



City of
Cheyenne
Board of Public Utilities

Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Expansion Project

United States Bureau of Reclamation

Notice of Funding Opportunity #R24AS00059

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Grants

Fiscal Year 2024

Grant Application

January 16, 2024



Applicant:

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Board of Public Utilities
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Project Location

BOPU’s service area defines the limits of this AMI expansion project that includes [Frances E. Warren Air Force Base](#), [South Cheyenne Water and Sewer District](#), rural county parcels, and the City of Cheyenne with an approximate geographic center at 41.14° latitude and -104.82° longitude (see Figure 1). Cheyenne is situated in the High Plains of the Western United States at an elevation of 6,062 feet above sea level. The climate is cold and semi-arid with an average of 15.3 inches of precipitation per year. Cheyenne’s surface water and groundwater sources are in regions experiencing [drought conditions](#) that are projected to persist.

Cheyenne, the capital city of Wyoming, has a population of 64,610 ([US Census Bureau 2022 estimate](#)) that increased approximately 9.5% from 2010 to 2020. It is the county seat of Laramie County and the most populous city in the state. Cheyenne, located at the north end of the Front Range Urban Corridor, is influenced by Colorado cities (such as Fort Collins and Denver) to the south. The recent economic summary from the [Wyoming A&I Economic Analysis Division](#) is optimistic and presents statistics demonstrating expansion in nearly every economic sector across Wyoming with low unemployment and a robust tax base. Water conservation measures are essential to ensure economic growth.

The five-year average of metered water consumption is 3,661,915,000 gallons (11,238 acre-feet per year). BOPU delivers water through approximately 25,000 connections to commercial operations, industrial facilities, municipal buildings, and an estimated 75,000 residents. Metered residential use comprises over half of the total potable water consumption in BOPU’s Fiscal Year 2023 (see Figure 2). The *2013 Cheyenne Water and Wastewater Master Plans* estimate that residential customers will increase to 122,000 by 2063. Water conservation is the most economical tool to ensure current water supply will meet future demand and prepare for water shortage.

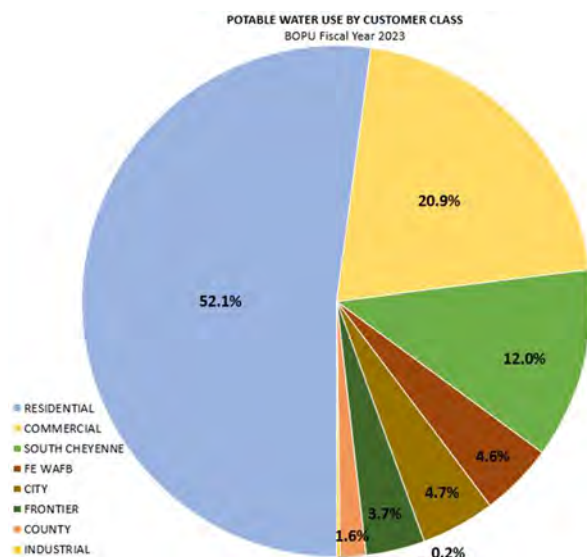


Figure 2. Potable water use by customer class. Residential use includes residential customers in the City of Cheyenne (RESIDENTIAL), FE Warren Air Force Base (FE WAFB), and South Cheyenne Water and Sewer District (SOUTH CHEYENNE).

85% of Cheyenne’s source water is vulnerable to shortage. More than half is subject to the Colorado River Compact with curtailment expected in the very near future. The remainder is collected from watersheds that are experiencing persistent drought. Groundwater makes up

approximately 15% of the total water supply and is managed carefully to avoid aquifer depletion. If Cheyenne loses all its source water from the Upper Colorado River Basin due to curtailment, there will not be enough to meet current demand, let alone support future growth. BOPU recognizes modern problems require modern solutions and has already made significant steps toward converting to AMI to increase operational efficiency. BOPU is prioritizing this phase of transition to AMI in an ongoing commitment to stewardship of Cheyenne’s water supplies and working with customers to use water efficiently and ultimately reduce reliance on the over-tapped Colorado River system.

Technical Project Description

BOPU began converting to Automated Meter Reading (AMR) in the mid-1990’s when all water meters were manually read for monthly billing. Once radio-read meters became available, BOPU incorporated those into maintenance replacements for old meters. By 2015, an estimated 10,000 radio-read meters had been installed for BOPU customers, while approximately 10,000 meters were still manually read. In December 2015, BOPU first realized the benefits of AMI with the installation of Cheyenne’s first cellular gateway that provided readings from approximately 3,000 meters. Since that time, BOPU has made significant progress toward complete AMI conversion by installing three additional gateways and approximately 10,000 smart meters. More recently, BOPU has focused on replacing meters, many of which are not transmitting data to existing gateways (see Figure 3). Significant progress can be made toward BOPU’s full transition with the addition of six gateways to provide full geographic coverage and fill water usage data gaps.

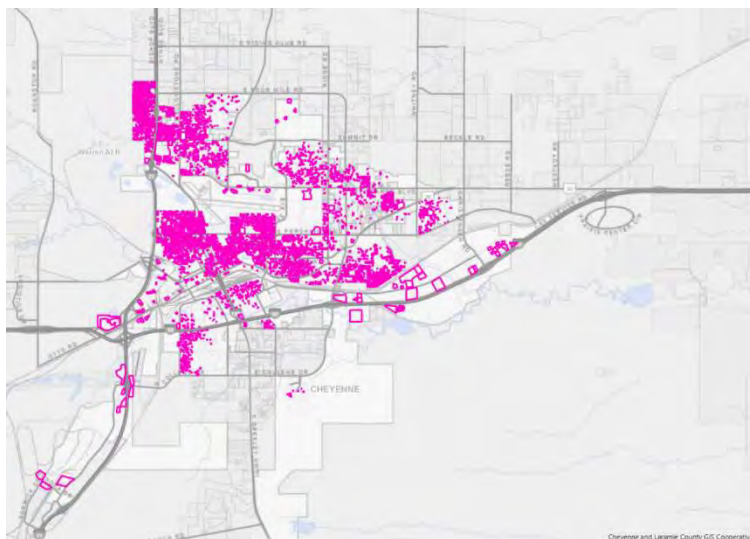


Figure 3. Existing smart meters not read by gateways in BOPU’s service area. The existing gateways are not able to capture readings from approximately 5,600 smart meters. Through this AMI project, six new gateways will provide full geographic coverage and fill water usage data gaps.

Even though data collection from smart meters within BOPU’s service area is currently limited, benefits are already realized. Fine-grained, instantaneous water usage data allows BOPU to work expeditiously with customers to address water waste. Currently, seven full-time Customer Service staff spend 20% of their time (approximately 3,000 hours annually) working with customers to address continuous flow (e.g., leaks) or high consumption alerts. BOPU’s Water Conservation Program supports Customer Service with significant and persistent water waste issues that require additional communications with usage data, leak checklists, or administrative action. In 2022 and

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2023, a total of 244 violation letters were mailed to customers for water leaks or non-compliance with BOPU’s watering schedule.

If awarded the WaterSMART grant, BOPU staff will begin implementation of this AMI project in early 2025. ***Project objectives include installation of six (6) gateways and launch an online customer portal.*** Upon completion of this AMI project in 2027, hourly water usage data will be available for most meters in BOPU’s service area, thereby improving water management by decreasing response time of water waste from weeks to days. The project scope and materials are detailed below.

Project Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gateway propagation study to identify meter-reading dead zones • Identify existing poles and possible location(s) for new poles for installing gateways • Obtain any necessary permits and/or agreements for installing poles and gateways • Procurement of equipment and services • Coordinate staff, contractor(s), and equipment • Oversee activities to install gateways • Review and approve invoices • Maintain documentation of completed work
Environmental & Cultural Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BOPU will coordinate with local contacts and Reclamation to perform environmental and cultural reviews for this project • BOPU anticipates a Categorical Exclusion or FONSI under NEPA from Reclamation, given this project is entirely within a disturbed urban setting
AMI Installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional contractor will install poles and gateways
Configuration & Verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BOPU’s IT staff will configure hardware, software, and databases to complete integration for this AMI project • Verify meter readings and gateway connectivity
Grant Management & Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with BOPU’s Accounting Department to enter and track grant funds in the existing accounting database • Organize and store all documentation related to this AMI project that would be requested for an audit • Submit timely Program Performance Reports, Financial Reports, Financial Reimbursement Requests, and any other documentation required by the grant agreement

Project Materials

- Neptune 13458-000 Gateway V4 Cellular (CDMA/BPRS) – 6 quantity
- Neptune 13146-100 R900 Gateway RF Antenna – 6 quantity
- 13134-000 RF Antenna Mounting Bracket Assembly– 6 quantity
- 13135-001 RF Antenna Standoff 25” – 6 quantity
- 13070-100 Outdoor UPS System – 6 quantity
- Utility Pole – 3 quantity
- Grounding Kits – 6 quantity

- Hoisting Grip for Coaxial Cable – 6 quantity
- PolyPhaser – 6 quantity
- ½” Foam Heliac Coaxial Cable – 450 quantity
- Cement Blocks – 4 quantity
- Neptune My360 Con Portal Annual Sub Tier 7 14099-307
- Neptune My360 Con Portal One Time Set-Up Fee 14099-203
- Neptune My360 Con Portal Single Sign-On Integration 14099-204
- Neptune My360 Con Portal SSO Annual Support Fee 14099-205
- Neptune My360 Con Portal Custom Integration/HR 14099-206

Evaluation Criteria

E.1.1. Evaluation Criterion A – Project Benefits (35 points)

Benefits to the Category A Applicant’s Water Delivery System:

BOPU will increase water management through this AMI expansion project by reducing water waste and increasing water conservation. Maximizing efficient use of Cheyenne’s water supply will help reduce reliance on Colorado River water and prepare for future water shortage. BOPU anticipates quantifiable water savings from this AMI project through expedited leak response and behavioral changes resulting from access to real-time data through the customer portal.

LEAK RESPONSE

This AMI expansion project includes installation of six (6) gateways that will provide full geographic coverage and fill data gaps from existing smart meters across BOPU’s service area. Published statistics from EPA’s WaterSense program estimates the [average household wastes 9,400 gallons per year due to leaks](#). Water waste can go unnoticed for weeks for customers with meters that are read manually and only once per month. Additional real-time data provided through this project will enable BOPU’s Customer Service staff to evaluate continuous or intermittent flow patterns and expedite response time from weeks to days and significantly reducing water that is wasted each year due to leaks.

CUSTOMER PORTAL

This AMI expansion project includes installation and configuration of the Neptune® My360™ Consumer Portal. Each customer can log-in to the portal and visualize their water usage through a dashboard that presents real-time data. They can further customize alerts for high consumption and leaks. Water conservation is thereby achieved through behavioral changes and less time to identify and repair leaks.

AMI BENEFITS

BOPU has improved water management through the initial steps toward AMI conversion. Based on water savings documented in published studies, BOPU anticipates significant progress through this AMI expansion project. [Unearthing the Hidden Benefits of Advanced Metering Infrastructure](#) (Kristen Downs, Internet of Water, 2020) documents an AMI success story in Albuquerque, NM that resulted in significant, measurable water savings. The water utility began transitioning to AMI in 2011. By 2015, they apparent loss was reduced from 929 million gallons to approximately 93 million gallons. Per capita water usage decreased from 252 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) to 150 gpcd in 2011, then decreased further to 121 gpcd in 2019.

Rarely a week goes by without extreme drought, water shortages, or drinking water issues in national and local news headlines. [Controlling water loss](#) from leaks is an important water conservation tool to ensure a sustainable future and mitigate impacts of water shortage. Cheyenne City Council identified low-water landscapes as a priority goal toward a sustainable future that integrates land use and water planning. The timing is right for BOPU to launch an online portal and empower customers to conserve water. The portal will be publicized and promoted to maximize customer participation. In an AWWA report ([Increasing consumer benefits & engagement in AMI-based conservation programs](#), January 2022), water saving estimates from customer portals can be as high as 10%. The report showcased a success story of a utility in Fort Collins, CO that doubled their customer portal registration during a water shortage. ***BOPU expects to realize similar water savings through this AMI expansion project (estimated at approximately 260 acre-feet in the first year) with expedited leak repairs for 5,600 meters that will have more frequent readings with the new gateways a customer portal that will serve 22,872 residential accounts.***

○ **Where any conserved water as a result of the project will go and how it will be used?**

With curtailment looming, BOPU is taking steps to reduce reliance on the Colorado River. Water conservation is the most economical and sustainable tool to help mitigate impacts of water shortage. The volume of water that Cheyenne conserves directly correlates to a reduced volume collected from the Little Snake River and tributaries in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Leaving water in the Colorado River system will help meet downstream uses for millions of people living in the West, as well as sustaining ecosystems that support endangered species, irrigating millions of acres of farmland, and maintaining industrial and recreational economies. A similar, positive impact from BOPU's conserved water applies to the North Platte and South Platte Basins.

BOPU pumps groundwater from four wellfields west of Cheyenne to supplement surface water supply. These wells are completed in water-bearing formations of the High Plains aquifer system including the Ogallala Formation and White River Group. BOPU's current blending ratio of 15% groundwater to 85% treated surface water ensures withdrawals from the aquifer are sustainable. Water conservation in Cheyenne reduces pressure on these groundwater resources.

● **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?**

Cheyenne is currently in a normal water supply status and able to meet all indoor and outdoor demands for our customers. However, Colorado River curtailment will be a loss of half of Cheyenne's water supply and BOPU will be forced to implement extreme restrictions in order to meet current demand.

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

BOPU collects water from the Little Snake River watershed, which is part of the Upper Colorado River Basin. Any water that remains in the Colorado River System will help satisfy downstream water rights and forestall a Colorado River Compact call and curtailment of junior water rights.

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

Cheyenne holds junior water rights in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Under the "Law of the River", that includes the Colorado River Compact of 1922, curtailment is used to regulate apportionment of water rights. Discussions of curtailment have been ongoing for years. The amount of available water from the Colorado River is largely dependent upon reservoir storage, which is declining and will soon reach critically low levels. The recent wet winter alleviated

drought conditions in localized areas across the West. However, overallocation of water from the Colorado River is not resolved and curtailment continues to pose a threat to Cheyenne’s supply. Cheyenne stands to lose approximately half of its water supply and will be unable to meet current demand (see Figure 4).

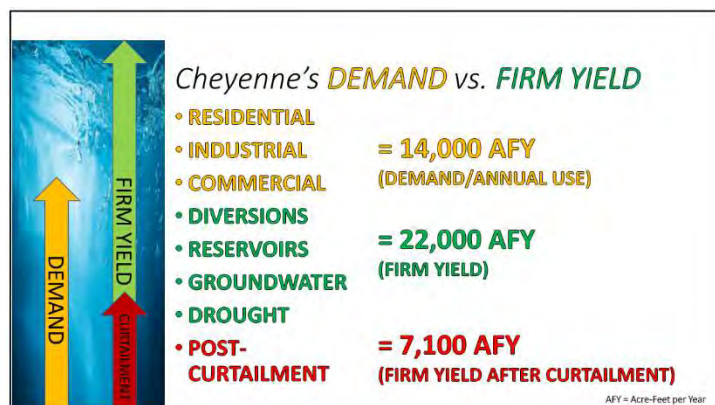


Figure 4. Cheyenne’s Demand vs. Firm Yield. BOPU uses a model to estimate annual “firm yield”, which includes collection and storage of surface water and groundwater. Drought, evaporation, and transmission loss are also factored. Under Colorado River curtailment, firm yield will not meet current demand.

The West continues to be the fastest growing region in the U.S. with increasing water demands adding pressure to existing hydrologic systems. Unallocated or underutilized water rights are increasingly rare and come at a premium. Cheyenne’s only viable option to a dwindling water supply is stewardship of existing resources through water conservation and managing every drop to the fullest potential through this AMI expansion project.

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

BOPU currently implements a year-round watering schedule that is applicable to all customers. From April 1st through November 30th lawn watering is limited to three days per week and not between 10 am and 6 pm. The schedule does not allow lawn watering from December 1st through March 31st.

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

While Cheyenne is not currently experiencing a water shortage, it is anticipated in the near future. Water conservation measures are largely behavioral and can take years to fully implement; particularly the culture shift that is necessary to change the approach to urban landscaping in a semi-arid environment. Water shortages can occur on much shorter timescales, especially Colorado River curtailment. This AMI expansion project will help BOPU improve water management and efficiency now to ensure resiliency for Cheyenne’s future.

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?**

Any excess water that BOPU conserves from three hydrologic basins (i.e., Upper Colorado River, North Platte, and South Platte Basins) that supply Cheyenne’s water will be available to downstream users with significant economic, agricultural, and ecological benefits. Any water that BOPU leaves in the Colorado River System may help forestall a Colorado River Compact call and curtailment of our junior water rights.

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

As a Colorado River water user, BOPU understands the importance of robust data from this AMI expansion project will support communication with and decision-making by water managers in the region.

- **Is the project in an area that is experiencing, or recently experienced, drought or water scarcity? Will the project help address drought conditions at the sub-basin or basin scale? Please explain.**

Cheyenne’s water is supplied from three hydrologic basins (i.e., Upper Colorado River, North Platte, and South Platte Basins) that have been experiencing persistent drought according to data from drought.gov. Furthermore, water that is collected from the Little Snake River may be subject to curtailment of junior water rights. This AMI expansion project will help BOPU improve water management by reducing water waste and increasing water conservation. Excess water that BOPU leaves in the Little Snake watershed alleviates the impacts of drought on agriculture and ecosystems within the Colorado River Basin. Similar benefits apply to BOPU’s other water supply basins.

- **Will the project benefit species (e.g., federally threatened or endangered, a federally recognized candidate species, a state listed species, or a species of particular recreational, or economic importance)? Please explain.**

Sensitive species that have federal and/or state protections in the Upper Colorado River, North Platte, and South Platte Basins will benefit from water that is left in the system as a result of water conservation from this AMI project. The [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#) identifies eleven wildlife species and four plant species with Endangered Species Act protections in Wyoming.

- **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.**

The volume of water that Cheyenne conserves through this AMI expansion project directly correlates to a reduced volume collected from the Little Snake River and tributaries in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Leaving water in the Colorado River system will help meet downstream uses for millions of people living in the West, as well as sustaining ecosystems that support endangered species, irrigating millions of acres of farmland, and maintaining industrial and recreational economies. A similar, positive impact from BOPU’s conserved water applies to the North Platte and South Platte Basins.

- **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.**

As a direct benefit of this AMI expansion project, BOPU will conserve water that can be used for domestic, municipal, ecological, industrial, agricultural, and other permitted uses in the Upper Colorado River, North Platte, and South Platte Basins and support efforts of the NRCS to conserve, maintain, and improve natural resources and the environment.

E.1.2. Evaluation Criterion B – Planning Efforts Supporting the Project (25 points)

Plan Description and Objectives: Is your project supported by a specific planning document or effort? If so, describe the existing plan. When was the plan developed? What is the purpose and objective of the plan?

This AMI expansion project is supported by the [2013 Cheyenne Water and Wastewater Master Plans](#). The plan presents findings and recommendations for BOPU to improve infrastructure to increase capacity and meet demands arising from growth to meet operational and efficiency needs.

Plan Development: Who developed the planning effort? What is the geographic scope of the plan? If the planning effort was not developed by the Category A applicant, describe the Category A applicant’s involvement in developing the planning effort.

BOPU, a Category A applicant, developed the [2013 Cheyenne Water and Wastewater Master Plans](#) with direct oversight of technical consultants (HDR Engineering, AMEC Earth and Environmental, and AVI Professional Corporation). The geographic scope of the plan includes the City of Cheyenne, FE Warren Air Force Base, South Cheyenne, and portions of Laramie County. The total area encompasses approximately 136,000 acres. Volume 2, Figure 2-1 Study Area includes BOPU’s service area (see Figure 1) plus additional acreage on all sides.

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

- **Is the project identified specifically by name and location in the planning effort?**

The *2013 Cheyenne Water and Wastewater Master Plans*, Volume 10, Section 10.4.8 recommends transition to AMI for the benefit of all BOPU’s customers.

- **Is this type of project identified in the planning effort?**

The recommendation in the *2013 Cheyenne Water and Wastewater Master Plans* describes a phased approach to transition to AMI as funding is available.

- **Explain whether the proposed project implement a goal, objective, or address a need or problem identified in the existing planning effort?**

Hardware and software purchases are specifically described as one of the AMI transition phases recommended by the *2013 Cheyenne Water and Wastewater Master Plans*.

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

AMI expansion was recommended by the *2013 Cheyenne Water and Wastewater Master Plans* as part of a larger technological upgrade to prioritize streamlined workflows, automation, self-service, and communication tools to achieve reductions in data management costs and increases in efficiency of information exchange.

E.1.3. Evaluation Criterion C – Implementation and Results (20 Points)

- Describe the implementation plan for the proposed project. Please include an estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates.

<p><i>Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2025</i> <i>First Quarter</i> <i>October – December 2024</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant award • Initiate environmental and cultural compliance process (if not already completed during pre-award) • Signed funding agreement between Reclamation and BOPU
<p><i>FY 2025</i> <i>Second Quarter</i> <i>January – March 2025</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gateway siting (using propagation study to guide locations) • Begin contracting with a wireless communication company to perform installation of gateways

<p><i>FY 2025</i> <i>Third Quarter</i> <i>April – June 2025</i></p> <p><i>through</i></p> <p><i>FY 2027</i> <i>First Quarter</i> <i>October - December 2026</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project management (e.g., BOPU oversight and process invoices for gateway installation contractor) • Finalize agreements and acquire any necessary permits • Install gateways • Database and software configuration, as needed • Neptune My360 installation, configuration, and onboarding by January 2026 • Three semi-annual grant reports • All work associated with grant funding complete by October 2026 • Final grant report by December 2026
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- **Proposals with a budget and budget narrative that provide a reasonable explanation of project costs will be prioritized under this criterion.**

BOPU has received quotes from vendors for equipment, materials, and labor related to this AMI expansion project. The total cost for gateways and materials is \$75,972.60. The quote from the wireless communication company for materials and labor to install the gateways is \$79,795.38. Initial setup, training, and one year of the online portal will cost \$44,875.00. The total project is estimated at \$200,642.98. Governor Gordon has committed \$25,000 as part of the 50% non-federal match. The remaining \$75,642.98 will be provided from BOPU’s general budget.

- **Describe any permits and agency approvals that will be required along with the process and timeframe for obtaining such permits or approvals.**

Final siting for gateways will determine any need for agreements or permits. If city properties are used, then no approval is necessary. Any necessary agreements or permits will be obtained within the proposed timeline of this AMI expansion project.

- **Identify and describe any engineering or design work performed specifically in support of the proposed project. What level of engineering design is the project currently? If additional design is required, describe the planned process and timeline for completing the design.**

No engineering design is required for this AMI expansion project. IT staff already maintain the necessary hardware and software for collecting water usage data. In addition, they are prepared to configure computer systems for the online customer portal in accordance with the timeline proposed for this project.

- **Does the applicant have access to the land or water source where the project is located? Has the applicant obtained any easements that are required for the project? If the applicant does not yet have permission to access the project location, describe the process and timeframe for obtaining such permission.**

Final siting for gateways will determine any need for agreements or permits for this AMI expansion project. If city properties are used, then no approval is necessary. Any necessary agreements or permits will be obtained within the proposed timeline for this project.

- **Identify whether the applicant has contacted the local Reclamation office to discuss the potential environmental and cultural resource compliance requirements for the project and the associated costs. Has a line item been included in the budget for costs associated with compliance? If a contractor will need to complete some of the compliance activities, separate line items should be included in the budget for Reclamation’s costs and the contractor’s costs.**

BOPU will contact the local Reclamation office to discuss environmental and cultural resource compliance requirements related to this AMI expansion project. Because of the disturbed urban setting, it is unlikely that these requirements will apply. Alternate locations for the gateways will be proposed if any potential issues arise.

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? Please consider the following:

- **Does the applicant have a water service, repayment, or operations and maintenance (O&M) contract with Reclamation?**

Water that BOPU collects from the Little Snake River and moves over the continental divide, in addition to water BOPU collects in the North Platte Basin, is stored under Seminole Reservoir Storage Contract No. 06XX6A0062 for 15,700 acre-feet, effective February 27, 2009.

- **If the applicant is not a Reclamation contractor, does the applicant receive Reclamation water through a Reclamation contractor or by any other contractual means?**

BOPU is not a Reclamation contractor nor does BOPU receive Reclamation water through a Reclamation contractor or by any other contractual means.

- **Will the proposed work benefit a Reclamation Project area or activity?**

Any change in Cheyenne’s water demand may affect the volume of water stored in Seminole Reservoir and/or the length of time it is stored.

E.1.5. Evaluation Criterion E – Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities (15 points)

E.1.5.1. Sub-criterion No. E1. Climate Change

Please describe how the project will address climate change, including the following:

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

This AMI project will result in less greenhouse gas emissions with a net positive effect on climate change. Manual meter reading requires four BOPU fleet vehicles that used a total of 3,853 gallons of gasoline during calendar year 2022. Based on the rate of [8,887 grams CO₂ released per gallon of gasoline](#), that equates to 34,241,611 grams CO₂ released into the atmosphere. This AMI project will eliminate the need for two fleet vehicles for meter reading. Assuming an average of 8,560,403 grams CO₂ per fleet vehicle per year for meter reading, BOPU will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 17,120,806 grams CO₂ per year.

- **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?**

Water savings from this AMI expansion project will aid in reducing Cheyenne’s reliance on the Colorado River system will thereby helping sustain water levels in Lake Powell and Lake Mead necessary to continue generating hydroelectric power, which is a clean, renewable energy source that provides resilience to climate change.

E.1.5.2. Sub-criterion No. E2. Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities

- **Please use the White House Council on Environmental Quality’s interactive Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, available online at [Explore the map – Climate &](#)**

Economic Justice Screening Tool to identify any disadvantaged communities that will benefit from your project.

According to current data from the [United States Census Bureau](#), the median household income in Cheyenne is \$74,989 with 8.5% living in poverty. There are four Justice 40 census tracts in BOPU’s service area that affect a sub-population of 20,642 (see Figure 5).



Figure 5. Justice 40 census tracts in BOPU’s service area.

Cheyenne has taken steps to support measures that benefit diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility of underserved communities, as defined by [Executive Order 13985](#). This AMI project will equitably benefit all persons within BOPU’s service area (see Figure 1), including citizens of Cheyenne, servicemembers at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, and rural residents outside the city limits in Laramie County and South Cheyenne Water and Sewer District. Table 1 summarizes the underserved communities in the City of Cheyenne from the [2021 American Community Survey through the United States Census Bureau](#). Since 1987, Wyoming Equality (a local advocacy group) has represented LGBTQ+ persons in Cheyenne and across the state. Cheyenne’s Mayor recently signed a proclamation to combat gender violence by raising awareness and advocating for local solutions through Zonta Club, a local leadership group.

LABEL	ESTIMATE	PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION
In Poverty (Laramie County)	9,765	9.9%
Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population with a disability	8,803	14.1%
Non-English Speaking	3,425	5.6%
Black or African American	1,793	2.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	501	0.8%
Asian	820	1.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	57	0.1%
Hispanic or Latino	10,447	16.2%

Table 1. BOPU Service Area Demographics

- **If applicable, describe how the project benefits those disadvantaged or underserved communities identified using the tool. For example, does the project increase reliability of water supplies, improve water quality, provide economic growth opportunities,**

improve or expand public access to natural areas or recreation, or provide other benefits in a disadvantaged or underserved community?

Water conservation helps achieve sustainability for Cheyenne’s growing economy into the future with the existing water resources. Water waste has short and long-term costs for all users. Unresolved leaks can lead to larger plumbing problems and property damage that can be costly to repair. Efficient water management and timely response to water waste through this AMI expansion project will allow BOPU staff to shift focus to developing rebate programs for low-income customers and other water savings measures for all customers. Furthermore, water conservation ensures resources are used efficiently and forestalls the need to expand water and sewer infrastructure. Costs of capital improvements are ultimately passed along to BOPU’s customers.

E.1.5.3. Sub-criterion No. E.3. Tribal Benefits

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

Water conservation and efficient use of Cheyenne’s water resources through this AMI project will increase water sustainability for the American Indians and Alaska Natives (0.8% of Cheyenne’s population) living in BOPU’s service area (see “Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities” section). Furthermore, increased water efficiency helps Cheyenne reduce dependence on the Colorado River system. Water that Cheyenne leaves in the Little Snake River results in an additional volume in the Upper Colorado River Basin that can be used by Tribes.

- **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?**

Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and water conservation through this AMI project will support resilience to climate change and drought impacts for the American Indians and Alaska Natives (0.8% of Cheyenne’s population) living in BOPU’s service area (see “Climate Change” section).

- **Does the proposed project support Reclamation’s Tribal trust responsibilities or a Reclamation activity with a Tribe?**

Water that Cheyenne leaves in the Little Snake River results in an additional volume in the Upper Colorado River Basin that can be used by Tribes.

Project Budget and Vendor Quotes - The Budget Detail and Narrative are included as Attachment B1; vendor quotes are included as Attachment B2.

Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

Activities, similar to those proposed under this AMI expansion project, have already been completed in BOPU’s service area, which is a developed urban setting. This AMI expansion project is expected to pass National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance with a categorical exclusion.

- **Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment (e.g., soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat)? Please briefly describe all earth-disturbing work and any work that will affect the air, water, or animal habitat in the project area. Please also explain the impacts of such work on the surrounding environment and any steps that could be taken to minimize the impacts.**

The proposed AMI expansion project is not expected to negatively impact the surrounding environment. Dirt disturbance will be limited spatially and temporally, only to install up to three utility poles; the other gateways will be attached to existing structures.

- **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? If so, would they be affected by any activities associated with the proposed project?**

A search of the University of Wyoming’s [Wyoming Natural Diversity Database](#) returned *Zapus hudsonius preblei* (Preble’s Meadow Jumping Mouse) as the only listed threatened species in the proposed project area. According to published surveys, conducted by the University of Wyoming, this species is isolated to riparian environments. None of the utility poles associated with this project will be installed in riparian areas.

- **Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as “Waters of the United States”? If so, please describe and estimate any impacts the proposed project may have.**

Waters of the United States are present within BOPU’s service area. However, utility poles will not be installed in any wetland or riparian area.

- **When was the water delivery system constructed?**

In 1882, Cheyenne began developing its first water system to deliver water to homes and businesses using pipes.

- **Will the proposed project result in any modification of or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes)? If so, state when those features were constructed and describe the nature and timing of any extensive alterations or modifications to those features completed previously.**

There are no proposed modifications or effects to irrigation systems under this proposed AMI expansion project.

- **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.***

It is unlikely that any building, structure, or feature listed on the National Register of Historic Places will be selected for gateway installation. Once locations are selected for the gateways, BOPU will consult with the local State Historic Preservation Office to ensure no listed historic places are negatively impacted through this proposed project.

- **Are there any known archeological sites in the proposed project area?**

BOPU is not aware of any documented archaeological sites in the proposed project area. Once locations are selected for the gateways, BOPU will consult with the local State Historic Preservation Office to ensure there are no negative impacts to any archaeological sites through this proposed project.

- **Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?**

The proposed AMI expansion project is not expected to have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations. Efficient use of existing water supply and infrastructure will help keep costs low for all BOPU customers.

- **Will the proposed project limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands?**

The proposed AMI expansion project area does not encompass any Indian sacred sites or 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?**

The proposed AMI expansion project is not anticipated to spread noxious weeds or non-native invasive species. Limited soil disturbance will be necessary to install up to three utility poles. If any soils are needed from off-site, BOPU will ensure there are no negative plant impacts.

Required Permits or Approvals

Final siting for gateways will determine any need for agreements or permits. If city properties are used, then no approval is necessary. If any agreements or permits are deemed necessary, they will be obtained within the proposed timeline of this AMI expansion project.

Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

There is no overlap between this proposed AMI expansion project with active or anticipated proposals or projects in terms of activities, costs, or commitment of key personnel. The scope of work presented in this application is not duplicated in any other application by BOPU to WaterSMART.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

There are no actual or potential conflicts of interest that exist at the time of submission of this application to WaterSMART. If awarded this grant, BOPU will not use any of the funds for lobbying activities.

Letters of Support are included as Attachment A.

Official Resolution

Upon notice of pre-award, BOPU staff will put forward resolutions before BOPU's governing body and Cheyenne City Council to enter into agreement with Reclamation and receive funds for this AMI expansion project.

Letter of Funding Commitment is included as Attachment C.

WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Grants
Fiscal Year 2024

ATTACHMENT A

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

City of Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities
Advanced Metering Infrastructure Expansion Project

HARRIET M. HAGEMAN

AT-LARGE, WYOMING

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

CHAIR, INDIAN AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION
OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE
1531 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-5000
PHONE: (202) 225-2311

2120 CAPITOL AVENUE
CHEYENNE, WY 82001
PHONE: (307) 829-3299

100 EAST B STREET
CASPER, WY 82601
PHONE: (307) 261-6595

222 SOUTH GILLETTE AVENUE
GILLETTE, WY 82716
PHONE: (307) 228-6399

January 2, 2024

The Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton
Commissioner
United States Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C St. NW #7654
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Commissioner Touton,

As the lone Congressional representative from the State of Wyoming, I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Cheyenne's Board of Public Utilities (BOPU) project submissions to the Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Grant Program.

The City of Cheyenne currently has a population of approximately 64,000 people representing roughly 11% of Wyoming's total population. Over the last ten years, its population has increased at a rapid rate of around 9.5%. According to multiple estimates, this growth is expected to continue by approximately 2% every year. While Cheyenne's existing water supply and infrastructure are expected to serve its resident's needs over the next several years, improving the functionality of these systems to account for the projected population and economic growth is a priority in supporting these positive trends.

If selected as a recipient of these awards, the BOPU plans to make multiple upgrades to both its existing technology and operations for the benefit of all its users. Specifically, the BOPU seeks to complete the transition to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) through the installation of gateway fixed network data collectors and exchanging older meter designs with smart meter technology that communicates real-time water usage data. The BOPU also plans to create a customer portal so its users can effectively track their water usage data at any time. AMI will allow BOPU to expedite its leak-repairing operations while also giving consumers the necessary tools to use water efficiently and save money.

Furthermore, with around half of Cheyenne's total water supply originating from an exchange of water rights on the Little Snake River in the Upper Colorado River Basin, the potential for water shortages through curtailment of water rights is a very real possibility. AMI, among other relevant projects, not only increases the sustainability of existing water resources but also enhances resiliency toward the potential for future shortages.

With a growing population and a prosperous future full of economic development, it is more important than ever that we support projects that modernize Cheyenne's infrastructure to ensure the needs of everyone in the community are met. These water infrastructure improvements are a major step towards reaching this goal. With that being said, I urge you to give your full attention and consideration to the Cheyenne BOPU's application submissions to the USBR's WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Grant Program.

Sincerely,



Harriet M. Hageman
Member of Congress

JOHN BARRASSO
WYOMING

307 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
202-224-6441

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
RANKING MEMBER

FOREIGN RELATIONS

FINANCE

United States Senate

January 16, 2024

Ms. Camille Calimlim Touton
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Commissioner Touton,

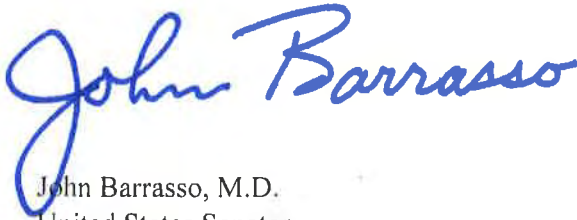
I am writing in support for the City of Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities (BOPU) grant submission for the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program for the Federal Fiscal Year 2024.

The City of Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities intends to utilize the grant to complete the transition to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) by installing gateway fixed network data collectors, replacing old meters with smart meters that transmit real-time water usage data and launching a customer portal for customers to track their usage. The grant would allow for the City of Cheyenne to enhance water management by expediting leak repairs and utilizing water use efficiently.

The Wyoming State Chief Economist has data that indicates Cheyenne's economy has grown over the last ten years by 9.5%. The current water supply and infrastructure are expected to support the population increase in Cheyenne but water shortage threatens BOPU's ability to meet the current growing demand in the city. This grant would support improvements to water management that would be able to extend water resources for the future of Cheyenne.

As the application process proceeds, I appreciate your consideration of the City of Cheyenne's Board of Public Utilities grant submission for the Bureau's WaterSMART program. This is a project that not only recognizes the growth of Cheyenne's population and economy, but also acknowledges the importance of building resilient water resources.

Sincerely,



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator

January 8, 2024

Camille Calimlim Touton
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240-0001

RE: Letter of Support for the City of Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities Grant Application to WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Dear Commissioner Touton:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the grant application submitted by the City of Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities (BOPU) to the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects funding opportunities. The proposed project, involving the transition to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), is a commendable initiative that aligns with the goals of water efficiency and modernization.

BOPU's plan to install gateway fixed network data collectors, replace old meters with smart meters transmitting real-time water usage data, and launch a customer portal for usage tracking demonstrates a forward-thinking approach to water management. The implementation of AMI technology is a crucial step towards enhancing operational efficiency, improving leak detection, and promoting responsible water use within the City of Cheyenne.

The benefits of this project extend beyond the technological upgrades; they speak directly to the core principles of effective water resource management. The real-time data provided by AMI will empower BOPU to identify and promptly address leaks, minimizing water loss and ensuring the sustainable use of this vital resource. Furthermore, the customer portal will engage residents in actively managing their water consumption, fostering a community-wide commitment to water conservation. This project is a prime example of the type of forward-thinking that is needed today. Water is essential for any community and in areas where it is not plentiful, conservation is critical. These steps from BOPU are reasonable, and seek to ensure that when customers turn on the faucet, that water comes out and remains available for the foreseeable future.

Thank you for considering the City of Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities' grant application. I wholeheartedly endorse this proposal and believe these projects are essential to supporting the continued economic growth of Cheyenne. As a Cheyenne resident myself, I look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes it will undoubtedly bring to this community. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Kathy Lenz my Resource and Economic Development Manager at Kathy_lenz@lummis.senate.gov or 307-283-3461

Sincerely,



Cynthia M. Lummis
U.S. Senator



WYOMING SENATE DISTRICT 8

December 15, 2023

Camille Calimlim Touton, Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240-0001

Dear Commissioner Touton:

I write to support the City of Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities' (BOPU) grant applications to the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program in Federal Fiscal Year 2024.

Data from the Wyoming State Chief Economist indicates Cheyenne's economy is growing. Cheyenne is the most populated city with 64,610 residents, accounting for 11% of the total state population. Cheyenne's population grew 9.5% over the ten years between the last two censuses. Cheyenne's current water supply and infrastructure must support continued growth in the coming years. Improvements to water management can extend water resources even further into the future. However, water shortage threatens BOPU's ability to meet Cheyenne's current demand.

Approximately half of Cheyenne's total water supply is from an exchange of water rights on the Little Snake River in the Upper Colorado River Basin. This water supply will be reduced or lost altogether if legal obligations for water supply are not met on the Colorado River. Curtailment of junior water rights is likely to occur in the near future and will create a water shortage for Cheyenne.

Accordingly, BOPU is preparing two applications for the WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects funding. If awarded, BOPU will complete the transition to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) by installing gateway fixed network data collectors, replacing old meters with smart meters which transmit real-time water usage data, and launching a customer portal for customers to track their usage. AMI will enhance BOPU's water management by expediting leak repair and empowering customers to use water efficiently.

Efficient water management with AMI increases sustainability of existing water resources and builds resiliency for times of shortage. It is essential to support continued economic growth for Cheyenne. While BOPU has taken initial steps toward AMI, external funding sources, such as WaterSMART grants, can help communities like our achieve water efficiency in a more timely manner. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Affie Ellis".

Affie Ellis
Wyoming State Senator



www.cheyennecity.org ●

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

2101 O'Neil Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 637-6300
(307) 637-6378 FAX

January 2, 2024

Camille Calimlim Touton
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240-0001

Dear Commissioner, Touton:

I am writing in support for the City of Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities' (BOPU) grant applications to the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program in Federal Fiscal Year 2024. BOPU is preparing two applications for the WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects funding opportunities. If awarded the grant, BOPU will complete the transition to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) by installing gateway fixed network data collectors, replacing old meters with smart meters that transmit real-time water usage data, and launching a customer portal for customers to track their usage. AMI will enhance BOPU's water management by expediting leak repair and empowering customers to use water efficiently.

Data from the Wyoming State Chief Economist indicates Cheyenne's economy is growing. Cheyenne is the state's most populous city with 64,610 residents, which is 11% of the total state population. Cheyenne's population grew 9.5% over the ten years between the last two censuses. Cheyenne's current water supply and infrastructure are expected to support growth for many years. Improvements to water management can extend water resources even further into the future. However, water shortage threatens BOPU's ability to meet Cheyenne's current demand.

Half of Cheyenne's total water supply is from an exchange of water rights on the Little Snake River in the Upper Colorado River Basin. This water supply will be reduced or lost altogether if legal obligations for water supply are not met on the Colorado River. Curtailment of junior water rights is likely to occur soon and will create a water shortage for Cheyenne.

Efficient water management with AMI increases sustainability of existing water resources and builds resiliency for times of shortage. It is essential to support continued economic growth for Cheyenne. While BOPU has taken initial steps toward AMI, budgets are increasingly tight. Raising rates may be recommended to bridge shortfalls. However, utility rate hikes across the country already strain household budgets. Outside funding sources, such as WaterSMART grants, can help forestall or limit rate increases. Thank you for your support of BOPU's endeavor to secure Cheyenne's economic future through water stewardship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Collins', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Patrick Collins
Mayor, City of Cheyenne



Cheyenne LEADS

The Cheyenne-Laramie County Corporation for Economic Development

121 W. 15th St.

Camille Calimlim Touton
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240-0001

One Depot Square
121 W. 15th Street, Suite 304
P.O. Box 1045
Cheyenne, WY 82003-1045

Dear Commissioner Touton:

I am writing in support for the City of Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities' (BOPU) grant applications to the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program in Federal Fiscal Year 2024. BOPU is preparing two applications for the WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects funding opportunities. If awarded the grant, BOPU will complete the transition to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) by installing gateway fixed network data collectors, replacing old meters with smart meters that transmit real-time water usage data, and launching a customer portal for customers to track their usage. AMI will enhance BOPU's water management by expediting leak repair and empowering customers to use water efficiently.

Data from the Wyoming State Chief Economist indicates Cheyenne's economy is growing. Cheyenne is the state's most populous city with 64,610 residents, which is 11% of the total state population. Cheyenne's population grew 9.5% over the ten years between the last two censuses. Cheyenne's current water supply and infrastructure are expected to support growth for many years. Improvements to water management can extend water resources even further into the future. However, water shortage threatens BOPU's ability to meet Cheyenne's current demand.

Half of Cheyenne's total water supply is from an exchange of water rights on the Little Snake River in the Upper Colorado River Basin. This water supply will be reduced or lost altogether if legal obligations for water supply are not met on the Colorado River. Curtailment of junior water rights is likely to occur in the near future and will create a water shortage for Cheyenne.

Efficient water management with AMI increases sustainability of existing water resources and builds resiliency for times of shortage. It is essential to support continued economic growth for Cheyenne. While BOPU has taken initial steps toward AMI, budgets are increasingly tight. Raising rates may be recommended to bridge shortfalls. However, utility rate hikes across the country already strain household budgets. Outside funding sources, such as WaterSMART grants, can help forestall or limit rate increases. Thank you for your support of BOPU's endeavor to secure Cheyenne's economic future through water stewardship.

Sincerely,

Betsey Hale, CEO
Cheyenne LEADS
betseyh@cheyenneleads.org
307-630-2179

leads@cheyenneleads.org

800-255-0742
307-638-6000
Fax 307-638-7728

www.cheyenneleads.org



December 21, 2023

Sarah Bargsten
City of Cheyenne, Board of Public Utilities
2416 Snyder Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Re: Wyoming Governor's matching funds award letter for Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Project: WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects. Reference: 2023 General Session – Enrolled Act 37 Section 325 (HB0001)

Dear Ms. Bargsten,

Your request received November 28, 2023 for the Governor's Infrastructure Matching Funds is hereby granted for \$25,000 from the appropriation to match federal infrastructure funds. The purpose of providing state matching funds is to help the state to qualify for federal infrastructure funds awarded to Wyoming or its political subdivisions under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), P.L. 117-58.

In the proposal, the City of Cheyenne, Board of Public Utilities requested state matching funds to access money from the IIJA WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency project under the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. As proposed, the City of Cheyenne, Board of Public Utilities project would cost \$200,000. The City of Cheyenne, Board of Public Utilities proposes to qualify for the program by requesting \$100,000 from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which will be matched with \$25,000 from the state infrastructure matching funds, and the City of Cheyenne, Board of Public Utilities providing the remaining \$75,000 non-federal match requirement.

Per 2023 General Session - Enrolled Act 37 Section 325 (a) this appropriation shall not be expended for any other purpose. Expenditure of this appropriation is conditioned upon a match of funds in the ratio of one dollar (\$1.00) of appropriated general funds to not less than four dollars (\$4.00) of federal funds. City of Cheyenne, Board of Public Utilities's proposed ratio of funding is \$4.00 of federal funds for every state matching dollar.

As a condition of expending this appropriation, all proposed expenditures and the purposes and goals of each expenditure shall be reported to the Management Council of the Legislature and the Joint Appropriations Committee prior to the expenditure being made. This will be reported

by the Governor's Office. Grant awardees will be required to provide information and supporting documentation to assist with this reporting requirement.

It also requires that all proposed expenditures under this appropriation shall follow a State Budget Department process. So, please contact Russ Noel, Deputy Director of the Wyoming Department of Administration, russell.noel@wyo.gov or (307) 777-8659, once you have received notice from the federal government about the award of the IJJA money.

Funds will only be transferred once both of the above requirements are met. All funds allotted, but either not spent or not matched at the \$1 to \$4 required ratio by the conclusion of the project, shall be returned to the Governor's Office.

Sincerely,



Mark Gordon
Governor

MG:jt:kh