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**WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for FY 2019  
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NO. BOR-DO-19-F005**



**Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals  
Concrete Lining Project**

**PROJECT CATEGORY: Canal Lining / Piping**

**TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$197,143**

**Applicant**

**El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1  
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Mailing Address: PO BOX 749, Clint, Texas 79836**

**Project Manager**

**Pete Rodriguez, Maintenance Manager  
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## I TECHNICAL PROPOSAL AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

### A. Executive Summary

**Date:** April 19, 2019  
**Applicant Name:** El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1  
**City, County, State:** El Paso, El Paso County, Texas  
**Project Name:** Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals Concrete Lining Project

**Project Manager:** Pete Rodriguez, Maintenance Manager  
**Telephone:** 915-872-4000  
**E-mail:** [prodriguez@epcwid1.org](mailto:prodriguez@epcwid1.org)

**Project Funding Request:** The total project cost is \$197,143 and the District is requesting \$75,000 in federal funds.

### Project Summary

The Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals Concrete Lining Project consists of constructing 1,110 feet of lined concrete on an earthen-lined section of the Montoya Main Lateral and 2,920 feet of lined concrete on an earthen-lined section of the Montoya A Lateral. The newly concrete lined system will support the efficient management of water resources by conserving approximately 47 acre-feet of water normally lost to seepage and mitigating damages caused by potential spill events to surrounding properties. The proposed project is the first phase of multiple planned lining projects for the Montoya Main Lateral and Montoya A Lateral and offers additional benefits to public transportation in the City of El Paso, Texas.

### Estimated Project Schedule

The project will be accomplished within the two-year allowance and will take 69 weeks from the expected date of funding authorization. Concrete lining work will need to take place outside of the irrigation season (typically March 15 to October 15) and is expected to begin in October of 2020 and be completed by March of 2021. Evaluation and final report preparation will take an additional two months. The project completion date is May 30, 2021.

### Federal Facility

The El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 (the District) lies within Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region. The irrigation system was constructed as part of Reclamation's Rio Grande Project and relies on Reclamation facilities for water delivery and storage.

### B. Background Data

#### Source of Water Supply and Total Quantity of Water Supply Managed

The District obtains water by annual allocation from the Reclamation's Rio Grande Project. The District's diversion right of water during a full allocation year during the primary irrigation season is 376,860 acre-feet per year.

#### Relationship with Reclamation

The United States Reclamation Act passed on June 17, 1902 initiated formal development of the large-scale irrigation system in the El Paso Valley. The Rio Grande Reclamation Act of February 25, 1905 provided for the construction of Elephant Butte Dam and Reservoir, which

was completed in 1916. Major canals and drains were constructed under the Rio Grande Reclamation Project from 1915 to 1925 and a second impoundment, the Caballo Dam and Reservoir, was completed in 1938. The United States Bureau of Reclamation maintained the dams, reservoirs, canals and drains until 1980, when the maintenance responsibilities were assumed by the District. The District assumed actual ownership of all canals, drains, laterals and waterways within its boundaries on January 22, 1996.

The District has worked with Reclamation on many projects over the years since, including:

**Table 1 – Recent Projects Funded by Grants from Reclamation**

<b>Program</b>	<b>FOA No.</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
Riverside Concrete Lining Project	BOR-DO-18-F006	2018	\$ 1,000,000
Ysla Lateral Concrete Lining Project	BOR-DO-18-F009	2018	\$ 75,000
Designing Improvements to the Franklin Canal and Franklin Feeder Canal	BOR-UC-18-F001	2018	\$ 75,000

**Water Rights, Current Water Uses, and Water Users Served**

The District provides water from the Rio Grande for 69,010 acres of water rights lands. Active irrigation users include approximately 325 large farms and 4,500 irrigated tracts of five acres or less. Irrigated crops include cotton, alfalfa, pecan trees, sorghum, chilies, wheat, onions, corn, vegetables, pasture grass, and family gardens.

The City of El Paso currently has water rights for approximately 70,000 acre-feet per year from Rio Grande Project Water in contracts and from leasing water rights from holders. Rio Grande Project water is used to meet municipal demand for a population of over 800,000.

**Agricultural Water Delivery and Distribution System**

The District delivers water to an average of 49,000 acres of cropland using 350 miles of canals, 269 miles of drains, 60 wells, and over 2,200 turnouts. There are approximately 62 miles of concrete lined canals and laterals, 163 miles of unlined canals and laterals, 1.52 miles of enclosed canals and pipelines, and 30 miles of canals and laterals that are lined intermittently. The District currently operates 82 telemetry sites that are monitored by the District’s central dispatch office. The District also operates a near real-time flow telemetry data portal using these sites, which can be viewed remotely by farmers and stakeholders at <https://epcwid.org/telemetry>.

**Current and Projected Water Demand**

Water demand in Texas is determined at the state level by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) with input from local water users and historical water use data. The *2017 Texas State Water Plan* estimates that the total water demand in El Paso County is 406,422 acre-feet of water per year. By 2070, water demand is expected to increase to 476,929 acre-feet of water per year primarily due to population increases in El Paso County from 800,000 to 1.5 million during the same period. Irrigation currently accounts for over 60% of water use in El Paso County, and approximately 30% of future municipal and industrial water needs are projected to be supplied using increasing amounts of water previously used for irrigation.

**Potential Shortfalls in Water Supply and Unmet Local Water Demand**

Water conservation is critical to the El Paso region, which has an arid climate and receives an average annual rainfall of about 8 inches with net evaporation exceeding 70 inches. Irrigation,

municipal, and industrial water use as well as international and interstate treaties all place significant demands on the limited water resources in the area.

The 2017 Texas State Water Plan estimates that there are 53,202 acre-feet of unmet annual water needs for irrigation in El Paso County. Only a portion of the agricultural land in El Paso County has access to private irrigation wells of which a majority of the wells produce water with Total Dissolved Solids of greater than 1,000 mg/l (many in excess of 2,500 mg/l) with significant sodium content. The high salt content of the groundwater limits the amount of groundwater that can be used to grow irrigated crops. Consequently, many farmers rely on blending surface water from the Rio Grande with groundwater to meet their water quality needs or use Rio Grande Project water exclusively. During years of drought, many agricultural operations are fallowed or deficit irrigated.

*A 2013 Review of Observed and Projected Climate Changes* by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation noted that projected reductions in snowpack, declines in snow water equivalence, and advanced snowmelt will lead to a 10% to 30% reduction of water flow in the Rio Grande in the next 50 to 70 years. The Rio Grande at El Paso observed flows for 2001 through 2010 that were about 23% lower than the period from 1941 through 2000. Consequently, water stakeholders within the Rio Grande watershed will need to continue making investments in water conservation to mitigate projected reductions in surface water supply.

Conservation via concrete lining is one of the most cost effective options to meet El Paso's future water demands compared to other projects proposed in the 2017 Texas State Water Plan, including meeting municipal water demands via desalination, advanced purification, and the importation of water from outside El Paso County. A 2017 report by El Paso Water Utilities compared drinking water quality treatment costs per acre-foot, determining that treatment costs for Rio Grande Project water are the second least expensive option at \$200-\$300 per acre-foot, while costs for inland desalination are \$508 per acre-foot, costs for advanced purification are \$1,370 per acre foot, and costs for long-distance importation are \$2,840 per acre foot.

As water demand is met by a more efficient system, the District can better manage its allocation of Rio Grande Project water and allow more storage in Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs to accumulate and provide critical water in drought years when unmet water demands are highest.

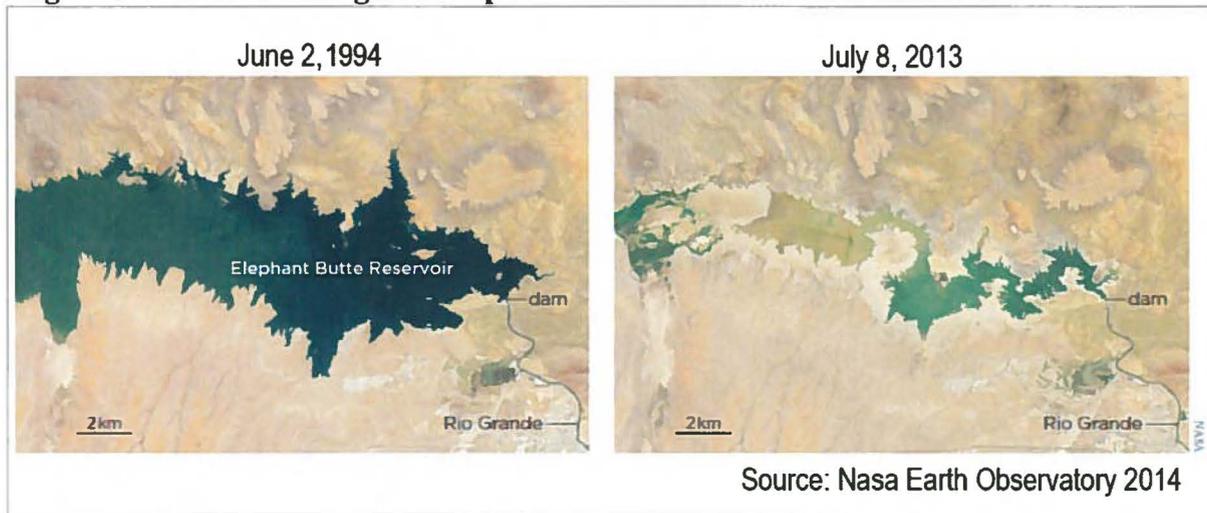
### **Prolonged Drought and Current Near Drought-of-Record Conditions**

Surface water users in the El Paso region are currently experiencing near drought-of-record conditions. In 2018, Elephant Butte Reservoir reached near-record-low levels at about 3% capacity, with just 62,573 acre-feet of water in storage as of September (total conservation capacity is 1,973,358 acre-feet). About 45,000 acre-feet (70%) of the September 2018 storage is attributed to water conserved and carried over by the District in 2017.

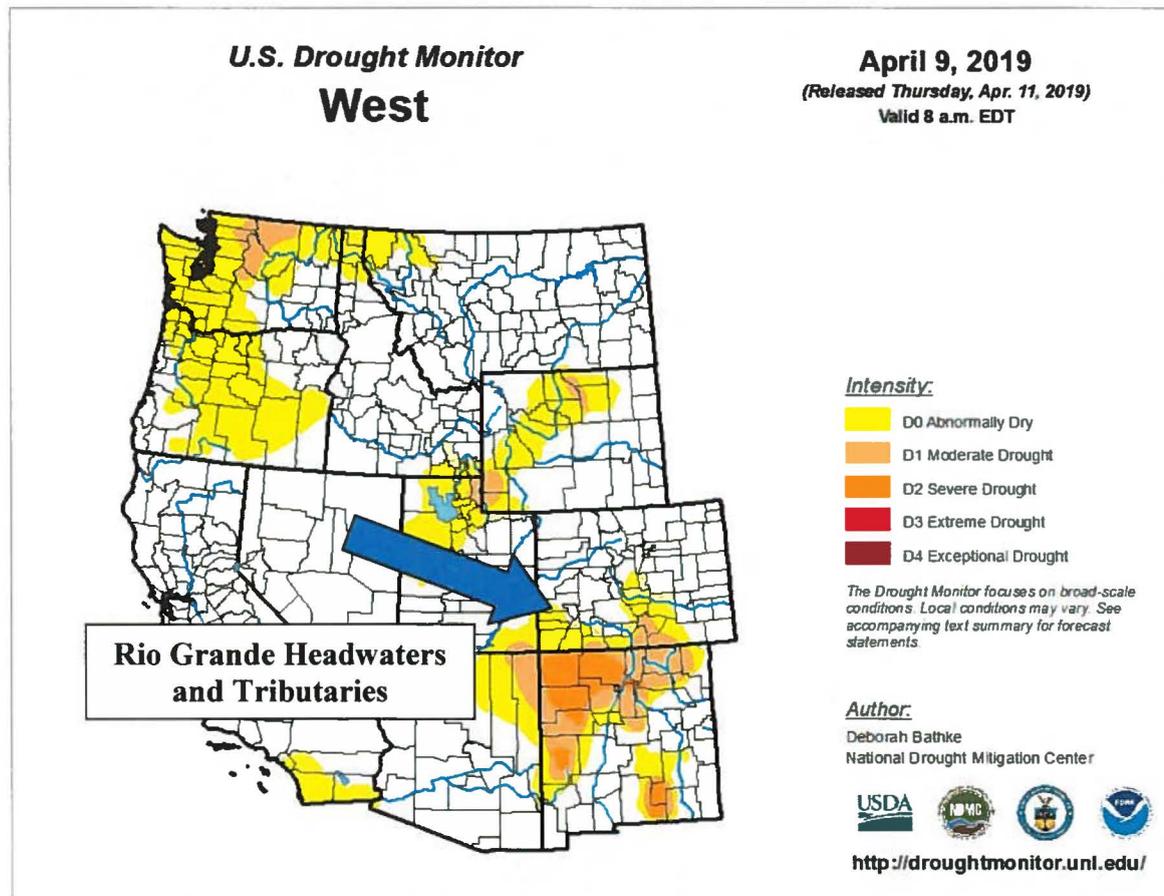
The westernmost part of Texas, as well the headwaters of the Rio Grande in Colorado and New Mexico from which the District's water supply originates, have been experiencing drought conditions for much of the past two decades, with only 2005, 2008, 2016, and 2017 experiencing average or above-average spring runoff into Elephant Butte Reservoir. Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs have been near or below 20% of the combined storage capacity of 2.23 million acre-feet since 2010, also reaching three percent capacity in 2013. 2013 was the shortest irrigation season in El Paso (less than six weeks) and supplied the least amount of water in the almost 100 year history of the Rio Grande Project. Figure 1 shows a comparison of storage levels

in Elephant Butte Reservoir in 1994, when the reservoir was full, and 2013, which mirrors current water levels. Figure 2 shows the latest available U.S. Drought Monitor Report.

**Figure 1 –Landsat 8 Images of Elephant Butte Reservoir in 1994 and 2013**



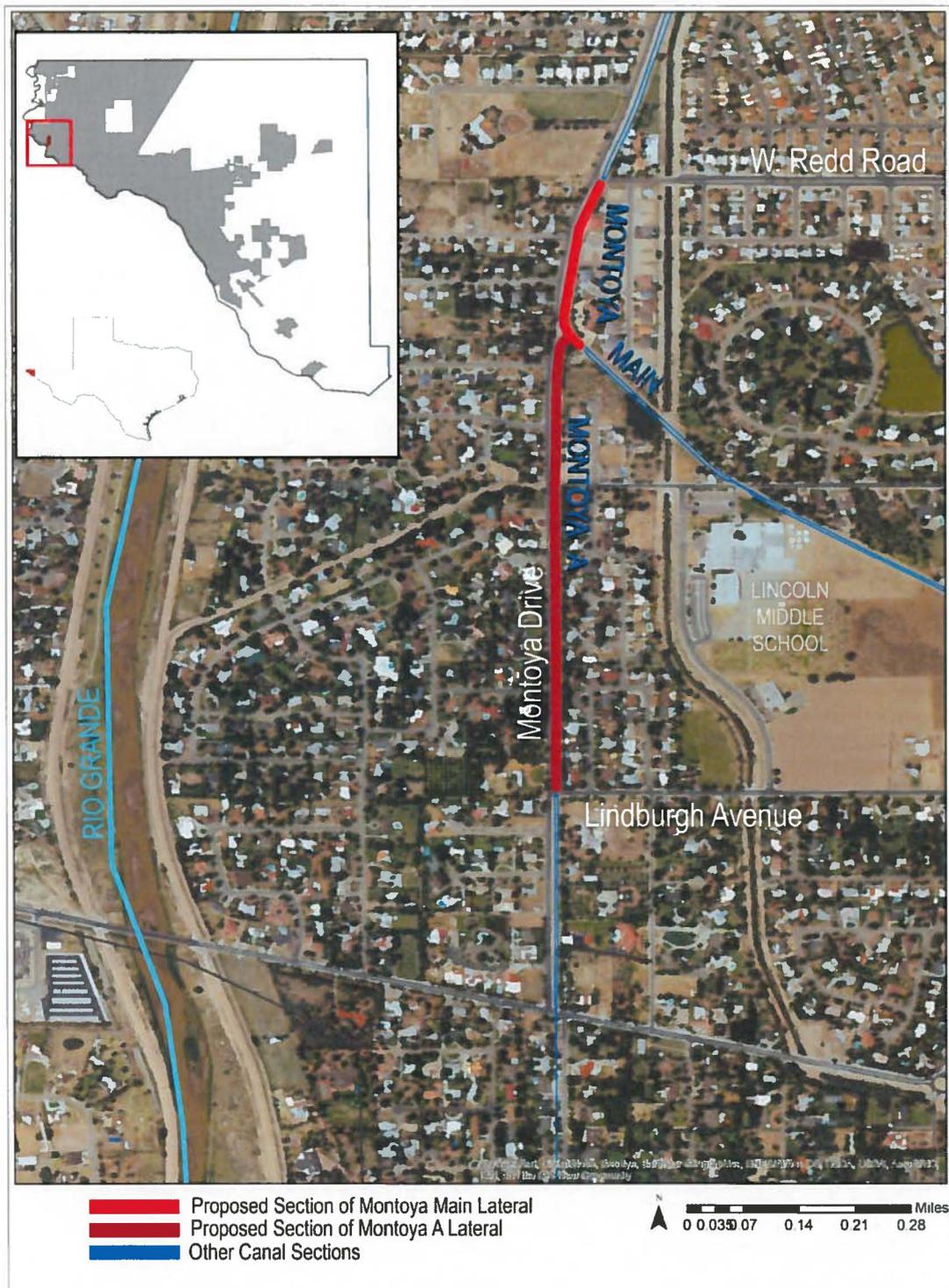
**Figure 2 – U.S. Drought Monitor Drought Report – April 9, 2019**



### C. Project Location

The Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals Concrete Lining Project is located within the City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas. The project linear length begins at latitude  $31^{\circ}51'34.4''N$  and longitude  $106^{\circ}35'51.2''W$  and ends at latitude  $31^{\circ}51'56.1''N$  and longitude  $106^{\circ}35'54.1''W$ . A location map is available for reference in Figure 3.

**Figure 3 – Project Location Map**



## **D. Technical Project Description and Milestones**

The District is requesting a \$75,000 grant from Reclamation to supplement District funding to concrete line 1,110 feet of the Montoya Main Lateral and 2,920 feet of the Montoya A Lateral. Assuming funding is authorized by January of 2020, the project is expected to take 69 weeks.

### **Task 1 – Environmental and Regulatory Compliance**

The objective of this task is to perform necessary environmental and cultural compliance work. The District intends to work collaboratively with the Reclamation El Paso Field Office and perform monitoring and field work as specified in Section III – Environmental and Cultural Compliance found later in this document. It is expected that the proposed project will require performing a Categorical Exclusion Checklist in a manner similar to previous concrete lining projects funded by Reclamation. Environmental and cultural compliance work will be completed prior to any ground-disturbing activities.

### **Task 2 – Concrete Lining Construction**

The objective of this task is to concrete line 1,110 feet of the Montoya Main Lateral and 2,920 feet of the Montoya A Lateral. The concrete will be applied in the field as shotcrete. The Montoya Main Lateral is a trapezoidal canal with designed concrete-lined dimensions of 5 foot bottom, 1:1 bank slopes, varying depth, and flow capacity of 50 cubic feet per second. The Montoya A Lateral is also a trapezoidal canal with designed concrete-lined dimensions of 4 foot bottom, 1:1 bank slopes, varying depth, and flow capacity of 40 cubic feet per second. Previous concrete lining work at the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals maintain these design specifications and will be used in the proposed project.

### **Task 3 - Grant Administration, Reporting, and Technical Support**

The objective of this task is to perform administrative and grant reporting work necessary to fulfill contractual obligations as required by Reclamation. Work shall include but not be limited to coordinating District resources and staff, performing a seepage test, and developing performance reports and a final report as specified in Sections F.3.1, F.3.2, and F.3.3 of the 2019 WaterSMART Small Scale Water Efficiency Projects FOA.

### **Problems and Needs**

The proposed project is the first phase of planned improvements at the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals. In addition to conserving water normally lost to seepage, concrete lining the proposed canal sections will reduce maintenance operations and reduce the likelihood of spills. Residential development of previously agricultural land adjacent to the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals have increased the need for concrete lining in order to convey irrigation water to users downstream with increased efficiency and avoid spillage incidents caused by washouts and breaks from clogged culverts due to illegal trash dumping. The laterals run parallel to Montoya Drive, a road that lacks sidewalks but is used extensively by children walking to school.

### **Expected Outcomes**

Concrete lining will provide a more durable canal surface with excellent hydraulic properties that is stable and easier to maintain than earth-lined canals. Concrete lining the proposed sections of the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals will increase operational efficiency and stabilize canal banks to avoid costly damages from spills and breaks at surrounding residential and public properties. The project will also advance the development of a multi-use path in the future.

## E. Evaluation Criteria

### E.1. Evaluation Criterion A – Project Benefits (35 points)

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

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

In addition to conserving water, the primary benefit of concrete lining the proposed section of the Montoya Main Lateral is to ensure the continued delivery of irrigation water to small-tract water users downstream from the project site, reduce maintenance operations, and reduce the likelihood of spills and property damages to adjacent residential and public properties. The District achieved similar results by concrete lining other canals, including 7,990 feet of the Ysla Lateral of which the lining of 3,100 feet was funded by Reclamation as part of a FY2018 WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects award.

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

Based on historical use of the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals and the maximum number of irrigation heads that can be used in an irrigation period, roughly 5 to 9 acre-feet of water are lost per spill event over a 24-hour period. Successful completion of the proposed project would prevent most spill events.

Approximately 15 acre-feet of water per year normally lost to seepage can be conserved by concrete lining the proposed section of the Montoya Main Lateral. This estimate is derived from seepage studies performed in canals throughout the District that are proportionally comparable to the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals with similar hydrologic and hydraulic features. The following calculations were used to estimate seepage losses at the Montoya Main Lateral:

$$((78.55+66.50)/2) \text{ acre-feet per mile per year} * 0.21 \text{ miles} = 15.23 \text{ acre-feet per year}$$

Approximately 32 acre-feet of water per year normally lost to seepage can be conserved by concrete lining the proposed section of the Montoya A Lateral. The following calculations were used to estimate seepage losses at the Montoya A Lateral:

$$58.02 \text{ acre-feet per mile per year} * 0.55 \text{ miles} = 31.91 \text{ acre-feet per year}$$

The estimated total water savings from the proposed project is 47 acre-feet per year. Estimated water conservation rates used for the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals are consistent with observations from inflow-outflow studies performed across the District's canal system by Texas A&M University (Sheng & Brown 2002). At the end of construction, the District will perform a seepage test to compare with water conservation estimates.

With a life expectancy of 25 years, the proposed project has a conservation return on investment of \$167.78 per acre-foot of water. The following calculations were used to estimate conservation return on investment:

$$47 \text{ acre-feet per year} * 25 \text{ years} = 1175 \text{ acre-feet}$$
$$\$196,559 / 1175 \text{ acre-feet} = \$167.78 / \text{acre-foot}$$

***The expected geographic scope benefits from the proposed project.***

It is expected that the proposed project will lead to local benefits to the District's irrigation system in the form of efficiency improvements and decreased maintenance. Basin-wide benefits are also expected: as water demand is met by a more efficient system, the District can better manage its allocation of Rio Grande Project water and allow more storage in Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs to accumulate and provide critical water in drought years when unmet water demands are highest.

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

The proposed project was selected as a priority due to cost-effective water conservation benefits and additional benefits to the community. The District works with public works and irrigation water managers in the region and will showcase the synergistic impact that is made possible through small-scale concrete lining improvements.

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

**Benefits to Public Transportation**

In September of 2018, a student of Lincoln Middle School died from injuries after being struck by a hit-and-run driver while walking home from school at Montoya Drive in El Paso, Texas. Montoya Drive runs parallel to the sections of the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals that are being proposed for concrete lining. Prior to the incident, Montoya Drive had limited signage, no speed control measures, and no sidewalk due to a limited right-of-way.

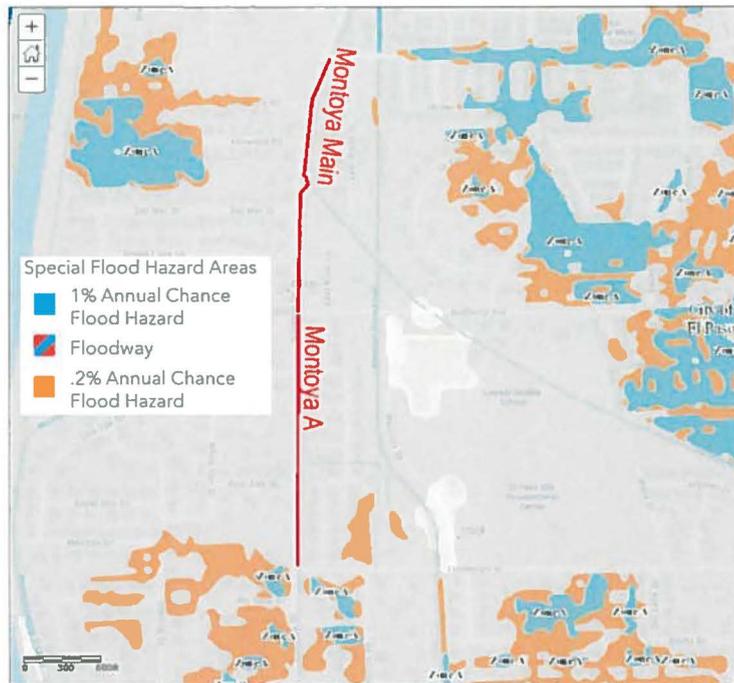
In addition to conserving water, the proposed project will advance the development of a walking path adjacent to or on a bank of the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals. The District has worked with the City of El Paso and other local economic development and public health stakeholders to develop multi-use trails along the banks of select canals and laterals. Select trails can be referenced at <https://www.pasodelnortetrail.org/>. Developing a walking path would bring an additional school transportation option for students of Lincoln Middle School.

According to the El Paso Independent School District (EPISD), Lincoln Middle School will become a consolidated PK-8 campus by the summer of 2021 by absorbing students from two elementary schools and increase student capacity from 1,000 to 1,500. Lincoln Middle School is located along the Texas-New Mexico border and there are limited campus alternatives beyond Lincoln Middle School for residents of Texas. As such, the development of a walking path along the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals is more important than ever. A letter of support from EPISD for the proposed project with additional details is available for reference in Appendix B.

**Benefits to Flood Mitigation**

Many Upper Valley streets located near the proposed project site have on-site ponding instead of drainage infrastructure. This means that stormwater run-off or water from canal breaks is captured onto abutting properties that tend to be a lower grade than canals and the street. In these situations, an elevated sidewalk could impede flow of water from leaving the street resulting in hazardous driving and walking conditions.

**Figure 4 – Project Site and Draft Flood Hazard Assessment (AECOM 2019)**



Estimated costs per spill range from \$15,000 to repair the earthen banks of the Montoya Main Lateral to as much as \$200,000 for damages to individual properties adjacent or near the Ysla Lateral. Surrounding the proposed section of the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals are 152 residential properties valued at close to \$31 million, according to valuations for 2018 by the El Paso Central Appraisal District. Concrete lining the proposed lateral sections would reinforce the canal banks, leading to reduced maintenance operations, flood damage mitigation for adjacent properties from breaks and spills, and ensuring the continued delivery of irrigation water to approximately 128 acres of small-tract water users.

***Extent to which the project will complement work done in coordination with NRCS in the area.***

The District has a history of collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) program and periodically hosts local work group management meetings at the District offices. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) 2018 Texas Local Resource Team Priorities for El Paso County include practices that can enhance water availability and efficient irrigation systems. This is due to insufficient water available for irrigation in the region.

The proposed project advances NRCS priorities by conserving water. A Letter of Support for a recent concrete lining project in 2019 from the El Paso NRCS office with additional information can be referenced in Appendix B. As part of the proposed project, the District will adjust headgates currently used to deliver irrigation water to a school and over 27 acres of small-tract farms and family gardens. Previous concrete lining projects performed by the District facilitated NRCS EQIP-eligible improvements such as the installation of turnout flow meters, the concrete lining of private irrigation ditches, and installing on-farm, low-cost soil moisture sensors.

## **E.2. Evaluation Criterion B – Planning Efforts Supporting Project (35 points)**

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

### **EPCWID Water Conservation Plan**

The proposed lining of the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals is part of the District's Water Conservation Plan (WCP) planned efficiency projects. A draft copy of the 2017 update to the WCP was submitted to Reclamation's El Paso Field Office as part of a review process beginning in January of 2018 and is available for reference at <https://www.epcwidl.org>. The WCP includes an internal System Optimization Review (SOR) summary, a 10-year plan prioritizing conservation and efficiency projects, and historical and current water use data.

### **2017 Texas State Water Plan and 2016 Far West Texas Water Plan**

The proposed project is listed under Water Management Strategy (WMS) E-45 in the 2017 Texas State Water Plan, which is developed at the state level by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Improvements in the District's delivery system in WMS E-45 are estimated to conserve an aggregated 50,000 acre-feet of water per year. The proposed project is also included as part of a Recommended Water Management Strategy in the 2016 Region E Far West Texas Water Plan, which is developed by the Far West Texas Water Planning Group (FWTWPG). Projects prioritized in these water plans are eligible for state funding from the TWDB. A Letter of Support from the FWTWPG is included in Appendix B.

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

The proposed project is an investment needed to more efficiently manage the District's delivery of Rio Grande Project water within the rapidly-urbanizing El Paso Upper Valley with both municipal and agricultural water users. In addition to conserving water normally lost to seepage, a major goal of the proposed project is to mitigate the risk of spills and reduce maintenance currently necessary in waterways in developed areas in an effort to reduce noise. Concrete lining will allow the District to address sediment build-up, debris, and water losses from spills that may affect irrigation water deliveries to small-tract and agricultural water users that depend on Rio Grande Project water conveyed via the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals. By accomplishing these goals, the proposed project addresses some of the challenges considered in the District's Water Conservation Plan.

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

The District has limited sources of revenue and cannot immediately fund the majority of its planned efficiency and conservation projects. District revenues decrease significantly during droughts. As such, the District proactively seeks to partner with other public entities to cost-share concrete lining projects when possible. The District has worked with Reclamation on a number of such projects and has also received financial support from the Texas Water Development Board to implement projects prioritized in the State Water Plan.

The proposed project was selected as a priority as part of the District's internal SOR process due to the rapid development of land adjacent to the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals. The values of properties surrounding the Montoya Main Lateral have increased and, consequently,

potential liabilities and costs due to spillage. The District believes that Reclamation's Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects program is ideal to cost-share the concrete lining of the Montoya Main Lateral to conserve water and increase operational efficiency while bringing additional public transportation benefits and simultaneously contributing to the reliability of the supply of Rio Grande Project water.

### **E.3. Evaluation Criterion C – Project Implementation (10 points)**

*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 proposed project will be completed 69 weeks after receiving funding authorization by the expected date described in the 2019 WaterSMART: Small-Scale Efficiency Projects FOA. The project completion date is May 31, 2021. A project timeline can be referenced in Figure 5.

#### **Task 1: Environmental and Cultural Compliance**

Environmental and cultural compliance work will be performed prior to the beginning of construction activities. It is expected that completing a Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC) in collaboration with Reclamation staff will be sufficient to meet environmental compliance requirements. 8 months (34 weeks) are allocated to complete this task.

#### **Task 2: Concrete Lining Construction**

Concrete lining work will need to take place outside of the irrigation season (typically March 15 to October 15) and is expected to be completed by March of 2021. Previous concrete lining work maintains the planned design specifications. 26 weeks (6 months) are allotted to perform this task and concrete lining work is expected to take 15 labor days. Work includes but is not limited to:

- 2.1 Performing earth work, including fleet mobilization and demobilization, excavation, dirt hauling, soil compaction, grading, and alignment
- 2.2 Installing geofabric liner, formwork, spraying and curing shotcrete, and performing final grading

#### **Task 3: Grant Administration, Reporting, and Technical Support**

Grant administration and reporting work will be completed as specified in Section F.3.1, F.3.2 and F.3.3 of the 2019 WaterSMART Small Scale Water Efficiency Projects FOA and in an award agreement with Reclamation. Water savings evaluations, final report preparation, and contract closing will take two additional months.

No.	Estimated Duration																													
		2019				2020								2021								2022								
		O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F
	Project Funding Award / Contract	17 Weeks	█	█	█																									
1	Environmental and Regulatory Compliance	34 Weeks				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█																
2	Concrete Lining Construction	26 Weeks												█	█	█	█	█												
3	Reporting and Grant Administration	69 Weeks				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
			Year 1														Year 2													

Figure 5 – Project Timeline

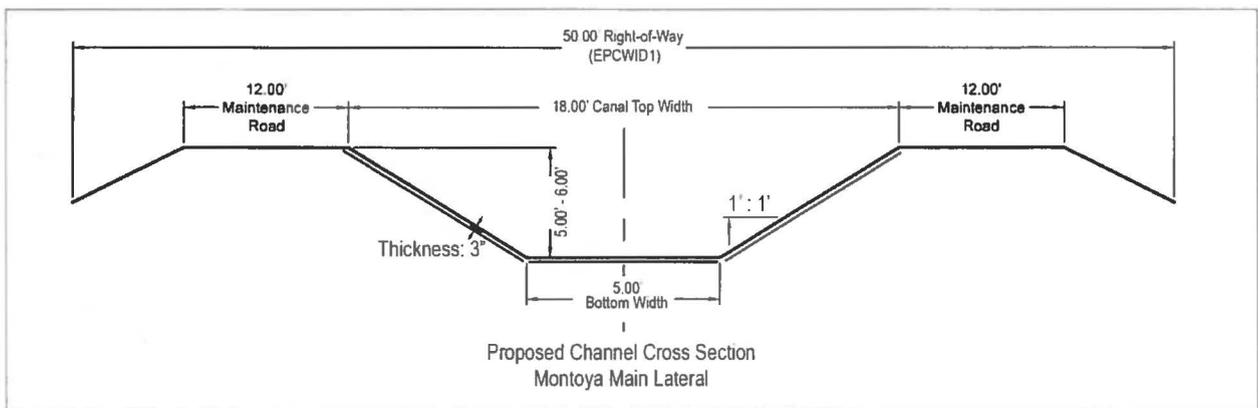
**Describe any permits that will be required, along with the process for obtaining such permits.**

The District owns, operates, and maintains the project site and right-of-way. There are no required permits or approvals necessary for this project.

**Identify and describe any engineering or design work performed specifically in support of the proposed project.**

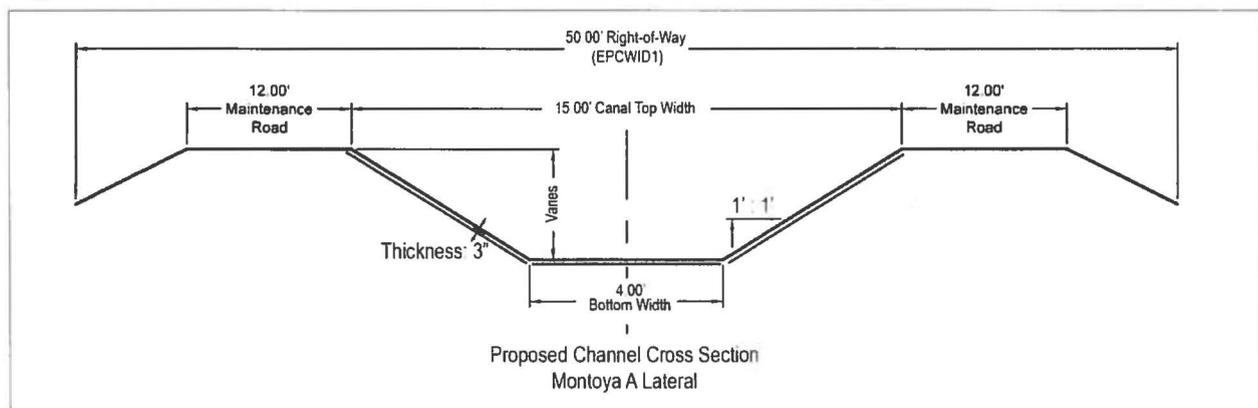
Proposed concrete lining work at the Montoya Main Lateral will be based on design specifications developed for and used in concrete lining work performed in other sections of the Montoya Main Lateral. The Montoya Main Lateral is a trapezoidal canal with a 5 foot bottom, 1:1 bank slopes, varying depth, and flow capacity of 50 cubic feet per second. Planned cross-section dimensions are included in Figure 6 below:

**Figure 6 – Planned Concrete-Lined Cross-Section at the Montoya Main Lateral**



Proposed concrete lining work at the Montoya A Lateral will also be based on design specifications developed for and used in concrete lining work performed in other sections of the lateral. The Montoya A Lateral is a trapezoidal canal with a 4 foot bottom, 1:1 bank slopes, varying depth, and flow capacity of 40 cubic feet per second. Planned cross-section dimensions are included in Figure 7 below:

**Figure 7 – Planned Concrete-Lined Cross-Section at the Montoya A Lateral**



***Describe any new policies or administrative actions required to implement the project.***

No new policies or administrative actions are required.

***Describe how the environmental compliance estimate was developed. Have the compliance costs been discussed with the local Reclamation office?***

Environmental compliance cost and time estimates were developed via email exchange on March 7, 2019 with staff from Reclamation's Albuquerque Area Office. Reclamation staff indicated that based on aerial images, it is likely that performing a Categorical Exclusion Checklist is adequate for environmental compliance work and costs could be \$5,000 or less.

#### **E.4. Evaluation Criterion D – Nexus to Reclamation (10 points)**

***Is the proposed project connected to a Reclamation Project or activity? Does the applicant receive Reclamation project water?***

The District obtains water by annual allocation from the United States Bureau of Reclamation's Rio Grande Project.

***Is the project on Reclamation project lands or involving Reclamation facilities?***

Significant major canals and drains were constructed under the Rio Grande Reclamation Project, and Reclamation maintained the dams, reservoirs, canals and drains until 1980, when the maintenance responsibilities were assumed by the District and subsequent ownership in 1996. The District has worked with Reclamation on several improvement projects over the years since.

***Is the project in the same basin as a Reclamation project or activity?***

The proposed project lies within the Rio Grande Basin.

***Will the proposed work contribute water to a basin where a Reclamation project is located?***

The proposed project will contribute water via conservation and efficiency improvements to delivery operations for Rio Grande Project water users. The El Paso region is considered by Reclamation to be of "Substantial Potential for Conflict" as defined in Reclamation's 2011 Technical Memorandum 86-68251-11-01.

***Will the project benefit any tribe(s)?***

Water conserved as a result of the proposed project will benefit all Rio Grande Project water users in El Paso County, including the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, a federally recognized tribe. The District delivers water to the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Reservation for agriculture and for two of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo's most important ceremonial processions: *St. Anthony of Padua Feast Day* and *Dia de Los Santos Reyes*.

#### **E.5. Evaluation Criterion E – DOI Priorities (10 points)**

***1. Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt***

***(d) Review DOI water storage, transportation, and distribution systems to identify opportunities to resolve conflicts and expand capacity***

The El Paso region faces unique water challenges characterized by an agricultural system that is a century old, prolonged drought conditions, a growing population and a growing sister city in

Mexico with shared groundwater and surface water supplies, interstate and international treaties, and interstate litigation that may impact the District's water supply from the Rio Grande.

### **Texas v New Mexico Federal Litigation regarding the Rio Grande Compact**

As previously stated, the District is located in an area considered by the Reclamation to be of "Substantial Potential for Conflict."

The proposed project will increase the efficiency of the District's distribution system and conserve water. As irrigation water demand is met by a more efficient system, the District can better manage its allocation of Rio Grande Project water and allow more storage in Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs to accumulate and provide critical water in drought years when unmet water demands are highest.

### ***3. Restoring Trust with Local Communities***

***(b) Expand the lines of communication with Governors, state natural resources offices, Fish and Wildlife offices, water authorities, county commissioners, Tribes, and local communities.***

El Paso County and the City of El Paso issued statements of support for the proposed project which can be referenced in Appendix B. The process of requesting support from political subdivisions and elected officials includes explaining project details and water conservation benefits to leadership (e.g., elected officials and staff, County Judge and Commissioners, City Council, Board of Trustees), informing leadership of any resulting awards from funding agencies such as Reclamation and completed projects, and working with respective administrations to make necessary arrangements to complete projects.

Informing political subdivisions of water conservation projects often leads to increased communication and project information dissemination with their respective constituents and the general public. Increasing public awareness of regional water issues in order to incentivize conservation is included as water management strategy E-10 in the 2017 Texas State Water Plan and is necessary to meet projected increases in water demand.

## II PROJECT BUDGET

### A. Funding Plan and Letters of Commitment

The total project cost is \$197,143. The District will contribute \$122,143 to the project, which is 62% of the total project costs. The District is requesting a \$75,000 grant from Reclamation, which is 38% of the total project costs. There are no additional funding partners for this project.

EPCWID Funding	\$122,143	=	62%
Reclamation Funding	\$75,000	=	38%
<hr/>			
Total Project Funding	\$197,143	=	100%

The proposed project includes budgeted costs that are representative of actual construction costs for other sections of the Montoya Main Lateral. The District has sufficient revenues to provide a 62% cost share for the project. The District's funding commitment is established via Resolution from the District Board of Directors and is available for reference in Appendix A.

There are no additional funding partners for this project. Environmental and cultural compliance work is expected to be minimal based on findings in previous concrete lining projects performed on the Montoya Main Lateral, including a project funded by Reclamation. As such, there are no donations or in-kind costs incurred before the anticipated proposed project start date.

### B. Budget Proposal

**Table 2. Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources**

<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Costs to be reimbursed with requested Federal funding</b>	<b>\$ 75,000</b>
<b>Costs to be paid by the applicant</b>	<b>\$ 122,143</b>
<b>Value of third party contributions</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 197,143</b>

**Table 3. Budget Proposal**

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	COMPUTATION		Quantity Type	Recipient Funding	Reclamation Funding	TOTAL COST	
	\$/unit	Quantity					
<b>Salaries and Wages</b>							
Pete Rodriguez, Maintenance Supervisor	\$39.48	/hour	80	Labor	\$ 3,158	\$ - \$ 3,158	
Equipment Operator I / Labor	\$11.93	/hour	160	Labor	\$ 1,908	\$ - \$ 1,908	
Equipment Operator II	\$14.04	/hour	160	Labor	\$ 2,246	\$ - \$ 2,246	
Equipment Operator III	\$17.02	/hour	160	Labor	\$ 2,723	\$ - \$ 2,723	
Equipment Operator III (2)	\$19.28	/hour	160	Labor	\$ 3,085	\$ - \$ 3,085	
Warehouse Parts Specialist	\$18.28	/hour	20	Labor	\$ 366	\$ - \$ 366	
Welder	\$19.54	/hour	15	Labor	\$ 293	\$ - \$ 293	
IT Specialist (contract compliance and reporting)	\$29.84	/hr	60	Labor	\$ 1,790	\$ - \$ 1,790	
						<b>Subtotal</b> \$ 15,570	
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>							
Pete Rodriguez, Maintenance Supervisor	\$9.98	/hour	80	Labor	\$ 799	\$ - \$ 799	
Equipment Operator I / Labor	\$3.00	/hour	160	Labor	\$ 480	\$ - \$ 480	
Equipment Operator II	\$3.56	/hour	160	Labor	\$ 570	\$ - \$ 570	
Equipment Operator III	\$4.31	/hour	160	Labor	\$ 689	\$ - \$ 689	
Equipment Operator III (2)	\$4.85	/hour	160	Labor	\$ 776	\$ - \$ 776	
Warehouse Parts Specialist	\$4.60	/hour	20	Labor	\$ 92	\$ - \$ 92	
Welder	\$4.91	/hour	15	Labor	\$ 74	\$ - \$ 74	
IT Specialist (contract compliance and reporting)	\$7.46	/hour	60	Labor	\$ 448	\$ - \$ 448	
						<b>Subtotal</b> \$ 3,927	
<b>Equipment (Rates from 2016 US-ACE USACE EP1110-1-8 District VI Expense Schedule)</b>							
Pickup	\$25.20	/day	24	Equipment	\$ 605	\$ - \$ 605	
Dump Truck	\$113.46	/day	12	Equipment	\$ 1,362	\$ - \$ 1,362	
Excavator	\$720.26	/day	12	Equipment	\$ 8,643	\$ - \$ 8,643	
Welder Rig	\$46.16	/day	12	Equipment	\$ 554	\$ - \$ 554	
Dozer	\$345.36	/day	12	Equipment	\$ 4,144	\$ - \$ 4,144	
Grader	\$623.64	/day	12	Equipment	\$ 7,484	\$ - \$ 7,484	
Sheeps Foot Roller	\$822.80	/day	12	Equipment	\$ 9,874	\$ - \$ 9,874	
Water Truck	\$497.12	/day	24	Equipment	\$ 11,931	\$ - \$ 11,931	
Rubber Tire Excavator	\$723.88	/day	12	Equipment	\$ 8,687	\$ - \$ 8,687	
Compactor	\$134.70	/day	12	Equipment	\$ 1,616	\$ - \$ 1,616	
Loader	\$347.64	/day	12	Equipment	\$ 4,172	\$ - \$ 4,172	
Shotcrete Machine (2 each)	\$259.38	/day	16	Equipment	\$ 4,150	\$ - \$ 4,150	
Compressor (2 each)	\$330.78	/day	16	Equipment	\$ 5,292	\$ - \$ 5,292	
Telescopic Boom (2 each)	\$950.50	/day	16	Equipment	\$ 15,208	\$ - \$ 15,208	
						<b>Subtotal</b> \$ 83,721	
<b>Supplies and Materials</b>							
Concrete - 4000psi shotcrete mix with 3 lb fiber	\$117.00	/cy	620	cubic yards	\$ 5,040	\$ 67,500 \$ 72,540	
Curing Compound	\$63.00	/5 gal	95	5 gallons	\$ 5,985	\$ - \$ 5,985	
GeoFabric Liner (5400 sq. feet/roll)	\$300.00	/roll	13	rolls	\$ 3,900	\$ - \$ 3,900	
Form Lumber, Ties, and Misc. Construction Items	\$4,000.00	/lot	1	varies	\$ 4,000	\$ - \$ 4,000	
						<b>Subtotal</b> \$ 86,425	
<b>Environmental and Regulatory Compliance</b>							
Environmental and Regulatory Compliance	\$50.00	/hour	100	hours	\$ -	\$ 5,000 \$ 5,000	
						<b>Subtotal</b> \$ 5,000	
<b>Grant Administration</b>							
Grant Administration	\$50.00	/hour	50	hours	\$ -	\$ 2,500 \$ 2,500	
						<b>Subtotal</b> \$ 2,500	
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS</b>					<b>\$ 122,143</b>	<b>\$ 75,000</b>	<b>\$ 197,143</b>

## **C. Budget Narrative**

### ***Salaries and Wages (in-kind)***

The following District personnel will be involved in this project. The perspective roles and actual labor rates is described as follows:

#### **All Project Tasks:**

- **Pete Rodriguez** is the District Maintenance Manager and has successfully led the construction of dozens of District canal concrete lining projects. Mr. Rodriguez will be responsible for project management, construction management, and the oversight of all construction work personnel under Task 2 – Concrete Lining Construction. Mr. Rodriguez will contribute 80 hours to the project at a rate of \$39.48.
- The IT Specialist will be responsible for completing periodic and final reporting work necessary to fulfill contractual obligations as required by Reclamation. Contract compliance work shall include but not be limited to developing program performance reports as specified in Sections F.3.1, F.3.2, and F.3.3 of the 2019 Small Scale Water Efficiency Projects FOA. The IT Specialist will contribute 60 hours at a rate of \$29.84.

#### **Project Task 2: Concrete Lining Construction**

- The Equipment Operator I will be responsible for the operation of construction equipment necessary for the completion of Task 2 – Canal Lining Construction. The Equipment Operator I will contribute 100 hours to the project at a rate of \$11.93.
- The Equipment Operator II will be responsible for the operation of construction equipment necessary for the completion of Task 2 – Canal Lining Construction. Each Equipment Operator II will contribute 100 hours to the project at a rate of \$14.04.
- The Equipment Operator III will be responsible for the operation of construction equipment necessary for the completion of Task 2 – Canal Lining Construction. The Equipment Operator III will contribute 100 hours to the project at a rate of \$17.02.
- The Equipment Operator III (2) will be responsible for the operation of construction equipment necessary for the completion of Task 2 – Canal Lining Construction. The Equipment Operator IV will contribute 100 hours to the project at a rate of \$19.28.
- The Warehouse Parts Specialist will be responsible for the distribution and delivery of supplies and material necessary for the completion of Task 2 – Canal Lining Construction. The Warehouse Parts Specialist will contribute 15 hours to the project at a rate of \$18.28.
- The Welder will be responsible for metalwork necessary for the completion of Task 2 – Canal Lining Construction. The Welder will contribute 15 hours to the project at a rate of \$19.54.

### ***Certification of Labor Rates***

The labor rates of identified personnel included herein are representative of the actual labor rates of personnel bearing the same title. Additional verification is available as needed pursuant to an award contract with Reclamation.

### ***Fringe Benefits (in-kind)***

The in-kind fringe benefits for District personnel involved in this project were computed on a “Fringe” basis and were derived by subtracting the hourly salary rate for designated District personnel from the loaded value per hour.

### ***Equipment***

The District owns all of the equipment that will be used in the proposed project. The District is proposing to use equipment usage time estimates that are based on similar concrete lining projects at the Montoya Main Lateral. The proposed usage cost rates are based of costs outlined by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Construction Equipment Ownership and Operating Expense Schedule (EP1110-1-8) for District VI, which includes the State of Texas. Equipment cost rates can be referenced in Table 3:

**Table 4. Equipment Costs**

<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Category Number</b>	<b>Horsepower/ Specification</b>	<b>EP1110-1-8 Rates (daily)</b>
Pickup	Section III.2.7	Section III.2.7	\$25.20
Dump Truck	T45	22.5 CY	\$113.46
Excavator	H25	320EDL	\$720.26
Welder Rig	W35	23 HP	\$46.16
Dozer	T15	70 HP / D-3	\$345.36
Grader	T15	185 HP / 770G	\$623.64
Sheeps Foot Roller	R45	145 HP / D-off	\$822.80
Water Truck	T40	2,000 gal + 28,000 GCW Truck	\$497.12
Rubber Tire Excavator	H30	174 HP	\$723.88
Compactor	C10	10 HP	\$134.7
Loader	L40	95 HP	\$347.64
Shotcrete Machine	P45	60 HP / 50 CY/HR	\$259.38
Compressor	A15	173 HP	\$330.78
Telescopic Boom	C75	173 HP / 80 feet	\$950.50

The sum of average (10 hours) and standby (14 hours) hourly rates is used to determine daily costs from the USACE EP1110-1-8 District VI Expense Schedule.

### ***Materials and Supplies***

The proposed costs and itemization for materials and supplies are representative of costs and quantities from similar concrete lining construction projects at the Ysla Lateral.

### ***Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs***

Environmental compliance cost and time estimates were developed via email exchange on March 7, 2019 with staff from Reclamation's Albuquerque Area Office and support from staff from the El Paso Field Division Office. Reclamation staff indicated that based on aerial images, it is likely that performing a Categorical Exclusion Checklist is adequate for environmental compliance work and costs could be \$5,000 or less. Costs for any additional environmental activities will be determined pursuant to an award contract with Reclamation.

### ***Indirect Costs***

Indirect costs are not included as part of the project.

### ***Total Amount of Project Costs***

The total cost of the project is \$197,143. The Bureau of Reclamation requested share is \$75,000. The District contribution will be \$122,143 as in-kind contributions and material costs.

### III ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE

***Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment?***

Post-construction environmental impacts will be positive. The project will reduce potential suburban flooding by protecting the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals from breach and spills. District maintenance activities will be reduced by approximately 80%, thereby reducing dust generation, equipment noise and fuel consumption.

Special attention will be given to the following items during the construction phase:

- Dust abatement
- Noise impacts
- No clearing will be done except clearing brush within right-of-way of the District
- Mechanical compaction of the earth to prevent any damage to adjacent property from earth movement

***Are you aware of any species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitat in the project area? If so, would they be affected by any activities associated with the proposed project?***

There are no anticipated impacts to threatened and endangered species by the proposed project.

***Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that fall under CWA jurisdiction as “waters of the United States?”***

There are no surface waters inside the project boundaries that fall under CWA jurisdiction.

***When was the water delivery system constructed?***

Major canals and drains in the District’s water delivery system were constructed under the Rio Grande Reclamation Project from 1915 to 1925. The Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals were constructed in 1918.

***Will the proposed project result in any modifications or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system? If so, state when those features were constructed and describe the nature and timing of any extensive alterations or modifications to those features completed previously.***

Irrigation system features such as headings and turnouts are continuously modified as part of maintenance operations. Consequently, no adverse impacts to individual features of the irrigation system are anticipated as part of the proposed project.

***Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?***

The El Paso County Water Improvement District Number One (the District) is listed in the National Register of Historic Places under National Register Information System ID 97000885. There are no anticipated adverse effects of features listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a result of the proposed project. The District has an agreement with the Texas Historical Commission in regards to which facilities within the District can be concrete lined or placed underground. The proposed project is allowed under this agreement and there are no anticipated adverse effects to historical assets. A copy of the agreement is available from the District.

***Are there any known archeological sites in the proposed project area?***

There are no known archeological sites in the proposed project area.

***Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?***

There are no anticipated negative impacts on minority populations or low-income communities. The proposed project is likely to have a beneficial impact on residential and public properties in the City of El Paso, Texas.

***Will the proposed project limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands?***

There are no anticipated limits to access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites or adversely impact tribal lands.

***Will the proposed project contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area?***

There are no anticipated contributions to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species.

**IV REQUIRED PERMITS OR APPROVALS**

The District owns, operates, and maintains the project site and right-of-way. There are no required permits or approvals necessary for the proposed project.

**V UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT**

**System for Award Management (SAM) Registration**

The El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 maintains an active SAM registration and all information is up to date.

**EIN Number:** 74-1505167

**Department of Treasury Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP)**

The District is currently enrolled in ASAP and is ready to engage in active financial assistance agreements with Reclamation.

**DUNS Number:** 128044773

**VI APPENDIX**

**A. Official Resolution**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**El Paso County Water Improvement District No.1**

El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 resolves to authorize the General Manager or the District Engineer to submit and take any Administrative Action required to complete an application to the United States Bureau of Reclamation Fiscal Year 2019 WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Program for a Grant totaling \$75,000 to conserve water and improve the District's water use efficiency by concrete lining sections of the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals.

**Whereas**, the El Paso County Water Improvement District No.1 (the District) is a political subdivision of the State of Texas and was organized under Chapter 59, Article 16 of the Texas Constitution and operates under Chapter 55 and Chapter 49, in part, of the Texas Water Code;

**Now Therefore**, the Board of Directors of the District hereby resolve to support the District's application for a Grant and authorizes the General Manager or the District Engineer to submit and take any administrative action required to complete applications to the United States Bureau of Reclamation, including working with Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a grant or cooperative agreement, and if the District is selected to receive a Grant, to negotiate an agreement to be approved by the District's Board of Directors. The District has the capability to provide the amount of funding and/or in-kind contributions specified in the Funding Plan in the application.

El Paso County Water Improvement District No.1

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
By: Johnny Stubbs, President

**B. Letters of Project Support**

**Resolution of Support from the City of El Paso, Texas, for the proposed project.**

	<b>Rep. Peter Svarzbein, District 1</b>
<p><b>Mayor</b> Dee Margo</p> <p><b>City Council</b></p> <p><i>District 1</i> Peter Svarzbein</p> <p><i>District 2</i> Alexandra Annelo</p> <p><i>District 3</i> Cassandra Hernandez</p> <p><i>District 4</i> Sam Morgan</p> <p><i>District 5</i> Dr. Michiel R. Noe</p> <p><i>District 6</i> Claudia Ordaz Perez</p> <p><i>District 7</i> Henry Rivera</p> <p><i>District 8</i> Cissy Lizarraga</p> <p><b>City Manager</b> Tommy Gonzalez</p>	<p>April 17, 2019</p> <p>Mr. Matthew Reichert</p> <p>Financial Assistance Support Section United States Bureau of Reclamation P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27814 Denver, CO 80225</p> <p><b>RE: Letter of Support for Water Conservation Project Proposed by EPCWID1</b></p> <p>Dear Mr. Reichert:</p> <p>The El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 (EPCWID1) is applying for funding for the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals Concrete Lining Project under the WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects program for Fiscal Year 2019. The improvements proposed by EPCWID1 will help conserve water and reduce maintenance operations along the canal sections that are adjacent to Montoya Drive, opening up the possibility of developing a walking path on the banks of the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals.</p> <p>In September of 2018, a student of Lincoln Middle School was tragically killed after being struck by a hit-and-run driver while walking home from school at Montoya Drive in El Paso, Texas. Prior to the incident, Montoya Drive had limited speed control measures and no sidewalk, due to limited right-of-way. The City of El Paso has since made speed control improvements, but additional improvements are needed to ensure the safety of pedestrians walking along Montoya Drive. Due to Lincoln School becoming a consolidated Pk-8 campus by 2021, which will increase enrollment, the funding of this project is imperative.</p> <p>The successful completion of the proposed project by EPCWID1 would allow the City of El Paso to construct a walking path on the bank of the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals facing Montoya Drive. Developing a walking path in this location would bring an additional school transportation option for students of Lincoln Middle School. As such, I support the project proposed by the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 and recommend its funding.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>  <p>Peter Svarzbein Representative District 1</p> <p>Rep. Peter Svarzbein – District 1 City #   300 N. Campbell   El Paso, Texas 79901   (915) 212-1002</p> <p><i>"Delivering Outstanding Services"</i></p>

**Resolution of Support from the El Paso County Judge for the proposed project.**



**RICARDO A. SAMANIEGO**

El Paso County Judge

April 16, 2019

Mr. Matthew Reichert  
Financial Assistance Support Section  
United States Bureau of Reclamation  
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27814  
Denver, CO 80225

Letter of Support for Water Conservation Projects Proposed by EPCWIDI

Dear Mr. Reichert:

I write this letter in support of the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1's (EPCWIDI) application to receive funding from the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Program for FY 2019. If approved, funding will allow EPCWIDI to help improve the concrete lining for two projects which include the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals Concrete Lining Project, and the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Upgrades to Irrigation Wells Project.

EPCWIDI is proposing to make concrete lining improvements to the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals that will help conserve significant quantities of water lost to seepage and evaporation, as well as install Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) upgrades to shallow groundwater recovery wells used to supplement irrigation water supplies during periods of drought. Irrigation, municipal, and industrial water use, as well as international and interstate treaties have all placed significant demands on our limited and incredibly valuable water resources in the area. While most of Texas has recovered from drought, El Paso has remained in perpetual drought conditions for the last 15 years. According to the Texas Water Development Board (2015), the socioeconomic impacts of projected water shortages in El Paso County are approximately \$3.45 billion by 2070 and include almost 25,000 jobs lost. Investments today will help secure El Paso's water future.

EPCWIDI has worked tirelessly in collaboration with the County of El Paso to enhance our community's quality of life, and most importantly to ensure the sustainability of our water resources. With this said, I strongly support the water efficiency projects proposed and recommend their funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ricardo A. Samaniego".

Ricardo A. Samaniego  
El Paso County Judge

500 E. San Antonio, Suite 301, El Paso, TX 79901

Phone: 915-546-2098 · Fax: 915-543-3888 · [countyjudge@epcounty.com](mailto:countyjudge@epcounty.com) · [www.epcounty.com](http://www.epcounty.com)

## Letter of Support from El Paso Independent School District (EPISD)



EL PASO INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

6531 Boeing Drive  
El Paso, TX 79925  
Phone (915) 230-2800  
Fax (915) 230-0800  
www.episd.org

April 12, 2019

Mr. Matthew Reichert  
Financial Assistance Support Section  
United States Bureau of Reclamation  
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27814  
Denver, CO 80225

**RE: Letter of Support for Water Conservation Project Proposed by EPCWID1**

Dear Mr. Reichert:

The El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 (EPCWID1) is applying for funding for the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals Concrete Lining Project under the Water SMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects program for Fiscal Year 2019. The improvements proposed by EPCWID1 will help conserve water and reduce maintenance operations along the canal sections that are adjacent to Montoya Drive, opening up the possibility of developing a walking path on the banks of the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals.

In September of 2018, a student of Lincoln Middle School was tragically killed after being struck by a hit-and-run driver while walking home from school at Montoya Drive in El Paso, Texas. Prior to the incident, Montoya Drive had limited speed control measures and no sidewalk, due to limited right-of-way. The City of El Paso has since made speed control improvements, but additional improvements are needed to ensure the safety of pedestrians walking along Montoya Drive. Due to Lincoln School becoming a consolidated Pk-8 campus by 2021, which will increase enrollment, the funding of this project is imperative.

The successful completion of the proposed project by EPCWID1 would allow the City of El Paso to construct a walking path on the bank of the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals facing Montoya Drive. Developing a walking path in this location would bring an additional school transportation option for students of Lincoln Middle School. As such, EPISD supports the project proposed by the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 and recommends its funding.

Sincerely,



Juan E. Cabrera  
Superintendent

cc: cac

**Letter of Support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for a Recent Concrete Lining Project in 2019**



**United States Department of Agriculture**

November 8, 2018

Cameron G. Turner  
Manager, Agricultural Water Conservation  
Texas Water Development Board  
1700 N. Congress Ave.  
Austin, Texas 78711-3231  
CC: David Carter, TWDB Contract Administration

RE: Support for the Franklin Feeder Canal Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Turner:

The El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 (EPCWID1) is applying for funding under the TWDB Agricultural Water Conservation Program for FY2019. EPCWID1 is proposing to concrete line a section of the Franklin Feeder Canal that will help the District conserve significant quantities of water lost to seepage and evaporation.

The El Paso region has an arid climate and receives an average rainfall of about 8 inches. Irrigation, municipal, and industrial water use as well as international and interstate treaties all place significant demands on the limited water resources in the area. While most of Texas has recovered from drought, El Paso has remained in perpetual drought conditions for the last 20 years. Consequently, many agricultural operations in the area have been fallowed or deficit-irrigated.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture EQUIP Program supports agricultural producers with financial resources and technical support. County-level investment priorities are determined in collaboration with local stakeholders. In El Paso County, the 2018 EQUIP program priorities are focused on making investments benefiting irrigated cropland that address insufficient water and more efficient irrigation systems.

The project proposed by EPCWID1 will support local farmers by conserving El Paso's limited water supply and will advance the 2018 EQUIP program priorities. As such, the funding of this project is recommended.

Please contact my office at 915-855-0884 x3 should you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Francisco Molinar", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Francisco Molinar, PhD  
Res. Team Leader  
USDA, NRCS  
11940 Don Haskins Ave.  
El Paso, TX 79936

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
EL PASO SERVICE CENTER  
11940 DON HASKINS AVE  
EL PASO, TX 79936  
Phone: (915) 855 - 0884 Fax: (915) 857 - 7283  
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender

## Letter of Support from the Far West Texas Water Planning Group



April 12, 2019

Mr. Matthew Reichert  
Financial Assistance Support Section  
United States Bureau of Reclamation  
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27814  
Denver, CO 80225

**RE: Letter of Support for Water Conservation Projects Proposed by EPCWID1**

Dear Mr. Reichert:

The El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 (EPCWID1) is applying for funding for two projects under the WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2019:

- Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals Concrete Lining Project
- Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Upgrades to Irrigation Wells Project

EPCWID1 is proposing to make concrete lining improvements to the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals that will help the District conserve water lost to seepage. EPCWID1 is also proposing to install Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) upgrades to shallow groundwater recovery wells used to supplement irrigation water supplies during periods of drought.

The Far West Texas Water Planning Group (WPG) pursuant to the State of Texas Water Code §16.05 is designated to develop the Region E Far West Texas Regional Water Plan with support from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The Far West Texas WPG is composed of voting members from 7 counties in West Texas representing 15 water use interest categories and non-voting representatives of public stakeholder agencies, including the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

The Region E Far West Texas Regional Water Plan includes water management strategies that, when implemented, would develop, deliver, or treat additional water supply volumes or conserve water. The projects proposed by EPCWID1 are recommended water management strategies listed in the 2017 Texas State Water Plan and can be referenced using Water Management Strategy ID E-45.

As such, the Far West Texas Water Planning Group supports the water conservation projects proposed by the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 and recommends their funding.

Sincerely,

Scott Reinert, P.E., P.G.  
Vice-Chair