

WATERSMART WATER AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANTS FOR FY 2024  
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. R24AS00052



## Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project: Phase II

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$400,000  
USBR GRANT REQUEST: \$200,000

Applicant

El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District #4  
117 E. Main Street, Fabens, Texas 79838-3880

Project Manager

Jose Ramirez, General Manager  
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## I EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Applicant Information

Date: February 17, 2024  
Applicant Name: El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District #4  
City, County, State: 117 E. Main Street, Fabens, Texas 79838-3880  
Applicant Category: Category A

Project Name: Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project: Phase II  
Project Manager: Jose Ramirez, General Manager  
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### Project Summary

The El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District #4 (EPCWCID4), located in Fabens, El Paso County, Texas near the U.S.-Mexico border, will upgrade 360 municipal meters to make them compatible with Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technology. The Project is the second phase of the District's meter modernization efforts and is a recommended Water Management Strategy (WMS) in the 2025 Region E Far West Texas Water Plan. The Project will result in 5 acre-feet of measurable water conserved per year achieved by water loss reductions through improved leak detection capabilities, by providing near real-time accurate water use information, and by improving the District's ability to conduct water distribution system preventative maintenance.

This proposal is being submitted as a Funding Group I project under the category Water Conservation Projects: Municipal Metering.

### Estimated Completion Schedule

With an assumed funding authorization date of December 2024, the project will be completed by June of 2026 or earlier (18 months).

### Federal Facility

The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project: Phase I is not located in a federal facility.

## II PROJECT LOCATION

The Project is located in Fabens, El Paso County, Texas. Operations will be based at the EPCWCID4 offices with project latitude 31°30'09.3"N and longitude 106°09'28.8"W (31.502573, -106.157989).

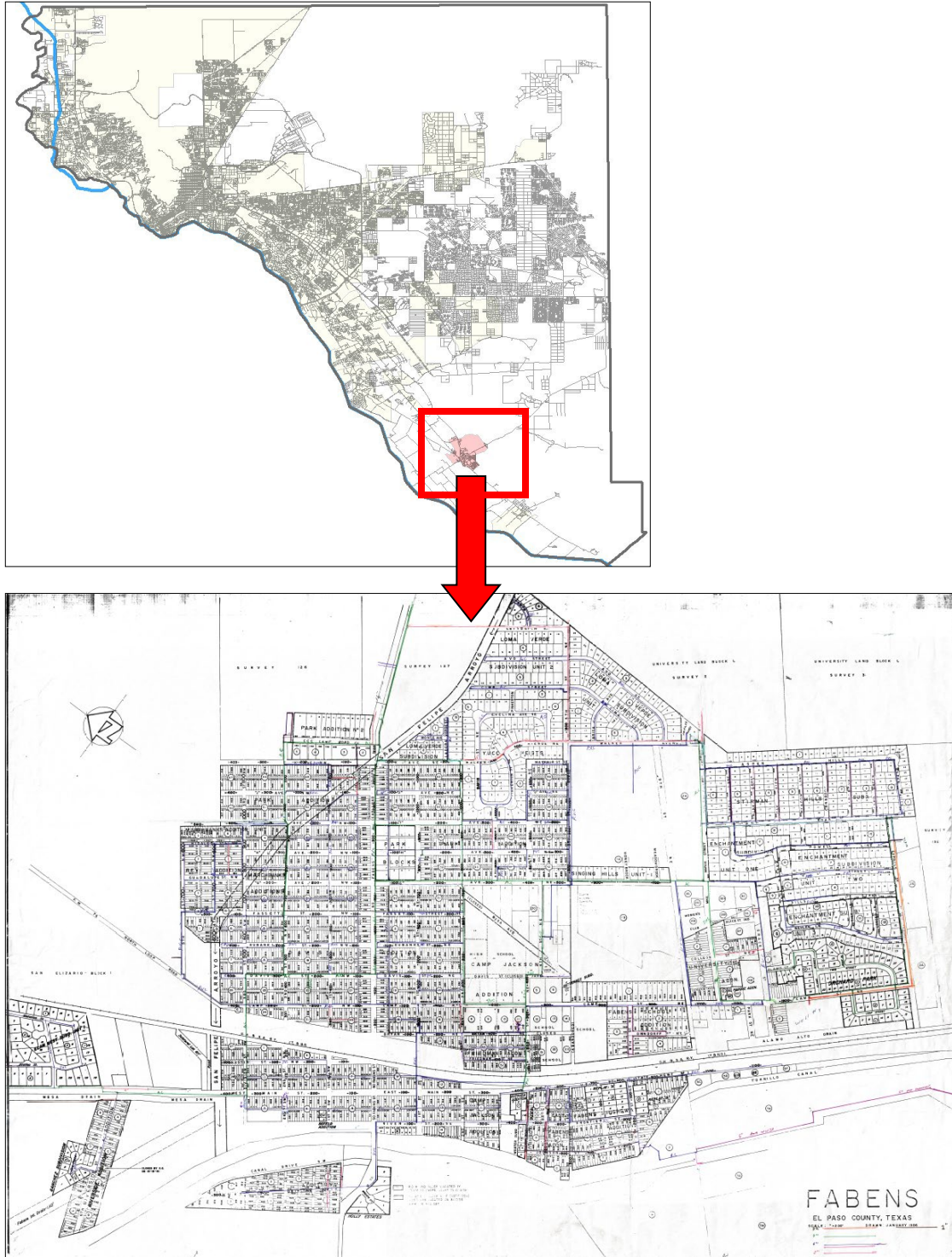


Figure 1. Project Location Map

### III PROJECT DESCRIPTION

*Provide a more comprehensive description of the technical aspects of your project, including work to be accomplished and the approach to complete the work. This description should provide detailed information about the project including materials and equipment and the work to be conducted to complete the project.*

The El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District #4 (EPCWCID4) will procure, install, and configure 360 meters and data transmission equipment for residential, commercial, and public water users in Fabens, Texas. Equipment specifications are available for reference in [Appendix D](#). EPCWCID4 is installing both 3/4" meters and 1" meters utilizing EPCWCID4 staff, materials and supplies, and equipment (utility trucks). All installations will be linked to EPCWCID4's existing SCADA system.

In Phase I of the project (2022), EPCWCID4 purchased and installed 410 meters with similar specifications as those included in the proposed Phase II of the project. EPCWCID4 staff has experience assembling SCADA, data transmission, and metering equipment to perform in-house installations. EPCWCID4 will procure and subcontract technical installation and programming services to integrate the new meters to EPCWCID4's existing billing and customer engagement systems.

After completing installations, EPCWCID4 staff will analyze the new meter data and report water savings findings and trends to the USBR as described in [Section V Performance Measures](#) and in accordance with requirements listed in a financial assistance agreement.

### IV EVALUATION CRITERIA

#### A. Evaluation Criterion A: Quantifiable Water Savings (25 Points)

*Up to 25 points may be awarded for this criterion. This criterion prioritizes projects that will conserve water and improve water use efficiency, supporting the goals of E.O. 14008. Points will be allocated based on the quantifiable water savings expected as a result of the project. Points will be allocated to give greater consideration to projects that are expected to result in more significant water savings. All applicants should be sure to:*

*1) Describe the amount of estimated water savings. For projects that conserve water, please state the estimated amount of water expected to be conserved (in acre-feet per year) as a direct result of this project.*

A measurable average of 5 acre-feet of water per year will be conserved as a result of the proposed project.

***2) Describe current losses: Please explain where the water that will be conserved is currently going and how it will be used.***

All water conserved will remain stored in the Hueco Bolson Aquifer to address future demand and water reliability concerns.

***a. Explain where current losses are going.***

Five years of water production and consumption data (2017-2021) was analyzed to calculate the total Non-Revenue Water (NRW) and the average water losses in the EPCWCID4 water system. The data analysis showed that approximately 70% of the total system losses are classified as real losses, which are attributed to breaks, leaks, and unreported loss. It is estimated that more than 90% of the real losses are attributed to unreported loss, normally attributed to undetected leakage. The remaining 30% is attributed to apparent losses, which result from unauthorized consumption, systematic data errors in the meter reading and billing process and customer metering inaccuracies.

***b. If known, please explain how current losses are being used.***

As described above, there is an approximate 30/70 ratio of apparent and real losses. The apparent losses are water that was actually consumed, but it was not properly measured or billed. As such, it is assumed these losses are consumed by the customers and put to beneficial use. In contrast, the real losses resulting from breaks and leaks are either lost to infiltration, evaporation, or sewer collection. The use of the unreported loss is unknown but is assumed is lost to undetected or background leaks, which are assumed to infiltrate in the ground.

***c. Are there any known benefits associated with where the current losses are going? For example, is seepage water providing additional habitat for fish or animal species?***

In addition to some of the apparent water losses being supplied to customers, there are no other known benefits associated with where the current losses are going. These losses cost EPCWCID4 revenue and understate the collective measure of consumption in the service area. There are no fish or animal habitats utilizing water losses.

***3) Describe the support / documentation of estimated water savings: Please provide sufficient detail supporting how the estimate was determined, including all supporting calculations.***

The calculations, assumptions and supporting data for the estimation of the average annual savings were developed by a third-party engineering consultant CMD Smith Inc., and calculations can be referenced in [Appendix C](#). Water conservation is prorated per meter.

**4) Please address the following questions according to the type of infrastructure improvement you are proposing for funding.**

**(1) *Municipal Metering:*** *Municipal metering projects can provide water savings when individual user meters are installed where none exist to allow for unit or tiered pricing and when existing individual user meters are replaced with advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) meters. To receive credit for water savings for a municipal metering project, an applicant must provide a detailed description of the method used to estimate savings, including references to documented savings from similar previously implemented projects. Applicants proposing municipal metering projects should address the following:*

*a. How has the estimated average annual water savings that will result from the project been determined? Please provide all relevant calculations, assumptions, and supporting data.*

Current system losses were reported in the EPCWCID4 Water Use Surveys (2017 – 2021) following the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Water Loss Audit Manual for Texas Utilities definitions and guidelines. The calculations, assumptions and supporting data for the estimation of the average annual savings were developed by CMD Smith Inc., and calculations can be referenced in [Appendix C](#).

*b. How have current system losses and/or the potential for reductions in water use by individual users been determined?*

Five years of water production and consumption data (2017-2021) was analyzed to calculate the total Non-Revenue Water (NRW) and the average water losses in the EPCWCID4 water system. Please refer to [Appendix C](#) for additional details.

*c. For installing end-user water service meters, e.g., for a residential or commercial building unit., refer to studies in the region or in the applicant's service area that are relevant to water use patterns and the potential for reducing such use. In the absence of such studies, please explain in detail how expected water use reductions have been estimated and the basis for the estimations.*

More than 90% of EPCWCID4 existing water meters are analog meters that range from 15 to 25 years in service. Expected water use reduction (from customers) resulting from the use of AMI systems is greatly dependent on the community engagement with the smart metering technologies, and therefore it is difficult to quantify. The estimated water savings presented herein do not factor in the expected reduction in water consumption in the analyzed conditions. However, it is expected that AMI metering will result in accurate billing, which will incentivize water conservation.

*d. What types (manufacturer and model) of devices will be installed and what quantity of each?*

EPCWCID4 is installing 340 3/4"-meters and 20 1"-meters utilizing EPCWCID4 staff, materials and supplies, and equipment (utility trucks). Equipment specifications are available for reference in [Appendix D](#). All installations will be linked to EPCWCID4's existing SCADA system. This investment is an upgrade from existing manual-read analog meters.

*e. How will actual water savings be verified upon completion of the project?*

After completing installations, EPCWCID4 staff will analyze the new meter data and report water savings findings and trends to the USBR as described in [Section V Performance Measures](#) and in accordance with requirements listed in a financial assistance agreement.

EPCWCID4 currently maintains excel databases of the existing system production and consumption at various locations in the system. The total non-revenue water in the system as well as water losses are currently calculated based on mass balances of the system at the end of every billing period. While functional, this operation leaves room for systematic data handling errors. Upon completion of the project (i.e., replacement of existing analog meters with a new AMI Metering System), EPCWCID4 system will have the capability to improve the system intelligence, automation, and control, by enabling a two-way communication between the meter end points and utilities to transmit the data via a fixed network and at predetermined time intervals. In addition to use this system to monitor the water usage and system efficiency. EPCWCID4 will be able to detect malfunctioning meters and recognize irregularities that will allow them to decrease the response time, and as a result decrease water loss. To verify water savings after the implementation of the project, EPCWCID4 can compare the total water losses recorded by the AMI metering system at the end of billing periods to the current system losses.

## **B. Evaluation Criterion B: Renewable Energy (20 Points)**

### **Subcriterion B.1. – Implementing Renewable Energy Projects Related to Water management and Delivery**

This subcriterion does not apply to the project.

### **Subcriterion B.2. – Increasing Energy Efficiency in Water Management**

This subcriterion does not apply to the project.



### C. Evaluation Criterion C: Other Project Benefits (15 Points)

*Up to 15 points may be awarded under this criterion. This criterion prioritizes projects that address a specific water and/or energy concern(s), including enhancing drought resilience and sustainability, addressing the current and future impacts of climate change, and providing ecological benefits.*

***Resilience and Sustainability Benefits.*** *Will the project address a specific water and/or energy sustainability concern? Please address the following:*

- *Explain and provide detail of the specific issue(s) in the area that is impacting water resilience and sustainability. Consider the following:*
  - *Describe recent, existing, or potential drought or water scarcity conditions in the project area.*

The proposed project will lead to measurable water savings in EPCWCID4's distribution system and contribute to addressing water sustainability and water resource diversification efforts for the community of Fabens. Fabens is at risk of experiencing future water shortages due to increased demand and limited non-renewable groundwater resources (FWTWPG 2022).

EPCWCID4 supplies potable water to over 7,500 residents and more than 100 businesses utilizing non-renewable groundwater resources from the Hueco Bolson Aquifer. Local water supply at the community of Fabens is minimally recharged by infiltration from the Rio Grande alluvium, Rio Grande Project canal system and irrigation, or local runoff (Hibbs and Merino 2020). This recent finding created an added sense of urgency for water sustainability efforts in Fabens: EPCWCID4 must accelerate water infrastructure development to secure Fabens' water future.

In Hibbs and Merino (2020), environmental isotope testing was performed on shallow and deep groundwater and at a near the dilute groundwater lens in Fabens. Deeper Hueco Bolson wells in the Fabens/Tornillo area have total depths usually between 160 and 350 feet below land surface. Shallow wells sampled in Rio Grande alluvium were less than 120 feet deep (see Figure 3 below). Differences in isotopic signatures were identified by a previous study (Eastoe et al. 2008), which made it possible to distinguish local sources of discharge from river recharge in this area. See Figure 2 below.

Three major findings in Hibbs and Merino (2020) include:

*Recharge of the Hueco Bolson Aquifer at Fabens occurred primarily by infiltration of water from the pre-dam Rio Grande water (Elephant Butte Dam and the USBR Rio Grande Project), and not from local runoff within the Hueco Bolson (1.1 Study Area).*

*Any alluvial groundwater flowing toward the Fabens and Tornillo wellfields today will likely result in diminished water quality at their municipal wells (4.3 Summary Model of Historical Recharge and Implications for Modern Recharge).*

*Any limited recharge that occurs through the Fabens Waste Channel will be of diminished quality and may perpetually impact potability of Fabens and Tornillo municipal wells (4.3 Summary Model of Historical Recharge and Implications for Modern Recharge).*

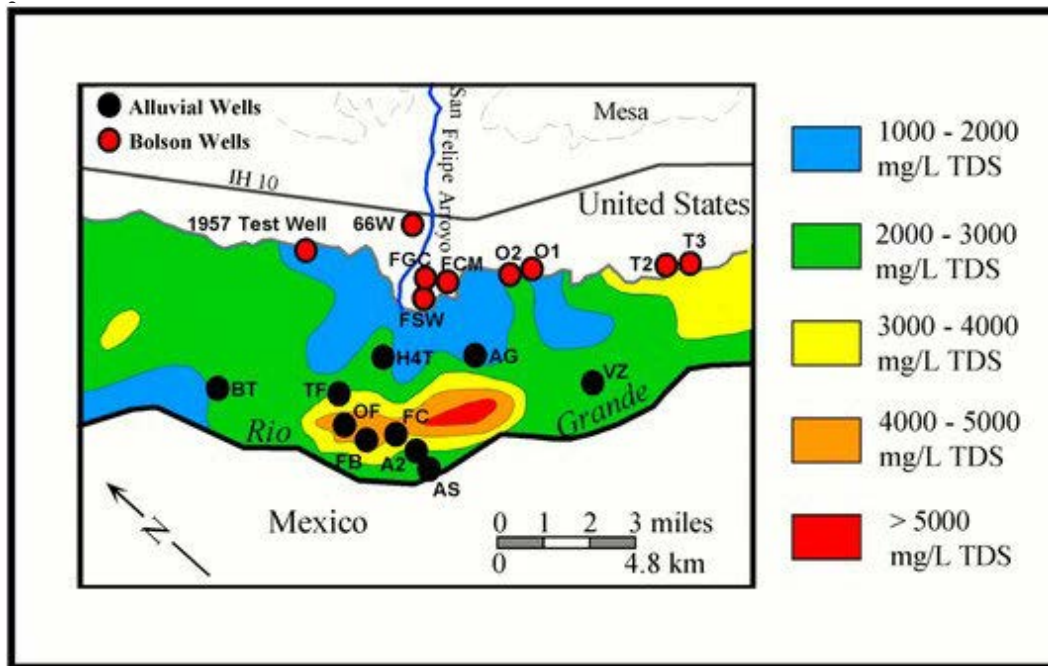


Figure 2. Groundwater Salinity at Fabens, Texas (Hibbs and Merino 2020)

- *Is the project in an area that is experiencing, or recently experienced, drought or water scarcity?*

Like much of the Western United States, the El Paso region has been experiencing perpetual drought conditions in the last 20 years. The U.S. Drought Monitor February 13, 2024 map shows moderate – extreme drought conditions in the Rio Grande Watershed (see Figure 3 below). El Paso County currently is currently experiencing abnormally dry conditions, which improved in recent weeks due to the start of the monsoon season.

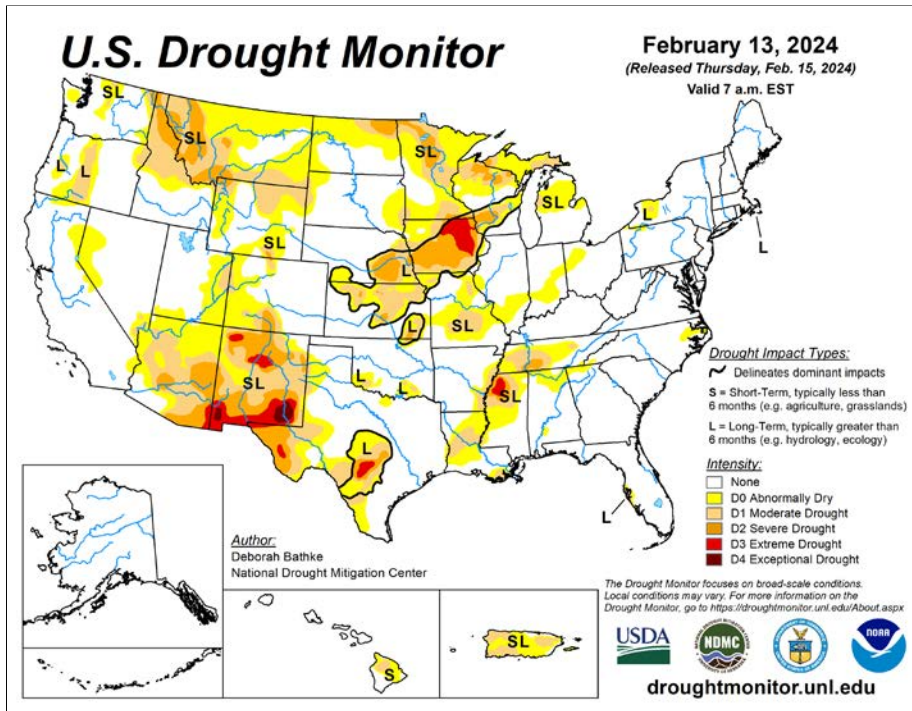


Figure 3. U.S. Drought Monitor June 28, 2022

- Describe any projected increases to the severity or duration of drought or water scarcity in the project area. Provide support for your response.

As described below in Hibs and Merino (2020) and FWTWPG (2020), Fabens is at risk of experiencing future water shortages due to increased demand and limited non-renewable groundwater resources.

- Explain and provide detail of the specific issue(s) in the area that is impacting energy sustainability, such as reliance on fossil fuels, pollution, or interruptions in service.

The proposed project will not directly impact energy sustainability.

- Please describe how the project will directly address the concern(s) stated above.

In addition to conserving water and contributing to the sustainability of limited groundwater resources at the Hueco Bolson Aquifer, the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project: Phase II will advance EPCWCID4's planned effluent treatment improvements. Transitioning from current effluent treatment levels to advanced purification will require accurate metering to determine treatment processes. As previously stated, Fabens is at risk of experiencing future water shortages due to increased demand and limited non-renewable groundwater resources (FWTWPG 2022).

Water resource diversification is necessary to secure Fabens' water future. EPCWCID4 included the following options in the upcoming 2025 Far West Texas Water Plan and

subsequent 2026 Texas State Water Plan (see letter of support from Far West Texas Water Planning Group in [Appendix A](#)).

- **EPCWCID4 Water Management Strategy (WMS) A:**  
Desalinating slightly brackish water with a TDS range of 1000-2000 mg/L via Reverse Osmosis. Wells will access the deeper Hueco Bolson aquifer pockets in the vicinity of Fabens. The El Paso region has multiple water treatment plants implementing Reverse Osmosis (RO) technology, managing concentrated saline waste, and blending with permeate water from RO units. Per EPCWCID4's 2022-2040 Strategic Plan and Water Source and Watershed Protection Plan, desalination will be given further consideration when two or more existing wells have a total capacity of less than 0.6 gallons per minute (gpm) per connection.
- **EPCWCID4 Water Management Strategy (WMS) B:**  
EPCWCID4 is considering treating wastewater to drinking quality standards, also known as "recycled water" or Advanced Purification. In Phase I, EPCWCID4 is treating up to 600,000 gallons per day of wastewater to irrigation quality standards in partnership with the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 (part of the USBR Rio Grande Project). In Phase II, EPCWCID4 would treat increasingly larger quantities of water (based on demand) utilizing a direct-to-distribution approach via a multiple-stage treatment process involving several phases of membrane filtration and disinfection. El Paso water is in the process of finalizing the design of a 10 million gallons per day (mgd) advanced purification facility.

Although water source diversification is necessary to develop a sustainable, drought-proof resource, conservation continues to be the most cost-effective approach to meeting future water demand in Fabens.

- *Please address where any conserved water as a result of the project will go and how it will be used, including whether the conserved water will be used to offset groundwater pumping, used to reduce diversions, used to address shortages that impact diversions or reduce deliveries, made available for transfer, left in the river system, or used to meet another intended use.*

Conserved water will be used to offset groundwater pumping from the Hueco Bolson Aquifer in the Fabens Area. As discussed earlier, the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project: Phase II will also support efforts to protect Fabens' water source. Fabens' groundwater resources are surrounded by a saline alluvium currently sourced by seepage from the Rio Grande Project irrigation drains and brackish water pockets in the Hueco Bolson Aquifer located south and west of Fabens. This is demonstrated in Figure 4 below:

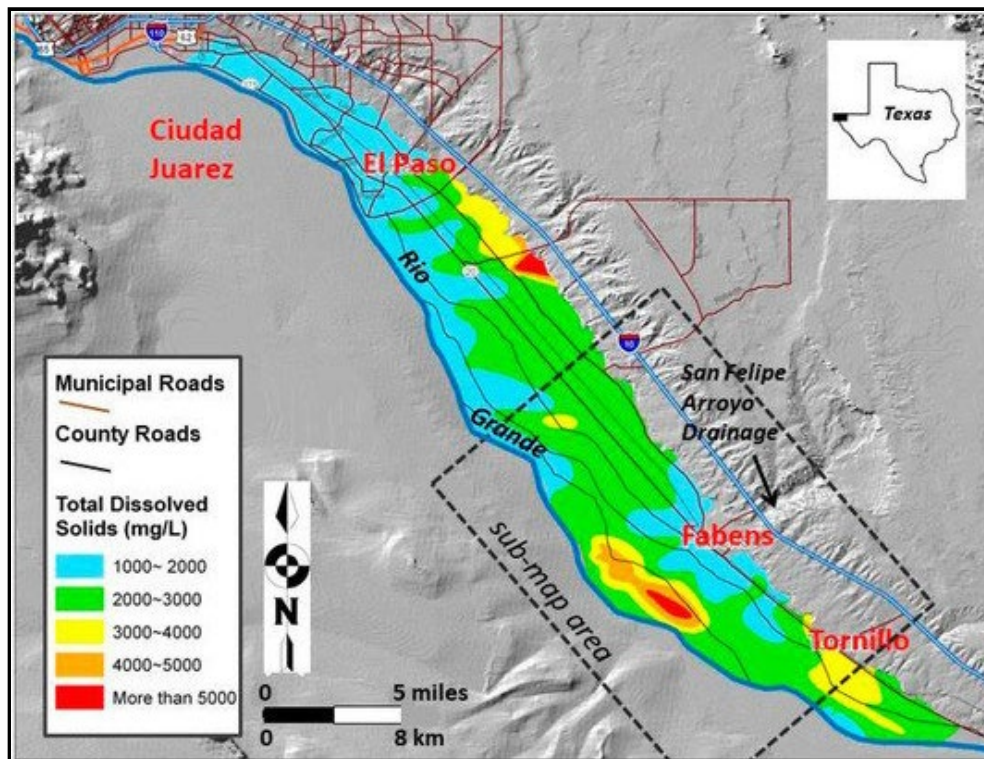


Figure 4. Measured TDS in the El Paso Valley (Hibbs and Merino 2020)

- *Indicate the quantity of conserved water that will be used for the intended purpose(s).*

Approximately 5 acre-feet per year of conserved water will remain in the Hueco Bolson.

- *Provide a description of the mechanism that will be used, if necessary, to put the conserved water to the intended use.*

Conserved water will remain in the Hueco Bolson Aquifer and will be used to meet future water demand and conserve groundwater pumpage.

- *Will the project assist States and water users in complying with interstate compacts?*

Water conserved as part of the proposed project will advance sustainability of non-renewable groundwater resources in Hueco Bolson Aquifer, which is also utilized by Rio Grande Project water users including El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, El Paso Water Utilities, and Lower Valley Water District. El Paso County is within an area considered to be of “Substantial Potential for Conflict” as defined in the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s Technical Memorandum 86-68251-11-01 (2011). Rio Grande Project water users are currently in litigation (State of Texas v State of New Mexico and State of Colorado, No. 22O141 Original in the United States Supreme Court and Intervention by the United States).

- *Will the project help to prevent water-related crisis or conflict? Is there frequently tension or litigation over water in the basin?*

As previously stated, water conserved as part of the proposed project will advance sustainability of non-renewable groundwater resources in Hueco Bolson Aquifer, which is also utilized by Rio Grande Project water users including El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, El Paso Water Utilities, and Lower Valley Water District. El Paso County is within an area considered to be of “Substantial Potential for Conflict” as defined in the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s Technical Memorandum 86-68251-11-01 (2011).

***Ecological Benefits.*** *In addition to the separate WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects NOFO, this NOFO places a priority on projects that that result in ecological benefits, through this section and other sections above, consistent with the SECURE Water Act. Please provide information regarding how the project will provide ecosystem benefits, including the following:*

- *Will the project benefit species (e.g., federally threatened or endangered, a federally recognized candidate species, a listed species, or a species of particular recreational or economic importance)? Please describe the relationship of the species to the water supply, and whether the species is adversely affected by a Reclamation project or is subject to a recovery plan or conservation plan under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).*

The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project: Phase II is part of a larger, planned Water Management Strategy (FWTWPG 2022) designed to diversify EPCWCID4’s water sources (recycled water) transition effluent into irrigation quality standards. Effluent meeting and/or exceeding irrigation quality standards already contributes to USBR Rio Grande Project irrigation water in El Paso County. Rio Grande Project water from Elephant Butte Reservoir has direct ecological benefits to designated riparian habitats in New Mexico.

In accordance with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (2024), by increasing the sustainability of basin-wide water supplies, the project will benefit the following federally-threatened and endangered species: Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Rio Grande Silvery Minnp.

- *Will water remain in the system for longer periods of time? If so, provide details on current/future durations and any expected resulting benefits.*

The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project: Phase II is a water use efficiency improvement project. As EPCWCID4 meets municipal and industrial water demands more

efficiently, conserved water will remain in the Hueco Bolson Aquifer and contribute to addressing water sustainability and water resource diversification efforts for the community of Fabens.

- *Will the proposed project reduce the likelihood of a species listing or otherwise improve the species status?*

The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project: Phase II is part of a larger, planned Water Management Strategy (FWTWPG 2022) designed to diversify EPCWCID4's water sources (recycled water) transition effluent into irrigation quality standards. Effluent meeting and/or exceeding irrigation quality standards already contributes to USBR Rio Grande Project irrigation water in El Paso County. Rio Grande Project water from Elephant Butte Reservoir has direct ecological benefits to designated riparian habitats in New Mexico.

EPCWCID4 discharges an average of 600,000 gallons per day of treated effluent into the Fabens Waste Channel, which is an irrigation drain that was transferred from the USBR to the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1. Treated effluent is blended with Rio Grande Project water and end-of-system irrigation drainage, ultimately flowing into the Rio Grande below Riverside Diversion Dam in Segment No. 2307 of the Rio Grande Basin, specifically at riparian areas at the U.S.-Mexico border at 31.424936, -106.123861 (see Figure 5 below). The proposed project will ensure the sustainability of EPCWCID4's water resources and, indirectly, border riparian areas at the Rio Grande.

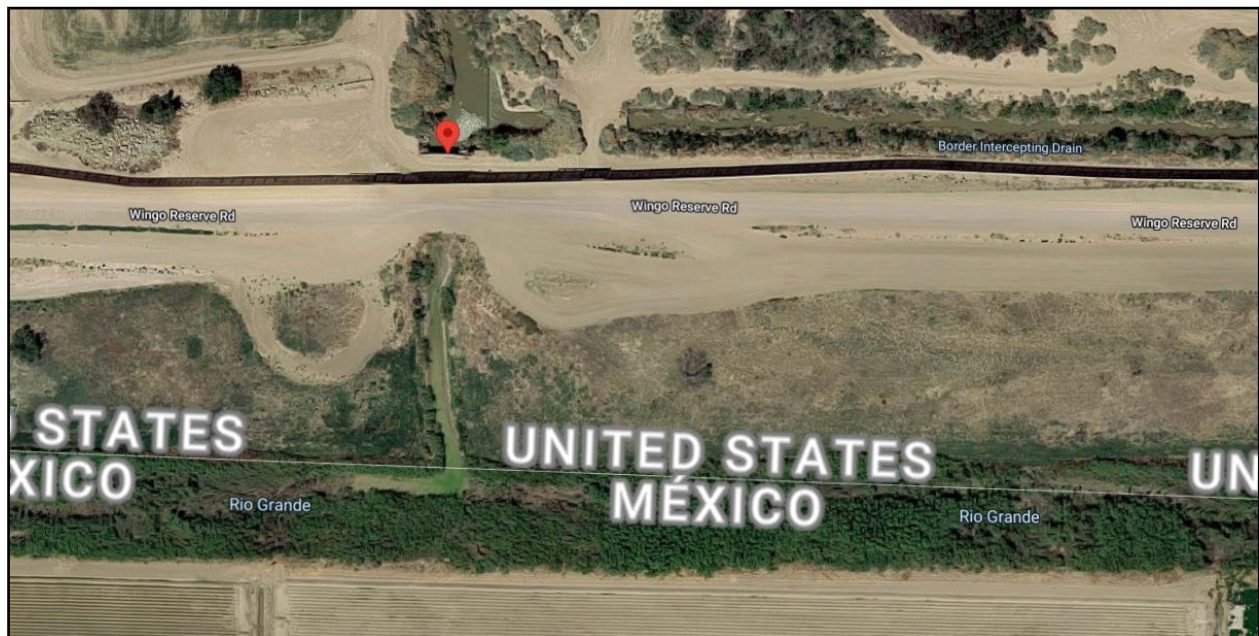


Figure 5. Fabens Waste Channel and Rio Grande Border Riparian Areas

- *Please describe any other ecosystem benefits as a direct result of the project.*

This question does not apply to the project.

**Climate Change:** *E.O. 14008 emphasizes the need to prioritize and take robust actions to reduce climate pollution; increase resilience to the impacts of climate change; protect public health; and conserve our lands, waters, oceans, and biodiversity.*

- *Describe how the project addresses climate change and increases resiliency. For example, does the project help communities adapt to bolster drought resilience?*

Water conserved as part of the proposed project will stabilize sustainability of non-renewable groundwater resources in Hueco Bolson Aquifer, which is also utilized by Rio Grande Project water users including El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, El Paso Water Utilities, and Lower Valley Water District. Water savings will be achieved through efficiency improvements, and increased groundwater reserves help Fabens become more resilient to drought. Water savings will decrease the rate at which limited aquifer water resources are being used. As described in the section above, conserved water will also reduce water quality reductions due to pumping and infiltration from the Rio Grande Alluvium.

- *Does the project seek to improve ecological resiliency to climate change?*

This question does not apply to the project.

- *Does the proposed project seek to reduce or mitigate climate pollutions such as air or water pollution?*

Emissions reduction will be achieved by the project. Specifically, advanced meter and SCADA installations will allow EPCWCID4 to collect water use and rate payer data remotely, reducing the number of vehicle trips needed for billing, repairs, and overall system management. The total amount of CO<sub>2</sub> reduced by the proposed project is approximately 1,259,700 grams per year.

The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project: Phase II is aligned with equipment specifications and methodology outlined in the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability September 2016 report titled “Advanced Metering Infrastructure and Customer Systems” (U.S DOE 2016). This report found that remote meter reading generates more timely, accurate bills, eliminating the need for manual truck rolls and labor to read meters. On average, utilities save about 2.6 vehicle-miles traveled per year for every smart meter deployed. Emissions reductions vary by vehicle but pickup trucks used by EPCWCID4 emit roughly 250 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per mile. The following formula is used to estimate CO<sub>2</sub> reductions:

### **Estimated CO<sub>2</sub> Reductions**

2.6 vehicle miles per meter per year \* 360 meters = 936 miles per year



936 miles \* 250 grams of CO2 per mile = 234,000 CO2 grams per year reduced

- Does the proposed project include green or sustainable infrastructure to improve community climate resilience?

This question does not apply to the proposed project.

#### D. Evaluation Criterion D: Disadvantaged Communities, Insular Areas, and Tribal Benefits (15 points)

##### D.1. Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities:

E.O. 14008 affirms the advancement of environmental justice for all through the development and funding of programs to invest in disadvantaged communities. This criterion, which is used to identify projects that advance the Justice 40 Initiative, includes all Federally recognized Tribes and Tribal entities, and any disadvantaged communities in insular areas (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands) identified pursuant to the following criteria.

- Please use the White House Council on Environmental Quality's interactive Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST).

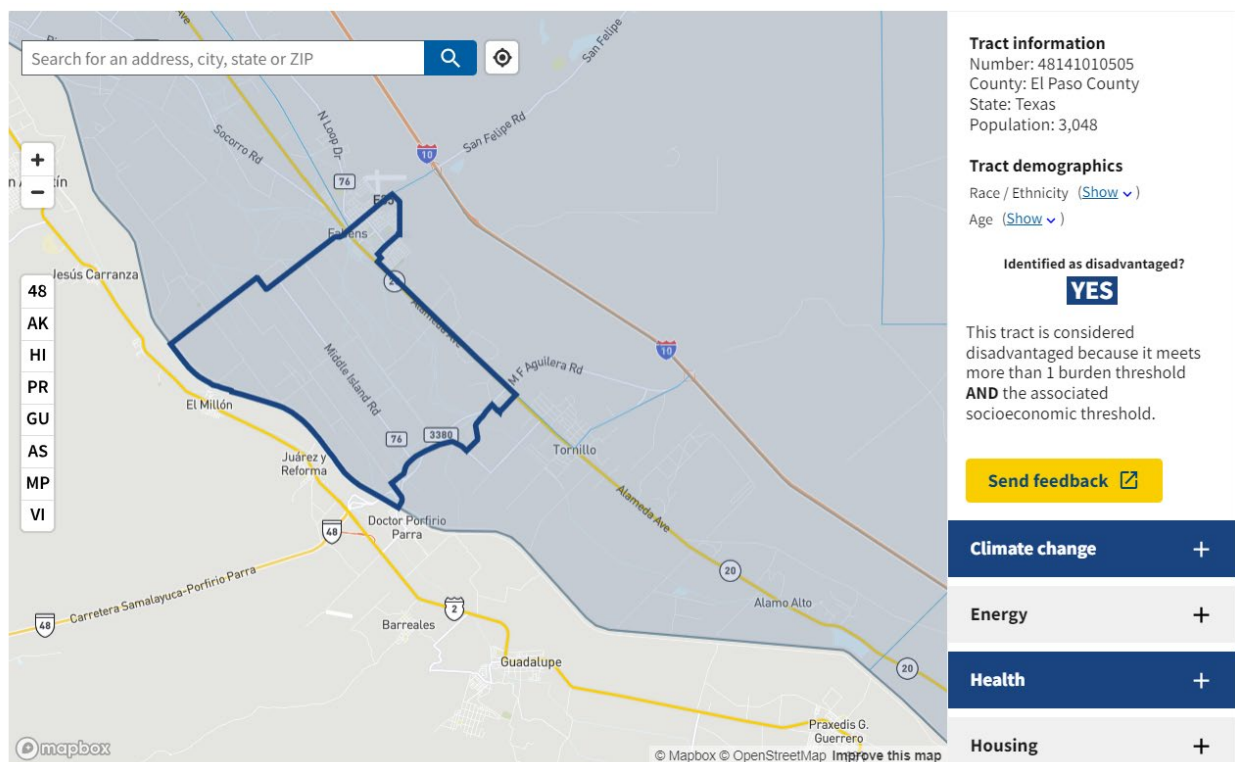


Figure 6. CEJST Map for Fabens, Texas

- *If applicable, describe how the proposed project will serve or benefit a disadvantaged community, identified using the tool. For example, will the project improve public health and safety by addressing water quality, add new water supplies, provide economic growth opportunities, or provide other benefits in a disadvantaged community?*

Fabens is a Latino/Hispanic-majority, economically disadvantaged community and the project will directly serve a community that meets definition according to Sec. 2 of E.O. 13985, an “underserved community.”

The proposed project will improve water reliability in an area impacted by prolonged drought conditions and support economic growth. According to the *January 2024 StatsAmerica Distress Criteria Statistical Report* by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Fabens Census Designated Place (CDP) is considered economically disadvantaged at 41.3% of the U.S. 2020 Per Capita Money Income (see Figure 5 below).

The Fabens CDP Median Household Income (MHI) (2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates) is \$29,171, which is at 44.9% of the U.S. MHI (\$64,994) and 45.7% of the Texas MHI (\$63,826). The poverty rate stands at 30.8%. Based on MHI, the proposed project will provide benefits to a community that meet the definition of “disadvantages community” per Section 1015 of the Cooperative Watershed Act.

	2020 Unemployment Rate (5-Year ACS)	Threshold Calculation	2020 Per Capita Money Income (5-Year ACS)	Threshold Calculation
Selected Region	3.70	-1.70	\$14,622	41.3
U.S.	5.40	0.00	\$35,384	100.0
El Paso TX Tract 0105.01	2.90	-2.50	\$14,241	40.2
El Paso TX Tract 0105.02	3.60	-1.80	\$15,055	42.6
El Paso TX Tract 0105.05	3.80	-1.60	\$14,349	40.6
El Paso TX Tract 0105.06	5.80	0.40	\$15,543	43.9

Figure 7. January 2024 StatsAmerica Distress Criteria Statistical Report

### ***D.2. Tribal Benefits***

*The Department is committed to strengthening tribal sovereignty and the fulfillment of Federal Tribal trust responsibilities. The President’s memorandum, Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships, asserts the importance of honoring the Federal Government’s commitments to Tribal nations. Address the following, if applicable:*

- *Does the proposed project directly serve and/or benefit a Tribe? Will the project increase water supply sustainability for an Indian Tribe? Will the project provide renewable energy for an Indian Tribe?*

Members identifying as part of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo (federally-recognized) do live and own property in Fabens, Texas. The Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Reservation is located in

Socorro, Texas, approximately 10 miles northwest of Fabens. Water conserved as part of the proposed project will advance sustainability of non-renewable groundwater resources in Hueco Bolson Aquifer, which is also utilized by the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo for potable water and agriculture.

- *Does the proposed project support Tribal led conservation and restoration priorities, and/or incorporate or benefit indigenous traditional knowledge and practices?*

This question does not apply to the proposed project.

- *Does the proposed project directly support tribal resilience to climate change and drought impacts or provide other Tribal benefits such as improved public health and safety through water quality improvements, new water supplies, increased renewable energy, or economic growth opportunities? Does the proposed project support Reclamation's Tribal trust responsibilities or a Reclamation activity with a Tribe?*

Water conserved as part of the proposed project will advance sustainability of non-renewable groundwater resources in Hueco Bolson Aquifer, which is also utilized by the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo for potable water and agriculture. This has a direct impact on the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo's water supplies, water quality, and economic development efforts.

#### **E. Evaluation Criterion E: Complementing On-Farm Irrigation Improvements (8 pt)**

*If the proposed project will complement an on-farm improvement eligible for NRCS assistance, please address the following:*

*Describe any planned or ongoing projects by farmers/ranchers that receive water from the applicant to improve on-farm efficiencies.*

- *Provide a detailed description of the on-farm efficiency improvements.*

This question does not apply to the proposed project.

- *Have the farmers requested technical or financial assistance from NRCS for the on-farm efficiency projects, or do they plan to in the future?*

This question does not apply to the proposed project.

- *If available, provide documentation that the on-farm projects are eligible for NRCS assistance, that such assistance has or will be requested, and the number or percentage of farms that plan to participate in available NRCS programs.*

This question does not apply to the proposed project.

- *Applicants should provide letters of intent from farmers/ranchers in the affected project areas.*

This question does not apply to the proposed project.

*Describe how the proposed WaterSMART project would complement any ongoing or planned on-farm improvement.*

- Will the proposed WaterSMART project directly facilitate the on-farm improvement? If so, how?

This question does not apply to the proposed project.

- Will the proposed WaterSMART project complement the on-farm project by maximizing efficiency in the area? If so, how?

Water conserved as part of the proposed project will advance sustainability of non-renewable groundwater resources in Hueco Bolson Aquifer, which is also utilized by Rio Grande Project agricultural water users and the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1.

The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project: Phase II is part of a larger, planned Water Management Strategy (FWTWPG 2022) designed to diversify EPCWCID4's water sources (recycled water) transition effluent discharge into irrigation quality standards. Effluent treated to irrigation quality standards already contributes to USBR Rio Grande Project irrigation water users in partnership with the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1.

EPCWCID4 discharges an average of 600,000 gallons per day into the Fabens Waste Channel, which is an irrigation drain that was transferred from USBR to the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1. Treated effluent ultimately flows into the Rio Grande riparian areas at the U.S.-Mexico border at 31.424936, -106.123861. The proposed project will ensure the sustainability of EPCWCID4's water resources and, indirectly, border riparian areas at the Rio Grande.

*Describe the on-farm water conservation or water use efficiency benefits that are expected to result from any on-farm work.*

- Estimate the potential on-farm water savings that could result in acre-feet per year. Include support or backup documentation for any calculations or assumptions.

This question does not apply to the proposed project.

*Please provide a map of your water service area boundaries. If your project is selected for funding under this funding opportunity, this information will help NRCS identify the irrigated*

*lands that may be approved for NRCS funding and technical assistance to complement funded WaterSMART projects.*

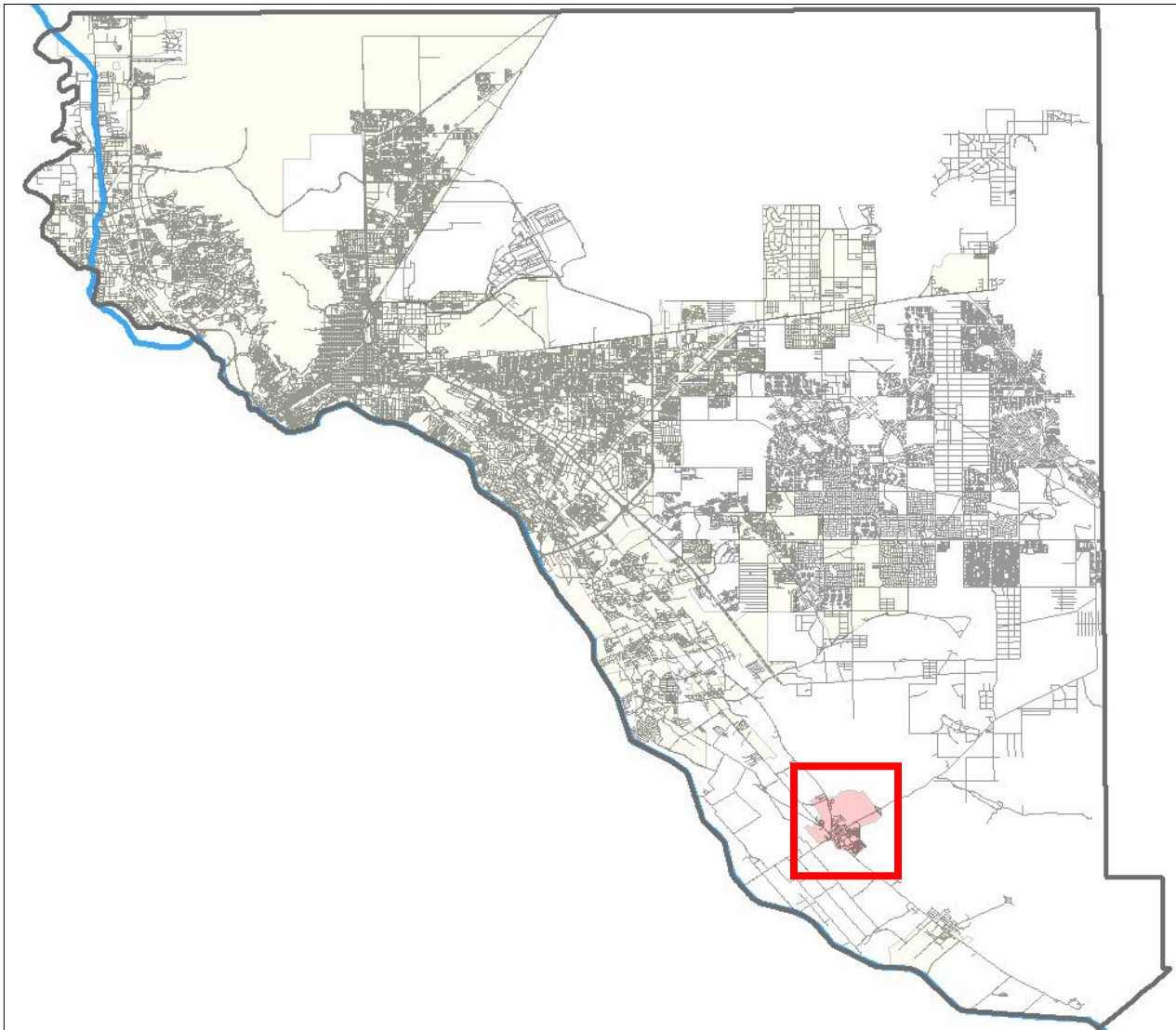


Figure 6. EPCWCID4 Service Area Boundaries

F. Evaluation Criterion F: Readiness to Proceed (8 Points)

*Applications that include a detailed project implementation plan (e.g., estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates) will receive the most points under this criterion.*

- *Identify and provide a summary description of the major tasks necessary to complete the project.*

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

Environmental and regulatory compliance work is expected to begin in August of 2023. Because the project involves equipment installations only, it is expected that completing a Categorical Exclusion Checklist will be sufficient to meet environmental compliance requirements. Work includes but is not limited to:

- 1.1 Working with the USBR to meet federal environmental and regulatory compliance requirements, including National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) compliance

**Expected Deliverables:** [1] Categorical Exclusion (CEC)

### **Task 2: Purchasing Metering and SCADA Equipment**

The purpose of this task is to purchase all listed metering and SCADA equipment, which includes but is not limited to:

- 2.1 Bidding and purchasing equipment in compliance with 2 CFR 200 and in accordance with the EPCWCID4 purchasing policy

**Expected Deliverables:** [1] purchase and procurement records

### **Task 3: Installing Metering Equipment**

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

- 3.1 Preparing existing metering sites for installation and removing older equipment
- 3.2 Installing metering equipment
- 3.3 Testing and calibrating metering equipment

**Expected Deliverables:** [1] Equipment installation records and photos, [2] water flow and calibration data, and [3] labor and fringe costs

### **Task 4: Subcontracting SCADA Installation and Programming**

The purpose of this task is to procure subcontracted SCADA installation and programming services, which includes but is not limited to:

- 4.1 Procuring SCADA installation and programming technical services in compliance 2 CFR 200 and in accordance with the EPCWCID4 purchasing policy
- 4.2 Working with contractor to install and program SCADA equipment
- 4.3 Testing and calibrating SCADA equipment

### **Task 5: Reporting and Grant Administration**

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

- 5.1 Developing SF-425 Federal Financial Reports on a semi-annual basis and a final financial performance report as specified in Section F.3.1. of the FY2023 WaterSMART WEEG FOA and/or as required by a resulting award contract with the USBR
- 5.2 Developing Interim Performance Reports as specified in Section F.3.2. of the FY2023 WaterSMART WEEG FOA and/or as required by a resulting award contract with the USBR
- 5.3 Performing a post-installation water savings analysis to compare baseline water use and determine actual water savings
- 5.4 Developing a Final Performance Report as specified in Section F.3.3. of the FY2023 WaterSMART WEEG FOA and/or as required by a resulting award contract with the USBR

**Expected Deliverables:** [1] water savings estimates data, [2] interim reports, [3] final report

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

No permits are required to implement the proposed project.

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

The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project: Phase II is the second phase of planned metering and SCADA upgrades necessary to modernize EPCWCID4's water distribution system. Selected meter and SCADA equipment purchased in 2021-2022 is identical or similar to equipment to be purchased as part of the proposed project. All equipment is compatible, and USBR funding will supplement, not replace, EPCWCID4 funding.

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

No new policies or administrative actions are required to implement the proposed project.

- *Please also include an estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates.*

**Table 1. Estimated Project Task Schedule**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Estimated Start Date</b>	<b>Estimated End Date</b>
<b>1. Environmental and Regulatory Compliance</b>	<b>Jan 2025</b>	<b>Feb 2025</b>
1.1 Categorical Exclusion Checklist (USBR)	Jan 2025	Feb 2025
<b>2. Purchasing Metering and SCADA Equipment</b>	<b>Mar 2025</b>	<b>Aug 2025</b>
2.1 Bidding and purchasing equipment	Mar 2025	Aug 2025
<b>3. Installing Metering Equipment</b>	<b>Sep 2025</b>	<b>Mar 2026</b>
3.1 Preparing installation sites	Jul 2025	Oct 2025
3.2 Installing metering equipment	Sep 2025	May 2026
3.3 Testing and calibrating equipment	Jan 2026	Mar 2026
<b>4. Subcontracting SCADA Installation and Programming</b>	<b>Mar 2025</b>	<b>May 2026</b>
4.1 Procuring tech services contractor	Mar 2025	May 2025
4.2 Installing and programming SCADA equipment	Jun 2025	Mar 2026
4.3 Testing and calibrating SCADA equipment	Apr 2026	May 2026
<b>5. Grant Administration and Project Closing</b>	<b>Jan 2025</b>	<b>Jun 2026</b>
6.1 Performance and Financial (SF-425) Interim Reporting	Jan 2025	Jun 2026
6.2 Water savings analysis and reporting	Apr 2026	Jun 2026
6.3 Final report and project closing	Jun 2026	Jun 2026





**G. Evaluation Criterion G: Collaboration (5 Points)**

*Please describe how the project promotes and encourages collaboration. Consider the following:*

- Is there widespread support for the project? Please provide specific details regarding any support and/or partners involved in the project. What is the extent of their involvement in the process?*

EPCWCID4 received statements of support from the entities listed in Table 2 below.

**Table 2. Supporting Stakeholders for the AMI Project: Phase II**

<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Description</b>
El Paso County	General endorsement
Far West Texas Water Planning Group	Inclusion in 2026 Texas State Water Plan
Rio Grande Council of Governments	Technical assistance support
University of Texas at El Paso: CERM	Program match and support

- What is the significance of the collaboration / support?*

EPCWCID4 is a member of the Far West Texas Water Planning Group and collaborates regularly with stakeholders such as the Rio Grande Council of Governments, El Paso County, the University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, and other stakeholders. The proposed Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project: Phase II is part of Water Management Strategy (WMS) implementation in the 2025 Far West Texas Water Plan and 2026 Texas State Water Plan.

As part of this existing partnership, EPCWCID4 received technical assistance from the Rio Grande Council of Governments to complete sections of this WaterSMART application. This technical assistance program is jointly funded by the Far West Texas Water Planning Group and El Paso County.

- Will this project increase the possibility/likelihood of future water conservation improvements by other water users?*

EPCWCID4 has a Water Conservation Plan and Drought Mitigation Plan in place. This is a requirement by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for all utilities in Texas. The plan is available upon request from EPCWCID4 or online at <https://epcwcid4.myruralwater.com/all-forms-and-reports>.

The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project: Phase II is part of a larger, planned Water Management Strategy (FWTWPG 2022) designed to diversify EPCWCID4's water sources (desalination, recycled water) transition wastewater discharge into irrigation quality

standards. Wastewater treated to irrigation quality standards will eventually contribute to USBR Rio Grande Project irrigation water users in partnership with the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1. EPCWCID4 discharges an average of 600,000 gallons per day into the Fabens Waste Channel, which is an irrigation drain transferred from the USBR to the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1.

Staff from EPCWCID4 and the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 are currently working together to determine technical specifications, costs, legal agreements, and permitting necessary for this transition. The El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 already utilizes treated wastewater for irrigation in partnership with El Paso Water Utilities. This initiative has been proposed to the Far West Texas Water Planning Group (FWTWPG) to develop a new Water Management Strategy for inclusion in the 2025 Far West Texas Water Plan and 2026 Texas State Water Plan.

- *Please attach any relevant supporting documents.*

Statements of support can be referenced in [Appendix A](#).

#### H. Evaluation Criterion H: Nexus to Reclamation (4 Points)

*Describe the nexus between the proposed project and a Reclamation project or Reclamation activity. Please consider:*

- *Does the applicant have a water service, repayment, or O&M contract with Reclamation? If the applicant is not a Reclamation contractor, does the applicant receive Reclamation water through a Reclamation contractor or by any other contractual means?*

EPCWCID4 does not currently have a water service contract with the USBR. EPCWCID4 has existing contracts with the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, which is a Rio Grande Project user with transferred USBR properties. EPCWCID4 discharges wastewater into the Fabens Waste Channel under contract. This water is blended with Rio Grande Project water and captured by Hudspeth County Conservation and Reclamation District 1.

- *Will the proposed work benefit a Reclamation project area or activity?*

The proposed project lies within the Rio Grande Basin and is hydrologically linked to Reclamation's Rio Grande Project.

- *Is the applicant a Tribe?*

EPCWCID4 is not a tribe.

## V PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### Period of Performance

- EPCWCID4 will procure, install, and program 360 AMI meters within an 18-month performance period.
- EPCWCID4 will evaluate pre-project water use compared to post-project water use within a 6-month period.
- EPCWCID4 will complete and submit performance reports as described in a Financial Assistance Agreement with the USBR.

### Water Savings

- EPCWCID4 will measure evaluate pre-project system-wide water use compared to post-project system-wide water use to quantify actual water savings (attributable to installations). EPCWCID4 expects to conserve an average of 32 acre-feet of water per year. Findings will be submitted to the USBR as described in a Financial Services Agreement and in a Final Report.
- EPCWCID4 will document instances denoting how water savings were achieved, including identified unauthorized incidents such as meter tampering and early leak detections.

## VI PROJECT BUDGET

### A. Funding Plan and Letters of Commitment

*How will you make your contribution to the cost-share requirement, such as monetary and/or in-kind contributions and source funds contributed by the applicant.*

EPCWCID4 will provide cash and in-kind contributions to the project. A resolution from the EPCWCID4 authorizing expenditures is included in the Appendix.

*Describe any donations or in-kind costs incurred before the anticipated project start date that you seek to include as project costs.*

There are no pre-award costs included in the proposed budget.

### B. Budget Proposal

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

FUNDING SOURCES	AMOUNT
Non-Federal Entities	
1. EPCWCID4	\$ 200,000
2.	
3.	
Non-Federal Subtotal	\$ 200,000
REQUESTED RECLAMATION FUNDING	\$ 200,000

Table 3. Total Project Cost Table

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Cost to be reimbursed with the requested Federal funding	\$ 200,000
Cost to be paid by the applicant	\$ 200,000
Value of third-party contributions	-
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$ 400,000

Table 4. Budget Detail

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	COMPUTATION			Quantity Type	TOTAL COST
	\$/unit		Qty		
<b>Salaries and wages</b>					
General Manager	\$ 31.98	hour	500	Labor	\$ 15,990.00
Field Manager	\$ 24.04	hour	500	Labor	\$ 12,020.00
Field Operator 1	\$ 22.81	hour	1000	Labor	\$ 22,810.00
Field Operator 2	\$ 19.32	hour	1000	Labor	\$ 19,320.00
Inventory Asst. Manager	\$ 16.14	hour	500	Labor	\$ 8,070.00
Office Manager	\$ 22.12	hour	200	Labor	\$ 4,424.00
				<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 82,634.00</b>
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>					
General Manager	\$ 6.17	hour	500	Labor	\$ 3,085.00
Field Manager	\$ 5.78	hour	500	Labor	\$ 2,890.00
Field Operator 1	\$ 5.71	hour	1000	Labor	\$ 5,710.00
Field Operator 2	\$ 5.54	hour	1000	Labor	\$ 5,540.00
Inventory Asst. Manager	\$ 5.38	hour	500	Labor	\$ 2,690.00
Office Manager	\$ 5.68	hour	200	Labor	\$ 1,136.00
				<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 21,051.00</b>
<b>Equipment (Rates from 2020 US-ACE USACE EP1110-1-8 District VI Expense Schedule)</b>					
Utility trucks	\$ 18.35	hour	1000	hour	\$ 18,350.00
				<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 18,350.00</b>
<b>Supplies and Materials (meters)</b>					
3/4" Meters (New Price)	\$ 388.80	ea.	340	each	\$ 132,192.00
1" Meters	\$ 520.64	ea.	20	each	\$ 10,412.88
Master Meter encoder module with 5' Nicor cable	\$ 181.45	ea.	50	each	\$ 9,072.60
Master Meter Allegro pit unit	\$ 239.51	ea.	50	each	\$ 11,975.40
2" couplings	\$ 71.44	ea.	6	each	\$ 428.62
1-1/2" couplings	\$ 63.05	ea.	6	each	\$ 378.29
2" flange kits	\$ 90.85	ea.	14	each	\$ 1,271.93
Master Meter standard repeater	\$ 2,725.42	ea.	7	each	\$ 19,077.92
Master Meter external antenna	\$ 796.66	ea.	7	each	\$ 5,576.59
Master Meter cable assembly	\$ 83.86	ea.	7	each	\$ 586.99
				<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 190,973.22</b>
<b>Contractual / Other</b>					
Master Meter Harmony EM Software (MDM)	\$ 17,597.26	ea.	1	each	\$ 17,597.26
Master Meter Harmony billing system integration	\$ 9,266.41	ea.	1	each	\$ 9,266.41
Master Meter customer engagement portal	\$ 13,544.40	ea.	1	each	\$ 13,544.40
Master Meter Pre-implementation	\$ 5,870.11	ea.	1	each	\$ 5,870.11
Master Meter FCC License application fee	\$ 1,397.65	ea.	1	each	\$ 1,397.65
Master Meter installation of Tower Base Station and Antenna with Configuration	\$ 20,382.36	ea.	1	each	\$ 20,382.36
Master Meter Repeater Installation (on Existing Pole)	\$ 6,289.44	ea.	3	each	\$ 18,868.32
				<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 86,926.51</b>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS</b>					<b>\$ 399,934.73</b>

## C. Budget Narrative

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

EPCWCID4 is a small utility and employees fill multiple roles. The following salaried and non-salaried employees will contribute work hours to the project:

The General Manager (Jose Ramirez) will oversee the entire project and will contribute 500 hours over an 18-month period in project management, grants administration, supervisory duties, procurement, and quality control / quality assurance.

The Field Manager will contribute 500 hours in project management, supervisory duties, quality control / quality assurance, and installation. EPCWCID4 will self-install equipment and approximately 2 hours of labor are needed per installed meter unit.

The Field Operator I and Field Operator II (non-salaried) will contribute 1,000 hours each in installation duties. EPCWCID4 will self-install equipment and approximately 2 hours of labor are needed per installed meter unit. Wages for hourly employees will comply with prevailing wage and overtime laws.

The Inventory Assistance Manager will contribute 500 hours to the project in project management, procurement, inventorying, and grants administration.

The Office Manager will contribute 200 hours to the project in grants administration, human-resources-related tasks, and procurement.

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

The included fringe rates of identified personnel are representatives of the actual cost of benefits of personnel bearing the same title (2024 Fiscal Year).

### *Certification of Labor Rates*

The labor rates of identified personnel included herein are representative of the actual labor rates of personnel bearing the same title (2024 Fiscal Year). Additional verification per employee assigned to the project is available as needed pursuant to an award contract with the USBR.

### *Equipment*

EPCWCID4 budgeted 1,000 equipment hours for utility trucks used during installations. Vehicles include a 2013 Ford F150 Utility Truck, 2008 Ford Crew Cab truck, 2013 Ford Crew Cab truck, 2021 Chevy Silverado Crew Cab, and 2021 Chevy Silverado Crew Cab. The utility truck (pickup) rates of \$18.35 per work hour are drawn from the U.S. Corp of Engineers (USACE) 2020 EP1110-1-8 District VI Expense Schedule: EP1110-1-8 ID Source Tag T50XX004 (page 728). The budgeted hours are in line with budgeted work hours for field operators, which will install the new metering equipment.

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

340 ¾” ultrasonic flow meters will be purchased and installed at residences. 20 1” ultrasonic flow meters will be purchased and installed in commercial properties. Water savings achieved are proportional to the number of meters installed, and EPCWCID4 has experience with similar. EPCWCID4 requested updated price quotes for metering equipment. Equipment specifications are available for reference in [Appendix D](#).

Additional line items are included for appurtenances and supplies required for installations and data transmission and integration into EPCWCID4’s SCADA system. Equipment specifications are available for reference in [Appendix D](#).

### ***Contractual / Other Costs***

EPCWCID4 requested quotes from vendors that will be contracted to integrate municipal meters, SCADA, and a customer billing and engagement portal. These investments are necessary to develop a secure central SCADA database that would improve cross-organizational visibility and water savings decision-making, empower EPCWCID4 field workers for remote data collection and more efficient field operations, and supporting managers in maintaining regulatory compliance through customizable alerts and triggers and reporting. Contracted work includes integrating metering management software (MDM line item), developing an online billing system and customer engagement portal, and installing and configuring remote data transmission equipment.

EPCWCID4 will procure and contract vendors for these services in accordance with 2 CFR 200 and other applicable purchasing policies.

### ***Indirect Costs***

EPCWCID4 is not including indirect costs as part of the budget.

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

The total cost of the project is \$400,000



## VII ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE

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

The proposed project involves equipment installation at metering sites that are previously disturbed. Minimal environmental impacts are expected.

*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 potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as "Waters of the United States?" if so, please describe and estimate any impacts the proposed project may have.*

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

*When was the water delivery system constructed?*

EPCWCID4 was created in 1955.

*Will the proposed project result in any modification of 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.*

The proposed project would not result in any adverse effects to features of an irrigation system.

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

The proposed project does not involve structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

*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 population?*

The proposed project would not have a negative impact on minority populations or low-income communities.

*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 and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites or adverse 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.

## VIII REQUIRED PERMITS OR APPROVALS

Equipment installation will occur in EPCWCID4-owned property and rights-of-way. There are no additional permits required for the project.

## IX OVERLAP OR DUPLICATION OF EFFORT STATEMENT

The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project: Phase II is a phased project that avoids any overlap between other active or anticipated proposals in terms of activities, costs, or commitment of key personnel. The proposed project 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.

## X OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

Please see [Appendix B](#).

## XI LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Please see [Appendix A](#).

## XII CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

There are no known or potential conflicts of interest associated with the proposed project.

## XIII UNIFORM AUDIT REQUIREMENT

EPCWCID4 has not expended more than \$750,000 in federal funds any previous fiscal years.

## XIV CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

There are no lobbying activities to report.

## XV UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER

EPCWCID4 System for Award Management (SAM) registration is complete.

UEI: FL7WLMMJJ8V4

XVI APPENDIX

A. Letters of Support

**Letter of Support from El Paso County Commissioner Iliana Holguin**



**ILIANA HOLGUIN**  
Commissioner Precinct #3

July 22, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

The office of El Paso County Commissioner Precinct #3 is pleased to provide this letter of support for the WaterSmart Water and Energy Efficiency Grant request submitted by the El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District #4 (“the District”). The rural Fabens area of El Paso County served by the District is one of the most economically disadvantaged and underserved areas within not just the County, but the West Texas Region. As the County Commissioner for El Paso County’s Precinct #3, which includes the rural Fabens area served by the District, I am personally aware of the tremendous needs of this community, where access to basic infrastructure is still lacking in many areas.

The County of El Paso’s Precinct #3 office is proud to support the application for funding submitted by the Water Control and Improvement District #4 for its Advanced Metering System Project. The Project is the second phase of the District’s meter modernization efforts and is a recommended Water Management Strategy (WMS) in the 2025 Region E Far West Texas Water Plan. The Project will result in 32 acre-feet of measurable water conserved per year achieved by water loss reductions through improved leak detection capabilities, by providing near real-time accurate water use information, and by improving the District’s ability to conduct water distribution system preventative maintenance. It is my belief that this project would allow the District to not only conserve precious water resources, but also better serve the economically disadvantaged and historically underserved residents of the rural Fabens community.

I am very excited about the District’s continuing efforts to modernize its water infrastructure system, which I believe will result in bringing us closer to accomplishing environmental justice and equity in our border region. If I can answer any questions or provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 915-546-2144 or by email at [commissioner3@epcounty.com](mailto:commissioner3@epcounty.com). Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter in support of El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District #4’s request for funding.

Sincerely,

Iliana Holguin  
El Paso County Commissioner Pct. #3

500 E. San Antonio, Suite 301, El Paso, TX 79901  
Phone: 915-546-2144 · Fax: 915-546-3809 · [Commissioner3@epcounty.com](mailto:Commissioner3@epcounty.com)

# Letter of Support from Far West Texas Water Planning Group



June 27, 2022

Ms. Sheri Looper  
Financial Assistance Support Section  
United States Bureau of Reclamation  
Mail Code: MP-400  
2800 Cottage Way Sacramento, California 95825

**RE: Letter of Support for the Metering and SCADA Project Proposed by EPCWCID4**

Dear Ms. Looper:

The El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District 4 (EPCWCID4) is applying for funding under the WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants program for Fiscal Year 2023 for a project titled *Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project: Phase II*. EPCWCID4 is proposing to install new advanced municipal meters to conserve water from potential leaks and incentivize water use savings.

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 the EPCWCID4 participates in the Far West Texas WPG as a non-voting member.

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 EPCWCID4 was submitted to become a recommended water management strategy as part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle of Water Planning and will be listed in the upcoming 2026 Far West Texas Regional Water Plan. The plan is currently in development.

Because the project proposed by EPCWCID4 was developed as part of the aforementioned planning efforts, the Far West Texas Water Planning Group supports the project proposed by EPCWCID4 and recommends its funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jesus Reyes".

Jesus Reyes  
Chair

# Letter of Support from Rio Grande Council of Governments



Annette Gutierrez – Executive Director  
8037 Lockheed, Ste. 100  
El Paso, Texas 79925

Phone: (915) 533-0998  
Fax (915) 532-9385  
[www.riocog.org](http://www.riocog.org)

Friday, July 22, 2022

Ms. Sheri Looper  
Financial Assistance Support Section  
United States Bureau of Reclamation  
Mail Code: MP-400  
2800 Cottage Way Sacramento, California 95825

RE: Letter of Support for the WaterSMART Project Proposed by EPCWCID4

Dear Ms. Looper:

The El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District 4 (EPCWCID4) is applying for funding under the WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants program for Fiscal Year 2023 for a project titled Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project: Phase II. EPCWCID4 is proposing to install new advanced municipal meters to conserve water from potential leaks and incentivize water use savings.

The Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG) serves to advance intergovernmental cooperation and collaboration in the planning, development and, delivery of specific governmental services to its region. The RGCOG administers a technical assistance program supporting municipalities and utilities seeking federal and state funding for water infrastructure. The program was established to combat major water issues impacting communities in the RGCOG region, including improving resiliency against near-historic drought of record conditions, increasing the availability of water and wastewater services in Colonias and unincorporated communities, and addressing water quality and public health issues such as lead and salinity in water sources.

Program personnel have significant experience working with construction and non-construction projects funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The RGCOG supported EPCWCID4 throughout the application process and, should EPCWCID4's proposed project be selected for funding, will be available as needed to support with procurement compliance (Buy American and 2 CFR Part 200 Regulations) and environmental and cultural resources compliance (NEPA, CWA, ESA, NHPA).

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Annette Gutierrez  
Executive Director



B. Official Resolution



**EL PASO COUNTY WATER CONTROL & IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 4**  
P.O. BOX 3880      117 E. MAIN ST.      FABENS, TX 79838-3880  
(915) 764-2212      FAX (915) 764-4840

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01**


**BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
EL PASO COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #4**

**Whereas**, the Board of Directors of the El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District #4 ("District") resolves to authorize the General Manager to submit and take any Administrative Action required to complete an application to the United States Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART FY2024 Water and Energy Efficiency Grants program for a grant to conserve water by making efficiency, SCADA and metering improvements.

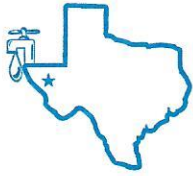
**Now Therefore**, the Board of Directors of the District hereby resolves to support the District's application for a grant as set forth above and authorizes the General Manager to submit and take any administrative action required to complete applications to the United States Bureau of Reclamation, 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.

Issued this the 26 day of January, 2024

El Paso County Water Control and Improvement District #4

  
By: Juana Gutierrez, President

  
Attest: Jorge Carrasco, Secretary



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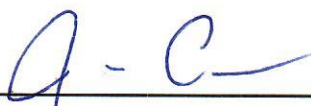
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