

Bureau of Reclamation

**Notice of Funding Opportunity**

WaterSMART: Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects

Funding Opportunity Number

R25AS00322

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### BASIC INFORMATION

**Announcement Type:** Initial

**Funding Opportunity Number:** R25AS00322

**Assistance Listing Number(s):** 15.504

**Estimated Total Program Funding:** \$130,000,000

**Expected Number of Awards:** 10

**Award Ceiling:** \$130,000,000

**Award Floor:** \$1,000

This NOFO will be used to allocate up to an additional \$130 million in available funding under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, P.L. 117-58. A total of up to \$130 million in Federal funds may be awarded to an applicant. Approximately 1 to 10 awards will be made, depending on the amount requested by each applicant and the amount of Federal funding made available. The Federal funding amount is based on a maximum 25 percent of the total cost of planning, design, and construction activities completed after the date of Reclamation's feasibility study review findings and within three years of the application's submittal period deadline.

**Cost Sharing Required?**

Yes

**Closing Date Explanation**

May 13, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time

**Have Questions?**

For questions regarding application and submission, contact the NOFO team at [bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov](mailto:bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov).

For questions regarding applicant and project eligibility or application content, contact the Program Coordinator, Maribeth Menendez, [mmenendez@usbr.gov](mailto:mmenendez@usbr.gov), 303-445-2094.

**Executive Summary**

Through WaterSMART, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) leverages Federal and non-Federal funding to work cooperatively with States, Tribes, and other entities as they plan for and implement actions to increase water supply and hydropower reliability. The WaterSMART Program demonstrably advances Trump administration priorities, such as those identified in Presidential Executive Order 14154 (January 20, 2025): Unleashing American Energy (E.O.14154) and Secretarial Order 3418, and aligns with other priorities and requirements, such as those identified in Presidential Executive Order 14332 (August 7, 2025): Improving Oversight in Federal Grantmaking (E.O. 14332). The goal of the WaterSMART Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects funding opportunity is to invite eligible entities to apply for up to 25% Federal cost share for the planning, design, and construction of water recycling projects that have a total project cost greater than or equal to \$500 million.

## ELIGIBILITY

### Eligible Applicants

Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification)

### Additional Information on Eligibility

**Eligible Applicants-** Applicants eligible to receive an award under this funding opportunity are described below.

- States, Tribes, municipalities, irrigation districts, water districts, wastewater districts; and any state, regional, or other organization with water or power delivery authority,
- State, regional, or local authorities, the members of which include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and
- An agency established under State law for the joint exercise of powers, or a combination of entities described above.

All applicants ***must be located in the Western United States***; specifically: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

**Ineligible Applicants-** Those not eligible include, but are not limited to, the following entities:

- Federal Governmental entities
- Foreign entities
- Individuals
- Institutes of higher education

## Cost Sharing Requirement

### Cost Sharing Required?

Yes

At the time of award, applications must cost share at least 75 percent of the total project cost. For example, if the total project cost on the SF-424A is \$100 million, the minimum amount of non-Federal cost share would be \$75 million. All cost-share contributions must be non-Federal in original source and meet the requirements of [2 CFR 200.306](#).

Total Project Costs	\$10,000,000
Minimum required cost share- 75%	x 75%
Applicant share of project costs	\$7,500,000
Federal share	\$2,500,000

## GET READY TO APPLY

### Required System Registrations

#### Unique Entity Identifier and SAM.gov Registration

Before applying, all **applicants** except individuals applying as a natural person **must be registered in SAM.gov**. During the SAM.gov registration the entity will obtain their Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

**The SAM.gov registration process can take several months. If your organization is not already registered in SAM.gov, begin the registration process as soon as possible.**

**To register in SAM.gov**, go to the [SAM.gov website](#) and use the available resources to complete registration.

- **Financial assistance registrants** must review and certify compliance with the SAM.gov “Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications”.
- **Already registered?** You already have a Unique Entity ID. Before applying, check that your “Financial Assistance General Representations and Certifications” on SAM.gov is complete. Remember to renew your registration every year to keep it active while you have an award or application in progress. You can update your registration whenever you need, including during renewal.
- **Need help?** For additional information and contact information on the [SAM.gov Help page](#).

**Refer to Attachment – Submission Instructions & Tips.**

#### GRANTS.GOV

This program accepts applications through [Grants.gov](#) so once you receive your UEI return to Grants.gov to [register](#) with Grants.gov. Please allow 30 days to register and set up a Workspace in Grants.gov. See [Submission Instructions](#) section below for additional details.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### Program Goals

- Through WaterSMART, Reclamation leverages Federal and non-Federal funding to work cooperatively with States, Tribes, and local entities as they plan for and implement actions to increase water supply reliability through investments in infrastructure and attention to local water conflicts.

The objective of the WaterSMART Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects NOFO is to invite eligible applicants to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on the planning, design, and construction of water recycling projects that have a total project cost greater than or equal to \$500 million. Large-scale water recycling projects play an important role in helping communities develop local, drought-resistant sources of water supply by turning currently unusable water sources into a new source of water supply that is less vulnerable to drought.

## Program Description

The WaterSMART Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects NOFO prioritizes projects that create a more reliable water supply in a cost-effective manner, reduce existing water diversions, address environmental and water quality concerns, and promote collaborative partnerships. Projects will address growing water demands and resource challenges by providing new, drought-resistant, local water supplies that stretch existing supplies and reduce water importation.

**Eligible Projects-** Eligible projects are projects that reclaim and reuse municipal, industrial, domestic or agricultural wastewater or impaired groundwater or surface water and have a total project cost greater than or equal to \$500 million. Applicants may apply for funding for planning, design, or construction activities, as described in more detail below. Collecting data and preparing documentation in support of environmental compliance reviews are also eligible project activities.

**Planning** - Eligible planning activities may include work that supports the development of a feasibility-level design and cost estimate for the selected project. Feasibility-level cost estimates are typically based on data collected during site investigations that are of sufficient detail to allow the preparation of preliminary layouts and designs of the selected project. Planning activities may include but are not limited to:

- Preparation of appraisal and feasibility level cost estimates
- Site specific investigations to gather design data
- Pre-final design activities that contribute towards a feasibility-level design and cost estimate
- Collect data and prepare documentation for environmental compliance reviews

**Final Design and Value Engineering** - Eligible final design activities begin after the feasibility-level planning stage and includes design activities required to reach 100% final design. Value Engineering activities, including the preparation of a Value Engineering Accountability Report, also are eligible project activities.

**Construction** - Applicants may also request funding for all phases of construction for Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects.

**Ineligible Projects** - Projects that are not eligible for funding under this NOFO include, but are not limited to:

- Water recycling projects with a total project cost less than \$500 million.
- Development of water recycling feasibility studies to meet the requirements Reclamation's Directives and Standards [WTR 11-01, Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program and Desalination Construction Program Feasibility Study Review Process](#), or the additional requirements established in [WTR TRMR-128, Large-Scale Water Recycling Program Feasibility Study Review Process](#).
- Water reclamation projects that are solely ocean or brackish water desalination.
- Operations, Maintenance, and Replacement activities. Projects that are considered normal operations, maintenance, and replacement (OM&R) are not eligible for funding under this NOFO. OM&R is described as system improvements that replace or repair existing infrastructure or function without providing increased efficiency or effectiveness of water

distribution over the expected life of the improvement. Examples of ineligible OM&R projects include

- Replacing malfunctioning components of an existing facility with the same components
- Improving an existing facility to operate as originally designed
- Performing an activity on a recurring basis, even if that period is extended (e.g., a 10-year interval)

**Funding Amounts and Period of Performance** - Applicants may request up to \$130 million in Federal funds for project activities that take place after the date of Reclamation's feasibility determination and within 3 years of award.

**Multiple Applications** - Multiple applications for funding may be submitted for consideration under this funding opportunity, provided that the project scopes are not duplicative. In general, if an applicant is seeking funding for multiple project components, and the components are interrelated or closely related (e.g., projects that are physically and geographically linked), the applicant should combine these in one application. However, if the projects are only loosely related, an applicant should submit them as separate applications.

### **Technical Assistance**

Technical assistance should be discussed with Reclamation staff prior to applying. By request, Reclamation can provide technical assistance **after** award of the project. If you plan to receive Reclamation's assistance, you must account for these costs in your budget. To discuss available assistance and associated costs, contact the Program Coordinator identified in the [Have Questions](#) section above.

For more information regarding WaterSMART Large Scale Water Recycling Projects, visit <https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title/largescale.html>

Certified Local Governments are encouraged to prioritize projects in support of the celebration of America's 250th birthday (American250). This may include, but is not limited to, preservation 2 planning, interpretation, public engagement, and rehabilitation projects that recognize and honor the nation's founding, history, and cultural heritage.

### **Buy America Preferences for Infrastructure Projects**

This program has Federal funding for infrastructure projects. Buy America preferences apply to Federal awards for infrastructure projects in the United States. Reference [2 CFR Part 184 - Buy America Preferences for Infrastructure Project](#) for further guidance.

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Projects funded under this NOFO are subject to the following Buy America preferences:

- All iron and steel products used in the project must be produced in the U.S., including beams, bars, rods, and tubing.
- All manufactured products must be made in the U.S., requiring substantial transformation and final assembly in the country.

- All construction materials, such as cement and concrete, must be sourced domestically.

Buy America preferences need to be taken into consideration when developing the project budget.

## **Legislative Authority**

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Public Law (P.L.) 117-58, Section 40905

## **Type of Award**

Projects will be funded through CA (Cooperative Agreement), G (Grant).

Recipient should expect the Federal agency to have substantial involvement in the project.

Awards will be made through a grant or cooperative agreement, depending on the project. If a cooperative agreement is awarded, the recipient should expect Reclamation to have substantial involvement in the project. This may include collaboration or participation in the management of the project and/or review, input, and approval during implementation of the project.

## **PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION**

### **Application Content and Format**

#### **Pre-Application Requirements**

Prior to applying, applicants should review presidential actions found at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/> and DOI Secretary's Orders found at: <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order>. By applying in response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity, the applicant certifies awareness and compliance with all currently effective and applicable executive orders and secretary's orders, including but not limited to the Executive Order titled Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing as well as the Executive Order and Secretary's order titled Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their proposed activities are consistent with the intent and requirements of these directives.

### **Application Documents**

Applicants must submit the following forms with their application as specified below. Instructions for accessing and submitting application forms are provided in the [Submission Instructions](#) section of this document below. For instructions on completing form fields, see the form instructions on the [Grants.gov Forms Repository](#).

Forms/Assurances/Certifications	Submission Requirement
SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance Note: For applicants requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds, the Authorized Representative's signature (or electronic equivalent) on the Application for Federal Assistance form also represents their certification of the statements in <a href="#">Appendix A to 43 CFR 18-Certification Regarding Lobbying</a>	Required from all applicants
SF-424A, Budget Information – Construction and Non-Construction Programs	Required for construction and non-construction projects
SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	Required if requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funds <u>and</u> the applicant has used or plans to use funds other than Federal appropriated funds for lobbying related to the proposed project.
Project Abstract Summary (OMB 4040-0019). Must include, in plain language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award purpose,</li> <li>• Activities to be performed,</li> <li>• Expected deliverables or outcomes,</li> <li>• Intended beneficiaries,</li> </ul> Subrecipient activities (if known or specified at time of award)	Required from all applicants

**SF-424A Budget Information**

Reclamation uses the SF-424A for both construction and non-construction programs. The SF-424A should be fully filled out, including both the costs that will be paid with Federal funds and those that will be paid with the non-Federal funds. In Section D of the SF-424A – Forecasted Cash Needs, applicants do not have to project cash needs by quarter. Instead include all costs in the first quarter of the first year and enter “0” in all other fields of Section E – Budget Estimates of Federal Funds Needed for Balance of the Project.

**Project Abstract Summary**

Failure to include a Project Abstract Summary will not result in removal of the proposal from consideration by Reclamation.

## **Project Narrative**

The Project Narrative, including responses to the Merit Review Criteria shall be limited to a maximum of **40** consecutively numbered pages. If this section of the application exceeds 40 pages, only the first 40 pages will be evaluated. **The full application, including attachments, cannot exceed 125 pages. If the application exceeds 125 pages, only the first 125 pages will be considered in the evaluation.**

The font should be at least 12 points in size and easily readable. Page size shall be 8½ by 11 inches, including charts, maps, and drawings. Margins should be standard 1-inch margins. Oversized pages will not be accepted.

The Project Narrative and responses to the Merit Review Criteria should include the scope of the project as a whole, while budgets submitted under this NOFO may only include costs incurred after the date of Reclamation's feasibility determination, and within three years from the application deadline for each submittal period under this NOFO. The Project Narrative should include the components described below.

## **Title Page**

Provide a brief, informative, and descriptive title for the proposed work that indicates the nature of the project. Include the name and address of the applicant, and the name and address, e-mail address, and telephone of the Project Manager.

## **Table of Contents**

List all major sections of the proposal in the table of contents.

## **Executive Summary**

The executive summary should include:

- The date, applicant name, city, county, and state.
- A one-paragraph project summary that provides the location of the project, a brief description of the work that will be carried out, any partners involved, concerns in your project area, and how this project is expected to help alleviate impacts of those conditions, and identification of any planning documents that support the project. This information will be used to create a summary of your project for our website if the project is selected for funding.

***Example:** The City of San Buenaventura (City) is implementing the VenturaWaterPure Program to augment the City's potable water supplies with purified recycled water. The Program includes construction of treatment and conveyance facilities to produce up to 3,600 acre-feet per year of local recycled water. The City currently depends on limited local surface and groundwater supplies that are increasingly impacted by drought. The VenturaWaterPure Program will help the City become less vulnerable to drought conditions by creating a new source of local, drought-resistant recycled water supply. The project will divert tertiary-treated*

*effluent from the Ventura Water Reclamation Facility, currently being discharged to the Santa Clara River Estuary, to a new advanced water purification facility to produce recycled water for potable reuse. Funding will be used to complete the design of the advanced water purification facility and advance the design of the membrane bioreactor and ultraviolet disinfection system.*

- State the length of time and estimated completion date for the proposed project (month/year).
- Whether or not the proposed project is located on a Federal facility.

### **Project Location**

Provide specific information on the geographic location of the proposed planning area (e.g., watershed, basin, county) or location of the project being designed, including a map showing the geographic location. For example, [project name] is located in [county and state] approximately [distance] miles [direction, e.g., northeast] of [nearest town]. The project latitude is {###°##'N} and longitude is {###°##'W}.

### **Technical Project Description**

The technical project description should describe the project in its entirety. This description shall have sufficient detail to permit a comprehensive evaluation of the proposal. Provide a more comprehensive description of the technical aspects of your project, including the specific activities to be accomplished and the approach to complete the work.

The project description should also clearly indicate how the Project in its entirety fits within the Reclamation reviewed feasibility study.

### **Merit Review Criteria**

“The Merit Review Criteria” section provides a detailed description of each criterion and sub-criterion and points associated with each. The merit review criteria portion of the application should thoroughly address each criterion and sub-criterion in the order presented to assist in the complete and accurate merit review of the proposal.

***Copying and pasting the merit review criteria and sub-criteria in Project Narrative’s Merit Review Criteria into your applications is suggested to ensure that all necessary information is adequately addressed.***

### **Letters of Support:**

Attach all support letters from interested stakeholders at the end of your application. Letters of support received after the application deadline will not be evaluated.

### **Program Cost Restrictions:**

Proposal costs: The costs for preparing and submitting an application in response to this funding opportunity, including developing data necessary to support the proposal, are not eligible project costs and must not be included in the project budget.

Feasibility Study costs: The costs for preparing and submitting water recycling feasibility studies to meet the requirements of Reclamation's Directives and Standards [WTR 11-01, Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program and Desalination Construction Program Feasibility Study Review Process](#), or the additional requirements established in [WTR TRMR-128, Large-Scale Water Recycling Program Feasibility Study Review Process](#) are not eligible project costs and must not be included in the project budget.

While the Project Narrative and responses to the Merit Review Criteria should include the scope of the project as a whole, budgets submitted under this NOFO may only include costs incurred after the date of Reclamation's feasibility determination, and within three years from the application deadline for this NOFO. Applicants may include work:

- Planned within three years of the application's submittal deadline. For example, if an application is submitted on May 13, 2026, work planned through May 13, 2029, may be included; and
- Eligible costs submitted for consideration must be for work conducted after the date of Reclamation's feasibility study review findings for the project.

### **Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs:**

Include costs in the budget for completing compliance activities for Federal environmental and cultural resources laws and regulations. Applicants should contact their [local Reclamation office](#) to discuss the compliance requirements and potential costs. If the project is selected for award, these costs will be reviewed for accuracy and adjusted as needed. See Administration and National Policy Requirements for additional detail.

### **Conflict of Interest and Unresolved Matters Disclosures:**

If any actual or potential conflict of interest exists related to this project at the time of application, the applicant must provide sufficient information to support a program determination of significance per [2 CFR 1402.112](#). Refer to [2 CFR 200.112](#) Conflict of Interest and [2 CFR 200.113](#).

### **Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement:**

Applicants must state in their application if the activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel proposed in this application overlap with those in any other Federal proposal or award or not. If no overlap exists, include a statement to that effect. If any overlap exists, provide:

- Activities: Description any overlapping activities.

- Costs: Description of any overlapping costs.
- Time: Description of any overlapping key personnel time.
- A copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity.
- Details on when any overlapping proposal was submitted, to whom, and the expected date of the funding decision.

### **Project Narrative**

The Project Narrative, including responses to the Merit Review Criteria shall be limited to a maximum of 40 consecutively numbered pages. If this section of the application exceeds 40 pages, only the first 40 pages will be evaluated. The full application, including attachments, cannot exceed 125 pages. If the application exceeds 125 pages, only the first 125 pages will be considered in the evaluation.

The font should be at least 12 points in size and easily readable. Page size shall be 8½ by 11 inches, including charts, maps, and drawings. Margins should be standard 1-inch margins. Oversized pages will not be accepted.

The Project Narrative and responses to the Merit Review Criteria should include the scope of the project as a whole, while budgets submitted under this NOFO may only include costs incurred after the date of Reclamation’s feasibility determination, and within three years from the application deadline for each submittal period under this NOFO. The Project Narrative should include the components described below.

### **Budget Narrative**

Applicants must describe and justify items and costs listed in their budget. The budget narrative must identify the following cost items: total estimated costs, non-Federal cost share, third-party contributions, and any pre-award costs. Total project cost is the sum of all allowable costs, including required and voluntary cost share and third-party contributions.

Budget items must be:

- Reasonable, allowable, allocable, and necessary
- Compliant with [2 CFR §200 Subpart E](#) cost principles

Indirect Costs: Applicants must indicate in their budget narrative how they will charge indirect costs, including the rate to be applied:

- De Minimis Rate: If eligible, state if your organization is opting to use the de minimis rate of up to 15% of total modified direct costs. Entities that do not have a current Federal negotiated indirect cost rate (including provisional rate) may propose to use the de minimis rate. For more information, refer to [2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#).
- Negotiated Rate: State if you will negotiate with your cognizant agency. If your organization has previously negotiated a rate, attach a copy of the most recently negotiated rate agreement (active or expired).

The budget narrative provides a written description of the costs included in each budget category on the SF-424A and how they were estimated. While the SF-424A gives the total cost for each category of the budget, the budget narrative gives the item by item breakdown for each category and shows the calculations used to derive the costs. The budget description serves two purposes:

1) it explains how the costs were estimated, and 2) it justifies the need for the cost. See Attachment A for Budget Narrative Guidance. Attachment B is a suggested format for capturing budget details to support the Narrative.

Pre-award costs (defined at [2 CFR 200.458](#)) are allowed, subject to Grant Officer approval. To be eligible, pre-award costs must be incurred after the date of Reclamation's feasibility study review findings. Pre-award costs are determined to be necessary for efficient and timely performance of the scope of work, and are at the applicant's risk. Successful applicants may submit requests for approval of pre-award costs to the awarding Grant Officer.

### **Program Cost Restrictions:**

**Proposal costs:** The costs for preparing and submitting an application in response to this funding opportunity, including developing data necessary to support the proposal, are not eligible project costs and must not be included in the project budget.

**Feasibility Study costs:** The costs for preparing and submitting water recycling feasibility studies to meet the requirements of Reclamation's Directives and Standards [WTR 11-01, Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program and Desalination Construction Program Feasibility Study Review Process](#), or the additional requirements established in [WTR TRMR-128, Large-Scale Water Recycling Program Feasibility Study Review Process](#) are not eligible project costs and must not be included in the project budget.

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- Planned within three years of the application's submittal deadline. For example, if an application is submitted on May 13, 2026, work planned through May 13, 2029, may be included; and
- Eligible costs submitted for consideration must be for work conducted after the date of Reclamation's feasibility study review findings for the project.

### **Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs:**

Include costs in the budget for completing compliance activities for Federal environmental and cultural resources laws and regulations. Applicants should contact their [local Reclamation office](#) to discuss the compliance requirements and potential costs. If the project is selected for award, these costs will be reviewed for accuracy and adjusted as needed. See Administration and National Policy Requirements for additional detail.

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If any actual or potential conflict of interest exists related to this project at the time of application, the applicant must provide sufficient information to support a program determination of significance per [2 CFR 1402.112](#). Refer to [2 CFR 200.112](#) Conflict of Interest and [2 CFR 200.113](#).

### **Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement:**

Applicants must state in their application if the activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel proposed in this application overlap with those in any other Federal proposal or award or not. If no overlap exists, include a statement to that effect. If any overlap exists, provide:

- Activities: Description any overlapping activities.
- Costs: Description of any overlapping costs.
- Time: Description of any overlapping key personnel time.
- A copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity.
- Details on when any overlapping proposal was submitted, to whom, and the expected date of the funding decision.

### **Other Required Information**

#### **Feasibility Study Review:**

All applicants under this NOFO are requested to submit their Feasibility Study to Reclamation by April 13, 2026. Before funding may be awarded, Reclamation must review the Feasibility Study and determine that it meets the requirements in Reclamation’s Directives and Standards WTR 11-01, Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program and Desalination Construction Program Feasibility Study Review Process, as well as the additional requirements established in WTR TRMR-128, Large-Scale Water Recycling Program Feasibility Study Review Process.

#### **Design and Cost Estimating Review:**

Projects that meet the requirements of WTR 11-01 and WTR TRMR-128 may request funding for any stage of project development. During the project performance period, for projects that include final design or construction, Reclamation may conduct a programmatic check-in to review additional design and cost estimating information. Documents requested for this review will vary depending on the stage of development of the project. Following is a description of the types of documents that may be requested for review:

- A design report that includes preliminary outline drawings of major features with the purpose of depicting layouts, process diagrams, and supporting cost estimates with unit prices, pay items, quantities, allowances, and assumptions.
- A “Basis of Design” document for final design stages that identifies technical design criteria, design codes, and site-specific design drawings that include plan, elevation, and section drawings.

**Letters of Commitment:**

Applicants should include letters of commitment from third-party cost share sources. Letters of commitment should identify the amount of funding committed, the date the funds are available, time constraints on the availability of funds, and any other funding contingencies.

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

### Address to Request Application Package

Grants.gov contains a complete application kit to submit a full application in response to this NOFO. Instructions for the Grants.gov application process are [available here](#). Contact Randell Harris at [bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov](mailto:bor-sha-fafoa@usbr.gov) if you are unable to access the application materials electronically.

Proposals received after the application deadline will not be considered unless it can be determined that the delay was caused by Reclamation or there were technical issues with [Grants.gov](#). To document a delay due to a technical issue in Grants.gov, you must furnish a Grants.gov helpdesk ticket number to the NOFO team that validates the delay. Difficulties related to an applicant's Grants.gov profile (e.g., incorrect organizational representative), uploading documents to Grants.gov, or an applicant's SAM.gov registration are not considered technical issues with the Grants.gov system.

### Submission Dates and Times

**Closing Date for Applications:** 05/13/2026

#### Closing Date Explanation

May 13, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time

### Submission Instructions

#### Apply Through Grants.gov

To apply through [Grants.gov](#), please follow the instructions in the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#). Before applying, ensure that at least one person at your organization is registered and has the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR). Only the AOR can submit the application. If you need more users, they must create their own Grants.gov account. Follow these steps below to apply:

- *Create a Workspace:* Creating a workspace allows you to complete it online and route it through your organization for review before submitting.
- *Complete a Workspace:* Invite participants to the workspace so you can collaborate on the application. Required applications forms are included in the Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Package and can be completed in the Workspace, unless noted otherwise in the Required Forms table above. Check for errors before submission.
- *Submit a Workspace:* An application may be submitted through workspace by clicking the Sign and Submit button on the Manage Workspace page, under the Forms tab

- *Track a Workspace Submission:* After successfully submitting a workspace application, a Grants.gov Tracking Number (GRANTXXXXXXXX) is automatically assigned to the application.

The system generates a date and time stamp and sends it to the applicant's AOR via email as proof of submission. Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks. Do not encrypt, zip, or password-protect any files. Only registered individuals in SAM as both a user and an AOR can submit applications. Please allow 30 days to register in Grants.gov.

**Application System Technical Support:** For Grants.gov technical registration and submission, downloading forms, and application packages, contact Grants.gov Customer Support at 1-800-518-4726 or by email at [Support@grants.gov](mailto:Support@grants.gov).

Applicants can submit a hard copy application by U.S. Mail or express delivery to the addresses below.

By mail, United States Postal Service overnight services, all other express delivery and courier services,

Bureau of Reclamation mail services

Attn: NOFO Team

Denver Federal Center

Bldg. 67, Rm. 152

6th Avenue and Kipling Street

Denver, CO 80225

Please notify the Reclamation Financial Assistance Contact listed in the "Basic Information" section on the submission date to confirm the hard copy submission.

## APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

### Eligibility Review

During the eligibility review, the application is checked for timely submission, completed packages (see [Application Documents](#) above) and alignment with the requirements of this announcement. The Federal agency may remove an application if it does not pass the eligibility review.

An application will be removed if it does not include:

- Completed SF-424 and SF-424A forms
- SAM.gov registration, with a valid UEI (unless an exemption at 2 CFR 25.110 applies)
- A project narrative
- A budget narrative

If an applicant selected for funding hasn't finished their SAM.gov registration (see [2 CFR 25.200](#) and [2 CFR 25.110](#)) when the federal agency is ready to make an award, we may decide that the

applicant is ineligible for the award and choose to grant it to someone else. Please refer [2 CFR 25.205](#) for more information.

Prior to making an award, the DOI checks the anticipated recipient and their key project personnel against the current list of prohibited or restricted persons or entities in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Exclusions database. We are prohibited from making an award if a recipient or any key personnel are found ineligible, prohibited, restricted, or otherwise excluded from receiving or participating in an award, as their ineligibility condition applies to this program.

If removed from consideration for ineligibility, the Federal agency will notify the applicant in writing.

## Merit Review

The merit review criteria should be addressed in the Project Narrative. Applications should thoroughly address each criterion and any sub-criterion in the order presented below.

Applications will be evaluated against the merit review criteria listed below.

Merit Review Criteria Scoring Summary	Points
A. Water Supply	30
B. Environment and Water Quality	10
C. Economic Benefits	20
D. Reclamation's Obligations and Watershed Perspective	5
E. Presidential and Department of Interior Priorities	20
F. Construction Priority	10
G. Cost Share Priority	5
Total	100

*Note: Projects may be prioritized to ensure balance among the program task areas and to ensure that the projects address this NOFO's goals and objectives.*

### Merit Review Criterion A. Water Supply (30 points)

#### Subcriterion A.1. - Stretching Water Supplies

Points may be awarded based on the extent to which the project is expected to secure and stretch reliable water supplies. Consideration will be given to the amount of water expected to be made available by the project; the extent to which the project will reduce demands on existing water supplies and/or facilities and/or reduce, postpone, or eliminate the development of new water

supplies; and the performance measures that will be used to measure the benefits of the project to otherwise reduce water diversions.

- How many acre-feet of water are expected to be made available each year upon completion of the project? What percentage of the present and/or future annual demand in the project sponsor's service area will the project's reclaimed water be expected to provide upon project completion? The percentage should be based on the expected total service area demand, not just recycled water demand. Use the total expected capacity of the entire project upon completion, not just the water that will be produced by the activities that will be completed over the next 3 years.
- Will the project reduce, postpone, or eliminate the development of new or expanded non-recycled water supplies? Explain.
- Will the project alleviate pressure on existing water supplies and/or facilities? If so, please describe the existing water supplies, identify the supplies and/or facilities? If so, please describe the existing water supplies, identify the supplies and/or facilities that will be impacted and explain how they will be impacted by the project, including quantifications where applicable.
- What performance measures will be used to quantify actual benefits upon completion of the project?

#### **Subcriterion A.2. - Contributions to Water Supply Sustainability**

Points may be awarded for projects that contribute to a more reliable water supply. Consider:

- Will the project make water available to address a specific concern or range of concerns? Consider the expected volume of acre-feet of water and/or the percentage of overall water supply to be made available by the project. Explain the specific concerns and their severity. Also, explain the expected role of the project in addressing those concerns. Specific concerns may include, but are not limited to:
  - Water supply shortages, water supply reliability for drought-stricken States and communities, groundwater depletion, water quality issues, impacts on the ecosystem and/or on fish and wildlife species, legal or contractual commitments or obligations, multi-state compact issues or international treaty issues, natural disasters that may impact water supply infrastructure, heightened competition for water supplies, availability of alternative supplies, and increasing cost of water supplies.
- Will the project help create additional flexibility to address drought? Will water made available by this project continue to be available during periods of drought? To what extent is the water made available by this project more drought resistant than alternative water supply options? Explain.

#### **Merit Review Criterion B. Environment and Water Quality (10 points)**

Up to **10 points** may be awarded based on the extent to which the project will improve surface, groundwater, or effluent discharge quality; will restore or enhance habitat for non-listed species; or will provide water or habitat for federally listed threatened or endangered species. Indirect benefits of the project will also be considered under this criterion.

- Will the project improve the quality of surface water or groundwater? If so, how?
- Will the project improve effluent quality beyond levels necessary to meet State or Federal discharge requirements?
- Will the project improve flow conditions in a natural stream channel? If so, how?
- Will the project restore or enhance habitat for non-listed species? If so, how?
- Will the project provide water or habitat for federally listed threatened or endangered species? If so, how?
- Will the project reduce impacts on environmental resources from water projects owned or operated by Federal and State agencies, including through measurable reductions in water diversions from imperiled ecosystems. Explain.

**Merit Review Criterion C. Economic Benefits (20 points)**

**Subcriterion C.1. - Cost Effectiveness**

Points may be awarded based on the cost per acre-foot of water expected to be delivered upon completion of the project and how the cost of the project compares to a non-reclaimed water alternative. Please use costs related to the entire project, not just the cost of work over the next 3 years or the phase that is currently under development. Costs should be provided for the entire project described in the Reclamation approved feasibility study.

Reclamation will calculate the cost per acre-foot of water produced by the project using information provided by project sponsors. For a description of how this calculation is done, please see the Title XVI Frequently Asked Questions webpage at [www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title/faq.html](http://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title/faq.html). Please provide the following information for this calculation:

- The total estimated construction costs, by year, for the project (include all previous and planned work) as shown in Table 1.

Table 1.—Estimated Construction Costs by Calendar Year

	<b>Year</b>	<b>Construction Cost</b>		<b>Year</b>	<b>Construction Cost</b>
<b>1.</b>			<b>6.</b>		
<b>2.</b>			<b>7.</b>		
<b>3.</b>			<b>8.</b>		
<b>4.</b>			<b>9.</b>		
<b>5.</b>			<b>10.</b>		

- The total estimated or actual costs to plan and design the Project. Note: This should not include the cost to complete a feasibility study that meets the requirements of Reclamation’s Directives and Standards [WTR 11-01, Title XVI Water Reclamation](#)

[and Reuse Program Feasibility Study Review Process](#) or the additional requirements established in [WTR TRMR-128, Large-Scale Water Recycling Program Feasibility Study Review Process](#).

- The estimated expected average annual operation and maintenance costs for the life of the Project. Please do not include periodic replacement costs in the operation and maintenance costs. Periodic replacement costs should be provided separately in response to (f) below. Note: this is an annual cost—not total cost.
- The year the project has or is expected to begin to deliver reclaimed water.
- The projected life (in years) that the project is expected to last. Note: this should be measured from the time the project starts delivering water.
- All estimated replacement costs by year as shown in Table 2. If there are multiple replacement costs in one (1) year, or at the same interval, please total them and put them on one line with the year or interval.

Table 2.—Replacement Costs by Year

	<b>Description of Replacement Requirement</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			

- The maximum volume of water (in acre-feet) expected to be produced annually upon completion of the Project. This volume of water must correspond to the costs provided above. If costs are only provided for a portion or phase of the project, then only the water produced by that same portion or phase of the project will be considered under this criterion.

Reclamation will calculate the cost per acre-foot for the project using the information requested above and compare it to the non-reclaimed water alternative, and any other water supply options that the applicant identifies to evaluate the cost effectiveness of the project. Please provide the following information for this comparison:

- A description of the conditions that exist in the area and projections of the future with, and without, the project.
- Provide the cost per acre-foot of other water supply alternatives that could be implemented by the non-Federal project sponsor in lieu of the project. This must include, but is not limited to, one non-reclaimed water alternative that would satisfy the same demand as the project. Other water supply alternatives beyond one non-reclaimed water alternative are not required but may be provided where available to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of the project.
- If available, provide the cost per acre-foot of one water supply project with similar characteristics to the project. This information does not have to be provided if it is not available. It is intended to provide another possible comparison to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of the project.
- Discussion of the degree to which the project is cost-effective. Where applicable, include a discussion of why the project may be cost effective even if the overall project cost appears to be high.

### **Subcriterion C.2. - Economic Analysis and Project Benefits**

Points may be awarded based on the analysis of the project's benefits relative to the project's costs. Please use costs related to the entire project—not just the expected cost of work over the next 3 years.

Summarize the economic analysis performed for the project including information on the project's estimated benefits and costs. Describe the methodologies used for the analysis that has been conducted. Points will be awarded based on a comparison of the benefits and costs of the project. Please note that information must be included in the proposal to be considered; scores will not be based on information provided in the project's feasibility study.

The information provided should include:

- Quantified and monetized project costs, including expected capital costs and operations and maintenance costs.
- Quantified and monetized project benefits. This includes benefits that can be quantified and expressed as a monetized benefit per acre-foot. These may include, but are not limited to, benefits related to water supply quantity and water supply reliability, recreational benefits, ecosystem benefits, water quality, energy efficiency, and environmental compliance and permitting. Benefits may also include the avoided costs of no action (i.e., the costs that would be incurred if the project were not implemented), and the willingness of users or customers to pay for a benefit or to avoid a negative outcome (e.g., the willingness of households to pay for a water supply system that would reduce groundwater overdraft). If quantified and/or monetized information for these benefits is not available, they may be addressed in response to question two below.
- A comparison of the project's quantified and monetized benefits and costs.

Some project benefits may be difficult to quantify and/or monetize. Describe any economic benefits of the project that are difficult to quantify and/or monetize. Provide a qualitative discussion of the economic impact of these benefits. Points will be awarded based on the

potential economic impact of the project-related benefits. Examples of benefits may include, but are not limited to, acres of land or stream miles that may be benefitted or not harmed, benefits to habitat or species, flood risk mitigation, local impacts on residents and/or businesses, job creation, and regional impacts. This may also include benefits listed in question one, if they have not been monetized (e.g., water reliability, water quality, and recreation).

## **Merit Review Criterion D. Reclamation's Obligations and Watershed Perspective (5 points)**

### **Subcriterion D.1. - Reclamation's Legal and Contractual Water Supply Obligations**

Points may be awarded for projects that help to meet Reclamation's legal and contractual obligations. Explain how the project relates to Reclamation's mission and/or serves a Federal interest. Does the project help fulfill any of Reclamation's legal or contractual obligations such as providing water for Tribes, water right settlements, river restoration, minimum flows, legal court orders, or other obligations? If so, explain.

Note: A project may help Reclamation fulfill its obligations even if the project sponsor is not a Reclamation contractor, and indirect benefits to Reclamation will also be considered under this criterion.

### **Subcriterion D.2. - Watershed Perspective**

Points may be awarded based on the extent to which the project promotes or applies a watershed perspective by implementing an integrated resources management approach, implementing a regional planning effort, forming collaborative partnerships with entities representing diverse interests, or conducting public outreach.

A watershed perspective generally means an approach to planning directed at meeting the needs of geographically dispersed localities across a region or a watershed that will take advantage of economies of scale and foster opportunities for partnerships. This approach also takes into account the interconnectedness of water and land resources, encourages the active participation of all interested groups, and uses the full spectrum of technical disciplines in activities and decision making. Does the project:

- Implement, advance, or relate to a multi-state or international plan, such as a drought contingency plan in a river basin that crosses multi-state or multi-national boundaries?
- Implement or relate to a regional or state water plan or an integrated resource management plan? Explain.
- Help meet the water supply needs of a large geographic area, region, or watershed? Explain.
- Promote collaborative partnerships with multiple stakeholders representing diverse interests? Explain.
- Include public outreach and opportunities for the public to learn about the project? Explain

## **Merit Review Criterion E. Presidential and Department of Interior Priorities (20 Points)**

Up to **20 points** may be awarded based on the extent that the project demonstrably:

- advances the Trump Administration’s priorities, including E.O. 14154: Unleashing American Energy, justifies alignment with priorities and requirements in E.O. 14332: Improving Oversight in Federal Grantmaking;
- includes primary project elements that develop, demonstrate, and or implement artificial intelligence (AI) technologies that advance the Trump Administration and Department of Interior’s priorities for AI, including OMB M-25-21 Accelerating the Use of AI through Innovation, Governance, and Public Trust; S.O. 3444: Leading Interior’s Path to Artificial Intelligence Transformation;
- aligns with Secretary Burgum’s strategic objectives, including those identified in S.O.s 3417: Addressing the National Energy Emergency, 3418 Unleashing American Energy, 3419 Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis;
- aligns with goals and objectives in the U.S. Department of the Interior FY 2026-2030 Strategic Plan; and
- supports water management and enhanced operational flexibility in Reclamation States, with priority given to the Colorado River Basin, which is experiencing long-term drought conditions.

Please address only those priorities that are applicable to your project. **All priorities will be given equal consideration.** A project will not necessarily receive more points simply because multiple priorities are addressed. Points will be allocated based on the degree to which the project supports, advances, or otherwise demonstrates an enhancement of one or more of the priorities identified, and whether the connection to the stated priority (or priorities) is (are) well supported.

**Merit Review Criterion F: Construction Priority (10 points)**

Up to **10 points** may be awarded based on the extent that the proposed project is a construction project that can be completed within the allowable project duration. Projects that focus on construction of hard infrastructure to deliver durable, long-term improvements in water reliability and resilience will be prioritized. Hard infrastructure is tangible or built infrastructure. Please identify the hard infrastructure construction components of the project, if applicable.

**Merit Review Criterion G: Cost Share Priority (5 points)**

Up to **5 points** may be awarded to proposals that include non-Federal cost share contributions exceeding the statutory minimum by at least 5 percent. Projects with a higher non-Federal cost share may be awarded more points. State the percentage of non-Federal funding provided using the following calculation:

$$\frac{\text{Non-Federal Funding}}{\text{Total Project Cost}} = \%$$

See [Cost Sharing Requirement](#) and [Budget Narrative](#) for more information on cost-share requirements and eligible costs.

Note: projects selected for award will have reported cost-share amounts verified. If reported cost share is found to be ineligible, there may be impacts to award. Accordingly, please ensure reported cost share amounts are accurate and eligible.

## Review and Selection Process

This program reviews proposed budgets to ensure:

- figures are correct
- estimated costs are necessary and reasonable and clearly linked to project narratives
- avoid obviously unallowable costs
- identify costs requiring prior approval
- ensure indirect cost rates are applied correctly
- confirm cost sharing requirements are reflected in the budget.

This program reviews applications for potential overlap or duplication between the proposed project and any other funded or proposed project. Depending on the circumstances, DOI may choose to not make an award.

**Initial Review:** Prior to conducting the comprehensive merit review, an initial review will be performed to determine whether: (1) the applicant is eligible for an award; (2) the information required by the NOFO has been submitted; (3) all mandatory requirements of the NOFO are satisfied; (4) the proposed project is responsive to the program objectives of the NOFO (program determination); and (5) the proposed project is in compliance with all applicable executive and secretary orders, including the President’s executive order on Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and referencing as well as the executive order and Secretary order on Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History. If an applicant fails to meet the requirements or objectives of the NOFO, or does not provide sufficient information for review, the applicant will be considered nonresponsive and eliminated from further review.

An Application Review Committee (ARC), made up of experts in relevant disciplines, will review the technical merit of the application, based on the merit review criteria. The ARC will also review the application to ensure that the project is eligible and meets the objective of this NOFO. During ARC review, Reclamation may contact applicants to request clarifications to the information provided, if necessary. After the merit review, Reclamation conducts a “red-flag” review of top-ranking applications. During this review, Reclamation identifies any reasons a project would not be feasible or advisable, including environmental or cultural compliance, permitting, legal, financial, performance or other concerns.

After the red-flag review, Reclamation conducts a “managerial review” of top-ranking applications. The managerial review prioritizes applications for selection based on the objectives of the NOFO. The review of applications will follow the requirements of E.O. 14332, such as ensuring review by senior appointees, and that selections demonstrably advance the President’s policy priorities consistent with applicable law. Geographic dispersion, project types, applicant types, previous award history, and applicant success in implementing Gold Standard Science (E.O. 14303) may be considered during the review. Selections are finalized once all reviews are complete, and all applicants are notified.

## Risk Review

Prior to making an award, the applicant will be assessed for their level of risk per [2 CFR 200.206](#). This assessment includes the applicant's financial management capabilities, project delivery experience, staffing resources, past award performance, administration and reporting compliance records, and overall project complexity and potential for challenges. If an award will be made, special conditions may be applied to the award corresponding to the assessed risk. For awards over the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$350,000), a review of the applicant's eligibility and financial integrity information in the applicant's SAM.gov records will also be performed per [2 CFR 200.206](#).

A Reclamation Grants Officer conducts a detailed budget analysis and a business evaluation and responsibility determination. During this evaluation, the Reclamation Grants Officer will consider several factors, such as:

- Allowability, allocability, and reasonableness of proposed costs
- Financial strength and stability of the applicant
- Past performance, including satisfactory compliance with all terms and conditions of previous awards, such as environmental compliance, reporting requirements, and audit compliance
- Adequacy of personnel practices, procurement procedures, and accounting policies and procedures.

## AWARD NOTICES

Notices of Federal Award are sent electronically via GrantSolutions or e-mail. These notices outline the terms, conditions, and payment instructions per [2 CFR 200.211](#). The Notice of Federal Award signed by an authorized Grants Officer is the legal instrument obligating financial assistance to a recipient. Any other prior notice is not an authorization to begin work. If the program allows pre-award costs per [2 CFR 200.458](#), beginning performance before receiving a Notice of Federal Award is at the applicant's own risk.

**Anticipated Project Start Date:** 05/13/2027

**Anticipated Project End Date:** 05/13/2030

Reclamation anticipates contacting potential award recipients and unsuccessful applicants in approximately six months after the closing date of this NOFO subject to the timing and amount of final appropriations. Reclamation will contact award recipients individually to discuss the time frame for the completion of their agreement. A webinar will be held for successful applicants within 30 days following their notice of selection to review next steps and pre-Financial Assistance Agreement procedures.

Reclamation may post successful applications on a Reclamation website, after necessary redactions, in consultation with the successful applicant.

## **POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **Administration and National Policy Requirements**

For award administration and national policy requirements, see the [DOI General Terms and Conditions](#). Infrastructure projects require the use of American iron, steel, manufacture products, and construction materials per [2 CFR 184](#).

### **Automated Standard Application for Payments Registration**

All recipients must be registered with and willing to process all payments through the Department of Treasury Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system. All recipients with active financial assistance agreements with Reclamation must be enrolled in ASAP under the appropriate Agency Location Code(s) and UEI Number prior to the award of funds. If a recipient has multiple UEI numbers, they must separately enroll within ASAP for each unique UEI Number and/or Agency. If your entity is currently enrolled in the ASAP system with an agency other than Reclamation, you must enroll specifically with Reclamation in order to process payments. All of the information on the enrollment process for recipients, will be sent to you by ASAP staff if selected for award.

### **Approvals and Permits**

Recipients shall adhere to Federal, State, Territorial, Tribal, and local laws, regulations, and codes, as applicable, and shall obtain all required approvals and permits. Recipients shall also coordinate and obtain approvals from site owners and operators, as applicable.

### **Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance**

The recipient must comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local environmental, cultural, and paleontological resource laws and regulations. Data collections supporting compliance efforts must follow separate compliance procedures. All projects will require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and National Historic Preservation Act before any ground-disturbing activity may begin.

Recipients are prohibited from any ground-disturbing activities (e.g., biological or water quality surveys, grading, clearing, excavation, and other preliminary or construction activities) on a project before environmental and cultural resources compliance is complete. A recipient that proceeds before environmental and cultural resources compliance is complete risks forfeiting funding. The Grant Officer will issue a Notice to Proceed that explicitly authorizes work to proceed once environmental and cultural resource compliance is complete.

### **Official Resolution**

Prior to award, the recipient must provide an official resolution adopted by the organization's governing body, or, for state government entities, an official authorized to commit the recipient

to the financial and legal obligations of the financial assistance award. The official resolution verifies:

- The identity of the official with legal authority to enter into an agreement
- The board of directors, governing body, or appropriate official who has reviewed and supports the application submitted
- That the organization will work with Reclamation to meet established deadlines

### **Intangible Property**

Title to intangible property acquired under this agreement vests upon acquisition with the Recipient, however Reclamation reserves the right to obtain, publish, reproduce, or otherwise use and authorize others to use for Federal purposes in accordance with [2 CFR Part 200.315](#).

### **Real Property**

Real property, equipment, and intangible property that is acquired or improved with a Federal award must be held in trust by the recipient as trustee for the beneficiaries of the project or program under which the property was acquired or improved, per 2 CFR §200.316. Title to real property acquired or improved under a Federal award will vest upon acquisition in the recipient. Except as otherwise provided by Federal statutes or by the Federal awarding agency, real property will be used for the originally authorized purpose as long as needed for that purpose, during which time the recipient must not dispose of or encumber its title or other interests. When real property is no longer needed for the originally authorized purpose, the recipient must obtain disposition instructions from the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity.

### **Wage Rate Requirements (Davis-Bacon Act)**

Section 41101 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, otherwise known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) requires that all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractor in the performance of construction, alteration, or repair work on a project assisted in whole or in part by funding made available under the BIL shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar projects in the locality, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with Subchapter IV of Chapter 31 of Title 40, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Davis-Bacon Act).

### **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)**

Please note that any application submitted for funding under this NOFO may be subjected to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request (5 U.S.C. §552, as amended by P.L. No. 110-175), and as a result, may be made publicly available.

In response to a FOIA request for research data relating to published research findings produced under a Federal award that were used by the Federal Government in developing an agency action that has the force and effect of law, the Federal awarding agency must request, and the recipient

must provide, within a reasonable time, the research data so that they can be made available to the public through the procedures established under the FOIA.

### **Improvements to Federal Facilities**

Note that improvements to Federal facilities that are implemented through any project awarded funding must comply with additional requirements. Reclamation may also require additional reviews and approvals prior to award to ensure that any necessary easements, land use authorizations, or special permits can be approved and that the development will not impact or impair project operations or efficiency, consistent with the requirements of 43 CFR Section 429.

### **Geospatial Data**

If you receive financial assistance from the Department of the Interior (DOI), recipient must follow these rules for geospatial data:

**Follow Federal Standards:** All geospatial data you collect or create must meet the standards set by the Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) or the Department of the Interior. This is required by the Geospatial Data Act of 2018, which is part of Public Law 115-254, specifically in Subtitle F (Geospatial Data), sections 751-759C (codified at [43 U.S.C. §§ 2801–2811](#)).

**Include Metadata:** Your Geographic Information Systems (GIS) files must include complete metadata. Metadata is information that describes the data, such as where it came from, how accurate it is, and how it should be used. This is to ensure that anyone using the data understands its context and quality.

**Check for Existing Data:** Before you start collecting new geospatial data, you need to check GeoPlatform.gov. This is to see if there is already existing geospatial data from federal, state, local, or private sources that can meet your needs and is available for free. If such data is available, you should use it instead of gathering new data.

These rules help ensure that geospatial data is reliable, high-quality, and that resources are used efficiently.

## **Reporting**

The recipient's Notice of Award will detail all reporting requirements, including frequency, due dates, and instructions for requesting extensions. In general, but not limited to, recipients must:

- Submit Federal Financial reports and Program Performance reports.
- Use the [Federal Financial Report \(SF-425\) form](#) for financial reporting,
- Monitor award activities and report on program performance per [2 CFR 200.329](#),
- Promptly notify the awarding program in writing of any issues, delays, or conditions impairing award objectives per [2 CFR 200.329\(e\)](#),
- Disclose any conflicts of interest related to their award that arise during the award period per [2 CFR 1402.112](#),
- Report on the status of real property acquired under the award in which the Federal government retains an interest per [2 CFR 200.330](#), and
- Report all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award per [2 CFR 200.113](#).

- Report any matters related to recipient integrity and performance to SAM.gov per [Appendix XII to 2 CFR 200](#).
- If the Federal share of the award is more than \$100,000 and the recipient makes or agrees to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection to the award, disclose those activities using the Disclosure of Lobbying (SF-LLL) form per [43 CFR 18.100](#).
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA) and 2 CFR 170 requires certain recipients to report information on executive compensation, and information on all sub-awards, subcontracts and consortiums equal to or over \$30,000 to SAM.gov.
- Report any required mitigation to lessen environmental impacts of the project.
- Recipients of Reclamation awards must include the following information in performance reports:
  - a comparison of actual accomplishments to the milestones established by the financial assistance agreement for the period,
  - the reasons why the project did not meet established milestones, if applicable,
  - the status of milestones not met from the previous reporting period, if applicable,
  - whether the project is on schedule and within the original cost estimate,
  - any additional pertinent information or issues related to the status of the project, and
  - photographs documenting the project (appreciated, although not required). Note: Reclamation may print photos with appropriate credit to the recipient.
  - Final reports are public documents and may be made available on Reclamation's website.

**Other Information**

Reclamation will host a webinar to provide general information regarding this NOFO and answer questions. For more information regarding this NOFO, the general information webinar, and WaterSMART Large Scale Water Recycling Projects visit <https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title/largescale.html>.