigation efficiency projects within the District from the current 2 or 3 projects to 8 or 12 projects per year, for a total of 18 to 24 projects over a 2 year period.
- Cultivate a stronger community education/outreach in irrigation efficiency and water conservation, the preservation of historical acequias, and the importance of agricultural pursuits in the District.
- Track and generate accurate mapping of restoration projects. Mapping will also be used as a tool in determining the best methods of outreach and community interest development.
- Establish a photographic history of the acequia restoration through a pre-project, post-project journal maintained throughout the process.

#### **Guidelines and Methods:**

- Publish Request for Proposals in local newspaper(s). Following submission deadline, small-scale restoration projects will be reviewed by the order of priority and date of submission. Applicants must submit a request for assistance.
- Develop a budget for approved projects. Notify all applicants, in writing, whether their project was approved or not approved. Approved applicants will be required to sign an *"Acknowledgement of Understanding"* of project guidelines as a sign of commitment.
- In partnership with the NM Association of Conservation Districts, the District will assign a project manager to meet applicants for site visit(s), provide technical support for design and evaluation of their individual project, and make appropriate recommendations.
- Prior to reimbursement at the completion of the project, the following will be required:
  - submission of pre- and post-photographs of the restoration project;
  - submission of all original receipts for expenses incurred; and,

- successful final inspection of project by assigned project manager.
- reimbursement prepared for cost share, small-scale projects according to the following predetermined acreage allowance: less than 1 acre allowed up to \$1,000; 1-5 acres allowed up to \$2,000; 5 acres and over allowed up to \$3,000; and laterals allowed up to \$6,000

**Timeline:**

May – September 2017 and 2018:

Request for Proposals published and evaluated; Budget prepared for approved projects; Letters of acknowledgement mailed to applicants; Project manager(s) assigned; Site visits of approved projects and recommendations documented; Pre-project photographs made of restoration area.

October – December 2017 and 2018:

Mid-project site visits and evaluation.

December 2017 – May 2018 and 2019:

Final project site visits, evaluations, and reviews; Submission of all required documentation; receipts, and post-project photographs of project area received; Reimbursements completed.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**

**Evaluation Criterion A—Planning Efforts Supporting the Project:**

**1) Describe how your project is supported by an existing planning effort.**

Guadalupe SWCD operates on short term on a specific and detailed plan laid out and officially adopted annually by the board, and through an ongoing mission for water management and natural resource conservation. As a background, over the last 5-8 years the District has organized and managed as the controlling entity, conservation programs that total approximately 4.5 million dollars in on the ground reclamation, restoration, and improvement. All of these cumulative projects were undertaken to meet the annual and extended goals of the District to improve the environment and viability of the land entrusted to the District for this generation and for all to come. This current partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation, is sought as a directly identified pursuit that will meet the current expressed goals and objectives layed out this year by the active board to improve the efficiency, viability, and conservation of the Districts historic acequias through the use of enclosed piping. This is also a part of a multigenerational mission to preserve and restore the integrity of the Pecos river basin, by conserving water where possible, and taking all steps necessary and using all tools available to prevent or slow the spread of destructive salt cedar, Russian olive, and mesquite, along with other invasive weeds. As the Guadalupe SWCD encompasses such a large area near to the headwaters of the river which stretches for nearly a thousand miles, removing and preventing the spread of destructive species by any means will literally benefit hundreds of thousands of people and millions of acres of land. This project and this process of piping will accomplish those goals.

District is prepared at this time and stage in the plan to begin actively assisting landowners with irrigation efficiency improving infrastructure projects. The funding sought through this partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation will assist to further implement an ongoing small-scale conservation cost share program which restores compromised acequias, improves irrigation efficiency, and halts their degradation. The

cost share program significantly increases the number of in need landowners who receive assistance each year and improves water delivery efficiency through the installation of acequia piping in open dirt ditches.

**2) Does the proposed project implement a goal or address a need or problem identified in the existing planning effort?**

The proposed project is a continuation of the ongoing plan to address the need for conserving water wherever possible, and taking all steps necessary and using all tools available to prevent or slow the spread of destructive salt cedar, Russian olive, and mesquite, along with other invasive weeds. It is because of this mission, the long term planning effort, and the reclamation work done to the area landscape over the last 5 years that the District is prepared at this time and stage in the plan to begin actively assisting landowners with water efficiency improving infrastructure projects. The funding sought through this partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation will assist to further implement an ongoing small-scale conservation cost share program which restores compromised acequias, improves irrigation efficiency, and halts their degradation. The cost share program significantly increases the number of in need landowners who receive assistance each year and improves water delivery efficiency through the installation of acequia piping in open dirt ditches. This brings the plan closer to full fruition by increasing the number of small-scale acequia irrigation efficiency projects within the District from the current 2 or 3 projects to 8 or 12 projects per year, for a total of 18 to 24 projects over a 2 year period.

**3) Explain how the proposed project has been determined as a priority in the existing planning effort as opposed to other potential projects/measures.**

The deteriorated condition of historic acequias in the District is of great concern and threatens their ability to continue to function effectively contributing to a shortfall in the water supply. The age of these historic acequias is quite remarkable with the average age at 120 years; however, the continual use of these dirt ditches has led to excessive erosion, ground seepage, and evaporation, leaving their integrity severely compromised. With harsh drought conditions in the region lasting more than 10 years, the loss of water through seepage and evaporation simply enhances the problematic lack in adequate water supply for agricultural pursuits.

**Evaluation Criterion B—Project Benefits:**

**1) Describe the expected benefits and outcomes of implementing the proposed project.**

The cost share program will educate, assist, and work with landowners to pro-actively and significantly increase the number of in-need landowners who receive assistance, and improve water delivery efficiency through the installation of acequia piping in open dirt ditches. Acequia restoration and improvement will control the loss of irrigation water through ground seepage and evaporation; minimize the contamination of irrigation water from silt, sediment, and trash; prevent the overwhelming spread of seed from detrimental and noxious plants; and ease the burden of excessive time required to maintain unlined dirt ditches.

**2) What are the benefits to the applicant's water supply delivery system?**

The scope of the cost share program is focused on improving the District's water supply delivery system efficiency through the installation of piping in open dirt ditches. Improvement and restoration of the acequias will allow viable farmland to be in production every year including times of drought due to more efficient delivery;

exponentially increasing water reliability. The District will assist landowners through this small-scale conservation program to restore compromised acequias, significantly improve irrigation efficiency, and halt their degradation. The program will significantly increase the number of irrigation efficiency projects from 2 or 3 per year to 8-12 per year.

**3) If other benefits are expected explain those as well. Consider the following:**

Guadalupe SWCD continually serves the citizens of the District by addressing soil and water conservation issues and implementing sensible solutions. The District has a large historically underserved population whose land has been passed down for many generations, some dating back to Spanish colonial time. Significant portions of the population are elderly and still active in agricultural pursuits. This project will technically and financially assist landowners in restorations and improvements that would be unattainable on their own. The project will retain the cultural, and traditional, farming practices of this remote community. Should the District not assist landowners in this small-scale restoration project the alternative would be a stagnation or possible decrease in agricultural related pursuits.

**4) Extent to which the proposed project improves overall water supply reliability.**

The proposed project will improve the overall amount and quality of water readily available. While the exact volume of water lost in delivery through unlined dirt irrigation ditches is incalculable, it is inarguably an immense amount. Depending on each year's weather conditions, a significant amount of viable farmland is left fallow during periods of drought due to lack of water. A more efficient water delivery will exponentially increase water reliability; allowing viable farmland to be in production every year, including times of drought.

**5) The expected scope of positive impact from the proposed project (e.g., local, sub-basin, basin).**

The expected scope of positive impact would be geographically focused locally with economic and social ramifications surging through a much larger sparsely populated and historically underserved region. The District is committed to the positive impact that a more efficient irrigation water delivery system and reliability will make on compromised lands; the benefits of which bridge throughout the entire region at large. The effect from 18-24 small-scale irrigation efficiency projects would be felt throughout the farming and ranching communities, as well as the entire Pecos River.

**6) Extent to which the proposed project will increase collaboration and information sharing among water managers in the region.**

The proposed project will increase collaboration and information sharing among water managers of the region in multiple ways. The maintained record of pre- and post-project photographs to document success of each project and the tracking and generation of maps indicating owner name and type of improvements installed would provide valuable information to future water management entities and projects. The collaboration, sharing, and dissemination of information pertaining to the successful implementation of this project could assist water managers throughout the state and beyond. The required documentation will assist the District in maintaining accurate records and determining where to focus outreach efforts to generate more community interest in conservation programs.

7) **Any anticipated positive impacts/benefits to local sectors and economies (e.g., agriculture, environment, recreation, tourism).**

The anticipated positive impacts/benefits to local sectors and economies in the project area include the growth of community income, from consumers, due to an increase in productive acreage leading to crop diversification, organic farming, local farmer's markets, and other agricultural pursuits. However, the economic impact felt from the increase of production and improved water quality may be the largest of all.

**Evaluation Criterion C—Project Implementation:**

1) **Describe the implementation plan for the proposed project. Please include an estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates.**

The structure of the cost share program is as follows. Currently there are approximately 25-35 applicants a year who seek efficiency funding within the District area, this partnership seeks to actively engage 18-24 small scale efficiency projects over a two year period. To engage the public, the District seeks applicants by public service announcements throughout the tight knit communities in the area, via the most public and visible means possible. Upon fielding applications and selecting the most critical projects, the District and local NRCS official's partner to design an NRCS official best practices certified project site plan for each property. This plan meets the needs of both the environment and agricultural pursuit, while defining the cost of materials to be reimbursed at completion through standard NRCS government pricing per material line item incorporated in the design. At formation of this official plan and after review of it with the landowner, the landowner will then operate independently to source materials and implement the infrastructure improvement. Several of the most at need landowners will also receive direct hands on District funded assistance during the implementation. At completion each project will be inspected by District officials and approved for completion via the agreed upon site plan. It is upon this completion and approval that the District will reimburse landowners for material costs incurred on the project at the previously agreed upon amount in the plan, which is attained by using the national standard NRCS government pricing on all specific line item materials required for completion.

**Evaluation Criterion D—Nexus to Reclamation:**

1) **How is the proposed project connected to a Reclamation project or activity?**

This project is extensively connected to multiple Reclamation projects along the Pecos River both past and present. Much of the conservation work done along the 1,000 mile Pecos River in the last hundred years has been conducted by the Bureau of Reclamation directly or as a partner. Specifically the Bitter Lake Refuge project conducted near Roswell, NM is only 90 miles downstream and people across land in between now of the Reclamation involvement with that project. In addition all but one of the dams on the Pecos River were constructed and are overseen by Reclamation. Directly downstream a mere 20-30 miles from the southern end of this project area, sits Sumner Lake held in check by Sumner dam overseen by Reclamation. This is one of the largest lakes on the Pecos River and provides an immense amount of water to the Fort Sumner Irrigation District which can be the largest consumer of water on the river annually, all of which originates from or passes through Guadalupe SWCD. Farther downstream, throughout the Roswell, Artesia, Carlsbad areas in the state of New Mexico, and the areas of Texas

further downstream, all have extensive and detailed intimate history with the Bureau of Reclamation as a body that has done huge swaths of work in canal infrastructure, flood plains, and natural resource reclamation.

- 2) **Will the project help Reclamation meet trust responsibilities to any tribe(s)?**  
At this time it is not known that this small-scale cost share program would affect trust responsibilities to any tribe.
- 3) **Does the applicant receive Reclamation project water?**  
All of the water of the Pecos River is affected or derived from Reclamation projects to store, measure, and deliver water.
- 4) **Is the project on Reclamation project lands or involving Reclamation facilities?**  
This restoration and conservation cost share project is not on Reclamation project lands. It also does not directly involve Reclamation facilities in the implementation aspect of the project.
- 5) **Is the project in the same basin as a Reclamation project or activity?**  
This small-scale cost share project is in the same basin as a Reclamation project or activity. All of the Guadalupe SWCD land is considered to be a part of the Upper Pecos Basin and the water under discussion will flow directly through the Bitter Lake Refuge near Roswell, NM which now finished was recently part of a Reclamation project.
- 6) **Will the proposed work contribute water to a basin where a Reclamation project is located?**  
The proposed work will contribute water to the Pecos River and through that means will contribute water directly into the Middle and Lower Pecos Basin's where reclamation projects have been ongoing for many years.

#### **Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance & Required Permits or Approvals:**

This project will pertain exclusively to privately owned property. Work performed will be carried out by the landowner or his assignee. There will be minimal impact to the surrounding environment as the dirt ditches already exist. Should excess dirt need to be removed to deepen the ditch, it will be set aside and utilized to cover the enclosed piping.

The water delivery system was constructed, in some instances, over 120 years ago when the acequias were established in the state of New Mexico. There will be no extensive modifications performed that could possibly alter or harm the flow of irrigation water through the acequias.

The small-scale cost share program will not affect cultural resources on the National Register of Historic Places, archeological sites, Indian sacred sites, or tribal lands. It will have no adverse effect on low income or minority populations; actually, it will have just the opposite effect. It will assist a large, historically underserved population whose land has been passed down for many generations, some dating back to Spanish colonial time. Significant portions of the population are elderly and still active in agricultural pursuits.

This project will assist in the control, introduction, continued existence, and spread of noxious weeds and non-native invasive species. Through the installation of enclosed piping the open irrigation water will no longer capture and carry seeds of these species to surrounding neighbors, other lands, and the Pecos River. The project will be a great benefit to the control of noxious and invasive species.

GUADALUPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
586 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Santa Rosa, NM 88435

**Bureau of Reclamation Grand Application Resolution: 2017-1-3**

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body has determined and hereby determines that the grant application entitled "*Acequia Restoration & Conservation Cost Share Project*" may be submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation. It further determines that this project is in the best interest of the public it represents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body has determined that it may lawfully enter into the grant application process with the Bureau of Reclamation; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Board of Supervisors (the "Governing Body") of the Guadalupe Soil & Water Conservation District meeting in full conformity with the law and the rules and regulations of the Governing Body at 586 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Rosa, New Mexico 88435 being the meeting place of the Governing Body for the regular meeting held on January 18, 2017 at the hour of 9:00 AM resolves to submit said grant application to the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

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Vincent Cordova, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

This resolution passed on a motion by Alfredo Flores and second by Eugenio Lujan.

Votes as follows (yea or nay)

Vincent Cordova, Chairman

YES

Vincent Cordova

Eugenio Lujan, Vice-Chairman

YES

Eugenio Lujan

Alfredo Flores, Treasurer

YES

Alfredo Flores

Jose R. Lucero, Supervisor

YES

Jose R. Lucero

Tito Romero, Supervisor

YES

Tito D. Romero

**Letter of Commitment:**

**GUADALUPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

586 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street ~ Santa Rosa, NM 88435

Vincent Cordova  
Chairman

Alfredo Flores  
Treasurer

Jose R. Lucero  
Member

Eugenio Lujan  
Vice-President

Tito Romero  
Member

January 7, 2017

Bureau of Reclamation  
Financial Assistance Operations  
Attn: Mr. Darren Olson  
Mail Code: 84-27852  
P.O. Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

RE: LETTER OF COMMITMENT

Dear Mr. Olson:

Guadalupe Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to manage, restore, and recover the health of compromised lands within the District boundaries by seeking funding from the Bureau of Reclamation through the WATERSmart Grant: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Project. The District is committed, and enthusiastic, about the possibilities this funding would allow affected lands. The current health of many historic acequias is of great concern, and their integrity severely compromised. With the entire state experiencing drought for over 10 years, the restoration of the District's acequias is essential to protect our precious commodity ~ water. An area rich in history, tradition, and cultural vibrancy the vital relationship of water for survival has been passed on for generations.

The District is further committed to the positive impact this project will make on compromised lands in our beloved New Mexico. The effect from possibly 18-24 small-scale irrigation efficiency projects would be felt throughout the farming and ranching communities, as well as the entire Pecos River. We are committed to preserve and protect the natural resources of land and water within District boundaries to the best of our ability.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,



Vincent Cordova, Chairman

**Funding Plan:**

Partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation through the WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects provides the opportunity for cost-shared financial assistance on 18-24 small-scale water management projects totaling at least \$150,000 over 2 years. The financial match for the cost-shared projects will come from Guadalupe SWCD and landowner participants. The District will provide \$10,000 comprised of in-kind and cash contribution through use of District owned equipment, fuel, and hands on labor by District paid employees to assist on critical projects at the District’s discretion. Participants as a whole will contribute at a minimum, \$65,000 cumulatively, in-kind through labor and non-reimbursed receipt accountable expenses incurred to install efficiency piping on their properties. The \$75,000 WaterSMART funding will be utilized to reimburse landowners for specific site plan approved materials only, at NRCS standard cost, upon approval and completion of each project. Landowners/participants will follow strict project guidelines as stated in the, “*Acknowledgement of Understanding*”. Reimbursement for each small-scale cost share project will be administered according to the following predetermined acreage allowance: less than 1 acre, reimbursement up to \$1,000; 1-5 acres, reimbursement up to \$2,000; 5 acres and over, reimbursement up to \$3,000; and, laterals allowed up to \$6,000. The combined total of \$150,000 would allow partnership on 18-24 water efficiency projects within the District based upon program format and critical need. The specific acreage allowance is designed to cover the majority of material cost for most projects. If the material cost for the approved project plan is higher than this allowance, the landowner will not be reimbursed for that additional amount. This is designed to incentivize the maximum number of participants and leverage financial resources to affect the largest total change possible in the landscape area. “**Acequia Restoration & Conservation Cost Share Project**” has a 2 year duration. The estimated completion date for the overarching project as a whole is May 2019.

**Table 1: Budget Proposal of Federal & Non-Federal Funding Sources & Expenses:**

<b>BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>Source of Funding</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>
<b>Reimbursed Costs of Materials:</b>		
Guadalupe SWCD In-Kind & Cash Contribution	Non-Federal	\$ 10,000
WaterSMART Small-Scale Grant Funding	<b>FEDERAL</b>	\$ 75,000
<b>In-Kind Costs &amp; Construction:</b>		
Landowner/Participant In-Kind & Cash Contribution	Non-Federal	\$ 65,000
<b>Total Estimated Project Costs</b>		<b>\$150,000</b>
<b>FUNDING SOURCES:</b>		
<b>Federal Funding</b>	<b>\$ 75,000</b>	
<b>Non-Federal Funding Match</b>	<b>\$ 75,000</b>	
<b>Total Estimated Project Costs</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	

**Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management:**

Guadalupe Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)  
 586 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Santa Rosa, NM 88435  
 DUNS #:078733476 /SAMS #:CAGE Code: 7AUL5 /EIN#:85-0317675

**Guadalupe Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**Acequia Restoration & Conservation Cost Share Program ~ Acknowledgement of Understanding**  
586 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Rosa, New Mexico 88435

**The GSWCD Acequia Cost Share Program will be funded annually at a level decided upon by the Guadalupe Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. That amount will be part of the annual budget, submitted to the New Mexico Department of Finance Administration and distributed accordingly to eligible applicants.**

- 1) This is a reimbursement program for the cost of **MATERIALS ONLY**. Labor and engineering, if needed, shall be provided by the applicant. Once approved, the applicant must complete the project on his/her own within the designated time frame.
- 2) Project assistance is up to \$1,000 for projects serving less than 1 acre, up to \$2,000 for project serving 1- 4.99 acres, and \$3,000 for projects serving 5 acres or more. Projects on laterals with multiple applicants can receive up to \$6,000. The applicant will be reimbursed for no more than the amount approved by the GSWCD Board of Supervisors.
- 3) Only owners of properties located within the Guadalupe Soil & Water Conservation District are eligible to receive assistance with this program. Applicants are funded on a first come, first serve basis.
- 4) Goggle Mapping will be used to determine the actual project acreage. A current property tax receipt must accompany your application as proof of ownership. If the property is being leased, you must provide a copy of the lease agreement with your application.
- 5) If you are requesting assistance for any project that will impact the main ditch you must have the written permission of the acequia commissioners or no project funding will be provided.
- 6) Once approved the projects must be completed within one year of approved date.
- 7) The GSWCD **WILL NOT** accept any receipts for materials which are dated prior to the project approval date. **ORIGINAL RECEIPTS** for materials must be provided to the GSWCD office for reimbursement. Sales tax for materials is reimbursable, but the GSWCD will not reimburse for freight costs.
- 8) Materials must be purchased from a supplier; no materials can be purchased from individuals.
- 9) No mechanical items, such as pumps, are eligible for reimbursement.
- 10) If a project is to include PVC pipe, it must be **NEW**.
- 11) All applicants will be assigned a GSWCD Project Manager. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your assigned Supervisor.
- 12) Pre and Post project inspections shall be performed by the designated GSWCD Project Manager. It is required that you must call your assigned Project Manager to provide an inspection both before and after the project is completed. Please leave the project uncovered until and inspection is completed.
- 13) Photos are required and must be taken before, during and after the project is completed. If you do not have a camera, please contact the GSWCD office, so that photos may be taken at these intervals. **If photos are not turned in with original receipts you will not be reimbursed for your project.**
- 14) If you have received an approval letter but need to cancel the project, you must do so in writing.

The Guadalupe Soil & Water Conservation District is NOT liable for any injuries or damages, including flooding incurred during or after the construction of the project, or due to substandard materials used in the project.

**I understand and agree that all program guidelines listed above must be followed to be eligible for reimbursement.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date of Signature:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Applicant:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone of Applicant:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed Name of Applicant:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mailing Address of Applicant:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date Application Received:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Received by:**