



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

WaterSMART Water Recycling and Desalination Programs

Bureau of Reclamation, Water Resources and
Planning Office

October 19, 2026



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Today's Agenda:

- Overview of the WaterSMART Water Recycling and Desalination Programs
- Directives and Standards WTR 11-01 *Title XVI and Desalination Construction Program Feasibility Study Review Process*
- Overview of Proposed Revisions to WTR 11-01

WaterSMART Water Recycling & Desalination Programs

Reclamation provides cost-shared funding for planning, design, and construction of water recycling and desalination projects. Water recycling and desalination are essential tools for stretching limited water supplies in the Western United States.

Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Grants

- Authorized in 1992 and expanded by the WIIN Act in 2016
- Projects reclaim and reuse municipal, industrial, and agricultural wastewater; or impaired ground and surface waters

Desalination Construction Grants

- Authorized in 2016 by the WIIN Act amendments to the Desalination Act of 1996
- Projects desalinate ocean or brackish water

Large-Scale Water Recycling and Reuse

- Authorized in 2021 by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- Water recycling and reuse projects that have a total project cost greater than or equal to \$500 million.



Website:
[Water Recycling and
Desalination](https://www.waterrecyclinganddesalination.gov)



Directives & Standards WTR 11-01

Applicability:

Title XVI and Desalination Construction Programs

Required Report Contents:

Introductory Information

Statement of Problems and Needs

Water Reclamation, Recycling or Desalination Opportunities

Description of Alternatives

Economic Analysis

Selection of the Proposed Project

Environmental Consideration and Potential Effects

Legal and Institutional Requirements

Financial Capability of Sponsor

Research Needs

Review Process:

Review Timeframes

Findings and Notifications

Currently Published Version:

[Reclamation Manual final](#)



WTR 11-01 Update

WTR 11-01

- Developed with technical experts across Reclamation
 - Streamlines review process, roles and responsibilities
 - Clarifies feasibility study report content
 - Incorporates WTR TRMR-128 requirements
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- Revised WTR 11-01 will apply to studies submitted after January 15, 2027
 - 30-day external review underway. Comments are due to Maribeth Menendez mmenendez@usbr.gov by October 29, 2026. Please include “Public Comments on WTR 11-01 Revisions” in the email subject line.

Reclamation Manual

Directives and Standards

Subject:	Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects, Desalination Construction Projects, and Large-Scale Water Recycling and Desalination Projects Feasibility Study Review Process
Purpose:	To establish Bureau of Reclamation requirements and a review process for feasibility studies for Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse (Title XVI) Projects, Desalination Construction Projects, and Large-Scale Water Recycling and Desalination Projects. The benefits will include providing sufficient information for the required content of feasibility studies and clearly stating the review procedures.
Authority:	Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 – Title XVI Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act, section 1604 (Feasibility Studies) (Public Law [P. L.] 102-575; 43 USC 390h et seq.); Water Desalination Act of 1996, as amended; Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 – Title III, Subtitle J, section 4009 (P.L. 114-322); and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – Title IX Western Water Infrastructure, section 40905 (P.L. 117-58). Hereafter collectively referred to as the “Program Authorities.”
Approving Official:	Director, National Programs Directorate, Project Development and Program Execution (NPD-PDPE)
Contact:	Water Resources and Planning Office, 86-63000

Links to Draft Publication:

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



WTR 11-01 Update

Reorganized and revised guidance to more clearly outline Reclamation roles, responsibilities, review process, and requirements. Key revisions include:

- Current applicable programs and authorities
- New section to clarify Reclamation's review responsibilities
- Review timeframes shortened

- Appendix A: feasibility study report requirements
 - Revised requirements to enhance report content clarity
 - Executive summary
 - Detailed project description
 - Separate cost estimate section

- Additional large-scale feasibility study requirements for Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects and Desalination Construction projects with total capital costs of \$500 million or more
 - More in-depth alternatives analysis with evaluation of trade-offs
 - Detailed benefit-cost economic analysis
 - Documentation of independent peer review





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Questions?

Please utilize the Q&A Function to ask questions.