



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225-0007



IN REPLY REFER TO:
84-27814
1.3.11

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Coachella Valley Water District
Attn: Zoe Rodriguez del Rey
75515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92211-5104

Subject: Funding Opportunity No. R24AS00052 – WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for Fiscal Year 2024 – Application Review Status, Your Application Titled, “Coachella Valley Regional Conservation and Incentive Program, Inoperable Valve Replacement Project, and Meter Replacement Project”

Dear Ms. Rodriguez del Rey:

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is pleased to inform you that your application for WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants funding was among those receiving the highest ratings and is now being considered for award of a financial assistance agreement for fiscal year 2024.

Your application included a request for \$5000000 to complete your proposal titled, “Coachella Valley Regional Conservation and Incentive Program, Inoperable Valve Replacement Project, and Meter Replacement Project.” Reclamation anticipates awarding Federal funds in the amount of \$5000000 for your proposed project.

All new financial assistance awards for infrastructure projects must meet Buy America requirements. See OMB Memorandum M-22-11 at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/M-22-11.pdf> and the Department of the Interior “Buy America” Domestic Sourcing Guidance at <https://www.doi.gov/grants/buyamerica> for further details.

In working with you to develop your financial assistance agreement, Reclamation will closely review the activities outlined in your proposal to ensure that all activities are eligible for funding and that the proposed costs are allowable under financial assistance regulations. If some costs or activities are determined to be ineligible or unallowable, Reclamation will work with you to refine the scope of work and budget for the project.

In the coming months, Reclamation will work with you to gather the information needed to enter into a financial assistance agreement. Please note that this letter is not a final commitment of funding and all pre-award clearances and approvals must be obtained as described in Section E.2.5 of the Funding Opportunity. In addition, Reclamation must have sufficient evidence prior

to award that non-Federal cost share will be available. The final funding amount may be adjusted if necessary.

Federal statute (42 U.S.C. 10364(a)(3)(B)) requires that before any funds are awarded, you agree not to use any water savings resulting from your proposed project to increase your total irrigated acreage or to otherwise increase the consumptive use of water in your operations. This requirement, which was discussed in Section F.2.4 of the Funding Opportunity, will be included in the financial assistance agreement for your project.

Please be advised that your application has been ranked, in part, based on your description of the expected benefits of your project. Selection criteria placed an emphasis on conserving and using water more efficiently; increasing the production of hydropower; mitigating conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict; and accomplishing other benefits that contribute to water supply reliability in the western United States.

In order to demonstrate the success of the program and to provide a guide for future applicants, Reclamation will post copies of all successful Water and Energy Efficiency Grants applications as examples on Reclamation's website. While this generally does not raise any issues, Reclamation finds it prudent to provide successful grant applicants with an opportunity to redact any sensitive information from their proposals prior to posting them on our website. As a rule, Reclamation removes the SF-424s; however, if there are any other items you would like to request be redacted, please notify us by sending an email to jgerman@usbr.gov no later than Friday, August 23, 2024. If Reclamation does not hear from you by this date, Reclamation will assume that there are no objections to posting the full application.

Reclamation will hold a post-selection webinar to discuss the process for development of financial assistance agreements and next steps with you and all other selected applicants. Webinar details will be emailed to you in the coming days. Thank you for your interest and participation in the WaterSMART Program. The success of the WaterSMART Program depends on collaboration with partners to improve water management. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

**EDMUND
WEAKLAND**

Ned Weakland
Grants Officer

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