Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-17-F002

WaterSMART:
Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program Funding for Fiscal Year 2017
Mission Statements

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects America’s natural resources and heritage, honors our cultures and tribal communities, and supplies the energy to power our future.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Cover photo: Los Angeles Area Water Supply Project, Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility, West Basin Municipal Water District
## Synopsis

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<th><strong>Federal Agency Name:</strong></th>
<th>Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Policy and Administration</th>
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<td>WaterSMART: Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program Funding for fiscal year (FY) 2017</td>
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<td><strong>Announcement Type:</strong></td>
<td>Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)</td>
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<td><strong>Funding Opportunity Number:</strong></td>
<td>BOR-DO-17-F002</td>
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<td><strong>Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:</strong></td>
<td>15.504</td>
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<td><strong>Dates:</strong></td>
<td>Application due date: Thursday, December 15, 2016 4:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time</td>
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<td><strong>Eligible Applicants:</strong></td>
<td>Sponsors of water reclamation and reuse projects specifically authorized for funding under Title XVI of Public Law (P.L.) 102-575, as amended (43 United States Code [U.S.C.] 390h through 390h-39)</td>
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<td><strong>Recipient Cost Share:</strong></td>
<td>75 percent or more of total project costs.</td>
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<td><strong>Federal Funding Amount:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Estimated Number of Agreements to be Awarded:</strong></td>
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* Submit materials with your application.

** Document should be submitted with your application; however, please refer to the applicable section of the FOA for extended submission date.

*** Should be completed by application deadline; however, please refer to the applicable section of the FOA for extended completion date.
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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

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<td>ASAP</td>
<td>Automated Standard Application for Payments</td>
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<td>ARC</td>
<td>Application Review Committee</td>
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<td>CFDA</td>
<td>Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance</td>
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<td>CFR</td>
<td>Code of Federal Regulations</td>
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<td>CWA</td>
<td>Clean Water Act</td>
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<td>DUNS</td>
<td>Data Universal Number System</td>
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<td>ESA</td>
<td>Endangered Species Act</td>
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<td>FAPIIS</td>
<td>Federal Award Performance Integrity Information System</td>
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<td>FOA</td>
<td>Funding Opportunity Announcement</td>
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<td>FY</td>
<td>Fiscal Year</td>
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<td>GO</td>
<td>Grants Officer</td>
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<td>Interior</td>
<td>U.S. Department of the Interior</td>
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<td>NEPA</td>
<td>National Environmental Policy Act</td>
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<td>NHPA</td>
<td>National Historic Preservation Act</td>
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<td>P.L.</td>
<td>Public Law</td>
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<td>Reclamation</td>
<td>Bureau of Reclamation</td>
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<td>SAM</td>
<td>System of Award Management</td>
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<td>Title XVI Program</td>
<td>Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse program</td>
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<td>WaterSMART</td>
<td>Sustain and Manage America’s Resources for Tomorrow</td>
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Section A: Funding Opportunity Description

A.1. Program Information
The U.S. Department of the Interior’s (Interior) WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America’s Resources for Tomorrow) program establishes a framework to provide Federal leadership and assistance on the efficient use of water, integrating water and energy policies to support the sustainable use of all natural resources, and coordinating the water conservation activities of various Interior bureaus and offices. Through the program, Interior is working to achieve a sustainable water strategy to meet the Nation’s water needs.

The Bureau of Reclamation’s (Reclamation) Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse program (Title XVI Program) is an important part of WaterSMART. For purposes of the Title XVI Program, a water reclamation and reuse project is a project that reclaims and reuses municipal, industrial, domestic, or agricultural wastewater and naturally impaired groundwater and/or surface waters. Reclaimed water can be used for a variety of purposes such as environmental restoration, fish and wildlife, groundwater recharge, municipal, domestic, industrial, agricultural, power generation, or recreation. Water reclamation and reuse is an essential tool in stretching the limited water supplies in the Western United States.

Under Title XVI of Public Law 102-575 (Title XVI Act), Reclamation works to identify and investigate opportunities to reclaim and reuse wastewater and naturally impaired ground and surface water in the 17 Western States and Hawaii. The Title XVI Act also provides authority for Reclamation to provide up to the lesser of 25 percent of, or the Federal appropriations ceiling (typically $20 million), for the cost of planning, designing, and constructing specific water recycling projects (Title XVI Projects). To date, 53 Title XVI Projects have been specifically authorized.

Title XVI Projects develop and supplement urban and irrigation water supplies through water reuse, thereby improving efficiency, providing flexibility during water shortages, and diversifying the water supply. Title XVI Projects provide growing communities with new sources of clean water while promoting water and energy efficiency and environmental stewardship and are an important part of the Department’s implementation of the President’s June 2013 Climate Action Plan and the November 1, 2013, Executive Order, Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change. Through water reuse, Title XVI Projects increase water management flexibility, making our water supply more resilient and thereby helping to prepare for the impacts of climate change. For further information on the WaterSMART Program and the Title XVI Program, see www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART.

A.2. Objective of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)
The objective of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to invite sponsors of congressionally authorized Title XVI Projects to request cost-shared funding for the planning, design, and/or construction of those authorized projects. A list of authorized Title XVI Projects can be found at www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title/authorized.html.
A.3. Statutory Authority
This FOA is issued under the authority of Title XVI of Public Law 102-575, as amended (43 United States Code [U.S.C.] 390h through 390h-39).

A.4. Other Related Funding Opportunities
WaterSMART: Development of Feasibility Studies under the Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program – Through this FOA, new water reclamation and reuse feasibility studies are funded jointly by Reclamation and state, regional or local authorities; Indian tribes or tribal organizations; or other entities such as water districts, wastewater districts, or rural water districts in the western United States or United States Territories as identified in the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902, as amended, or Hawaii.

WaterSMART: Water Reclamation Research under the Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program - Through this FOA, research that supports the application of commercially available water reclamation and reuse technologies is funded jointly by Reclamation and state, regional or local authorities; Indian tribes or tribal organizations; or other entities such as water districts, wastewater districts, or rural water districts in the western United States or United States Territories as identified in the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902, as amended, or Hawaii.

Desalination and Water Purification Research and Development: Research and Laboratory Studies – Through this FOA, funding is available for laboratory scale research studies to determine the viability of a novel process, new materials, or process modifications in conjunction with individuals, institutions of higher education, commercial or industrial organizations, private entities, public entities (including state and local), and tribal governments.

Desalination and Water Purification Research and Development: Pilot Projects – Through this FOA, funding is available for pilot projects to test a novel process at a larger scale to determine the technology viability in conjunction with individuals, institutions of higher education, commercial or industrial organizations, private entities, public entities (including state and local), and tribal governments.

Desalination and Water Purification Research and Development: Demonstration Projects – Through this FOA, funding is available for demonstration projects to determine the technical, practical, and economic ability of a novel process to assist with technology commercialization in conjunction with individuals, institutions of higher education, commercial or industrial organizations, private entities, public entities (including state and local), and tribal governments.
Section B: Award Information

B.1. Total Project Funding

The President’s fiscal year (FY) 2017 budget request includes $21.5 million proposed for the Title XVI Program. It is estimated that up to $18,500,000 will be available for water reclamation and reuse projects under this FOA. The amount of funding available for award is dependent on final FY 2017 appropriations. This FOA will be canceled if FY 2017 appropriations are insufficient to support new awards. Applications submitted under this FOA also may be considered if other funding becomes available in FY 2017 or thereafter. For updated funding information, please refer to www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART/Title.

B.2. Project Funding Limitations

The Federal share (i.e., Reclamation’s share in addition to any other sources of Federal funding), of any Title XVI Project, including any funding provided as a result of this FOA, shall not exceed 25 percent of the total Title XVI Project cost. Generally, the non-Federal share of project costs must be expended at the same or greater rate as the Federal share of project costs.

Sponsors of authorized Title XVI Projects are invited to request funding for planning, design, and/or construction of Title XVI Project facilities, including work that has already been completed without Federal funding, as well as work planned through September 30, 2019 up to the Federal funding ceiling for the project. Although the evaluation criteria listed in this FOA will be applied to the authorized Title XVI Project as a whole, funding requests submitted under this FOA must be based on the expenditures already incurred or planned to be incurred by September 30, 2019.

All costs incurred by Reclamation related to the development and administration of any award under this FOA are considered part of the total costs of the Title XVI Project, and the recipient will be required to provide cost share for these costs in accordance with the authorization. All Reclamation administrative costs will also be applied against the Federal funding ceiling for the Title XVI Project.

B.3. Assistance Instrument

Awards will be made through a grant or cooperative agreement as applicable to the selected project. If a cooperative agreement is awarded, the recipient should expect Reclamation to have substantial involvement in the project.
Substantial involvement by Reclamation may include:

- Collaboration and participation with the recipient in the management of the project and close oversight of the recipient’s activities to ensure that the program objectives are being achieved.

- Oversight may include review, input, and approval at key interim stages of the project.

At the request of the recipient, Reclamation can provide technical assistance after award of an agreement. If you would like to receive Reclamation technical assistance, you must account for these costs in your budget. To discuss available assistance and these costs, contact the program coordinator identified in Section G. Agency Contacts.
Section C: Eligibility Information

C.1. Eligible Applicants

Applicants eligible to receive an award under this FOA include:

- Sponsors of any one of the 53 Title XVI Projects specifically authorized by the Title XVI Act; provided that the Title XVI Project has not reached its Federal funding ceiling as specified in the Title XVI Act

- Sponsors of water reclamation and reuse projects that are the subject of pending authorizing legislation are eligible for funding if such legislation is signed into law by December 15, 2016 (the application deadline for this FOA)

No other entities are eligible to receive an award under this FOA.

C.2. Cost-Sharing Requirements

Applicants must be capable of cost sharing 75 percent or more of the total project costs. Cost sharing may be made through cash or in-kind contributions from the applicant or third-party partners. Cost-share funding from sources outside the applicant’s organization (e.g., loans or state grants) should be secured and available to the applicant prior to award. Please see Section D.2.2.8. Official Resolution and Section D.2.2.9. Funding Plan and Letters of Commitment for more information regarding the documentation required to verify commitments to meet cost-sharing requirements.

C.2.1. Cost-Share Regulations


C.2.2. In-Kind Contributions

In-kind contributions constitute the value of noncash contributions that benefit a federally assisted project. These contributions may be in the form of real property, equipment, supplies, and other expendable property, as well as the value of goods and services directly benefiting and specifically identifiable to the project or program. The cost or value of in-kind contributions that have been or will be relied on to satisfy a cost-sharing or matching requirement for another Federal financial assistance agreement, a Federal procurement contract, or any other award of Federal funds may not be relied on to satisfy the cost-share requirement for an award under this FOA; except where the Federal statute authorizing a program specifically provides that Federal funds made available for such program can be applied to matching or cost sharing requirements of other Federal programs, such as awards to tribal organizations under P.L. 93-638, as amended. Applicants should refer to
C.3. Eligible Projects

C.3.1 Eligible Projects

Projects eligible for funding under this FOA include:

- Planning, design, and construction of water reclamation and reuse facilities that are components of an authorized Title XVI Project
- Planning, design, and construction of water reclamation and reuse facilities that are the subject of pending authorizing legislation, if such legislation is signed into law by December 15, 2016 (the application deadline for this FOA).

C.3.2 Required Feasibility Study

If the funding requested will be used for construction activities that are not part of a feasibility study previously determined by Reclamation to meet the requirements of the Title XVI Act, a feasibility study must be submitted for Reclamation review by December 15, 2016 (the application deadline for this FOA). In addition, it must be possible for Reclamation to make a determination that the feasibility study meets Title XVI requirements by March 10, 2017.

*Note: Some Title XVI Projects authorized prior to 1996 are exempt from this requirement.*

C.3.2 Length of Projects

Applicants can only request funding for work that is already completed or work that is planned through September 30, 2019.
Section D: Application and Submission Information

D.1. Address to Request Application Package

This document contains all information, forms, and electronic addresses required to obtain the information required for submission of an application.

If you are unable to access this information electronically, you can request paper copies of any of the documents referenced in this FOA by contacting:

By mail: Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Operations Section
Attn: Matthew Reichert
Mail Code: 84-27852
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, Colorado 80225

By e-mail: mreichert@usbr.gov

By telephone: 303-445-3865

D.2. Content and Form of Application Submission

All applications must conform to the requirements set forth below.

D.2.1. Application Format and Length

The total application package shall be no more than 75 consecutively numbered pages. If an application exceeds 75 pages, only the first 75 pages will be evaluated. The font shall be at least 12 points in size and easily readable. Page size shall be 8½ by 11 inches, including charts, maps, and drawings. Oversized pages will not be accepted. The technical proposal and evaluation criteria section shall be limited to a maximum of 50 pages. The SF-424 forms, letters of project support, and official resolution will not be considered in the total page count.

Applications will be prescreened for compliance to the page number limitations.

D.2.2. Application Content

The application must include the following elements to be considered complete:

- Mandatory Federal Forms
  - SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance
• SF-424C, Budget Information – Construction Programs
• SF-424D, Assurances – Construction Programs


• Title page

• Table of contents

• Technical proposal and evaluation criteria (limited to 50 pages)
  • Executive summary
  • Technical project description
  • Evaluation criteria

• Environmental and cultural resources compliance

• Required permits or approvals

• Letters of project support (will not count toward the page limitation)

• Official resolution (will not count toward the page limitation)

D.2.2.1. Mandatory Federal Forms

The application must include the following standard Federal forms.

*SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance*

A fully completed SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance, signed by a person legally authorized to commit the applicant to performance of the project must be submitted. Failure to submit a properly signed SF-424 may result in the elimination of the application from further consideration.

*SF-424 Budget Information*

A fully completed SF-424C, Budget Information - Construction Programs must be submitted with the application.

*SF-424 Assurances*

An SF-424D, Assurances—Construction Programs, signed by a person legally authorized to commit the applicant to performance of the project shall be included. Failure to submit a properly signed SF-424D may result in the elimination of the application from further consideration.
D.2.2.2. Title Page

Provide a brief, informative, and descriptive title for the proposed work that indicates the nature of the project. Include the name and address of the applicant, and the name and address, e-mail address, and telephone of the project manager.

D.2.2.3. Table of Contents

List all major sections of the proposal in the table of contents.

D.2.2.4. Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

The technical proposal and evaluation criteria (50 pages maximum) includes:

1. Executive summary
2. Technical project description
3. Evaluation criteria

Executive Summary

The executive summary should include:

- The date, applicant name, city, county, and state
- A one paragraph summary of the work for which funding is being requested, including how funds will be used to accomplish specific project activities.

Technical Project Description

The technical project description should describe the Title XVI Project in its entirety or, for Title XVI Projects that have more than one sponsor, the component of the Title XVI Project that your entity is responsible for planning, designing, and constructing. This description shall have sufficient detail to permit a comprehensive evaluation of the proposal. If Reclamation has approved a feasibility study for the Title XVI Project or component, information contained in the study may be referenced here.

Evaluation Criteria

(See Section E.1. Technical Proposal: Evaluation Criteria for additional details, including a detailed description of each criterion and subcriterion and points associated with each.)

The evaluation criteria portion of your application should thoroughly address each criterion and subcriterion in the order presented to assist in the complete and accurate evaluation of your proposal. The evaluation criteria should be applied to the entire Title XVI Project or, when there is more than one project sponsor, to the applicant’s entire component of the Title XVI Project (unless otherwise specified in the criterion).
It is suggested that applicants copy and paste the evaluation criteria and subcriteria in Section E.1. Technical Proposal: Evaluation Criteria into their applications to ensure that all necessary information is adequately addressed.

D.2.2.5. Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

So that Reclamation can assess the probable environmental and cultural resources impacts and costs associated with each application, all applicants must respond to the following list of questions focusing on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requirements. Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge. If any question is not applicable to the project, please explain why. The application should include the answers to:

- Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment (e.g., soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat)? Please briefly describe all earth-disturbing work and any work that will affect the air, water, or animal habitat in the project area. Please also explain the impacts of such work on the surrounding environment and any steps that could be taken to minimize the impacts.

- 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?

- Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that potentially fall under Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction as “Waters of the United States?” If so, please describe and estimate any impacts the proposed project may have.

- When was the water delivery system constructed?

- Will the proposed project result in any modification of or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes)? 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.

- Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places? A cultural resources specialist at your local Reclamation office or the State Historic Preservation Office can assist in answering this question.

- Are there any 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?

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

Note, if mitigation is required to lessen environmental impacts, the applicant may, at Reclamation’s discretion, be required to report on progress and completion of these commitments. Reclamation will coordinate with the applicant to establish reporting requirements and intervals accordingly.

Under no circumstances may an applicant begin any ground-disturbing activities (including grading, clearing, and other preliminary activities) on a project before environmental compliance is complete and Reclamation explicitly authorizes work to proceed. This pertains to all components of the proposed project, including those that are part of the applicant’s non-Federal cost-share. Reclamation will provide a successful applicant with information once environmental compliance is complete. An applicant that proceeds before environmental compliance is complete may risk forfeiting Reclamation funding under this FOA.

If you have any questions regarding NEPA, ESA, and/or NHPA requirements, please contact your local Title XVI Coordinator. See www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title/contacts.html.

D.2.2.6. Letters of Support

Please include letters from interested stakeholders supporting the proposed project. To ensure your proposal is accurately reviewed, please attach all letters of support/ partnership letters as an appendix. (Note: this will not count against the application page limit.) Letters of support received after the application deadline for this FOA will not be considered in the evaluation of the proposal.

D.2.2.7. Required Permits or Approvals

Applicants must state in the application whether any permits or approvals are required and explain the plan for obtaining such permits or approvals.

Note that improvements to Federal facilities that are implemented through any project awarded funding through this FOA must comply with additional requirements. The Federal government will continue to hold title to the Federal facility and any improvement that is integral to the existing operations of that facility. Please see P.L. 111-11, Section 9504(a)(3)(B). Reclamation may also
require additional reviews and approvals prior to award to ensure that any necessary easements, land use authorizations, or special permits can be approved consistent with the requirements of 43 CFR §429, and that the development will not impact or impair project operations or efficiency.

**D.2.2.8. Official Resolution**

Include an official resolution adopted by the applicant’s board of directors or governing body, or, for state government entities, a signed statement from an official authorized to commit the applicant to the financial and legal obligations associated with receipt of a financial assistance award under this FOA, verifying:

- The identity of the official with legal authority to enter into an agreement
- The board of directors, governing body, or appropriate official who has reviewed and supports the application submitted
- The capability of the applicant to provide the amount of funding and/or in-kind contributions specified in the funding plan
- That the applicant will work with Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a grant or cooperative agreement

*An official resolution meeting the requirements set forth above is mandatory.*

If the applicant is unable to submit the official resolution by the application deadline because of the timing of board meetings or other justifiable reasons, the official resolution may be submitted up to 30 days after the application deadline.

**D.2.2.9. Funding Plan and Letters of Commitment**

Describe how the non-Federal share of project costs will be provided. Reclamation will use this information in making a determination of financial capability.

Project funding provided by a source other than the applicant shall be supported with letters of commitment from these additional sources. This is a mandatory requirement. Letters of commitment shall identify the following elements:

- The amount of funding commitment
- The date the funds will be available to the applicant
- Any time constraints on the availability of funds
- Any other contingencies associated with the funding commitment

Commitment letters from third party funding sources should be submitted with your project application. If commitment letters are not available at the time of the
application submission, please provide a timeline for submission of all commitment letters. Cost share funding from sources outside the applicant’s organization (e.g., loans or state grants), should be secured and available to the applicant prior to award.

Reclamation will not make funds available for an award under this FOA until the recipient has secured non-Federal cost share. Reclamation will execute a financial assistance agreement once non-Federal funding has been secured or Reclamation determines that there is sufficient evidence and likelihood that non-Federal funds will be available to the applicant subsequent to executing the agreement.

The funding plan should include only the planning, design and construction costs for the Title XVI Project components and activities that will be completed under an award under this FOA. The funding plan must include the following:

- How you will make your contribution to the cost-share requirement, such as monetary and/or in-kind contributions and source funds contributed by the applicant (e.g., reserve account, tax revenue, and/or assessments).

- Describe any project expenditures that have been incurred or may be incurred before the anticipated award date that you seek to include as project costs. For each cost, identify:
  
  o The project expenditure and the amount
  o Whether the expenditure is or will be in the form of in-kind services or donations
  o The date of cost incurrence
  o How the expenditure benefits the project

- Provide the identity and amount of funding to be provided by funding partners, as well as the required letters of commitment.

- Describe any funding requested or received from other Federal partners. Note: other sources of Federal funding may not be counted towards the cost share unless otherwise allowed by statute.

- Describe any pending funding requests that have not yet been approved, and explain how the project will be affected if such funding is denied.

Please include the following chart (Table 1) to summarize all funding sources. Denote in-kind contributions with an asterisk (*).
Table 1.—Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources

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<tr>
<th>FUNDING SOURCES</th>
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<td>Non Federal Entities</td>
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<td>Non-Federal Subtotal</td>
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<td>Other Federal Entities</td>
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<td>3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Federal Subtotal</td>
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<tr>
<td>REQUESTED RECLAMATION FUNDING</td>
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D.3. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

All applicants (unless the applicant has an exception approved by Reclamation under 2 CFR §25.110[d]) are required to:

(i) Be registered in SAM before submitting its application;

(ii) Provide a valid unique entity identifier in its application; and

(iii) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

Meeting the requirements set forth above is mandatory. If the applicant is unable to complete registration by the application deadline, the Data Universal Number System (DUNS) and SAM registration must be initiated within 30 days after the application deadline in order to be considered for selection and award.

Reclamation will not make a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the Reclamation is ready to make an award, Reclamation may determine that the
applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

Section D: Application and Submission Information

D.4. Submission Date and Time

Application submission date deadline:

December 15, 2016, 4:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time

Proposals received after the application deadline will not be considered unless it can be determined that the delay was caused by Federal government mishandling.

*Please note that any application submitted for funding under this FOA may be subjected to a Freedom of Information Act request (5 USC §552, as amended by P.L. No. 110-175), and as a result, may be made publicly available. Following awards of funding, Reclamation will post all successful applications on the Reclamation website, [www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title/selected.html](http://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title/selected.html) after conducting any redactions determined necessary by Reclamation, in consultation with the recipient.*

D.4.1. Application Delivery Instructions

Applications may be submitted electronically through Grants.gov ([www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)) or hard copies may be submitted to either one of the following addresses. Under no circumstances will applications received through any other method (such as email or fax) be considered eligible for award.

By mail: Bureau of Reclamation Acquisition Operations Branch
Attn: Matthew Reichert
Mail Code: 84-27852
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, Colorado 80225

By express delivery: Bureau of Reclamation mail services
Attn: Matthew Reichert
Denver Federal Center
Bldg. 67, Rm. 152
6th Avenue and Kipling Street
Denver, Colorado 80225

By courier services: Bureau of Reclamation
Attn: Matthew Reichert
Denver Federal Center
Bldg. 56, Rm. 1000
6th Avenue and Kipling Street
Denver, Colorado 80225
D.4.2. Instructions for Submission of Project Application

Each applicant shall submit an application in accordance with the instructions contained in this section.

D.4.2.1. Applications Submitted by Mail, Express Delivery or Courier Services

Please follow these instructions to submit your application by mail, express delivery, or courier services.

- Applicants shall submit one copy of all application documents for hardcopy submissions. Only use a binder clip for documents submitted - do not use staples or other binding.

- Hard copy applications may be submitted by mail, express delivery, or courier services to the addresses identified in this FOA.

- Materials arriving separately will not be included in the application package and may result in the application being rejected or not funded. This does not apply to letters of support, funding commitment letters, or official resolutions. However, letters of support received after the application deadline for this FOA will not be considered in the evaluation of the proposal.

- Faxed and emailed copies of application documents will not be accepted.

- Do not include a cover letter or company literature/brochure with the application. All pertinent information must be included in the application package.

D.4.2.2. Applications Submitted Electronically

If the applicant chooses to submit an electronic application, it must be submitted through Grants.gov (www.grants.gov). Reclamation encourages applicants to submit their applications for funding electronically through the URL: www.grants.gov/applicants/apply-for-grants.html. Applicant resource documents and a full set of instructions for registering with Grants.gov (www.grants.gov) and completing and submitting applications online are available at: www.grants.gov/applicants/apply-for-grants.html.

- Please note that submission of an application electronically requires prior registration through Grants.gov, which may take 7 to 21 days. Please see registration instructions at www.grants.gov/applicants/apply-for-grants.html. In addition, please note that the Grants.gov system only accepts applications submitted by individuals that are registered in SAM as both a user and an Authorized Organizational Representative.
• Applicants sometimes have experienced significant delays when attempting to submit applications through Grants.gov. If you plan to submit your application through Grants.gov you are encouraged to submit your application several days prior to the application deadline. If you are a properly registered Grants.gov applicant and encounter problems with the Grants.gov application submission process, you must contact the Grants.gov Help Desk to obtain a case number. This case number will provide evidence of your attempt to submit an application prior to the submission deadline.

Regardless of the delivery method used, you must ensure that your proposal arrives by the date and time deadline stated in this FOA. Applications received after this date and time due to weather or express delivery/courier performance will not be considered for award. Late applications will not be considered unless it is determined that the delay was caused by Federal Government mishandling or by a problem with the Grants.gov application system.

D.4.2.3. Acknowledgement of Application Receipt.

If an application is submitted by mail, express delivery, or courier, Reclamation will notify you in writing that your application was received and whether it was received prior to the deadline identified in the FOA.

If an application is submitted through Grants.gov, you will receive an email acknowledging receipt of the application from Grants.gov. In addition, Reclamation will notify you in writing that your application was successfully downloaded from Grants.gov.

D.5. Intergovernmental Review

This FOA is not subject to Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.”

D.6. Funding Restrictions: Pre-award Costs

Project costs incurred prior to the date of award may be submitted for consideration as an allowable reimbursable expense or as non-Federal cost share as long as they were incurred after the enactment of the Title XVI Project’s congressional authorization.

Reclamation will review the proposed pre-award costs to determine if they are allowable in accordance with the authorizing legislation and applicable cost principles. To be considered allowable, any pre-award costs proposed for consideration under the new awards must comply with all applicable requirements under this FOA.
D.7. Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) Registration

All applicants must also be registered with and willing to process all payments through the Department of Treasury ASAP system. All recipients with active financial assistance agreements with Reclamation must be enrolled in ASAP under the appropriate Agency Location Code(s) and the Data Universal Number System (DUNS) Number prior to the award of funds. If a recipient has multiple DUNS numbers they must separately enroll within ASAP for each unique DUNS Number and/or Agency. All of the information on the enrollment process for recipients, including the enrollment initiation form and the enrollment mailbox can be found at www.usbr.gov/mso/aamd/asap.html.

Note that if your entity is currently enrolled in the ASAP system with an agency other than Reclamation, you must enroll specifically with Reclamation in order to process payments.
Section E: Application Review Information


The evaluation criteria portion of your application should thoroughly address each of the following criteria and subcriteria in the order presented to assist in the complete and accurate evaluation of your proposal. Note: it is suggested that applicants copy and paste the below criteria and subcriteria into their applications to ensure that all necessary information is adequately addressed.

Applications will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria listed below. The evaluation criteria should be applied to the Title XVI Project as a whole, or when there is more than one project sponsor, the applicant’s component of the Title XVI Project.

E.1.1. Evaluation Criterion 1 — Water Supply

Subcriterion No. 1a — Stretching Water Supplies (35 points)

Points will be awarded based on the extent to which the Title XVI Project is expected to secure and stretch water supplies. Consideration will be given to the amount of water expected to be made available by the Title XVI Project and the extent to which the project will reduce demands on existing facilities and otherwise reduce water diversions.

1. How many acre-feet of water are expected to be made available each year upon completion of the Title XVI Project? Please use the total Title XVI Project water savings, not just projected water savings for the Project Activities that will be completed by September 30, 2019.

2. Will the Title XVI Project reduce, postpone, or eliminate the development of new or expanded non-recycled water supplies?

3. How significantly will the demand on existing Federal water supplies be reduced? List the expected reduction to Federal water supply demand (in acre-feet) and the amount of water currently supplied directly or indirectly by a Federal facility to the project sponsor. Provide calculations.

4. How will the project reduce diversions from natural watercourses or withdrawals from aquifers? Responses should be specific (including number of acre-feet) and should include the percentage by which diversions or withdrawals will be reduced.

5. What performance measures will be used to quantify actual benefits upon completion of the Title XVI Project?
Subcriterion No.1b — Contributions to Water Supply Sustainability (20 points)

Points will be awarded for Title XVI Projects that contribute to a more sustainable water supply.

1. Will the Title XVI Project make water available to address a specific concern (e.g., water supply shortages due to climate variability and/or heightened competition for limited water supplies)? Consider the number of acre-feet of water to be made available. Explain the specific concern and its severity. Also explain the role of the Title XVI Project in addressing that concern and the extent to which the Project will address it.

2. Will water made available by this Title XVI Project continue to be available during periods of drought? To what extent is the water made available by this Title XVI Project more drought resistant than alternative water supply options? Explain.

E.1.2. Evaluation Criterion 2 — Status of Title XVI Project

Subcriterion No. 2a. — Progress Toward Completion of Title XVI Project (20 points)

Points will be awarded for Project Activities that will bring a Title XVI Project to completion (i.e., to full Federal funding levels) or close to completion.

1. How much Federal funding has been provided for the Title XVI Project to date?

2. How much Federal funding is necessary to fully satisfy the authorized Federal cost share?

3. Will the funding requested under this FOA satisfy the Federal cost share?

Subcriterion No. 2b. — Readiness to Proceed (10 Points)

Points will be awarded based on the extent to which the Project Activities that will be completed with the requested funding are ready to proceed.

Where funding is being requested for planning or design, the following will be considered:

1. Has the staff/contractor that will do the planning or design work been identified?

2. If a contractor will be used, but has not been hired yet, when will the contracting process begin?

3. When will the planning or design work begin?
Where funding is being requested for construction, the following will be considered:

1. What is the status of necessary environmental compliance measures?
2. When is environmental compliance expected to be complete? Provide a detailed schedule of all environmental compliance activities and a schedule that indicates when construction is expected to begin.
3. What is the status of required State and Federal permits for the Project Activities? When are all required permits expected to be obtained?

**E.1.3. Evaluation Criterion 3 — Environment and Water Quality (30 points)**

Up to 30 points will be awarded based on the extent to which the Title XVI Project will improve surface, groundwater, or effluent discharge quality; will restore or enhance habitat for nonlisted species; or will provide water or critical habitat for federally listed threatened or endangered species:

1. Will the Title XVI Project improve the quality of surface or groundwater? To what extent will the project improve effluent quality beyond levels necessary to meet State or Federal discharge requirements?
2. Will the Title XVI Project improve flow conditions in a natural stream channel? Will the project restore or enhance habitat for nonlisted species? If so, how?
3. Will the Title XVI Project provide water or habitat for federally listed threatened or endangered species? If so, how?


Up to 25 points will be awarded based on the extent to which the Title XVI Project incorporates the use of renewable energy and/or addresses energy efficiency:

1. Will the Title XVI Project include installing low-impact hydroelectric, solar-electric, wind energy, or geothermal power systems or other facilities that enable use of these or other renewable energy sources to provide power to components of the Project? Are any energy recovery devices or processes included in the Project? Provide the amount of energy expected to be generated through renewable energy sources (in kilowatt-hours). What percentage of the Title XVI Project’s total energy consumption will be provided by installing renewable energy components?
2. If the Title XVI Project does not itself include renewable energy, will the Title XVI Project facilitate power generation in the water delivery system by making more water available? If so, explain the relationship between this Title XVI Project and any potential renewable energy improvements in the water delivery system.

3. Will completion of the Title XVI Project lead to a reduction in energy consumption as compared to current water supply options? Provide calculations and describe assumptions and methodology.

4. Will the Title XVI Project include any innovative components to reduce energy consumption or to recover energy?

5. How does the Title XVI Project’s energy consumption compare to other water supply options that would satisfy the same demand as the Project?

**E.1.5. Evaluation Criterion 5 — Cost Per Acre-Foot of Water and Other Project Benefits (25 points)**

Up to 25 points will be awarded based on the cost per acre-foot of water expected to be delivered upon completion of the Title XVI Project and other benefits of the project. Please use costs related to the entire Title XVI Project, not just the cost of work through September 30, 2019.

1. Reclamation will calculate the cost per acre-foot of water produced by the Title XVI Project using information provided by project sponsors. Please provide the following information for this calculation:
   (a) The total estimated construction costs, by year, for the Title XVI Project (include all previous and planned work)

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<th>Calendar Year</th>
<th>Construction Cost</th>
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   (b) The total estimated or actual costs to plan and design the Title XVI Project. Note: this should include the cost to complete a Title XVI feasibility study.

   (c) The average annual operation and maintenance costs for the life of the Title XVI Project. Note: this is an annual cost—not total cost.

   (d) The year the Title XVI Project will begin to deliver recycled water.
(e) The projected life (in years) that the Title XVI Project is expected to last. Note: this should be measured from the time the Title XVI Project starts delivering water.

(f) All estimated replacement costs by year.

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<tr>
<th>Description of Replacement Requirement</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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(g) The maximum volume of water (in acre-feet) that will be produced upon completion of the Title XVI Project

2. Comparison of the cost per acre-foot of the Title XVI Project to the cost per acre-foot of one alternative (i.e., nonrecycled water option) that would satisfy the same demand as the proposed project. Provide the cost per acre-foot for one nonrecycled water alternative that would satisfy the same demand. Reclamation will compare the cost per acre-foot that it calculates using the information requested in question No. 1 to the cost per acre-foot for the nonrecycled water alternative provided by the project sponsor.

3. Some Title XVI Project benefits may be difficult to quantify. Describe any economic benefits of the Title XVI Project that are not captured by the cost per acre-foot analysis or that are difficult to quantify. Points will be awarded based on the potential economic impact of the project-related benefits.

E.1.6. Evaluation Criterion 6— Reclamation’s Obligations and Benefits to Rural or Economically Disadvantaged Communities

Subcriterion No. 6a — Legal and Contractual Water Supply Obligations (10 Points)

Up to 10 points will be awarded for projects that help to meet Reclamation’s legal and contractual obligations.

Does the Title XVI Project help fulfill any of Reclamation’s legal or contractual obligations such as providing water for tribes, water right settlements, river restoration, minimum flows, legal court orders, or other obligations? Explain.
Subcriterion No. 6b — Benefits to Rural or Economically Disadvantaged Communities (10 Points)

Up to 10 points will be awarded based on the extent to which the Title XVI Project serves rural communities or economically disadvantaged communities in rural or urban areas.

1. Does the Title XVI Project serve a rural or economically disadvantaged community? (A rural community is defined as a community with fewer than 50,000 people.)

2. Are any rural or economically disadvantaged communities within the Title XVI Project sponsor’s service area?

E.1.7. Evaluation Criterion 7— Watershed Perspective (15 Points)

Up to 15 points will be awarded based on the extent to which the Title XVI Project promotes or applies a watershed perspective by implementing an integrated resources management approach, implementing a regional planning effort, or forming a collaborative partnership with other entities.

A watershed perspective generally means an approach to planning directed at meeting the needs of geographically dispersed localities across a region or a watershed that will take advantage of economies of scale and foster opportunities for partnerships. This approach also takes into account the interconnectedness of water and land resources, encourages the active participation of all interested groups, and uses the full spectrum of technical disciplines in activities and decisionmaking.

1. Does the Title XVI Project implement a regional or State water plan or an integrated resource management plan? Explain.

2. Does the Title XVI Project promote collaborative partnerships to address water-related issues? Explain.

E.2. Review and Selection Process

The Federal government reserves the right to reject any and all applications that do not meet the requirements or objectives of this FOA. Awards will be made for projects most advantageous to the Federal government. Award selection may be made to maintain balance among the eligible projects listed in this FOA. The evaluation process will be comprised of the steps described in the following subsections.
E.2.1. Initial Screening

All application packages will be screened to ensure that:

- The applicant meets the eligibility requirements stated in this FOA.

- The applicant meets the unique entity identifier and SAM registration requirements stated in this FOA (this may be completed up to 30 days after the application deadline).

- The application meets the content requirements of the FOA package, including submission of technical and budget proposals, a funding plan, letter(s) of commitment, and related forms.

- The application contains a properly executed SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance, form SF-424C Budget Information – Construction Programs, and form SF-424D Assurances — Construction Programs.

- The application includes an official resolution, adopted by the applicant’s board of directors, governing body, or appropriate authorized official (this may be submitted up to 30 days after the application deadline).

- The application and funding plan meets or exceeds the minimum non-Federal cost share requirements identified in this FOA.

Reclamation reserves the right to remove an application from funding consideration if it does not pass all Initial Screening criteria listed above. An applicant that has submitted an application that is determined to be ineligible for funding will be notified along with other applicants, or sooner, if possible.

E.2.2. Application Review Committee (ARC) Review

Evaluation criteria will comprise the total evaluation weight as stated in the Section E. Application Review Information. Applications will be scored against the evaluation criteria by an Application Review Committee (ARC), made up of experts in relevant disciplines selected from across Reclamation. The ARC will also review the application to ensure that the proposed project meets the description of eligible projects, meets the feasibility study requirement and meets the objective of this FOA.

During ARC review, Reclamation may contact applicants to request clarifications to the information provided, if necessary.
E.2.3. Red-Flag Review

Following the results of the ARC review, Reclamation offices will review the top-ranking applications and will identify any reasons why a proposed project would not be feasible or otherwise advisable, including environmental or cultural resources compliance issues, permitting issues, legal issues, or financial position. Positive or negative past performance by the applicant and any partners in previous working relationships with Reclamation may be considered, including whether the applicant is making significant progress toward the completion of outstanding financial assistance agreements and whether the applicant is in compliance with all reporting requirements associated with previously funded projects.

In addition, during this review, Reclamation will address any specific concerns or questions raised by members of the ARC.

E.2.4. Managerial Review

Reclamation management will prioritize projects to ensure the total amount of all awards does not exceed available funding levels. Management will also ensure that all projects meet the scope, priorities, requirements, and objectives of this FOA. Management may also prioritize projects to ensure that multiple project types are represented.

As part of this review, the sponsors of prioritized Title XVI Projects will be contacted by Reclamation and requested to submit a full budget proposal, budget narrative, and supporting documentation for costs associated with the project activities for which funding is being requested. The total costs must match the requested funding noted on the SF424 and SF424-C submitted with the applicant’s original proposal.

E.2.5. Pre-Award Clearances and Approvals

After completion of the Managerial Review, Reclamation will notify applicants whose proposals have been selected for award consideration and will forward their applications to the appropriate Reclamation region or area office for completion of pre-award clearances and approvals as well as the completion of any required environmental and cultural resources compliance.

Reclamation will also complete a business evaluation and responsibility determination. During these evaluations, the Grants Officer (GO) will consider several factors that are important, but not quantified, such as:

- Allowability, allocability, and reasonableness of proposed costs
- Financial strength and stability of the applicant
Section E: Application Review Information

- Past performance, including satisfactory compliance with all terms and conditions of previous awards, such as environmental compliance issues, reporting requirements, proper procurement of supplies and services, and audit compliance

- Adequacy of personnel practices; procurement procedures; and accounting policies and procedures, as established by applicable Office of Management and Budget circulars.

If the results of all pre-award reviews and clearances are satisfactory, an award of funding will be made once the agreement is finalized (approximately one to three months from the date of initial selection). If the results of pre-award reviews and clearances are unsatisfactory, consideration of funding for the project may be withdrawn.

E.3. Federal Award Performance Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)

Prior to making an award with a Federal total estimated amount greater than $150,000, Reclamation is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through System of Award Management (SAM) (currently Federal Award Performance Integrity Information System [FAPIIS]) (see 41 United States Code [U.S.C.] §2313). An applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM. Reclamation will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIIS, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 CFR §200.205 Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants.

E.4. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Date

Reclamation expects to contact potential award recipients and unsuccessful applicants in June 2017 or slightly later if necessary. Within one to three months after that date, financial assistance agreements will be awarded to applicants that successfully pass all pre-award reviews and clearances.
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Section F: Federal Award Administration Information

F.1. Federal Award Notices

Successful applicants will receive by electronic mail, a notice of selection signed by a Reclamation Grants Officer. This notice is not an authorization to begin performance.

F.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

F.2.1 Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

All projects being considered for award funding will require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) before any ground-disturbing activity may begin. Compliance with all applicable state, Federal and local environmental, cultural, and paleontological resource protection laws and regulations is also required. These may include, but are not limited to, the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), consultation with potentially affected tribes, and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office.

Reclamation will be the lead Federal agency for NEPA compliance and will be responsible for evaluating technical information and ensuring that natural resources, cultural, and socioeconomic concerns are appropriately addressed. As the lead agency, Reclamation is solely responsible for determining the appropriate level of NEPA compliance. Further, Reclamation is responsible to ensure that findings under NEPA, and consultations, as appropriate, will support Reclamation’s decision on whether to fund a project. Environmental and cultural resources compliance costs are considered project costs.

Under no circumstances may an applicant begin any ground-disturbing activities (e.g., grading, clearing, and other preliminary activities) on a project before environmental and cultural resources compliance is complete and Reclamation explicitly authorizes work to proceed. This pertains to all components of the proposed project, including those that are part of the applicant’s non-Federal cost-share. Reclamation will provide a successful applicant with information once such compliance is complete. An applicant that proceeds before environmental and cultural resources compliance is complete may risk forfeiting Reclamation funding under this FOA.
F.2.2. Reclamation Administrative Costs

All costs incurred by Reclamation related to the development and administration of any award under this FOA are considered part of the total costs of the authorized Title XVI Project, and the recipient will be required to provide non-Federal cost share for Reclamation’s administrative costs in accordance with the authorization. These costs include, but are not limited to, salary, overhead, travel, and other costs directly or indirectly related to the award, as determined by Reclamation. Following the completion of each quarter of the fiscal year, Reclamation will provide the recipient with a statement of Reclamation’s costs for the previous quarter. The recipient may request explanations or a review of the costs included in the statement; however, Reclamation’s determination as to the validity of the costs will be final. The recipient’s required non-Federal cost share for Reclamation’s costs will be deducted from payments processed by Reclamation for any award issued under this FOA.

F.3. Reporting Requirements and Distribution

If the applicant is awarded an agreement as a result of this FOA, the applicant will be required to submit the following reports during the term of the agreement.

F.3.1. Financial Reports

Form SF-425—Federal Financial Report must be submitted on at least a semiannual basis and with the final performance report.

F.3.2. Program Performance Reports

The specific terms and conditions pertaining to the reporting requirements will be included in the financial assistance agreement.

Interim performance reports submitted on at least a semi-annual basis, that include the following information:

- A comparison of actual accomplishments to the milestones established by the financial assistance agreement for the period
- The reasons why established milestones were not met, if applicable
- The status of milestones from the previous reporting period that were not met, if applicable
- Whether the project is on schedule and within the original cost estimate
- Any additional pertinent information or issues related to the status of the project
Photographs documenting the project are also appreciated. Note: Reclamation may print photos with appropriate credit to the applicant.

A final performance report submitted at the end of the agreement that includes a summary of the activities completed during the entire period of performance. Please note that final reports are public documents and may be made available on Reclamation’s website, [www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title]:

**F.4. Releasing Applications**

Following awards of funding, Reclamation may post all successful applications on the Reclamation website after conducting any redactions determined necessary by Reclamation, in consultation with the recipient.
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Section G: Agency Contacts

There will be no pre-application conference. Organizations or individuals interested in submitting applications in response to this FOA may direct questions to the Reclamation personnel identified below.

G.1. Reclamation Financial Assistance Management Contact

Questions regarding application and submission information and award administration may be submitted to the attention of Matthew Reichert, Grants Management Specialist, as follows:

By mail: Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Services
Attn: Matthew Reichert
Mail Code: 84-27852
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, Colorado 80225

By email: mreichert@usbr.gov

By phone: 303-445-3865

G.2. Reclamation Program Coordinator Contact

Questions regarding applicant and project eligibility and application review may be submitted to the attention of Amanda Erath, Program Analyst, as follows:

By mail: Bureau of Reclamation
Water Resources and Planning
Attn: Amanda Erath
Mail Code: 84-51000
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, Colorado 80225

By e-mail: aerath@usbr.gov

By phone: 303-445-2766