



**COLORADO**  
**Colorado Water Conservation Board**  
Department of Natural Resources

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Jared Polis, Governor  
Dan Gibbs, DNR Executive Director  
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**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members  
**FROM:** Brent Newman, Interstate, Federal, & Water Information Section  
**DATE:** September 18, 2019  
**AGENDA ITEM:** 8. Technical Assistance for Federal Cost-Share (TAFC) Program

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## Background

At the May 2017 CWCB 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.

These funds have been expended consistent with Board direction over the past few years to assist ditch companies, conservation districts, and other agricultural entities to prepare feasibility studies and competitive applications for federal funding opportunities. This first year of the Technical Assistance for Federal Cost-Share (TAFC) Program (2017) was very successful. CWCB loans, WRSF grants, and TAFC funds totaling \$2.5 million were utilized as matching funds and cost-share for the 2017 Funding Opportunity Announcement for the Bureau of Reclamation's Salinity Control Program. This investment leveraged \$26 million of agricultural infrastructure upgrades in the Gunnison and Southwest Basins, benefitting water quality, agricultural efficiencies, and modernizing water delivery systems.

TAFC funds have also been utilized to partner with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the Colorado State Conservation Board to cost-share with local conservation districts on the District Conservation Technician (DCT) program. In November of 2018, the Board approved the Non-Reimbursable Investments proposed by staff to be included in the 2018 Projects Bill, including a continuation of the TAFC program. These additional funds were made available in July of 2018.



Silt Water Conservation District has submitted a request to CWCB staff for a grant not to exceed \$67,000 to provide technical assistance to support project scoping, preliminary engineering and grant writing to obtain Federal support for SWCD critical improvements on the Grass Valley Canal.

A draft scope of work is attached to this memorandum, for Board review.

### **Staff recommendation**

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

- 1) \$67,000 to Silt Water Conservation District for technical assistance related to the Grass Valley Canal Improvements;

These funds shall be utilized to provide technical assistance for applicants seeking competitive federal grant funds, consistent with the 2017 and 2018 Projects Bill (HB17-1248, SB18-218).



**Scope of Work**  
**Silt Water Conservancy District**  
**Technical Assistance for Federal Cost-Share (TAFC) Program**  
**Technical Assistance for Grant Preparation, Engineering Design of Grass Valley**  
**Canal Improvements and EA Preparation**

**Purchase Order Amount: \$67,000**

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

**Contractor:** Silt Water Conservancy District,  
Scot Dodero – President  
PO Box 8  
Silt, CO 81652

- **Project Purpose:** Provide technical assistance (TA) to support project scoping, preliminary engineering and grant writing to obtain Federal support for SWCD critical improvements. The funds will provide cost share match for NRCS PL 83-566 grant possibly through the RCPP process, Watersmart Grant, Reclamation Reform and Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act grant request, request to complete critical planning, engineering design and permitting (NEPA) activities for the Grass Valley Canal. Partnership entities include CWCB, USDA -CO NRCS, Colorado River Water Conservation District, USDO I -Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR) and Farmers Irrigation Company (FICo).

**Task Descriptions:**

**1. Project Scoping and Federal Grant Preparation**

- a. Provide Technical Assistance to facilitate major required improvements for the Grass Valley Canal. The GVC is the supply source for the majority of the SWCD irrigated acreage with areas that may fail anytime.
- b. Apply for at least two Federal funding opportunities as appropriate. Assumed to include WaterSmart, NRCS-EQIP and PL566, RCPP.

**2. Specific Planning – Grass Valley Canal (GVC)**

- a. Collect existing evaluations and designs of the GVC components to create planning criteria for the canal in its entirety.
- b. Create a Master Plan for the GVC compiling existing conditions, needed studies/evaluations, known deficiencies.

**3. Preliminary Engineering – Grass Valley Canal (GVC)**

- a. Preliminary Engineering design for current major problem areas (design to achieve +/- 20% costing estimates for final design, permitting, contracting and construction). The high priority areas include: (1) piping 1700-feet of canal through slide prone areas; (2) replacing one 100-year old 42-inch diameter siphon. Final design will be dependent on entities providing funding for construction based on each individual entities' documentation submittal requirements.
- b. Preliminary analysis for repairing one 50-year old 42-inch diameter siphon and repairing three unstable tunnels.

**Deliverables:**

1. Provide status reports documenting all task activities with each invoice.
2. Provide copy of updated Grass Valley Canal Master Plan.
3. Provide preliminary design and specifications for specific critical improvement sections of GVC (piping, siphon).
4. Provide preliminary analysis for repair of siphon and 3 tunnels.
5. Submittal of 2 Federal Grants (USBoR WaterSmart and NRCS PL-566 Watershed Implementation)
6. Provide copy of +/-20% cost estimate for 2.c.(1) and 2.c.(2)

**Task Schedule:** Complete project by December 31, 2020.

<b>Project Schedule by Task</b>	<b>Anticipated Completion Date</b>
1 – Project Scoping, Federal Grant Preparation	January 2020
2 – GVC Planning and evaluation of entire canal	January, 2020
3 – GVC critical improvements Preliminary Engineering Design	June, 2020

**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.

<b>Invoice Items by Task</b>	<b>Reimburse</b>
1 – Project Scoping, Federal Grant Preparation	\$8,000.00
2 – GVC Planning, evaluation of entire canal	\$5,000.00
3 – GVC critical improvements Engineering Design	\$54,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$67,000.00</b>

Notes:

- Uses Conservation District IWMP assessment of GVC to support needs for improvements.
- Get to +/- 20% for costing purposes = loans, Watersmart