

2018 Water Marketing Strategy Grants

WaterSMART

California

County of Madera, Madera County Water Marketing Strategy Development & Pilot Program **Reclamation Funding: \$199,999** **Total Project Cost: \$399,999**

The Madera County Department of Water and Natural Resources, located in central California, will develop a water marketing strategy and pilot program to address a 160,000 acre-foot per year overdraft within the critically over drafted Madera County groundwater basin. The marketing strategy will give Madera County groundwater pumpers the ability to engage in temporary transfers to reallocate the available water on a supply-and-demand basis, with a cap on total use. This approach will promote sustainability while increasing water management flexibility between agricultural entities in Madera County. The County's strategy is supported by multiple stakeholders, including individual communities, agricultural interests, and water providers, who are committed to participate in the planning process. In developing the strategy, the County will analyze legal constraints, research existing marketing approaches, assess potential impacts, opportunities and financial benefits, develop draft rules and a legal framework, and conduct a small-scale marketing pilot program.

Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Chino Basin Water Bank Strategic Plan **Reclamation Funding: \$400,000** **Total Project Cost: \$1,666,949**

Inland Empire Utilities Agency, in conjunction with the City of Ontario, Cucamonga Valley, and Monte Vista Water districts, located in Southern California, will develop and implement a water marketing strategy for aquifer storage and recovery in the Chino Groundwater Basin. Groundwater from the basin is the principal water supply for 20 municipal agencies and approximately 400 agricultural and dairy operations. This project brings together the region's water service providers, wastewater service providers, operators of surface water treatment and groundwater recharge facilities, and the Chino Basin adjudication parties to maximize use of the basin's excess storage capacity to improve drought resiliency using local water supplies. Based on the results of outreach and planning activities, the project partners will develop a model to identify scenarios to optimize operation of the water bank; a financial structure and marketing plan; and a Chino Basin Water Bank operations plan, as part of their water marketing strategy.

McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Develop Groundwater Credit Program for Landowners with Surface Water Marketing Strategy **Reclamation Funding: \$193,000** **Total Project Cost: \$386,000**

The McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Agency) in Fresno, California is a Joint Powers Authority comprised of the County of Fresno, Mid-Valley Water District, and Raisin City Water District, and was formed in response to California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014. The Agency is located within Reclamation's Central Valley Project service area and manages groundwater for 120,635 acres of predominantly agricultural lands. The area is experiencing an average annual groundwater overdraft of 33,000 acre-feet per year, as well as declining water quality and land subsidence. The water marketing strategy will develop a groundwater credit program that would allow landowners who

do not use all their allocated water to sell or trade the groundwater to other users within the Agency, and to coordinate with other agencies that could potentially market to the Agency.

Colorado

City of Grand Junction, Water Marketing Strategy for the City of Grand Junction

Reclamation Funding: \$200,000

Total Project Cost: \$400,000

The City of Grand Junction in western Colorado is looking to develop a water marketing strategy for its portfolio of municipal water rights on Kannah Creek, and the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers. The strategy includes an engineering analysis of options for using different water rights to meet the City's current and future water demands, and identification of water rights that may be available for marketing to agricultural water users within the Colorado River Basin. The strategy will quantify available supplies, explore infrastructure constraints and options, identify potential buyers and sellers, and research approaches for marketing available supplies. The City's water supplies are in the same basin as Reclamation's Grand Valley Project, and the Uncompahgre Project.

Nevada

Carson Water Subconservancy District, Carson River Watershed Water Market (Exchange/Transfer) Program

Reclamation Funding: \$100,000

Total Project Cost: \$211,649

Carson Water Subconservancy District in Carson City, Nevada will develop a water marketing exchange and transfer program for the Carson River Watershed. The watershed encompasses both California and Nevada, with the lower portion of Carson River forming the Lahontan Reservoir, which is part of Reclamation's Newlands Project. This water marketing program will help address the instability of water supplies, identify approaches to address legal and physical constraints, and identify potential storage locations in the system. Enhancing water reliability could help reduce water conflicts within the watershed.

Oklahoma

The Chickasaw Nation, The Chickasaw Nation Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer Water Bank Development Strategy

Reclamation Funding: \$149,228

Total Project Cost: \$298,456

The Chickasaw Nation of Ada, Oklahoma will establish a water bank framework for the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer (ASA) that will allow for voluntary, market-based transfers of groundwater pumping rights across the region. The Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer covers approximately 500 square miles and is the principal source of water for more than 100,000 people, supplies water for mining and irrigation, and is the source for nearly 100 known springs that are culturally important. In response to Oklahoma's groundwater regulatory changes, this water marketing strategy will allow landowners in the ASA to deposit water rights, while allowing permitted groundwater users to withdraw those water rights. The strategy supports mitigation actions identified in the Tribe's Drought Contingency Plan, completed under the WaterSMART Drought Response Program.

Washington

Selah-Moxee Irrigation District, Selah Moxee Irrigation District Black Rock Area Water Marketing Strategy

Reclamation Funding: \$72,900

Total Project Cost: \$145,800

The Selah-Moxee Irrigation District (District) near Moxee, Washington will develop a water marketing strategy that utilizes existing, agricultural surface water rights to provide water to the Black Rock area for municipal uses during times of drought, in lieu of groundwater use. The Black Rock area of the Yakima River Basin, located east of the District's service area, relies solely on groundwater for agricultural and municipal uses. Complex geology, high demands for water, and low recharge have resulted in significant and long-term groundwater declines. The strategy seeks to better understand an emerging water market within the lower Yakima Basin, beginning with the Black Rock area and potentially expanding to other areas in the future.

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