

**WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for FY 2022  
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NO. R22AS00195**



**Montoya Laterals System  
Concrete Lining Project: Phase III**

**PROJECT CATEGORY: Canal Lining / Piping**

**TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$216,386  
USBR GRANT REQUEST: \$100,000**

**Applicant (Category A)**

**El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1  
13247 Alameda Avenue, Clint, Texas 79836**

**Project Manager**

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## I TECHNICAL PROPOSAL AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

### A. Executive Summary

**Date:** April 4, 2022  
**Applicant Name:** El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1  
**City, County, State:** El Paso, El Paso County, Texas  
**Applicant Category:** Category A

#### **Project Summary**

The El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, located in El Paso County, Texas, will concrete line 2,090 feet of the Montoya Main Lateral and 1,375 feet of the Montoya A Lateral using fiber reinforced shotcrete. The project expected to result in annual water savings of 47 acre-feet. The project is included in the 2022 Texas State Water Plan and the various project phases received substantial support from stakeholders, including the City of El Paso, El Paso County, El Paso Independent School District, and the nonprofit sector. Additional benefits will also be achieved as part of the project, including advancing the construction of a recreational trail on the canal banks which will also serve as a safe route to school.

#### **Estimated Project Schedule**

The project will be accomplished within the two-year allowance. The construction of the project will take 17 months from the expected date of funding authorization (assumed to be August 2023). Concrete lining construction will take 8 months beginning on October of 2023 through June of 2024. The proposed project completion date is June 30, 2024.

#### **Federal Facility**

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



## B. Project Location

The Montoya Laterals System Concrete Lining Project: Phase III is located within the City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas. The linear length of the Montoya Main Lateral begins at latitude  $31^{\circ}51'07.3''N$  and longitude  $106^{\circ}35'24.4''W$  (31.852036, -106.590119) and ends at  $31^{\circ}50'56.0''N$  and longitude  $106^{\circ}35'05.5''W$  (31.848901, -106.584865). The linear length of the Montoya A Lateral begins at latitude  $31^{\circ}50'55.2''N$  and longitude  $106^{\circ}35'54.1''W$  (31.848673, -106.598366) and ends at  $31^{\circ}50'41.8''N$  and longitude  $106^{\circ}35'54.2''W$  (31.844934, -106.598377). A location map is available for reference in Figure 1.

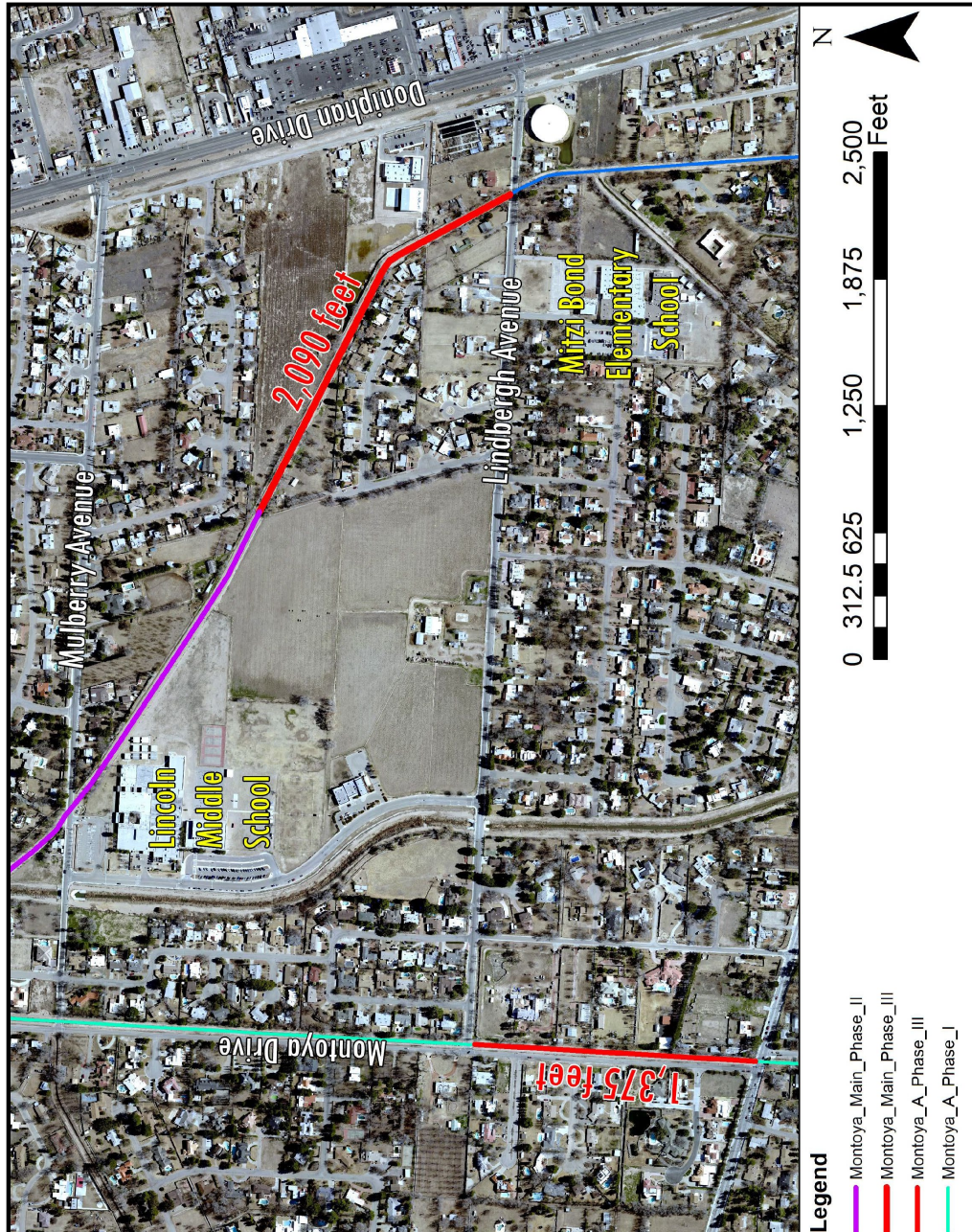


Figure 1. Project Location Map



### **C. Technical Project Description**

The Montoya Main Lateral and Montoya A Lateral are irrigation water conveyance channels with a design capacity of 120 cubic feet per second. The measured average (5-year) cumulative water volume conveyed in a full allocation year at the Montoya Laterals System is approximately 10,114 acre-feet. Water losses at the Montoya Laterals System are lost primarily by seepage. The Project will conserve water currently lost to seepage by concrete lining the laterals.

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

The objective of this task is to perform necessary environmental and cultural compliance work. Per Reclamation staff from the Albuquerque Area Office, it is expected that completing a NEPA Categorical Exclusion Checklist is sufficient for compliance, in a manner similar to Phase I of the Montoya Main Concrete Lining Project (Agreement No. R19AP00228). Additional compliance work includes completing the Section 106 review process with the Texas Historical Commission (SHPO) and issuing Clean Water Act (CWA) construction notices. All compliance activities will be completed prior to any ground-disturbing activities.

#### **Task 2. Procurement of Supplies and Materials**

EPCWID1 will solicit competitive sealed bids for shotcrete. All other materials and supplies will be procured using the USBR-approved EPCWID1 2020 Purchasing Policy. Public notices will conform to the requirements of Subchapter 1 of Chapter 49 of the Texas Water Code and provisions in Appendix 11 to 2 CFR Subtitle A Chapter 2 Part 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. EPCWID1 expects that no purchase will be made for the Project that will exceed the Simplified Acquisition Threshold as described in 2 CFR §200.318 (General Procurement Standards).

#### **Task 3. Concrete Lining Construction**

EPCWID1 will concrete line a 2,090-foot section of the Montoya Main Lateral and a 1,375-foot section of the Montoya A Lateral. The Montoya Main Lateral and Montoya A Lateral are trapezoidal canals with designed concrete lined dimensions of a 5-foot bottom, 22-foot cross-section, and 1:1 bank slopes. The Montoya A Lateral Previous concrete lining work at the Montoya Main Lateral (USBR Contract No. R19AP00228) used these engineering design and construction specifications and will be used in the proposed Project.

All construction work (including earthwork and soil compaction) will be performed by trained employees using EPCWID1-owned equipment. 4000psi fiber reinforced shotcrete (ASTM C94) will be sprayed pneumatically at 4-inch thickness. Geofabric liner will be laid below rebar and shotcrete for stability (AASHTO M288-15 Class 3). The shotcrete is cured immediately after drying (AASHTO M-148 Class A).

#### **Task 4. Grant Administration, Reporting, and Technical Support**

EPCWID1 staff will complete administrative, grant reporting, and technical work necessary to fulfill contractual obligations as required by Reclamation. Work shall include but not be limited to developing two performance reports and a final report as specified in Sections F.3.1, F.3.2, and F.3.3 of the FY2022 WaterSMART Small Scale Water Efficiency Projects FOA and the technical content required for them.



**Figure 2. Four Stages of Concrete Lining Work in Phase I of Montoya CL Project**

## **D. Evaluation Criteria**

### **D.1. Evaluation Criterion A. Project Benefits (35 points)**

*Up to 35 points may be awarded based upon evaluation of the benefits that are expected to result from implementing the proposed project. This criterion considers a variety of project benefits, including the significance of the anticipated water management benefits and the public benefits of the project. This criterion prioritizes projects that modernize existing infrastructure in order to address water reliability concerns, including making water available for multiple beneficial uses and resolving water related conflict in the region.*

**Describe the expected benefits to the Category A applicant’s water delivery system:**

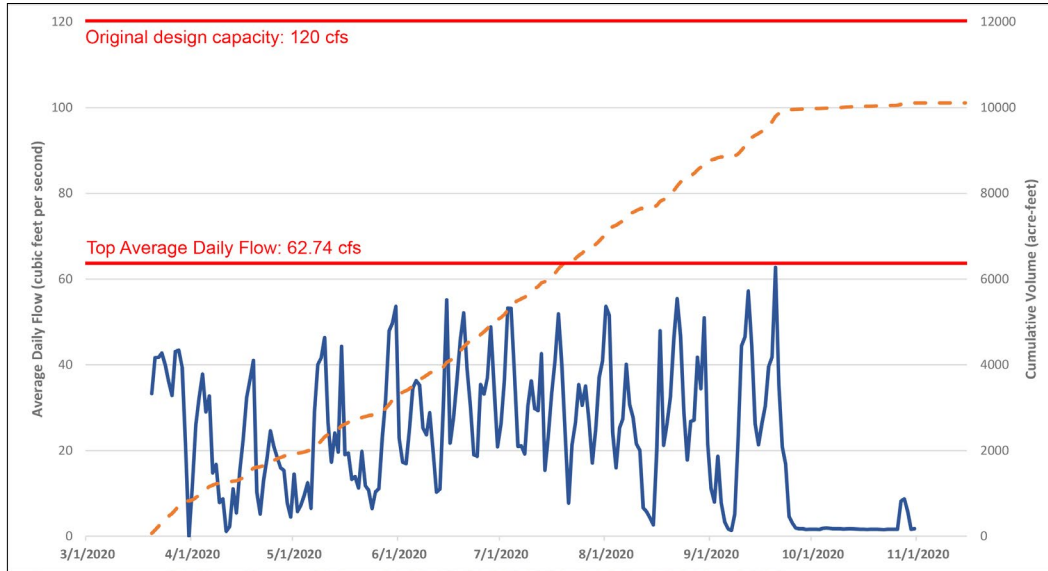
- *Clearly explain the anticipated water management benefits to the Category A applicant’s water supply delivery system and water customers.*

#### **Benefit 1: Sediment Management and Restored Conveyance Capacity**

Sediment accumulation has negatively impacted EPCWID1’s ability to convey Rio Grande Project water via the Montoya Laterals System. Sediment accumulation reduces irrigation efficiency and can cause canal breaks, leading to preventable water losses and increased flood risk.

Measured using EPCWID1’s telemetry system (<https://epcwid.org/telemetry>), the maximum average daily flow at the Montoya Main Lateral during the 2020 irrigation season was 62.74 cubic feet per second. Water flow is measured (via SCADA) and transmitted in 15-minute intervals (Figure 3 below). The maximum measured interval flow level at the Montoya Main

Lateral Heading was 106 cubic feet per second, and water flow exceeding 75 cubic feet per second was observed in only 125 out of 13,847 measurements from March 1, 2020 through October 30, 2020. The original design flow capacity of the Montoya Main Lateral is 120 cubic feet per second, and the proposed concrete lining work will restore the original conveyance capacity.



**Figure 3. Montoya Main Lateral Average Daily Flow and Cumulative Volume (2020)**

**Benefit 2: Water Conservation**

Approximately 47 acre-feet of water per year normally lost to seepage can be conserved by concrete lining the proposed sections of the Montoya Main Lateral and Montoya A Lateral. The following calculations were used to estimate seepage losses:

**Montoya Main Lateral:**

$$((78.55+66.50)/2) \text{ acre-feet per mile per year} * 0.3958 \text{ miles} = 28.7054 \text{ acre-feet per year}$$

**Montoya A Lateral:**

$$((78.55+66.50)/2) \text{ acre-feet per mile per year} * 0.2604 \text{ miles} = 18.8855 \text{ acre-feet per year}$$

**Combined:** 28.7054 + 18.8855 = 47.5909 → rounded down to 47 acre-feet for ease of use

Estimated water conservation rates used for the Montoya Laterals System are consistent with observations from seepage studies performed across EPCWID1’s canal system by Texas A&M University (Sheng & Brown 2002). Water loss estimates are derived from studies performed in canals that are proportionally comparable to the Montoya Lateral and have similarly-calculable conveyed average cumulative water volume (10,000 acre-feet per year) and similar hydrologic features and soil profiles.

With a life expectancy of 25 years, the proposed project has a conservation return on investment of \$184.16 per acre-foot of water. The following calculations were used to estimate conservation return on investment:

$$47 \text{ acre-feet per year} * 25 \text{ years} = 1,175 \text{ acre-feet}$$

$$\$216,386 / 1,175 \text{ acre-feet} = \mathbf{\$184.16 \text{ per acre-foot}}$$



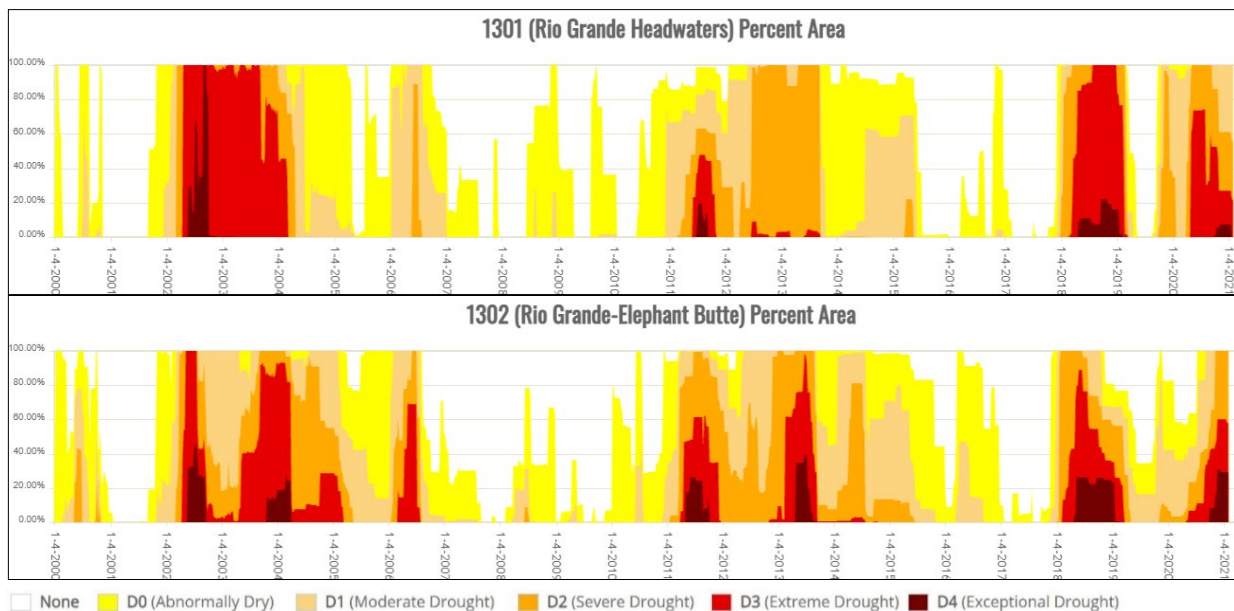
- **Explain the significance of the anticipated water management benefits for the Category A applicant’s water delivery system and customers. Consider:**

- **Are customers not currently getting their full water right at certain times of year?**

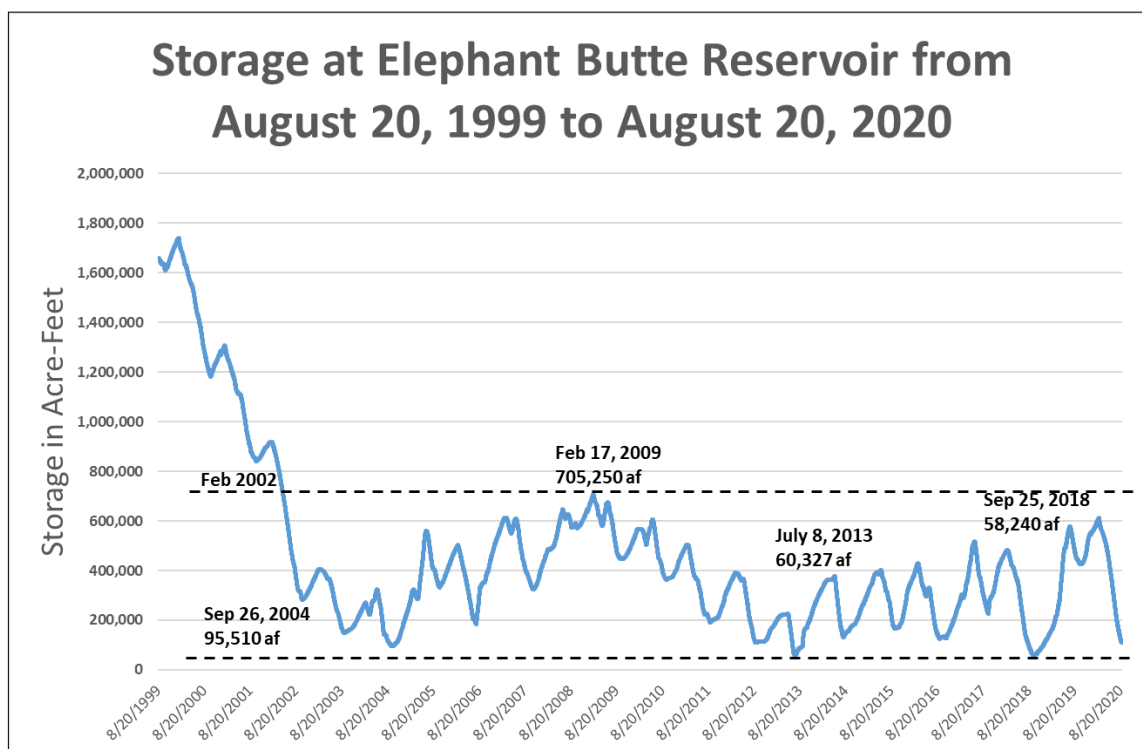
Surface water users in El Paso have been experiencing perpetual drought conditions for the last 15 years. Moderate to exceptional drought conditions at the Rio Grande headwaters and tributaries in the states of Colorado and New Mexico were present during all of 2021 and are expected to continue for 2022.

The Rio Grande headwaters and tributaries are located in a climatic regime that is independent from the climactic regime of Far West Texas. If a drought occurs in Colorado and/or New Mexico, then the El Paso area may be thrown into a drought-like scenario. The westernmost part of Texas, as well the headwaters and tributaries of the Rio Grande in Colorado and New Mexico from which the EPCWID’s water supply originates, have been experiencing drought conditions for much of the past two decades, with only 2005, 2008, 2016, 2017, and 2019 experiencing average or above-average spring runoff into Elephant Butte Reservoir (see Figure 4 below).

In 2018, Elephant Butte Reservoir reached near-record-low levels at about 3% capacity, with just 62,573 acre-feet of water in storage in the month 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 EPCWID in 2017 in accordance with the 2008 Operating Agreement (currently in litigation). Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs have been near or below 30% of the combined storage capacity of 2.23 million acre-feet since 2010 (see Figure 5 below). There was very limited carryover for the 2021 irrigation season and storage levels at Elephant Butte Reservoir are currently at 11% or less.



**Figure 4. U.S. Drought Monitor for the Upper Rio Grande from 2000 to 2021**



**Figure 5. Water Storage Thresholds at Elephant Butte Reservoir from 1999 to 2020**

○ ***Does this project have the potential to prevent lawsuits or water calls?***

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. EPCWID1 is involved in the following litigation pertaining to Rio Grande Project water: *State of Texas v State of New Mexico and State of Colorado, no. 220141 Original in the United States Supreme Court and Intervention by the United States*.

As irrigation water demand is met by a more efficient system, EPCWID1 will not require using as large of an annual allocation of Rio Grande Project water, thereby allowing storage in Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs to accumulate and provide critical water in drought years when unmet water demands are highest.

○ ***What are the consequences of not making the improvement?***

EPCWID1 is making investments in water conservation to ensure all water users receive a full water allocation every year. The proposed project has direct, measurable water conservation benefits. Without this investment, Rio Grande Project water users, including municipal water users, will continue to receive partial allocations.

○ ***Are customer water restrictions currently required?***

In 2021, EPCWID1 was only able to deliver a 1.5 acre-foot per acre allocation to water users. The full allocation is 4 acre-feet per acre. I.e., in 2021, water users received only 37.5% of their allocation due to restrictions related to drought and available water supplies.

**Broader Benefits: Describe the broader benefits that are expected to occur as a result of the project. Consider:**

- ***Will the project improve broad water supply reliability at sub-basin or basin scale?***

Because Rio Grande Project water storage in Elephant Butte is shared between EPCWID1, Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID), and Mexico, water conservation projects have basin-wide benefits: as irrigation water demand is met by a more efficient system, EPCWID1 will not require using as large of an annual allocation of Rio Grande Project water, thereby allowing storage in Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs to accumulate and provide critical water in drought years when unmet water demands are highest.

- ***Will the proposed project increase collaboration and information sharing among water managers in the region? Please explain.***

The proposed project was selected as a priority due to cost-effective water conservation benefits and additional benefits to the community (discussed below). EPCWID1 works with municipal and irrigation water managers and transportation managers in the region and will showcase the synergistic impact that is made possible through small-scale concrete lining improvements. This approach was effective during Phase I of the Montoya Main Concrete Lining Project (USBR Contract No. R19AP00228), and the proposed Phase III Project was prioritized as a result of positive feedback received from the City of El Paso and other partners.

- ***Will the proposed project positively impact/benefit various sectors and economies within the applicable geographic area (e.g., impacts to agriculture, environment, recreation, and tourism)? Please explain.***

#### **Paso del Norte Trail and Montoya Laterals System Safes Routes to School Project**

The Montoya Main Lateral and Montoya A Laterals are designated trail spurs of the Paso del Norte Trail (PDN Trail). The PDN Trail is a county-wide, 68-mile mixed-use trail intended to become an attraction that connects communities, celebrates El Paso's history and culture, highlights the Rio Grande and its regional impact on agriculture and development, promotes healthy and active living, and catalyzes economic development. Learn more at: <https://www.pasodelnortetrail.org>. EPCWID1 works with multiple stakeholders to develop sections of the PDN Trail in waterways. Concrete lining a canal is an engineering and safety requirement to build any trail on the canal banks.

EPCWID1 will continue working with the City of El Paso, the Paso del Norte Health Foundation, and the El Paso Independent School District to allocate and/or secure additional funding to construct additional segments of the trail on the banks of the Montoya Main Lateral and Montoya A Lateral. EPCWID1 is already working with these partners to construct the trail. The trail was made possible thanks to Reclamation funding from Phase I of the Montoya Main Concrete Lining Project (USBR Contract No. R19AP00228). Please see statements of support in Appendix B for additional information.

- ***Will the project complement work being done in coordination with NRCS in the area (e.g., the area with a direct connection to the district's water supply) Please explain.***

EPCWID1 has a history of collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) program and periodically hosts local work group management meetings at EPCWID1



offices. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) 2020 El Paso District Priorities include practices that can enhance water availability and efficient irrigation systems:

**Cropland Priority 1                      Excess/Insufficient Water - Inefficient use of irrigation water**

As part of the proposed project, EPCWID1 will adjust headgates (not replace) currently used to deliver irrigation water. EPCWID1 already refers potential NRCS EQIP applicants to the local NRCS office and EPCWID1 staff provides technical assistance for new applications. Previous concrete lining projects performed by the EPCWID1 facilitated NRCS EQIP-eligible improvements such as the installation of turnout flow meters, the concrete lining of private irrigation ditches, and installing low-cost, on-farm soil moisture sensors.

- ***Will the project help address drought conditions at the sub-basin or basin scale? Please explain.***

Because Rio Grande Project water storage in Elephant Butte is shared between EPCWID1, Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID), and Mexico, water conservation projects have basin-wide drought mitigation benefits: as irrigation water demand is met by a more efficient system, EPCWID1 will not require using as large of an annual allocation of Rio Grande Project water, thereby allowing storage in Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs to accumulate and provide critical water in drought years when unmet water demands are highest.

**D.2. Evaluation Criterion B. Planning Efforts Supporting the Project (30 points)**

*Up to 30 points may be awarded based on the extent to which the proposed on-the-ground project is supported by an applicant's existing water management plan, water conservation plan, System Optimization Review, or identified as part of another planning effort led by the Category A applicant. This criterion prioritizes projects that are identified through local planning efforts and meet local needs.*

**Plan Development: Describe how your project is supported by an existing planning effort. Identify the planning effort and who developed it. Support for the Project: Describe to what extent the proposed project is supported by the identified plan. Address the following:**

- ***Is the project identified specifically in the planning effort?***

**2019 Water Conservation Plan**

The proposed lining of the Montoya Main Lateral is a planned project included in EPCWID1's 2019 Water Conservation Plan (WCP), which can be referenced at <https://www.epcwid1.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.

**2022 Texas State Water Plan and 2021 Region E Far West Texas Water Plan**

The proposed project is listed under Water Management Strategy (WMS) E-42 in the 2021 Texas State Water Plan, which is developed at the state level by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). WMS E-42 can be referenced further at: <https://texasstatewaterplan.org/project/1777>

The proposed project is also included as part of a Recommended Water Management Strategy in the *2021 Region E Far West Texas Water Plan*, which is developed by the Far West Texas Water

Planning Group (FWTWPG). The 2021 Far West Texas Water Plan can be referenced at: [http://westtexaswaterplanning.org/?page\\_id=214](http://westtexaswaterplanning.org/?page_id=214)

A Letter of Support from the FWTWPG for the Project is included in Appendix B.

- ***Explain whether the proposed project implements a goal or addresses a need or problem identified in the existing planning effort.***

The Project is an investment that is necessary to efficiently manage the EPCWID1's delivery of Rio Grande Project water within a rapidly-urbanizing area with shared municipal and agricultural water users. In addition to conserving water normally lost to seepage, a major goal of the proposed project is to increase operational efficiency by mitigating the risk of spills and reducing maintenance in waterways located in developed areas. Concrete lining will allow EPCWID1 to address sediment build-up, debris, and water losses from spills that may affect irrigation water deliveries to agricultural operations that depend on Rio Grande Project water conveyed via the Montoya Laterals System. The proposed project is listed among several projects needed to address these issues and are described in greater detail in the aforementioned water plans.

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

EPCWID1 has limited sources of revenue and cannot immediately fund the majority of its planned water conservation and efficiency projects. EPCWID1 revenues decrease significantly during droughts, and, as stated previously, the El Paso region has been experiencing perpetual drought conditions for the last 15 years.

EPCWID1 proactively seeks to partner with other public entities to cost-share concrete lining projects when possible. EPCWID1 has worked with Reclamation to implement multiple projects prioritized in the State Water Plan. EPCWID1 also cost-shares concrete lining projects with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and local partners to construct trails and facilitate the expansion of roadways at crossings and has engaged in five of such projects in the two years.

The proposed project was selected as a priority as part of the EPCWID1's internal SOR process due to the rapid development of land adjacent to the Montoya Main Laterals System. The values of properties surrounding the Montoya Main Lateral have increased and, consequently, potential liabilities and costs in the case of a spill event. Based on interest and positive feedback from the community, the City of El Paso will contribute to the construction of a trail on the banks of the Montoya Main Lateral (see statement of support in Appendix B).

### **D.3. Evaluation Criterion C. Project Implementation (20 points)**

*Up to 20 points may be awarded based upon the extent to which the applicant is capable of proceeding with the proposed project upon entering into a financial assistance agreement.*

- ***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.***

## **Project Scope of Work**

### **Task 1. Environmental and Cultural Compliance (August 2023 – June 2024)**

The purpose of this task is to perform environmental review and cultural compliance work necessary to complete the concrete lining project. Work includes but is not limited to:

- 1.1 Working with Reclamation to meet federal environmental and regulatory compliance requirements, including National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) compliance
- 1.2 Working with the Texas Historical Commission (SHPO) to meet historical and cultural compliance requirements, including reviewing findings from environmental, cultural, and historical compliance work and developing any additional documents and modifications necessary to adhere to federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and codes
- 1.3 Preparing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and submitting a Notice of Intent (TPDES General Construction) to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

**Expected Deliverables:** [1] Categorical Exclusion (CEC), [2] SHPO Compliance Notice, [3] Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), [4] TPDES General Construction Notice

### **Task 2. Procurement of Supplies and Materials (August 2023 – October 2023)**

The purpose of this task is to solicit quotes and purchase all materials needed for construction. Work includes but is not limited to:

- 2.1 Solicit quotes (RFQ) and select a vendor for a minimum of 975 cubic yards of shotcrete
- 2.2 Purchase additional materials with strict compliance to applicable laws and regulations

**Expected Deliverables:** [5] Procurement and purchase records

### **Task 3. Concrete Lining Construction (October 2023 – June 2024)**

The purpose of this task is to perform all necessary concrete lining construction work, which includes but is not limited to:

- 3.1 Fleet mobilization
- 3.2 Performing initial earth work, including excavation, dirt hauling,
- 3.3 Installing geofabric liner and spraying and curing shotcrete (50%)
- 3.4 Installing geofabric liner and spraying and curing shotcrete (100%)
- 3.4 Performing final earth work, including soil compaction, grading, and alignment
- 3.5 Fleet demobilization

**Expected Deliverables:** [6] Equipment Use Logs, [7] Labor and fringe costs, [8] construction photos

### **Task 4. Administration and Technical Support**

The purpose of this task is to perform grant administration, periodic reporting, and technical work necessary to complete the project. Work includes but is not limited to:

- 4.1 Developing Performance and Final Reports and SF-425 Federal Financial Reports for work performed from August 2023 through June 2024, or as specified in a resulting award contract from Reclamation



**Figure 6. Project Timeline**

Task No.	Dates	2023												2024											
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Project Funding Award</b>	<b>Aug 2023-</b>																								
<b>Task 1.</b>	<b>Aug 2023 -</b>																								
<b>Environmental and Cultural Compliance</b>	<b>June 2024</b>																								
1.1 USBR NEPA Process (Notice to Proceed)																									
1.2 SHPO Consultation (Section 106)																									
1.3 CWA Compliance (SWPPP/ TCEQ Notice)																									
<b>Task 2.</b>	<b>Aug 2023-</b>																								
<b>Procurement of Supplies and Materials</b>	<b>Oct 2023</b>																								
2.1 Shotcrete RFQ & Selection																									
2.2 Steel Rebar RFQ & Selection																									
2.3 Purchasing Additional Materials																									
<b>Task 3.</b>	<b>Oct 2024 -</b>																								
<b>Concrete Lining Construction</b>	<b>Mar 2024</b>																								
3.1 Fleet Mobilization																									
3.2 Initial Earthwork and canal shaping																									
3.3 Concrete Lining (50%)																									
3.4 Concrete Lining (100%)																									
3.5 Final Earthwork and grading																									
3.6 Fleet Demobilization																									
<b>Task 4.</b>	<b>Aug 2023-</b>																								
<b>Administration and Technical Support</b>	<b>June 2024</b>																								
4.1 Performance Report 1																									
4.2 Performance Report 2																									
4.3 Final Report																									

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

EPCWID1 owns, operates, and maintains the Project site and right-of-way. There are no required permits or approvals necessary for this Project.

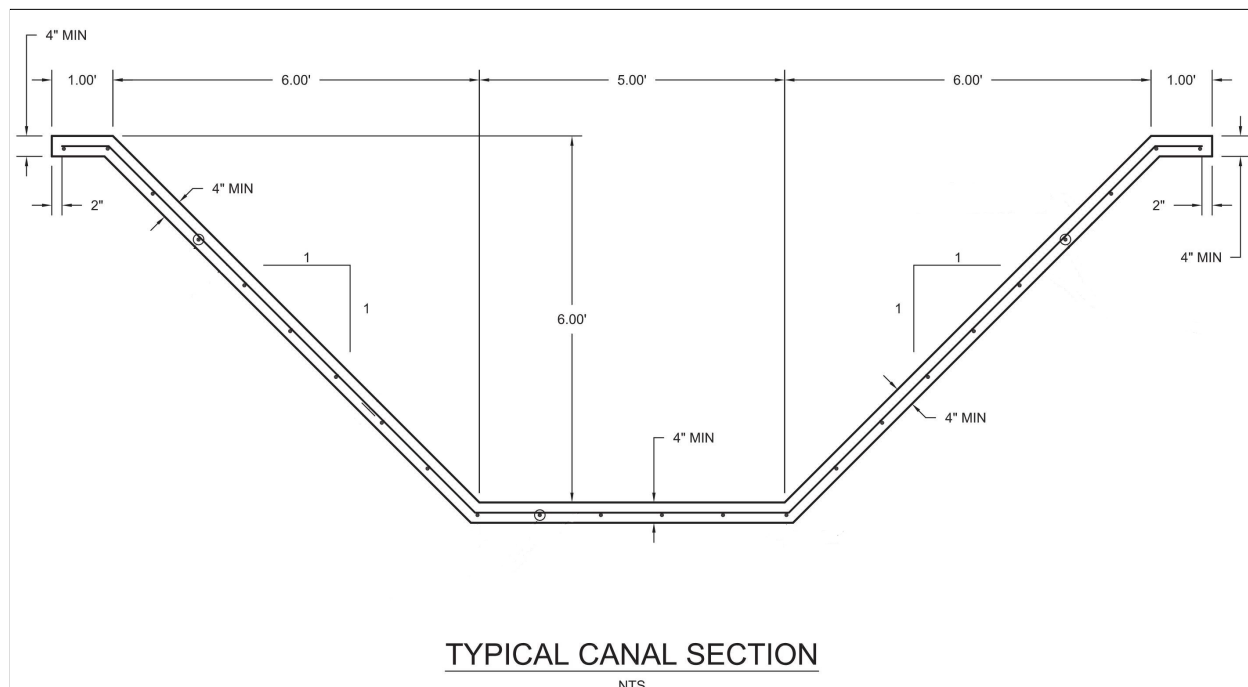
- **Describe any new policies or administrative actions required to implement the project.**

No new policies or administrative actions are required.

- **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 and Montoya A Lateral will be based on engineering design specifications developed for and used in concrete lining work performed in Phase I of the project (USBR Contract No. R19A00228). Figure 7 below illustrates

design specifications developed for the project, which was used to estimate the construction costs and timeline included in this proposal.



- ***Describe the timeline for completion of environmental and cultural resource compliance. Was the timeline for completion of environmental and cultural resource compliance discussed with the local Reclamation office?***

According to staff from Reclamation’s Albuquerque Area Office and support from staff from the El Paso Field Division Office, it is expected that a Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC) will be sufficient to meet environmental and cultural resource compliance. This process is expected to take a couple of months and will not hold the project timeline. This was also the case for Phase I of the Montoya Main Lateral Concrete Lining Project (USBR Contract No. R19AP00228).

**D.4. Evaluation Criterion D. Nexus to Reclamation (5 points)**

***Up to 10 points may be awarded based on the current extent that the proposal demonstrates a nexus between the proposed project and a Reclamation project or activity. Describe the nexus between the proposed project and a Reclamation project or activity, including:***

- ***Is the proposed project connected to a Reclamation project or activity? If so, how? Please consider the following:***
  - ***Does the applicant receive Reclamation project water?***  
Yes, EPCWID1 obtains water by annual allocation from Reclamation’s Rio Grande Project.
  - ***Is the project on Reclamation project lands or involving Reclamation facilities?***  
EPCWID1 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 EPCWID1, and then subsequent ownership in 1996. EPCWID1 continues to rely on Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs for water storage, delivery, and flood control.

- ***Is the project in the same basin as a Reclamation project or activity?***  
Yes, the proposed is located in the Rio Grande Basin.
- ***Will the proposed work contribute water to basin where USBR project is located?***  
The proposed Project will contribute water via conservation and efficiency improvements to delivery operations for Rio Grande Project water users.

**D.5. Evaluation Criterion E. Presidential and DOI Priorities (10 points)**

***Sub-criterion No. E1. Climate Change***

***Points will be awarded based on the extent the project will reduce climate pollution, increase resilience to the impacts of climate change; protect public health; and conserve our lands, waters, oceans, and biodiversity. Address the following as relevant to your project.***

- ***Please provide specific details and examples on how the project will address the impacts of climate change and help combat the climate crisis.***

The proposed concrete lining project aligns with Reclamation’s stated priority of Increasing Supplies through Water Improvements, including conserving water as outlined in priorities for the WaterSMART program (2021 SECURE Water Act Report, Page 39).

- ***Does this proposed project strengthen water supply sustainability to increase resilience to climate change? Does the proposed project contribute to climate change resiliency in other ways not described above?***

Concrete lining construction projects provide viable contributions to water savings and reduce losses linked to seepage and evaporation, which are expected to worsen as a result of rising temperatures and climate change.

***Sub-criterion No. E2. Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities***

***Points will be awarded based on the extent to which the Project serves economically disadvantaged or underserved communities in rural or urban areas.***

- ***Will the proposed project serve or benefit a disadvantaged or historically underserved community? Benefits can include, but are not limited to, public health and safety by addressing water quality, new water supplies, or economic growth opportunities.***

The successful construction of the Paso del Norte Trail on the banks of the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals is expected to bring new transportation options for children walking to school. Please refer to letters of support in Appendix B for additional details.

- ***Please describe how the community is disadvantaged on a combination of variables:***

- ***Low income, high and/or persistent poverty***

El Paso County, Texas is included in the U.S. Department of Commerce’s 2021 Persistently Poor Counties list (FIPS: 48141). Consistent poverty levels exceed 17%, and income levels are 75% of the national and state averages (see Table 4 in Environmental Compliance).

- ***High transportation cost burden and/or low transportation access***

The construction of a Safe Route to School at the Montoya Laterals System is necessary due to an unfortunately student pedestrian death that occurred in 2018. Please refer to letters of support in Appendix B for additional details.



- ***If the proposed project is providing benefits to an underserved community, provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the community meets the undeserved definition in E.O. 13985***

The population of El Paso County is 82.1% Latino/Hispanic. According to Sec. 2 of E.O. 13985, an “underserved community” refers to populations that are characterized by exemplified in the term “equity,” which includes Latino/Hispanic-majority communities. As such, communities in El Paso County meet the undeserved definition in E.O. 13985.

### **Sub-criterion No. E.3. Tribal Benefits**

*Points will be awarded based on the extent to which the Project will honor the Federal government’s commitments to Tribal Nations.*

- ***Does the proposed project directly serve and/or benefit a Tribe? Will the project improve water management for a Tribe?***

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. EPCWID delivers irrigation 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*. The Ysleta del Sur Pueblo owns 379.2 acres of land with active irrigation water rights. The aforementioned water reliability and sediment reduction benefits also extend to this agricultural acreage.

- ***Does the proposed project support Tribal resilience to climate change and drought impacts or provide other Tribal benefits such as improved public health and safety by addressing water quality, new water supplies, or economic growth opportunities?***

As irrigation water demand is met by a more efficient system, EPCWID1 will not require using as large of an annual allocation of Rio Grande Project water, thereby allowing storage in Elephant Butte and Caballo Reservoirs to accumulate and provide critical water to all water uses—including the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo—in drought years when unmet water demands are highest,

### ***Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement***

The proposed Montoya Lateral System Concrete Lining Project: Phase III is a phased project that has received funding from Reclamation in FY2019 and FY2021 of the WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects program. There is no overlap between the proposed project and any other active or anticipated proposals or projects in terms of activities, costs, or commitment of key personnel. This proposal does not in any way duplicate any proposal or project that has been or will be submitted for funding consideration to any other potential funding source.

### ***Uniform Audit Reporting Statement***

EPCWID1 expended more than \$750,000 from federal awards in Fiscal Year 2021. A federal audit is currently underway and will be submitted through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse’s Internet Data Entry System in accordance with 2 CFR 200 Subpart F by October 2022 or earlier.

**EPCWID1 EIN Number:** 74-1505167

## II PROJECT BUDGET

### A. Funding Plan and Letters of Funding Commitment

The total project cost is \$216,386. EPCWID will contribute \$116,386 to the project, which is 54% of the total project costs. EPCWID is requesting a \$100,000 grant from Reclamation, which is 46% of the total project costs. There are no additional funding partners for this project.

EPCWID Funding	\$116,386	=	54%
Reclamation Funding	\$100,000	=	46%
<hr/>			
Total Project Funding	\$216,386	=	100%

The proposed project includes budgeted costs that are representative of actual construction costs for other sections of the Montoya Main Lateral, including cost estimates in USBR Agreement No. R19AP00228. EPCWID1 has sufficient revenues to provide a 54% cost share for the project. EPCWID1’s funding commitment is established via a Resolution from the Board of Directors voted and approved on March 16, 2022 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 work performed on the Montoya Main Lateral. There are no costs incurred before the anticipated proposed project start date.

### B. Budget Proposal

**Table 1. Total Project Cost Table**

<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Costs to be reimbursed with requested Federal funding</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>
<b>Costs to be paid by the applicant</b>	<b>\$ 116,386</b>
<b>Value of third-party contributions</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 216,386</b>

**Table 2. Budget Proposal**

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	COMPUTATION		Quantity Type	EPCWID#1 Funding	Reclamation Funding	TOTAL COST	
	\$/unit	Quantity					
<b>Salaries and Wages</b>							
Maintenance Supervisor	\$30.44	/hour	240	Labor	\$ 7,305	\$ - \$ 7,305	
Equipment Operator I / Labor	\$13.39	/hour	240	Labor	\$ 3,214	\$ - \$ 3,214	
Equipment Operator I / Labor	\$14.35	/hour	240	Labor	\$ 3,443	\$ - \$ 3,443	
Equipment Operator I / Labor	\$14.35	/hour	240	Labor	\$ 3,443	\$ - \$ 3,443	
Equipment Operator I / Labor	\$14.21	/hour	240	Labor	\$ 3,411	\$ - \$ 3,411	
Equipment Operator II	\$18.65	/hour	240	Labor	\$ 4,477	\$ - \$ 4,477	
Equipment Operator III	\$20.88	/hour	240	Labor	\$ 5,011	\$ - \$ 5,011	
Equipment Operator III (2)	\$24.83	/hour	240	Labor	\$ 5,960	\$ - \$ 5,960	
						<b>Subtotal \$ 36,264</b>	
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>							
Maintenance Supervisor	\$6.03	/hour	240	Labor	\$ 1,448	\$ - \$ 1,448	
Equipment Operator I / Labor	\$7.87	/hour	240	Labor	\$ 1,890	\$ - \$ 1,890	
Equipment Operator I / Labor	\$3.94	/hour	240	Labor	\$ 946	\$ - \$ 946	
Equipment Operator I / Labor	\$3.94	/hour	240	Labor	\$ 946	\$ - \$ 946	
Equipment Operator I / Labor	\$3.95	/hour	240	Labor	\$ 948	\$ - \$ 948	
Equipment Operator II	\$4.16	/hour	240	Labor	\$ 999	\$ - \$ 999	
Equipment Operator III	\$6.62	/hour	240	Labor	\$ 1,589	\$ - \$ 1,589	
Equipment Operator III (2)	\$5.54	/hour	240	Labor	\$ 1,330	\$ - \$ 1,330	
						<b>Subtotal \$ 10,095</b>	
<b>Equipment (Rates from 2018 US-ACE USACE EP1110-1-8 District VI Expense Schedule)</b>							
Pickup (2)	\$18.35	/hour	60	Equipment	\$ 1,101	\$ - \$ 1,101	
Dump Truck (12/15 CY)	\$28.24	/hour	200	Equipment	\$ 5,648	\$ - \$ 5,648	
Dump Truck (6 CY)	\$21.69	/hour	200	Equipment	\$ 4,338	\$ - \$ 4,338	
Excavator 1	\$43.00	/hour	120	Equipment	\$ 5,159	\$ - \$ 5,159	
Excavator 3	\$45.43	/hour	120	Equipment	\$ 5,452	\$ - \$ 5,452	
Welding Rig (2)	\$4.42	/hour	60	Equipment	\$ 265	\$ - \$ 265	
Dozer	\$36.29	/hour	60	Equipment	\$ 2,177	\$ - \$ 2,177	
Grader	\$41.57	/hour	60	Equipment	\$ 2,494	\$ - \$ 2,494	
Water Truck (2)	\$26.70	/hour	200	Equipment	\$ 5,341	\$ - \$ 5,341	
Steel Roller Compactor	\$43.41	/hour	60	Equipment	\$ 2,604	\$ - \$ 2,604	
Loader	\$33.69	/hour	60	Equipment	\$ 2,021	\$ - \$ 2,021	
Shotcrete Machine (2)	\$22.45	/hour	120	Equipment	\$ 2,694	\$ - \$ 2,694	
Compressor (2)	\$7.97	/hour	120	Equipment	\$ 956	\$ - \$ 956	
Telescopic Boom 2	\$41.96	/hour	120	Equipment	\$ 5,036	\$ - \$ 5,036	
						<b>Subtotal \$ 45,287</b>	
<b>Supplies and Materials</b>							
Shotcrete	\$117.00	/cy	975	cubic yards	\$ 14,075	\$ 100,000 \$ 114,075	
Curing Compound	\$6.20	/gal	390	gallons	\$ 2,418	\$ 2,418	
GeoFabric Liner	\$0.08	/sf	76230	square feet	\$ 6,098	\$ - \$ 6,098	
Wattle Pins	\$0.31	/ea	6930	each	\$ 2,148	\$ - \$ 2,148	
						<b>Subtotal \$ 124,740</b>	
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS</b>					<b>\$ 116,386</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>	<b>\$ 216,386</b>

## C. Budget Narrative

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

The following EPCWID personnel will be involved in this project. Their respective roles and actual salaries and fringe rates (Fiscal Year 2021) are described below:

- **Maintenance Supervisor** will be responsible for project supervision, quality control, safety, operating of equipment, other labor contributions to construction work, and generating cost and equipment use records necessary for reporting. It is estimated that the Maintenance Supervisor will contribute 240 hours to the project at a loaded rate of \$36.47 per hour consisting of \$30.44 per hour in wages and \$6.03 per hour in fringe costs.
- **Equipment Operator I / Labor** is a classification used for four employees that will be responsible for the operation of construction equipment and various manual labor tasks. It is estimated that these employees will each contribute 240 hours to the project. Individual salaries and fringe rates are listed in the Budget Proposal.
- **Equipment Operator II** will be responsible for the operation of construction equipment and various manual labor tasks. It is estimated that the Equipment Operator II will contribute 240 hours to the project at a loaded rate of \$22.81 per hour consisting of \$18.65 per hour in wages and \$4.16 per hour in fringe costs.
- **Equipment Operator III** will be responsible for the operation of construction equipment and various manual labor tasks. It is estimated that the Equipment Operator III will contribute 240 hours to the project at a loaded rate of \$27.50 per hour consisting of \$20.88 per hour in wages and \$6.62 per hour in fringe costs
- **Equipment Operator III (2)** will be responsible for the operation of construction equipment and various manual labor tasks. It is estimated that the Equipment Operator III (2) will contribute 240 hours to the project at a loaded rate of \$30.37 per hour consisting of \$24.83 per hour in wages and \$5.54 per hour in fringe costs

### *Certification of Labor Rates*

The labor rates of identified personnel included herein represent the actual labor rates of personnel bearing the same title in Fiscal Year 2021. Additional verification is available as needed pursuant to an award contract with Reclamation.

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

The in-kind fringe benefits for EPCWID1 personnel involved in this project personnel included herein represent the actual labor rates of personnel bearing the same title in Fiscal Year 2021.

### *Equipment*

EPCWID owns all of the equipment that will be used in the proposed project. The included equipment usage time estimates are based on similar concrete lining projects at the Montoya Main Lateral. Equipment stand-by time is not included. The proposed usage cost rates are based of costs outlined by the 2020 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 on page 23. The equipment rate structure included in this application was previously negotiated with Reclamation staff as part of Contract No. R19AP00228 (Phase I of the Montoya Main Concrete Lining Project). EPCWID1 updated equipment hourly rates based on the USACE's 2020 figures.

***Materials and Supplies***

The proposed costs and itemization for materials and supplies are representative of costs and quantities used for Contract No. R19AP00228 with Reclamation and materials and supplies procured in Fiscal Year 2021. Rising costs have been common in 2022 due to inflation. EPCWID1 will absorb any additional costs associated with the project.

***Shotcrete***

The quantity of shotcrete needed for the project was estimated at 975 cubic yards. 92 cubic yards of shotcrete are necessary to construct an intake at a crossing by Lindberg Avenue, 5 turnout structures, and to tie the lateral cross section to existing concrete lining and concrete lined check structure. Estimates for the required shotcrete for these structures are based on similar projects. Specifically, approximately 6 cubic yards of shotcrete are required per turnout structure, 42 cubic yards are required for the intake at Lindberg Avenue, and 20 cubic yards of shotcrete were allocated to accommodate cross section ties from the designed canal cross section to existing lining cross sections. The right bank of a 680-foot section of the Montoya Main Lateral was concrete lined in 2017 as part of a flood mitigation initiative and the lining remains in good condition. EPCWID1 will not remove this lining. This concrete lined section will result in a reduction of 58 cubic yards of shotcrete. The following calculations were used to estimate the amount of shotcrete needed for the project:

$$\text{Project length (feet) * Cross-section (feet) * Thickness (inches)/12/27} \\ (3,465 * 22 * 4)/12/27 = 941 \text{ cubic yards}$$

$$\text{Shotcrete reduction from concrete lined section} \\ \text{Lined length (feet) * right bank cross-section length (feet) * Thickness (inches)/12/27} \\ (680 * 7 * 4)/12/27 = 58.76 \text{ cubic yards} \rightarrow 58 \text{ cubic yards}$$

$$\text{Final calculation: } 941 \text{ cy} + 92 \text{ cy} - 58 \text{ cy} = 975 \text{ cy}$$

***Curing Compound (used to cure the shotcrete)***

Approximately 1 gallon of curing compound is needed for every 2.5 cubic yards of shotcrete used in the project:

$$\text{cy shotcrete used} / 2.5 = \text{gallons per cubic yard of shotcrete} \\ 975 / 2.5 = 390 \text{ gallons}$$

***Geofabric liner (used below the shotcrete)***

The following calculations were used to estimate the amount of geofabric liner:

$$\text{Project Length (feet) * Cross Section (feet) = Surface Area (square feet)} \\ 3,465 * 22 = 76,230 \text{ sf}$$

***Waddle Pins (used to pin the geofabric liner to the canal dirt)***

The following calculations were used to estimate the amount of waddle pins:

Project Length (Feet) \* 2 = 6930

***Indirect Costs***

Indirect costs are not included as part of the project. EPCWID1 has ample experience in managing grant-funded projects with Reclamation and has developed a grant administration process that streamlines reporting and reimbursements, eliminating most administrative and overhead costs.

***Total Amount of Project Costs***

The total cost of the project is \$216,386. The Bureau of Reclamation requested share is \$100,000. The EPCWID1 contribution will be \$116,386 as in-kind contributions and material costs.

**Table 3. Equipment Costs Schedule (USACE EP1110-1-8 2020)**

EP1110-1-8 Equipment (2020)	Category Number	EP1110-1-8 ID Source Tag	Page No.	Horsepower/ Specification	District Vehicle	Year	EP1110-1-8 Rates	Age Adj Mult	Final Rate
Pickup (x5)	T50	T50XX004	728	4x4, 1/2 ton, gas pickup	F-350 / 2500 HD	Varies	\$18.35	1	\$18.35
Dump Truck 1	T50	T50XX032	739	10-13 CY Dump	2017 PETERBILT 348 T-10 (12/15 YD Dump)	2017	\$28.24	1	\$28.24
Dump Truck 2	T50	T50XX032	739	10-13 CY Dump	2017 PETERBILT 348 T11 (12/15 YD Dump)	2017	\$28.24	1	\$28.24
Dump Truck 3	T50	T50XX032	739	10-13 CY Dump	2001 FREIGHLINER T6 (12/15 YD Dump)	2001	\$28.24	0.89	\$25.13
Dump Truck 4	T50	T50XX032	739	10-13 CY Dump	2001 STERLING T7 (12/15 TD Dump)	2001	\$28.24	0.89	\$25.13
Dump Truck 5	T40	T400X026	696	8 CY Dump Option	2008 FORD F750 6YD DUMP TRUCK T9	2008	\$1.95	0.98	\$1.91
Dump Truck 6	T40	T400X026	696	32,000 GVW Truck	2008 FORD F750 6YD DUMP TRUCK T8	2008	\$20.39	0.97	\$19.78
Dump Truck 7	T40	T400X026	696	8 CY Dump Option	2008 FORD F750 6YD DUMP TRUCK T2	2008	\$1.95	0.98	\$1.91
Dump Truck 8	T50	T50XX026	738	30,000 GVW Truck	2007 FORD F750 6YD DUMP TRUCK T1	2007	\$1.95	0.81	\$1.58
Dump Truck 9	T40	T400X026	696	8 CY Dump Option	2006 F750 6YD DUMP TRUCK T-1	2006	\$20.39	0.97	\$19.78
Dump Truck 10	T50	T50XX026	738	30,000 GVW Truck	1997 GMC 6YD DUMP TRUCK T-5	1997	\$1.95	0.66	\$1.29
Excavator 1	H25	H25CA022	328	153 HP / 1.56 CY bucket	1995 GMC 6YD DUMP T-4	1995	\$20.39	0.97	\$19.78
Excavator 2	H25	H25CA022	328	153 HP / 1.56 CY bucket	EC210BLR-1 VOLVO EXCAVATOR (159 HP, 1.5yd bucket, long-stick)	2008	\$43.43	0.99	\$43.00
Excavator 3	H25	H25CA041	329	Cat 320DL	EC210BLR-2 VOLVO EXCAVATOR (159 HP, 1.5yd bucket, long-stick)	2008	\$43.43	0.99	\$43.00
Excavator 4	H25	H25CA041	329	Cat 320DL	320DL-EXC CATERPILLAR E-9 (148 HP, .80 CY, long-stick)	2008	\$45.89	0.99	\$45.43
Excavator 5	H25	H25CA041	329	128 HP, .80 CY bucket	320DL-EXC CATERPILLAR E-10 (148 HP, .80 CY, long-stick)	2008	\$45.89	0.99	\$45.43
Welding Rig (x2)	W35	W35XX022	781	(250 amp)	320A -EXC CATERPILLAR E-7 (138 HP, 1 CY, long-stick)	2008	\$45.89	0.99	\$45.43
Dozer	T15	T15D007	666	JD 650K / 101 HP	Utility Truck + Ranger 250 GTX (250 amp)	2012	\$4.80	0.92	\$4.42
Grader	G15	G15D010	274	JD 770G	JOHN DEERE 700K XLT DOZER (97 HP)	2017	\$36.29	1	\$36.29
Sheeps Foot Roller	R45	R45CA010	572	145 HP / D-off	2009 JD 770D MOTOR GRADER G-6 (160 HP)	2009	\$55.43	0.75	\$41.57
Water Truck	T50	T50XX026	738	32,000 GVW Truck	CAT CP563 ROLLER RL-2 (145 HP)	2007	\$76.10	0.97	\$73.82
Water Truck	T40	T40RS003	703	4,000 gal tank	2007 Freightliner	2007	\$20.39	0.89	\$18.15
Water Truck	T50	T50XX026	738	32,000 GVW Truck	4000 gal Water Tank Add-on	2007	\$8.73	0.98	\$8.56
Rubber Tire Excavator	T40	T40RS002	703	3,000 gal tank	1995 GMC W2	1995	\$20.39	0.89	\$18.15
Steel Roller Compactor	H30	H30CA001	375	141 HP, .69 CY bucket	3000 gal Water Tank Add-on	1995	\$8.73	0.98	\$8.56
Loader	R50	R50DY010	192	132 HP, 83" wide, 2.1 ton	EW170B VOLVO EXCAVATOR (145 HP 3/4 bucket)	2001	\$51.24	0.98	\$50.22
Shocrete Machine (x2)	L40	L40CA019	424	CAT 924H	DYNAPAC CA2500 D ROLLER RL-1 (130 HP, 83" wide, 13 ton)	2015	\$44.75	0.97	\$43.41
Compressor (x2)	P45	P45AF010	516	60 HP / 50 CY/HR	924H CAT LOADER L1 (128 HP, 2 YD bucket)	2010	\$34.73	0.97	\$33.69
Telescopic Boom 1	A15	A15DP001	3	Doosan P185	SHOTCRETE PUMP REED B50 (50 CY/HR, 110 HP)	2013	\$22.91	0.98	\$22.45
Telescopic Boom 2	P40	P40TE022	168	Genie S105 / 500 lbs / 110 ft	DOOSAN AIR COMPRESSOR P185 AC2 (185 CFM 49 HP)	2013	\$8.30	0.96	\$7.97
Telescopic Boom 2	P40	P40TE021	168	500 lbs / 64 ft	GENIE S-120 2002 LF1 (126 ft telescopic boom, 750 lbs, 78 hp)	2002	\$77.62	0.98	\$76.07
Telescopic Boom 2	P40	P40TE021	168	500 lbs / 64 ft	JLG 600S SKYPOWER 2008 LF2 (66 ft boom, 750 lbs 78 hp)	2008	\$42.82	0.98	\$41.96

### 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 Lateral and Montoya A Lateral from breach and spills. EPCWID1 maintenance activities will be reduced by approximately 80%, thereby reducing dust generation, equipment noise and fuel consumption.

Mitigation practices will be implemented, including dust abatement, reduction of noise impacts, no clearing will be done except clearing brush within right-of-way of the EPCWID1, and 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 waterways in the EPCWID1 irrigation system were constructed through the Rio Grande Reclamation Project from 1915 to 1925. The Montoya Main Lateral and Montoya A Lateral were constructed in 1919.

***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 (EPCWID1) 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. EPCWID1 has an agreement with the Texas Historical Commission (SHPO) in regards to which facilities can be concrete lined or placed underground. The SHPO issued a determination of No Adverse Effects / No Historic Properties Present or Affected in Phase I of the Montoya Main Lateral Concrete Lining Project (Agreement No. R19AP00228 with Reclamation). EPCWID1 expects a similar determination for the proposed project.

***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.

**Table 4. Comparison of Average Household Median Income (AHMI) (U.S. Census American Community Survey 2015-2019 5-Year Estimates)**

<b>Boundary</b>	<b>AMHI</b>	<b>% of Texas</b>	<b>% of U.S.</b>
City of El Paso	\$47,568	76.88%	75.69%
El Paso County	\$46,871	75.75%	74.58%
State of Texas	\$61,874	100.00%	98.46%
United States	\$62,843	101.54%	100.00%

***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**

EPCWID1 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**

EPCWID1 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)**

EPCWID1 is currently enrolled in ASAP and is ready to engage in active financial assistance agreements with Reclamation.

**DUNS Number:** 128044773 **UEI:** RVK4PGMRX2C8



**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 2022 WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Program for a Grant totaling \$100,000 to conserve water and improve the District's water use efficiency by concrete lining sections of the Montoya Main Lateral and Montoya A Lateral.

**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: Arthur Ivey, Vice President

## Resolution of Support from the El Paso County Judge



**RICARDO SAMANIEGO**  
El Paso County Judge

March 4, 2022

Ms. Robin Graber  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
United States Bureau of Reclamation  
P.O. Box 25007, MS 86-6300  
Denver, CO 80225

### Letter of Support for Water Conservation Project Proposed by EPCWIDI

Dear Ms. Graber:

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 2022. If approved, funding will allow EPCWIDI to help improve the concrete lining for the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals Concrete Lining 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. 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 project proposed and recommend its funding.

Sincerely,

Ricardo A. Samaniego  
El Paso County Judge

## B. Letters of Project Support

VERONICA ESCOBAR  
16TH DISTRICT, TEXAS  
ASSISTANT WHIP  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM,  
AND HOMELAND SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP  
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
MILITARY PERSONNEL, VICE CHAIR  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBER, INNOVATIVE  
TECHNOLOGIES, AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS  
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE:  
1505 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4831

EL PASO OFFICE:  
221 N. KANSAS STREET, SUITE 1500  
EL PASO, TX 79901  
(915) 541-1400

<http://escobar.house.gov>

VICE CHAIR  
DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CAUCUS  
DEPUTY WHIP  
CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS  
CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS  
NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION

March 09, 2022

Ms. Robin Graber  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
United States Bureau of Reclamation  
P.O. Box 25007, MS 86-6300  
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Ms. Graber:

I am writing regarding El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1's (EPCWID1) application to receive funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Program for FY 2022. If approved, funding will allow EPCWID1 to help improve the concrete lining for the Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals Concrete Lining Project.

EPCWID1 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. 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. Reclamation's funding is essential for the El Paso region as we continue to enhance our community's quality of life and ensure the sustainability of our water resources.

I ask that you please give your full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, to El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1's (EPCWID1) grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Veronica Escobar".

Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress

**Resolution of Support from the City of El Paso, Texas**



**Rep. Peter Svarzbein, District 1**

**MAYOR**  
Oscar Leeser

February 25, 2021

**CITY COUNCIL**

- District 1**  
Peter Svarzbein
- District 2**  
Alexandra Anello
- District 3**  
Cassandra Hernandez
- District 4**  
Joe Molinar
- District 5**  
Isabel Salcido
- District 6**  
Claudia L. Rodriguez
- District 7**  
Henry Rivera
- District 8**  
Cissy Lizarraga

To Whomever This Concerns,

With the concrete line planned along the Montoya lateral also comes a great opportunity for collaboration in a complementary project of constructing a walking path that I strongly feel is needed to promote safety for pedestrians. My office is willing to contribute funds from our discretionary account to assist with this project. It is highly needed, and would aim to serve a community purpose for pedestrian friendly options in our community. I have always championed multimodal, safe options to be provided, and this is very consistent with my efforts to raise awareness for bicycle and pedestrian pathways I feel our needed not just along the Montoya area, but throughout El Paso neighborhoods.

Sincerely,



**CITY MANAGER**  
Tommy Gonzalez

Rep. Peter Svarzbein

Rep. Peter Svarzbein – District 1  
300 N. Campbell | El Paso, Texas 79901 | (915) 212-1002



DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES

# Letter of Support from the El Paso Independent School District for Phase I of the Project



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**

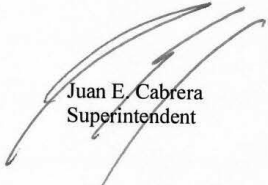
Dear Mr. Reichert:

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 Far West Texas Water Planning Group



March 1, 2022

Ms. Robin Graber  
Water Resources and Planning Office  
United States Bureau of Reclamation  
P.O. Box 25007, MS 86-6300  
Denver, CO 80225

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

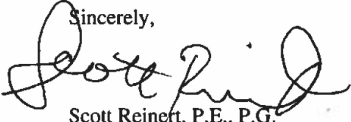
Dear Ms. Graber:

The El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 (EPCWID1) is applying for funding under the WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2022 for a project titled *Montoya Main and Montoya A Concrete Lining Project: Phase III*. 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.

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. Staff from EPCWID1 also serve as voting members in the Far West Texas WPG.

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 project proposed by EPCWID1 is a recommended water management strategy listed in the 2021 Far West Texas Regional Water Plan by indexing Water Management Strategy (WM) ID E-42 2022 and in the Texas State Water Plan online by indexing Water Management Strategy ID 1777.

Because the *Montoya Main and Montoya A Laterals Concrete Lining Project: Phase III* was developed as part of the aforementioned planning efforts, the Far West Texas Water Planning Group supports the project proposed by the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 and recommends its funding.

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