



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Brent Newman, Interstate, Federal, & Water Information Section
Carlee Brown, Chief, Interstate, Federal, & Water Information Section

DATE: July 19, 2017

AGENDA ITEM: 12. Technical Assistance for Federal Cost-Share Programs

Background

At its May 2017 meeting, the Board approved criteria for technical assistance funding to assist applicants seeking competitive federal grant funds, as described in the 2017 Projects Bill (HB17-1248):

Technical assistance for federal irrigation improvement cost-sharing program - appropriation. (1) For the 2017-18 state fiscal year, \$500,000 is appropriated to the department of natural resources for use by the Colorado water conservation board. This appropriation is from the Colorado water conservation board construction fund created in section 37-60-121, C.R.S. To implement this section, the Colorado water conservation board may use this appropriation to provide technical assistance for applicants seeking competitive federal grant funds.

The Board also authorized staff to allocate up to \$200,000 of the funds as soon as they became available, using procedures and criteria set forth on the attached document entitled, "Technical Assistance for Federal Cost-Share Programs (TAFC) Criteria and Procedures." Since that time, staff has identified an approach to disbursing \$176,000 of that funding for projects that will help control salinity in the Colorado River Basin by working with our partners in conservation districts to help distribute funds to individual applicants.

Staff recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board approve purchase orders to be executed in the amounts as follows:

- 1) \$99,000 to Delta Conservation District
- 2) \$33,000 to Shavano Conservation District
- 3) \$44,000 to Mancos Conservation District



These funds shall be utilized to provide technical assistance for applicants seeking competitive federal grant funds, consistent with the 2017 Projects Bill (HB17-1248).

Salinity Control Program Funding Opportunity

The Bureau of Reclamation intends to release a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) in mid-August for projects that reduce salinity contributions to the Colorado River system. Salinity control projects leverage a significant amount of federal funds for the benefit of water users and water quality in western Colorado. In June, Reclamation staff held two listening sessions in Colorado to help applicants understand the requirements of the FOA. Cooperating Federal agencies' staff will convene additional workshops in August once the FOA is formally released.

CWCB staff members have been partnering with local conservation districts and the Department of Agriculture to identify and support potential applicants for the TAFC funding. In the past, CWCB has worked with the conservation districts to review applications and provide project management support for technical assistance grants related to the salinity control program in 2014, and the USDA's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) in 2015. These partnerships benefit the CWCB and the districts, providing a means to distribute and manage grant funds, while engaging local partners who have greater familiarity with project proponents. Irrigators may be interested in applying for a grant, but often require technical assistance to complete a competitive application for these federal grant funds. The on-the-ground assistance provided by local conservation districts has been invaluable in identifying and preparing applicants for the FOA process. Staff recommends that purchase orders with these local partner districts be executed to allow the conservation districts to act as fiscal agents. CWCB Staff and conservation district staff will jointly review applications for technical assistance funds. Successful applicants will be reimbursed for costs incurred by this work, which will be part of a more comprehensive application for Reclamation funding.

Draft scopes of work for the conservation districts are attached to this memorandum for Board review.



**Technical Assistance for Federal Cost-Share Programs
(TAFC) Criteria and Procedures**

May 17, 2017

A. Funds available for award in Calendar Year 2017 = \$200,000

B. Eligibility

- Units of Colorado local government: Conservation Districts, Water Conservancy Districts, Water Conservation Districts, Municipalities
- Environmental and conservation organizations: non-profits and 501(c) groups
- Incorporated ditch and irrigation companies selected by unit of local government
- Must demonstrate eligibility for underlying federal program (WaterSMART, NRCS EQIP, Salinity Control Program)

C. Federal Project types (activities must be located in Colorado)

- Water conservation, irrigation efficiency enhancement (infrastructure)
- Encouraged to include elements of: Stream restoration, invasive phreatophyte control, water quality enhancement, aquatic/riparian endangered species habitat and mitigation, and soil health

D. Technical assistance funds may be used as follows:

- No mandatory cost-share percent, as significant funding will be leveraged if federal application is successful
- Payment of reasonable administrative charges/fees
- Pre-feasibility level design and cost estimates
- Grant writing assistance
- Capacity building and coordination with potential participants
- Feasibility level design and cost estimates
- Detailed design and cost estimates
- Environmental compliance
- No reimbursement for in-kind services allowed

E. Procedure

- Availability announced on CWCB website
- Rolling process timed to meet federal submittal deadlines
- Director's discretion for grants less than \$25,000 to any single entity
- Board approval for larger grants
- If requests exceed available funds, applications evaluated on the following:
 - The irrigation system is currently deemed a significant source of salinity loading;
 - There exists potential to improve current system delivery efficiency;
 - The number of irrigated acres in service area, and current average annual diversions;
 - Additional on-farm irrigation system improvements can be made;
 - The availability of storage to better utilize water saved through elimination of losses;
 - There are opportunities to save water and support environmental benefits;
 - The proposed project or program will increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in water management;
 - Risk can be mitigated in areas at high risk of future water conflict.



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Scope of Work
Delta Conservation District
Technical Assistance for Colorado River Basin Salinity Control
2017 USBR Funding Opportunity Announcement Applicants

Purchase Order Amount: \$99,000

CWCB Funding Source: Construction Fund, HB17-1248, sec. 8

Contractor: Delta Conservation District,
690 Industrial Blvd., Delta, CO 81416
Taxpayer ID# 846010950
Suzie Bilberry, District Manager,
Phone: 970-874-5725 ext 121; Email: deltaconservationd@gmail.com

Project Purpose: Provide technical assistance (TA) to entities demonstrating a commitment to submitting high quality, cost competitive applications to US Bureau of Reclamation's 2017 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) in support of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (CRBSCP).

Task Descriptions:

1. Consultant Technical Assistance Grants:

A. District shall develop criteria and conduct a selection process to determine ditch companies eligible for grant funding. Criteria shall include previous participation, willingness to provide non-salinity program funding for project, number of irrigated acres served, and likelihood of successful participation in the 2017 FOA. Criteria may also include a reimbursement cap and a requirement for matching funds as part of the grant award. District shall review proposed ditch company selections with the CWCB and the Gunnison Basin Salinity Coordinator prior to final award of TA grants. At the request of, and/or with the permission of the CWCB the District may award grants to entities outside its historic service area.

B. Provide technical service grants to ditch companies to defray the actual cost of engineering services retained to applications for USBR's 2017 FOA. Technical services must be provided by registered engineers licensed to do work in the State of Colorado.

C. District shall manage all aspects of the grant program including: assisting water users with consultant selection, documentation of claims for reimbursement, disbursement of funds, and preparation of deliverables. District shall reimburse grantees for final engineering costs only after the entity submits a written copy of its FOA application.

2. Project Administration:

District may charge the CWCB up to 10% of the costs of task 1C to defray a portion of the project management and administration expense it incurs in providing those services and preparation of all deliverables.

Deliverables:

1. Provide status reports documenting all task activities with each invoice.
2. Provide copy of FOA application for each ditch company.

Task Schedule: Complete project by December 31, 2017.

Payment Schedule: CWCB will reimburse the District on a monthly basis after receipt of invoices for costs related to the task described above at the rates set forth below.

Invoice Items by Task	Quantity	Max. Unit Charge	Maximum Reimburse
1A and 1B, no charge, costs covered by Task 2 below.		N/C	0
1C. Consultant Technical Service Grants (actual consultant invoiced cost not to exceed)	16	\$5,000.00	\$90,000.00
2. Project Administration @ 10% of cost for tasks 1 - 3 above			\$9,000.00
Total			\$99,000.00

Scope of Work
Shavano Conservation District
Technical Assistance for Colorado River Basin Salinity Control
2017 USBR Funding Opportunity Announcement Applicants

Purchase Order Amount: \$33,000

CWCB Funding Source: Construction Fund, HB17-1248, sec. 8

Contractor: Shavano Conservation District,
102 Par Place, Suite 4, Montrose, CO 81401
Bert Earle, District Manager,
Phone: [970-249-8407 x115](tel:970-249-8407), Email: bertha.earle@co.nacdnet.net
Taxpayer ID # 846000225

Project Purpose: Provide technical assistance (TA) to entities demonstrating a commitment to submitting high quality, cost competitive applications to US Bureau of Reclamation's 2017 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) in support of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (CRBSCP).

Task Descriptions:

1. Consultant Technical Assistance Grants:

A. District shall develop criteria and conduct a selection process to determine ditch companies eligible for grant funding. Criteria shall include previous participation, willingness to provide non-salinity program funding for project, number of irrigated acres served, and likelihood of successful participation in the 2017 FOA. Criteria may also include a reimbursement cap and a requirement for matching funds as part of the grant award. District shall review proposed ditch company selections with the CWCB and the Gunnison Basin Salinity Coordinator prior to final award of TA grants. At the request of, and/or with the permission of the CWCB the District may award grants to entities outside its historic service area.

B. Provide technical service grants to ditch companies to defray the actual cost of engineering services retained to applications for USBR's 2017 FOA. Technical services must be provided by registered engineers licensed to do work in the State of Colorado.

C. District shall manage all aspects of the grant program including: assisting water users with consultant selection, documentation of claims for reimbursement, disbursement of funds, and preparation of deliverables. District shall reimburse grantees for final engineering costs only after the entity submits a written copy of its FOA application.

2. Project Administration:

District may charge the CWCB up to 10% of the costs of task 1C to defray a portion of the project management and administration expense it incurs in providing those services and preparation of all deliverables.

Deliverables:

1. Provide status reports documenting all task activities with each invoice.
2. Provide copy of FOA application for each ditch company.

Task Schedule: Complete project by December 31, 2017.

Payment Schedule: CWCB will reimburse the District on a monthly basis after receipt of invoices for costs related to the task described above at the rates set forth below.

Invoice Items by Task	Quantity	Max. Unit Charge	Maximum Reimburse
1A and 1B, no charge, costs covered by Task 2 below.		N/C	0
1C. Consultant Technical Service Grants (actual consultant invoiced cost not to exceed)	6	\$5,000.00	\$30,000.00
2. Project Administration @ 10% of cost for tasks 1 - 3 above			\$3,000.00
Total			\$33,000.00

Scope of Work
Mancos Conservation District
Technical Assistance for Colorado River Basin Salinity Control
2017 USBR Funding Opportunity Announcement Applicants

Purchase Order Amount: \$44,000

CWCB Funding Source: Construction Fund, HB17-1248, sec. 8

Contractor: Mancos Conservation District,
PO Box 694, 604 Bauer Ave, Mancos, CO 81328
Gretchen Rank, District Manager,
Phone: 970-533-7317, Email: gretchenr.mancoscd@gmail.com
Taxpayer ID #

Project Purpose: Provide technical assistance (TA) to entities demonstrating a commitment to submitting high quality, cost competitive applications to US Bureau of Reclamation's 2017 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) in support of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program (CRBSCP).

Task Descriptions:

1. Consultant Technical Assistance Grants:

A. District shall develop criteria and conduct a selection process to determine ditch companies eligible for grant funding. Criteria shall include previous participation, willingness to provide non-salinity program funding for project, number of irrigated acres served, and likelihood of successful participation in the 2017 FOA. Criteria may also include a reimbursement cap and a requirement for matching funds as part of the grant award. District shall review proposed ditch company selections with the CWCB and the Gunnison Basin Salinity Coordinator prior to final award of TA grants. At the request of, and/or with the permission of the CWCB the District may award grants to entities outside its historic service area.

B. Provide technical service grants to ditch companies to defray the actual cost of engineering services retained to applications for USBR's 2017 FOA. Technical services must be provided by registered engineers licensed to do work in the State of Colorado.

C. District shall manage all aspects of the grant program including: assisting water users with consultant selection, documentation of claims for reimbursement, disbursement of funds, and preparation of deliverables. District shall reimburse grantees for final engineering costs only after the entity submits a written copy of its FOA application.

2. Project Administration:

District may charge the CWCB up to 10% of the costs of task 1C to defray a portion of the project management and administration expense it incurs in providing those services and preparation of all deliverables.

Deliverables:

1. Provide status reports documenting all task activities with each invoice.
2. Provide copy of FOA application for each ditch company.

Task Schedule: Complete project by December 31, 2017.

Payment Schedule: CWCB will reimburse the District on a monthly basis after receipt of invoices for costs related to the task described above at the rates set forth below.

Invoice Items by Task	Quantity	Max. Unit Charge	Maximum Reimburse
1A and 1B, no charge, costs covered by Task 2 below.		N/C	0
1C. Consultant Technical Service Grants (actual consultant invoiced cost not to exceed)	6	\$5,000.00	\$40,000.00
2. Project Administration @ 10% of cost for tasks 1 - 3 above			\$4,000.00
Total			\$44,000.00