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Fiscal Year 2025 WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Project Grants

California

Carpinteria Valley Water District, Smillie Well Replacement and ASR Upgrades Reclamation Funding: \$2,899,127

The Carpinteria Valley Water District in Santa Barbara will construct a new aquifer storage and recovery well to improve the reliability of its urban water supply. With ongoing drought, declining groundwater levels, and the increasing risk of saltwater intrusion, this project is essential for securing a diversified and resilient water supply. The well will have a recharge capacity of up to 500 acre-feet per year, allowing for later withdrawal of stored water for potable use. It will improve groundwater management, provide a reliable water source during droughts, and serve as a critical backup during surface water curtailments. This project is supported by the Carpinteria Groundwater Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

City of San Clemente, Recycled Water Quality Improvement Construction Project Reclamation Funding: \$3,000,000

The City of San Clemente in Orange County will construct a water treatment facility to enhance its recycled water program. Currently, the City's recycled water supply, which is used for irrigation and other purposes, has high levels of total dissolved solids that exceed water quality standards, limiting its use. The new treatment facility will treat 1.2 million gallons per day of recycled water, blending it with existing supplies to meet quality requirements. This will increase the recycled water supply by 3,360 acre-feet annually, including 2,195 acre-feet for Santa Margarita Water District, improving water quality and reducing dependency on imported water.

City of Woodland, Aquifer Storage & Recovery Project Reclamation Funding: \$3,000,000

The City of Woodland in Yolo County will construct an aquifer storage and recovery well to increase groundwater recharge and improve the City's drinking water system reliability during times of drought. The City's surface water supply is subject to curtailments, limiting its ability to provide high quality drinking water year-round. The project will store over 600 acre-feet of surface water annually during winter, when supply is plentiful, and demand is low. The stored water can then be used in dry years to meet the City's water needs. The project is critical



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component of the City's long-term water management strategy and is prioritized in the 2022 Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan, which commits to sustainable groundwater management and increased resilience to water supply variability.

County of Los Angeles, Dominguez Gap Barrier Project Unit 8 Replacement Wells Reclamation Funding: \$3,000,000

The County of Los Angeles will construct four new injection wells and two monitoring wells to modernize the Dominguez Gap Barrier Project, which protects the West Coast Basin aquifers from seawater intrusion. These aquifers supply drinking water to over four million residents and support regional water supply reliability. The County will decommission three aging injection wells to prevent groundwater cross-contamination. The new injection wells will strengthen the barrier by forming a freshwater pressure ridge to block seawater inflow and will recharge up to 579 acre-feet of water annually. This project promotes sustainable water management by integrating the injection of advanced treated recycled water, ensuring the long-term reliability of water supplies for the region.

East Valley Water District, Widening Availability Through Engineered Resiliency: Increasing Drought Resiliency Through New Well Construction in East Valley Water District

Reclamation Funding: \$2,955,336

The East Valley Water District in San Bernardino County will construct a new groundwater extraction well with a capacity to deliver 3,228 acre-feet of water per year. This well restore EVWD's access the Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin after having to decommission four wells to build and operate the Sterling Natural Resource Center, a facility designed to recharge up to 8 million gallons of recycled water per day. The new well is essential for supporting water reliability in the region that faces challenges from recurring droughts. The project aligns with EVWD's broader efforts to ensure a sustainable water supply for its service areas, including the cities of Highland and San Bernardino, while advancing water management practices and optimizing resources.

Fresno Irrigation District, Metzler and Krum Basin Expansion Recharge Basins

Reclamation Funding: \$3,000,000

The Fresno Irrigation District in California's Central Valley will expand an existing groundwater recharge basin by 24 acres and construct an additional 20-acre basin. The project will recharge approximately 792 acre-feet of flood and stormwater annually, addressing critical water management challenges in a region heavily reliant on the San Joaquin and Kings Rivers that have been severely impacted by recent droughts. With reduced surface water availability,



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agricultural operations increasingly depend on groundwater, leading to the Kings Groundwater Subbasin being classified as critically over-drafted. By capturing and recharging excess water, this project will help restore groundwater levels, mitigate land subsidence, and enhance regional water supply reliability. This project is supported by the District's Drought Management Plan and contributes to sustainable water management practices essential for the region's agricultural and economic stability.

Inland Empire Water Agency, Montclair Basin Improvement Project

Reclamation Funding: \$1,352,441

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency in southwestern San Bernardino County will implement the Montclair Basin Improvement Project to strengthen water supply reliability and sustainability in the Chino Groundwater Basin. This project will construct diversion inlet structures at existing recharge basins to capture water from the San Antonio Channel. By increasing the agency's recharge capacity by up to 152 acre-feet per year, the project will optimize the use of stormwater, dry weather runoff, and imported water supplies for groundwater replenishment. These improvements are crucial for addressing the region's challenges with prolonged drought and reliance on imported water. The Montclair Basin Improvement Project supports IEUA's Regional Drought Contingency Plan and contributes to long-term water sustainability for the community.

Palmdale Water District, Well 37 Water Supply Resiliency Project

Reclamation Funding: \$3,000,000

The Palmdale Water District in southern California will construct a groundwater well and conveyance pipeline to extract approximately 1,936 acre-feet per year of its adjudicated groundwater right during dry periods. This effort aligns with PWD's Strategic Water Resources Plan, which emphasizes developing groundwater banking to store available water during normal years, replenish groundwater supplies, and prepare for future dry periods. By bolstering local water resources, the project contributes to the long-term sustainability and reliability of the region's water supply.

Rubidoux Community Services District, Rubidoux Community Services District Wilson Intertie Project with West Valley Water District

Reclamation Funding: \$500,000

The Rubidoux Community Services District in northwest Riverside County will construct the Wilson Intertie, a potable water pipeline connecting with the West Valley Water District. Currently RCSD relies entirely on groundwater, but the intertie can supply up to 2,000 acre-feet



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per year of potable water, diversifying RCSD's supply and creating a redundancy of over 35% of its annual average water supply. This project will enhance water supply reliability, improve water quality management by enabling the blending of groundwater and surface water, and strengthen the system's hydraulics for firefighting by increasing water flow and pressure. These improvements are particularly crucial given RCSD's proximity to high-risk wildfire areas. This project is supported by the RCSD's Urban Water Management Plan.

Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District, Woollomes Avenue Recharge Project Reclamation Funding: \$3,000,000

The Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District in Kern County, California, will convert 320 acres of farmland into a groundwater recharge facility to enhance regional water sustainability. The District faces challenges from recurring droughts, declining groundwater levels, and reduced surface water availability. This project addresses these issues by capturing and storing excess rainwater and snowmelt runoff, replenishing overdrawn aquifers in the area. Additionally, it will help mitigate flooding, manage stormwater, and provide operational flexibility to support agricultural needs while improving long-term water security and resilience.

Sweetwater Authority, Sweetwater Reservoir Aeration/Destratification System Reclamation Funding: \$ \$1,532,500

Sweetwater Authority in southern California will install a new aeration and destratification system in Sweetwater Reservoir to enhance water quality and increase the yield of treatable water. This system will oxygenate the water and ensure uniform quality throughout the reservoir, decreasing the need for blending and providing an additional 1,790 acre-feet of water annually. Prolonged drought conditions have decreased local water supplies and increased reliance on imported water. This project will improve water supply reliability for approximately 200,000 residents and is supported by the Sweetwater Authority 2023 Water Resources Master Plan.

Nebraska

The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, E65 New Water Supply Siphon and Canal to Elwood Reservoir

Reclamation Funding: \$3,000,000

The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District in Gosper and Phelps Counties will reconstruct and reconstruct the E65 siphon and canal system to serve more than 42,000 acres of farmland. The District will build a 2-mile canal and siphon system between Johnson Lake and Elwood Reservoir. The new E65 Siphon and canal to Elwood Reservoir will capture and convey



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approximately 11,000 acre-feet per year of unused irrigation water from upstream sources and store an additional 13,500 acre-feet in Elwood Reservoir. The E65 Canal and Elwood Reservoir are essential for irrigation, groundwater recharge, and fulfilling regional water management obligations under the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program and the Republican River Interstate Compact.

Utah

Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, Enhancing Resilience: The Casto and Dry Springs Treatment Plant Project

Reclamation Funding: \$3,000,000

The Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District in Salt Lake County will construct a water treatment plant in Holladay with a treatment capacity of up to 5 million gallons per day from Casto and Dry Creek Springs. As the second driest state in the nation, Utah has experienced moderate to extreme drought conditions in seven of the past ten years, leading the District to increasingly rely on groundwater to meet demand. This project will augment existing groundwater capacity, providing a reliable source of water in drought years, while also offering greater operational flexibility for aquifer recovery during wetter years. The project is a priority in the District's drought contingency plan, aligning with long-term water management goals and preparedness strategies.

Washington

Chelan County Natural Resource Department, Icicle Creek Decision Support Tool

Reclamation Funding: \$263,070

The Chelan County Natural Resources Department will develop the Icicle Creek Decision Support Tool to help water managers optimize the release of stored water for irrigation, fish propagation, and instream flows. This initiative will establish a foundation for improved management of alpine lake releases within the Icicle Creek Basin. The tool will provide an advanced methodology for water management and decision-making, marking the first phase of a centralized data portal and decision support system. The project will include data collection, planning for the development of a hydrology model, optimizing lake release strategies, and creating a software platform. This effort supports the Icicle Strategy 2020 Action Plan, a comprehensive framework designed to balance irrigation and municipal needs with ecological requirements.