

DWR IRWM would like to make the following Bureau of Reclamation announcement known to all IRWM subscribers:

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Reclamation Announces WaterSMART Funding Opportunities

Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Michael L. Connor announced today the availability of three WaterSMART Funding Opportunity Announcements: System Optimization Review Grants, Advanced Water Treatment Pilot and Demonstration Project Grants, and Grants to Develop Climate Analysis Tools. These three funding opportunities are now available online at www.grants.gov.

"These grant opportunities will help Reclamation work smarter to address the water needs of a growing population and assist States, Tribes, and local entities in solving contemporary water resource challenges," stated Connor. "The WaterSMART Program is important because it concentrates on expanding and stretching limited water supplies in the West, while facilitating solutions to complex water and related energy issues, and meeting the needs of expanding municipalities, the environment, and agriculture."

The System Optimization Review Funding Opportunity seeks proposals for projects that assess the potential for water management improvements – in an applicant's water delivery system or in a river basin – and then identifies specific improvements to increase efficiency, including a plan of action for implementing the recommendations. The Funding Opportunity number is R11SF80356. Applications are due April 27, 4:00 p.m. MDT.

The Advanced Water Treatment Pilot and Demonstration Project Funding Opportunity seeks proposals for projects that address the technical, economic, and environmental viability of treating and using brackish groundwater, seawater, impaired waters, or otherwise creating new water supplies within a specific locale. The Funding Opportunity number is R11SF80351. Applications are due May 11, 4:00 p.m. MDT.

Eligible applicants for funding under the System Optimization Review or Advanced Water Treatment Funding Opportunities are States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority. Applicants must also be located in the Western United States or an authorized Territory.

The Grants to Develop Climate Analysis Tools Funding Opportunity seeks proposals for research projects that will lead to enhanced management of western water resources in a changing climate. This Funding Opportunity is open to universities and non-profit research institutions as well as organizations with water or power delivery authority. The Funding Opportunity number is R11SF80344. Applications are due May 13, 4:00 p.m. MDT.

All projects will be evaluated using established criteria listed in each Funding Opportunity Announcement. Award announcements are expected to be made by the end of September.

The WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program is intended to address the most significant challenges facing our water supplies in the 21st century, including population growth, climate change, rising energy demands, environmental needs, and aging infrastructure. For more information on the WaterSMART Program visit www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART/.

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Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier in the United States, and the nation's second largest producer of hydroelectric power. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits. Visit our website at <http://www.usbr.gov>.