

GRASS REMOVAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM

**WaterSMART Grants: Small-Scale
Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal
Year 2022**

**Bureau of Reclamation
Funding Opportunity No. R22AS00195**

Applicant:

Desert Water Agency
1200 Gene Autry Trail South
Palm Springs, CA 92264

Project Manager:

Ashley Metzger, Dir of Public Affairs & Water Planning
1200 Gene Autry Trail South
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DESERT WATER




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Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

Executive Summary

Date: March 17, 2022

Applicant Name: Desert Water Agency

City: Palm Springs

County: Riverside

State: CA

Project Manager:

Ashley Metzger

Dir of Public Affairs & Water Planning

AMetzger@dwa.org

760-323-4971 x 184

Grant Funding Request: \$100,000

Non-Federal Matching Funds: \$101,000

Total Project Cost: \$201,000

Estimated Construction Start Date:

April 1, 2023

Estimated Project Completion Date:

August 31, 2024

Estimated Project Duration: 18 months

Located on Federal Facility: Not applicable

Applicant Type: Category A

Project Summary

Desert Water Agency (DWA), located in California's Coachella Valley, is requesting funding to expand its existing Grass Removal Rebate Program for one year in order to reduce outdoor residential water demand and improve water supply resilience. This funding will provide rebate incentives for customers to replace approximately 100,000 square feet of turf with low water use landscaping, resulting in approximately 17.25 acre-feet of annual water savings. The request for this funding is in response to the 2022 Indio Subbasin Water Management Plan Update - Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Alternative Plan, DWA's 2020 Coachella Valley Regional Urban Water Management Plan and 2018 Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan which prioritize water conservation. The Grass Removal Rebate Program has been extremely popular among DWA customers. Funding for this program (see Technical Project Description, pg. 2) will allow DWA to reduce water demand in its service area in order to address aquifer overdraft, increase the resilience of water supplies, and reduce future variability in the Coachella Valley Basin.

Project Location

The grass removal sites would be located throughout DWA's district boundary (see DWA Boundary Map below). Desert Water Agency serves water in Riverside County, California. The approximate project latitude is {33°48'23.4"N} and longitude is {116°29'25.5"W}. Because the grant is for an incentive program, we do not know yet what locations will take advantage of the program to remove their grass. DWA would provide a map with all project locations along with the grant completion report.

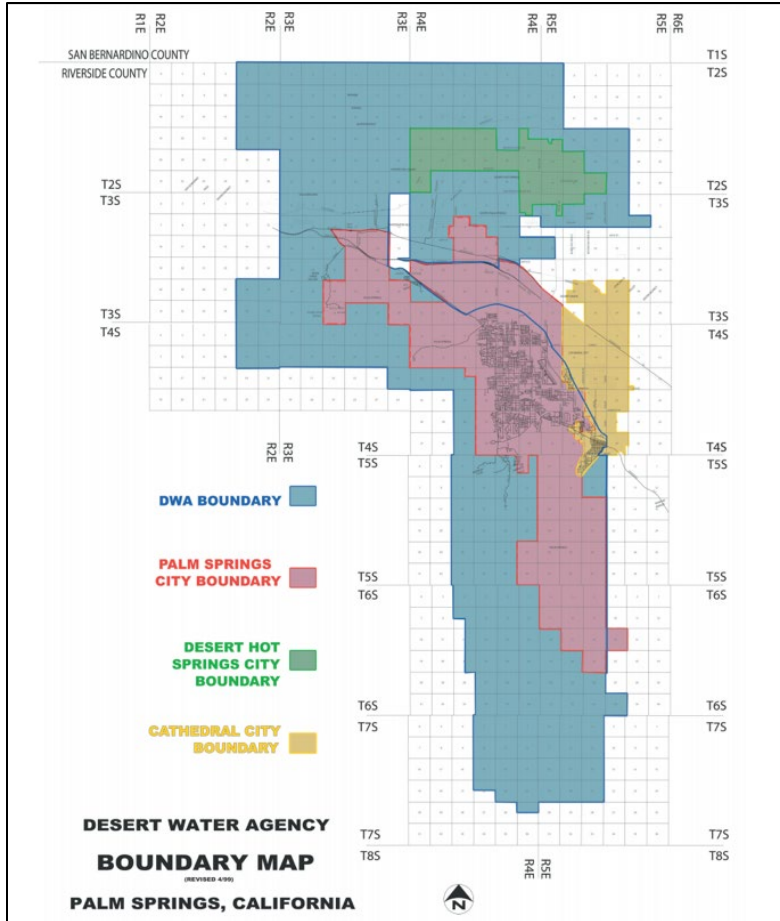


Figure 1. Desert Water Agency Boundary Map

Technical Project Description

Grass Removal Incentive Program

The Grass Removal Incentive program started in 2014 for residential, multi-family, and commercial sites as an effective strategy to reduce water demand. The Grass Removal Incentive Program encourages customers to replace existing grass with low or no-water use landscapes. The program reimburses successful applicants at a rate of \$2 or \$3 per square foot of grass replaced. The average turf replacement area for residential properties is approximately 1,500 square feet. Below are some terms and conditions of the program:

- Participants apply directly through the DWA website.
- Eligible participants include residential, commercial or HOA customers.
- Applicant must be an authorized owner/manager/landscaper for a property within DWA’s service area.

- Grass must be in place and the property reviewed by DWA prior to removal (cannot be bare dirt).
- Desert Water Agency performs remote and field measurements to verify square footage.
- Applications are awarded on a first-come first-served basis, until funding is exhausted.
- Residential conversions must be completed within 90 days; other conversions must be completed within 180 days.
- All irrigation in the rebate area must be low flow (.25 gpm or less). No adjustable bubblers.
- Artificial turf or trees/plants are required unless project area is less than 4 feet wide.
- DWA does not guarantee rebates until applicants complete pre-approved projects per program requirements. Customers must notify DWA when their replacement projects are completed.
- Reimbursement is issued via check, and is mailed to the participant about 45 days from the date the project is approved.

Program Implementation

This is an existing DWA program seeking grant funding to supplement the cost of expanding the Grass Removal Incentive Program for one year. DWA staff implements all aspects of the program.

Managing this program will also include measuring and reporting program progress and budgeted funds for materials and equipment necessary to implement the water-efficient landscape upgrades. DWA expects this project to span 18 months, with incentive checks being issued from March 2023 through February 2024.

Evaluation Criteria

E.1.1 Evaluation Criterion A—Project Benefits (35 Points)

Benefits to the Category A Applicant's Water Delivery System: Describe the expected benefits to the Category A applicant's water delivery system. Address the following:

Clearly explain the anticipated water management benefits to the Category A applicant's water supply delivery system and water customers.

Through this grant, 17.25 AF, or approximately 56.2 gallons per square foot, is estimated to be made available each year to offset additional water demand (this estimate is based on EPA WaterSense's Landscape Water Requirement Equation). Since DWA launched its grass removal incentive program in 2014, customers see an average outdoor water savings of about 47%. Given that drought-resistant landscape can increase home values, coupled with the recent policy and cultural shifts in increase water use efficiency in California, it is unlikely that local landscapes will be converted back to turf if homes are sold. As such, DWA has concluded the

grass removal program will have a long-term water conservation benefit, resulting in 258.7 AF of water savings over the first 15 years of the project. With grant funds from Reclamation, DWA will be able to encourage more conversions than is currently budgeted.

Explain the significance of the anticipated water management benefits for the Category A applicant's water delivery system and customers. Consider:

- **Are customers not currently getting their full water right at certain times of year?**
Currently individual customers are getting their full water right, but Desert Water Agency does currently have a reduced allocation of 5% from the State Water Project in California.

Neither the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin, nor any of its subbasins have been adjudicated; therefore, groundwater production is not currently legally limited. However, DWA and the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) continuously work to manage the groundwater basin through individual and joint programs and plans. Since 1962, DWA has secured rights to 55,750 AFY of Table A, highest priority State Water Project water to artificially recharge the groundwater basin. DWA and CVWD entered into water exchange contracts with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) in 1967.

- **Does this project have the potential to prevent lawsuits or water calls?**

This project will not directly prevent lawsuits or water calls.

- **What are the consequences of not making the improvement?**

In the absence of this project Desert Water Agency would have to pursue other, potentially more expensive options, to decrease water demand or increase water supply.

- **Are customer water restrictions currently required?**

Currently Stage 1 of Desert Water Agency's Water Shortage Contingency Plan is activated. This includes customer water restrictions such as prohibiting runoff, restricting water feature use, prohibiting water use for washing hard surfaces, requiring automatic shutoff nozzles for hoses, requiring customers to fix any leaks they are notified of in a timely manner, requiring hotels to provide opt out linen service, discouraging draining and filling of swimming pools, and discouraging overseeding of grass. Due to the California drought emergency, Stage 2 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan is likely to be activated in the coming weeks which would additionally prohibit daytime watering by irrigation systems and prohibit eating establishments from serving water except upon request.

- **Other significant concerns that support the need for the project.**

The challenges that DWA faces are long-term in nature. While there is sufficient groundwater to weather short-term droughts, it will not sustain the current population indefinitely due to the limited quantities of natural recharge. Continued water conservation is necessary to meet current and future water demands.

Broader Benefits: Describe the broader benefits that are expected to occur as a result of the project. Consider:

- Will the project improve broader water supply reliability at sub-basin or basin scale?

Given DWA's shared use of the Whitewater River and Mission Creek Subbasins of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin, reductions in DWA's groundwater withdrawals related to water conservation can improve water quality and reduce the risk of overdraft and subsidence throughout the subbasins.

- Will the proposed project increase collaboration and information sharing among water managers in the region? Please explain.

DWA actively collaborates on water resources management projects and shares information with the other water managers in the region including the City of Coachella, Coachella Valley Water District, Indio Water Authority, Mission Springs Water District, and Valley Sanitary District. Each of these agencies has an interest in solving the problem of high water-use and urban runoff caused by excessive landscape irrigation. DWA will share data from this project with other water managers throughout the region to inform their landscape efficiency rebate programs.

- Will the proposed project positively impacts/benefit various sectors and economies within the applicable geographic area (e.g., impacts to agriculture, environment, recreation, and tourism)? Please explain.

Water supply reliability will help keep the tourism industry in the Palm Springs area sustainable. Tourism is a major industry in the DWA service area with the City of Palm Springs having about 48,375 residents and millions of visitors a year

- Will the project complement work being done in coordination with NRCS in the area (e.g., the area with a direct connection to the districts water supply)? Please explain.

The project complements the NRCS Landscape Conservation Incentive on agricultural properties by offering similar landscape incentives on residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional properties. There is no direct coordination between these projects though.

- Will the project help address drought conditions at the sub-basin or basin scale? Please explain.

Increased water supply reliability will help address drought conditions within the Whitewater River and Mission Creek Sub-basins of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin. Reducing water demand as a way of ensuring long term supply helps Desert Water Agency to better respond to short-term drought conditions. This strategy also helps ensure better response to long-term drought conditions by allowing Desert Water Agency to use more water supply to recharge the groundwater basin.

E.1.2 Evaluation Criterion B—Planning Efforts Supporting the Project (30 points)

Plan Development: *Describe how your project is supported by an existing planning effort.*

The *2022 Indio Subbasin Water Management Plan Update – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Alternative Plan*, which DWA was party to lists water conservation as a project and management action for groundwater sustainability. Desert Water Agency’s grass removal program is specifically mentioned in 11.3.1.1 PMA 1: Urban Water Conservation.

The *2018 Coachella Valley IRWM/SWR Plan* explains that “water is a limited resource and that water conservation and use efficiency should be actively pursued”. The project contributes to IRWM Plan objectives in the following ways:

Objective A: Provide reliable water supply. This project is reducing water demands by removing grass, which is a high-water use plant. Removing grass and converting to desert landscaping, or artificial turf, will reduce pumping for irrigation and therefore protect existing groundwater supplies.

Objective B: Manage groundwater levels to reduce overdraft. By reducing overall water use, the project will decrease the pumping of groundwater which will reduce the risk of overdraft.

Objective D: Maximize local supply opportunities including water conservation. This project prioritizes water conservation efforts as a source of local supply to reduce overall water use.

Objective F: Preserve and improve surface water quality. Grass removal results in less pesticide and fertilizer application and less dry weather urban runoff.

DWA was a partner regionally with other agencies in completing the IRWM/SWR plan.

DWA’s *2020 Coachella Valley Regional Urban Water Management Plan* reiterates this water conservation ethos by stating, “water conservation is one of several high-priority policies actively implemented within DWA, and programs such as water audits for large-volume water users, residential water audits, landscape water audits, and water-efficient landscape gardens are encouraged and well received”. The UWMP also states that since most water use within DWA’s service area (up to 80 percent) is used outdoors, DWA has focused conservation efforts on developing outdoor water conservation measures.

Support for the Project: *Describe to what extent the proposed project is supported by the identified plan. Address the following:*

- Is the project identified specifically in the planning effort?

Turf replacement programs are specifically referenced in the IRWM Plan in “Region Description and Resource Management Strategies”.

The turf replacement program is also specifically mentioned in Section 6.9.2.4 of the *2020 Coachella Valley Regional Urban Water Management Plan*.

- Explain whether the proposed project implements a goal or addresses a need or problem identified in the existing planning effort

From Section 11.3 of the *2022 Indio Subbasin Water Management Plan Update – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Alternative Plan*, “Water conservation is a major component of overall water management in the Indio Subbasin.”

In section 6.7.2 of the *2020 Coachella Valley Regional Urban Water Management Plan* it is stated that “water importation, water recycling, water conservation, and long-range planning are necessary to meet current and future water demands without depleting the groundwater in storage.” This project supports long term water conservation.

- Explain how the proposed project has been determined as a priority in the existing planning effort as opposed to other potential projects / measures.

From Section 6.3.4 of the *2020 Coachella Valley Regional Urban Water Management Plan* the turf management program is prioritized because, “most water use within DWA's service area is used outdoors, DWA has focused conservation efforts on developing outdoor water conservation measures.”

E.1.3. Evaluation Criterion C—Implementation and Results (20 points)

Implementation Plan

DWA expects this project to span 18 months, from October 2022 through March 2024. Pre-installation is expected to occur during an 8-month window. Post-installation is a 12-month window that is partly concurrent with pre-installation. The project will culminate with a one month monitoring and reporting period.

Table 1. Implementation Plan

Project Stage	Duration	Milestones	Start Date	Completion Date
Funding Award	6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive award letter • Respond to request for information • Final signatures 	October 2022	March 2023
Phase 1: Pre-Installation	8 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application Review & Approval • Pre- installation site visits 	March 2023	October 2023

Phase 2: Post-Installation	12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-installation site visits • Verification of successful project completion • Rebate check processing 	March 2023	February 2024
Phase 3: Monitor & Report	1 month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit progress & final report • Monitor water savings 	February 2024	March 2024

Required Permits

No permits will be required for the implementation of this project.

Project Engineering & Design Work

No engineering or design work will be performed specifically in support of this project.

Policies & Administrative Actions

No new policies or administrative actions will be required to implement this project. DWA will implement the proposed Project following established policies and administrative procedures.

Environmental and Cultural Resource Compliance

The environmental compliance estimate for this project was previously developed through correspondence with BOR-Yuma Area Office (YAO) and they have indicated their office will issue a NEPA Categorical Exclusion for this project.

E.1.4. Evaluation Criterion D—Nexus to Reclamation (5 points)

Is the proposed project connected to a Reclamation project or activity? If so, how?

Does the applicant receive Reclamation project water?

DWA has water rights to 55,750 AFY of State Water Project water, with actual delivery impacted by weather-related and structural factors. However, there is no pipeline or aqueduct from the SWP proximal to DWA. Therefore, DWA and neighboring CVWD have an agreement in place to exchange their SWP water with the Metropolitan Water District for Colorado River water, which comes through the Coachella Valley in an aqueduct. Metropolitan Water District is a holder of a Water Delivery Contract with Reclamation.

Is the project on Reclamation project lands or involving Reclamation facilities?

No, the incentive program is not on Reclamation land nor does it involve Reclamation facilities.

Is the project in the same basin as a Reclamation project or activity?

Yes, there are multiple Reclamation projects in the Coachella Valley Water Basin, including other WaterSMART projects.

Will the proposed work contribute water to a basin where a Reclamation project is located?

DWA's grass removal incentive program will reduce demand for water, thereby reducing groundwater pumping in the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin and leaving more water in this aquifer. The proposed project will save an estimated 258.7 AFY of water from being pumped.

E.1.5. Evaluation Criterion E—Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities (10 points)

Climate Change

Please provide specific details and examples on how the project will address the impacts of climate change and helps combat the climate crisis.

Conserving 258.7 AF of water throughout the life span of the project avoids 77.6 tons of CO₂e in GHGs from purchase and recharge of Colorado River water. This assumes that the energy requirements associated with delivering Colorado River water (including Canal water) are 2.3 megawatt hours per acre foot (MWh/AF) and 600 pounds of CO₂e/AF (WaterReuse Association, 2011).

Does this proposed project strengthen water supply sustainability to increase resilience to climate change? Does the proposed project contribute to climate change resiliency in other ways not described above?

This project does strengthen water supply sustainability to increase resilience to climate change. There is an estimated of water made available of 17.25 AF, or approximately 56.2 gallons per square foot, each year to offset additional water demand (this estimate is based on EPA WaterSense's Landscape Water Requirement Equation).

Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities

Will the project serve or benefit a disadvantaged or historically underserved community?

Disadvantaged communities will not be specifically targeted, but there are disadvantaged communities throughout the Desert Water Agency service area. These communities will have the same or greater access to grant funding as all other Desert Water Agency customers.

Please describe in detail how the community is disadvantaged.

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) definition for a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) is a community with an annual median household income (MHI) that is less than 80% of the Statewide annual MHI (PRC Section 75005(g)), and those census geographies with an annual MHI less than 60% of the Statewide annual MHI are considered

“Severely Disadvantaged Communities” (SDAC). Both of these communities are located throughout the Desert Water Agency service area comprising a large amount of the developed land.

If the proposed project is providing benefits to an underserved community, provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the community meets the underserved definition in E.O. 13985.

Disadvantaged communities meet the criteria in E.O. 13985 of “persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty”. Individuals in both DAC and SDAC can commonly fall below the State poverty line.

Tribal Benefits

Does the proposed project directly serve and/or benefit a Tribe? Will the project improve water management for a Tribe?

DWA is a service provider for a large swath of the checkerboard Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indian (a federally recognized tribe) reservation. Assuming the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians provide a letter of permission, the grass removal incentive will be open to all DWA customers, benefitting the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians tribe, allottees and lessees. The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians provided a support letter for this grant application.

Does the proposed project support Tribal resilience to climate change and drought impacts or provide other Tribal benefits such as improved public health and safety by addressing water quality, new water supplies, or economic growth opportunities?

The project will assist in supporting Tribal resilience to drought impacts by reducing water demand in the region. The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians will also share in the regional benefits laid out in the other Evaluation Criteria.

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

There is no overlap between the proposed project and any other active or anticipated proposals or projects in terms of activities, costs, or commitment of key personnel.

Project Budget

Funding Plan and Letters of Commitment

Please identify the sources of the non-Federal cost-share contribution for the project, including:

DWA will not be using any non-Federal funds in addition to Federal funds on any specific project site, but other funds are used to help fund the grass removal program. DWA receives mitigation funding of \$100,000 from Sentinel Energy Center, which is partially used to fund grass removal programs. In addition to this DWA is one of five water agencies in the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group. This groups applied to receive regional funding from the Underrepresented Communities Set-Aside in the Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program. Of this funding DWA will receive about \$150,000 to help fund the grass removal program in disadvantaged communities. DWA is actively pursuing further grant funding.

Any monetary contributions by the applicant towards the cost-share requirement and source of funds (e.g., reserve account, tax revenue, and/or assessments)

If DWA is not awarded enough other funding, the Agency will provide its cost-share of the project through a cash contribution via its fiscal year 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 water conservation program budgets, which are funded by the Agency's operating and general funds. Desert Water Agency anticipated providing the commitment letter within one month of award. Desert Water Agency has a long history of investing in the Grass Removal Incentive Program to match or supplement grant funding.

Any costs that will be contributed by the applicant

Implementation of the Grass Removal Incentive Program Includes:

- Community outreach and education
- Application review and approval
- Remote site measurement via Google Earth
- Pre and post-site visits to customer sites for photo documentation and measurement confirmation
- Verification of successful project completion
- Customer support
- Incentive check processing
- Program website and application maintenance

The salary costs for these activities will be paid by DWA. In addition DWA will pay \$1 or \$2 per square foot for each project in addition to the Federal cost share of \$1 per square foot bringing the total incentive for the grass removal program to \$2 or \$3 per square foot.

Any third-party in-kind costs (i.e., goods and services provided by a third party)
 Program participants that remove their grass typically pay more than the cost of the incentive for their conversion. Additional costs paid will not be tracked by Desert Water Agency.

Any cash requested or received from other non-Federal entities
 There is no cash currently requested or received from other non-Federal entities.

Any pending funding requests (i.e., grants or loans) that have not yet been approved and explain how the project will be affected if such funding is denied
 There are no additional pending funding requests.

Budget Proposal

Table 1. Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources

FUNDING SOURCES	AMOUNT
Non-Federal Entities	
1. Desert Water Agency	\$101,000
Non-Federal Subtotal	\$ 101,000
REQUESTED RECLAMATION FUNDING	\$100,000

Table 2. Total Project Cost

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Costs to be reimbursed with the requested Federal funding	\$100,000
Costs to be paid by the applicant	\$101,000
Value of third-party contributions	
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ 201,000.00

Table 3. Budget Proposal

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	COMPUTATION		Quantity Type	TOTAL COST
	\$/UNIT	Quantity		
Salaries and Wages				
Employee 1	<i>Not applicable</i>			\$ 0
Fringe Benefits				
Full-Time Employees	<i>Not applicable</i>			\$ 0
Part-Time Employees	<i>Not applicable</i>			\$ 0
Equipment				
Item A	<i>Not applicable</i>			\$ 0
Supplies and Materials				
Item A	<i>Not applicable</i>			\$ 0
Contractual/Construction				
Grass Removal Incentive	\$2 per FT ²	100,000	FT ²	\$ 200,000
Third-Party In-Kind Contributions				
Contributor A	<i>Not applicable</i>			\$ 0
Other				
NEPA CEC	\$1,000			\$ 1,000
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS				\$ 201,000
Indirect Costs				
Type of rate	<i>Not applicable</i>			\$ 0.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS				\$ 201,000

Budget Narrative

If awarded, Desert Water Agency will use USBR funds in conjunction with its own budget or with Department of Water Resources funding from the Integrated Regional Water Management grant program to cover the cost of incentives paid to customers. The program will be administered entirely at the cost of Desert Water Agency.

Salaries and Wages

Not applicable.

Fringe Benefits

Not applicable.

Equipment

Not applicable. No new equipment is anticipated to complete this project.

Supplies and Materials

Not applicable. No new materials or supplies are anticipated in order to complete this project.

Contractual/Construction

Each grass removal program applicant is required to complete an application for reimbursement. Applicants are reimbursed based on the square footage of turf replaced, \$2 or \$3 per square foot.

Third-Party In-Kind Contributions

Program participants that remove their grass typically pay more than the cost of the incentive for their conversion. Additional costs paid will not be tracked by Desert Water Agency.

Other Expenses

Based on previous correspondence with Reclamation's Yuma Area office, Desert Water Agency expects the cost of obtaining a NEPA Categorical Exemption (CEC) to be approximately \$1,000.

Indirect Costs

Not applicable.

In addition, please identify whether the budget proposal includes any project costs that may be incurred prior to award. For each cost, describe:

- The project expenditure and amount
- The date of cost incurrence
- How the expenditure benefits the project

No costs will be incurred prior to the project award.

Environmental and Cultural Resources

Compliance

- *Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment (e.g., soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat)?* This project will only remove existing grass located on previously disturbed land and should not affect soil or habitat. The project requires ground cover so dust will not be an issue. The project will reduce the water demands of the project sites.
- *Are you aware of any species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitat in the project area?* There are no known habitats of threatened or endangered species within the project area.
- *Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as “Waters of the United States?”* No.
- *When was the water delivery system constructed?* Various dates starting in the 1920s.
- *Will the proposed project result in any modification of or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes)?* No.
- *Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places? A cultural resources specialist at your local Reclamation office or the State Historic Preservation Office can assist in answering this question.* No.
- *Are there any known archeological sites in the proposed project area?* No.
- *Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?* No.
- *Will the proposed project limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands?* No. If permission is granted by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, then grass removal projects may occur on previously disturbed Tribal lands.
- *Will the proposed project contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area?* No.

Required Permits or Approvals

No permits are required for this project. The only approval required will be a Desert Water Agency Board of Directors approval of the grant agreement between the Agency and Reclamation

Letters of Project Support

See three letters of project support attached.

Official Resolution

Resolution 1271 approved by Desert Water Agency's Board of Directors on April 5, 2022 is attached.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

There are no known conflict of interest. If any conflicts of interest are identified Desert Water Agency will disclose them to USBR and work to resolve them.

Uniform Audit Reporting Statement

Desert Water Agency was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year.

Certification Regarding Lobbying

Desert Water Agency is not requesting more than \$100,000 in Federal funding.

Unique Entity Identifier

Desert Water Agency is registered with SAM. Our DUNS Number is 117856662.



Cathedral City

March 22, 2022

The Honorable Camille Touton, Commissioner
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Re: Letter of Support for WaterSMART Grant: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects FY 2022, FOA R22AS00195

Dear Ms. Touton:

As the Assistant Civil Engineer for City of Cathedral City, I am writing in strong support of **Desert Water Agency Grass Removal Incentives for Water Conservation project**. The City of Cathedral City has about 55,649 residents.

Coachella Valley experiences high temperatures and minimal precipitation, so water conservation is essential to the long-term future of the valley. Desert Water Agency (DWA) is a great proponent of water conservation and this project is another important step in being a good steward of our region's resources. The proposed Grass Removal Incentive Program will allow more Cathedral City residents and those in neighboring areas reduce their water footprint.

Water conservation is critical and in our area about 80% of water use is outdoors. Grass removal is a great place to achieve high savings.

On behalf of the City of Cathedral City, please accept this letter of support for DWA's Grass Removal Incentive for Water Conservation Project. We appreciate your thoughtful review of DWA's proposal and the regional benefits it offers.

Sincerely,

Andrew Lee
Assistant Civil Engineer
Engineering Department
760-770-0319



ART BUNCE
Chair

DANIEL G. SHILLITO
Vice-Chair

MANNY ROSAS
Secretary/Treasurer

THOMAS J. DAVIS
Member

RUSS MARTIN
Member

JEFF L. GRUBBE
Ex-Officio Member

April 6, 2022

The Honorable Camille Touton, Commissioner
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

RE: Letter of Support for WaterSMART Grant: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects FY 2022, FOA R22AS00195

Dear Ms. Touton:

As the Chief Planning Officer for the Agua Caliente Water Authority, I am writing in strong support of **Desert Water Agency Grass Removal Incentives for Water Conservation Project**. The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians has 500 tribal members on 31,500 acres. Agua Caliente has long been a good steward of water resources and a proponent for sustainable groundwater management in the Coachella Valley.

Coachella Valley experiences high temperatures and minimal precipitation, so water conservation is essential to the long-term future of the valley. The proposed Grass Removal Incentive Program will allow more residents on the Reservation and those in neighboring areas to reduce their water footprint.

Water conservation is critical, and in our area, about 75% of water use is outdoors. Grass removal is a great place to achieve high savings.

On behalf of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, please accept this letter of support for DWA's Grass Removal Incentive for Water Conservation Project. We appreciate your thoughtful review of DWA's proposal and the regional benefits it offers.

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Park, AICP
Chief Planning Officer
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City of Palm Springs

Justin Clifton

City Manager

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March 28, 2022

The Honorable Camille Touton, Commissioner
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

RE: Letter of Support for WaterSMART Grant: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects FY 2022,
FOA R22AS00195

Dear Ms. Touton:

As the City Manager for the City of Palm Springs, I am writing in strong support of **Desert Water Agency's Grass Removal Incentives for Water Conservation project**. The City of Palm Springs has about 49,007 residents and receives millions of visitors each year.

The Coachella Valley experiences high temperatures and minimal precipitation, making water conservation essential to the long-term future of the valley. Desert Water Agency (DWA) is a great proponent of water conservation, and this project is another important step in being a good steward of our region's resources. The proposed Grass Removal Incentive Program will allow Palm Springs residents and those in neighboring areas to reduce their water footprint.

Water conservation is critical, and in our area about 80% of water use is outdoors. Grass removal is a great place to achieve high savings.

On behalf of City of Palm Springs, please accept this letter of support for DWA's Grass Removal Incentive for Water Conservation Project. We appreciate your thoughtful review of DWA's proposal and the regional benefits it offers.

Sincerely,

Justin Clifton, City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 1272

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
DESERT WATER AGENCY AUTHORIZING AND
APPROVING SUBMISSION FOR A U.S. BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION SMALL-SCALE WATER EFFICIENCY
PROJECTS GRANT**

WHEREAS, the Desert Water Agency was established by an Act of the California Legislature in 1961 as a public water management agency; and

WHEREAS, the Agency views water conservation investments as a critical strategy to meet future water needs; and

WHEREAS, working with members of our own community to achieve local water conservation gains is an ideal approach; and

WHEREAS, about eighty percent of water is used outdoors, making grass removal an effective tool; and

WHEREAS, Desert Water Agency intends to submit an application for one hundred thousand dollars in financial assistance from the United States Bureau of Reclamation through its small-scale water efficiency project grant in fiscal year 2022; and

WHEREAS, the funding requested is for the Desert Water Agency Grass Removal Incentive Program; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Policy and Administration requires Governing Body approval for submission of an application; and

WHEREAS, if successful, the Agency will use California Department of Water Resources grant funding or the Agency's own budgeted funds for the matching funds in the funding plan submitted with the application;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Desert Water Agency hereby authorizes staff to apply for grant funding through the United States Bureau of Reclamation's Small-scale Water Efficiency Projects.

ADOPTED this 5th day of April, 2022.



Kristin Bloomer, President

ATTEST:



Joseph K. Stuart, Secretary-Treasurer