Cucamonga Valley Water District

Service Beyond Expectation

APPLICATION

WaterSMART

Small-Scale Water Efficiency Project

NOFO No. R24AS00059

WATER SAVVY PARKWAY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

Cucamonga Valley Water District

10440 Ashford Street

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

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1. Technical Proposal

1.1. Executive Summary

Date: July 9, 2024

Applicant Name: Cucamonga Valley Water District

Applicant City, County, State: Rancho Cucamonga, San Bernardino County, California

Applicant Category: Category A (Local authority with water delivery authority)

Project Title: Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Number: R24AS00059

Cucamonga Valley Water District (CVWD), located in Rancho Cucamonga, CA, has conceptualized a significant initiative to enhance water use efficiency and promote drought-tolerant landscapes through the Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program (program, project). CVWD plans to convert 20,000 square feet of turf typically found in landscape parkways, notorious for excessive residential outdoor irrigation, into visually appealing, drought-tolerant alternatives. Additionally, CVWD will upgrade existing irrigation systems to prevent water runoff, ensuring efficient water use. This comprehensive effort involves direct installation by contractors, adhering to city codes including measures to protect trees. With an estimated cost of $10 per square foot for turf replacement, the project aims to transform 50 residential parkways. The goal is not only to save an estimated 1.2 million gallons of water annually but also to create a paradigm-shift with how customers perceive drought-tolerant landscaping in the community.

Water Savvy Parkway Transformation participants are intended to be model parkways to inspire residents to adopt outdoor water-saving practices in their own homes. By achieving these objectives, CVWD aims to fulfill its mission of water use efficiency and align with the goals outlined in its Water Shortage Contingency Plan and the regional Drought Contingency Plan. Moreover, this initiative supports state conservation objectives.

CVWD is seeking $100,000 (37% of the total project cost) in funding and is contributing $168,096 (63%) in local matching funds to ensure the success of this transformative project.

Project Timeline: The program will begin in August 2025 and be completed by June 2026.

Other: The program is not located at a Federal facility.

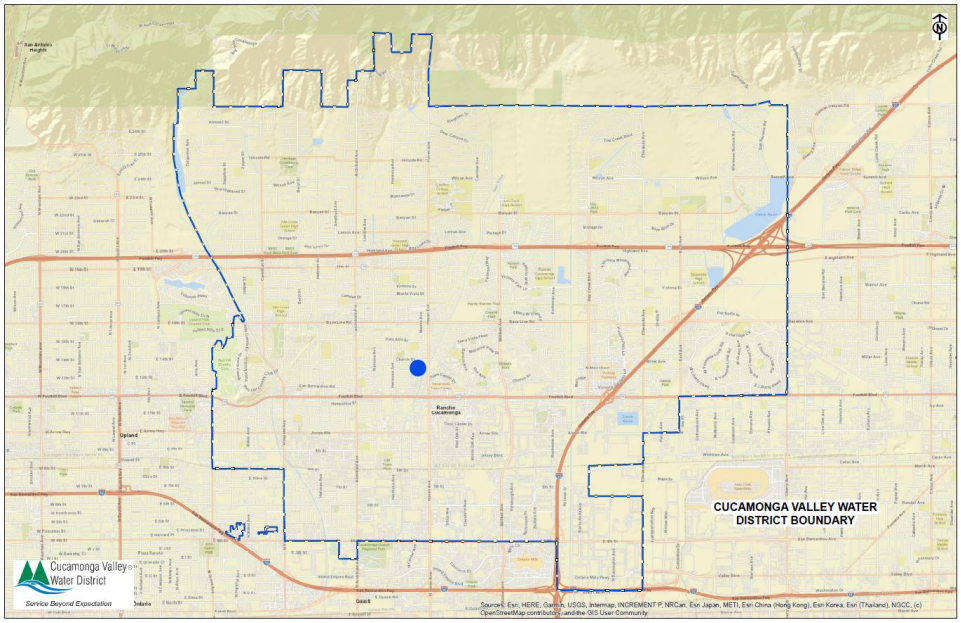
1.2. Project Location

CVWD is a public corporation formed in March 1955 under the provisions of Division 12 of the California Water Code, and provides water, wastewater, and recycled water services to the City of Rancho Cucamonga and parts of the Cities of Ontario, Fontana, and Upland, and unincorporated San Bernardino County. CVWD has more than 200,000 customers within a 47-square-mile area. Customers are approximately 95% residential; 4% commercial, governmental,

and institutional; and 1% industrial. Over the past 10 years, CVWD's water supply portfolio has comprised of 40% imported water, 52% groundwater, 6% surface water, and 2% recycled water to support an average annual demand of 46,300 acre-feet (AF).

The Water Savvy Landscape Transformation Program will take place within CVWD's 47-squre mile service area, shown in **Figure 1**, which includes the City of Rancho Cucamonga and parts of the Cities of Ontario, Fontana, and Upland, and unincorporated San Bernardino County, all within San Bernardino County. CVWD's headquarters is located centrally within the program boundaries at 10440 Ashford Street, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 with a latitude of 34.111764 and longitude of -117.577462.

Figure 1. Project Location



1.3. Technical Project Description

CVWD's service area is located in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains and is primarily comprised of large residential and commercial landscapes with predominantly cool season grasses. CVWD estimates that more than 60% of total water use goes towards irrigation of outdoor landscapes. The proposed Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program is anticipated to offer a direct install service to approximately 50 residential customers within CVWD's service area to transform water-wasteful, turf-landscaped parkway strips to beautiful, low-care, drought tolerant plant materials. The program assumes an average of 400 square feet per customer.

CVWD is partnering with Chino Basin Water Conservation District (CBWCD), who has agreed to provide parkway designs and offer workshops on the maintenance of drought-tolerant landscapes at no cost to CVWD or program participants. CBWCD helps sustain one of CVWD's regional groundwater supplies, the Chino Basin, by maintaining recharge basins and educating local residents on using water wisely. CBWCD has existing designs they will adapt to the

residential parkways within this program, with examples shown in **Figure 2**. The newly transformed parkways will consist of attractive climate appropriate plants and mulch. An existing irrigation system is required but will be enhanced and converted to low flow drip irrigation to suit the low watering needs of the newly installed plants. Existing trees will be preserved and will also benefit from the enhanced drip irrigation system.

Figure 2. Sample Rendering by CBWCD

CVWD has sought informal bids from 3 separate landscape contractors who are familiar with this type of project and/or have worked directly with local water agencies in the Inland Empire region on turf transformation programs. They are familiar with the guidelines, restrictions, and climate. Due to the level of planning and collaboration already conducted and working relationships with contractors, this program is ready to implement as soon as we receive notice of the grant award. A formal Request for Proposals (RFP) will be sent out, but we expect a quick turnaround because the scope of turf programs is well-known in the Inland Empire region. In addition, since the basic, adaptable designs and plant palette already exist, it will be a relatively simple proposal.

Though the program will be open to all customers, CVWD will be targeting marketing to the following customers to maximize water savings potential and benefits:

1. Low-income customers who participate in the CVWD Customer Assistance Program. These are customers who have asked for and receive assistance meeting their monthly water bills. This is an income-based program. This customer-base is small and makes up approximately 0.6% of our customer profile. We are anticipating about 20% of the program will be made up of these customers. We will reach out to these customers directly.
2. Customers with parkways that are consistently overwatered, as identified by our field services staff. If it is a residence in our service area, our staff will provide a doorhanger outlining the program and inviting the customer to participate. We anticipate about 35% of the program will be made up of these customers.
3. Customers that have used water exceeding 200% of CVWD's targeted GPCD over the last 2 years on a regular basis. This will be done with direct mail letters. We anticipate that the remaining 45% of the program will be made up of these customers.

Customers will be clearly notified in all outreach materials that the funding is limited and awards for projects will occur only on a first-come, first-served basis. Outreach for this program will be focused and succinct and is estimated to take no more than 30 days to implement. Interested customers can be scheduled and the work completed in relatively short periods of time. As customers are selected for participation, the selected contractor will work with the customer to agree upon 1 of 4 design templates. The contractor will then schedule with the customer a time to remove the existing turf, modify the existing irrigation system with drip irrigation, plant the new drought-tolerant plants, and install mulch. CVWD has already coordinated with the cities we serve to ensure that we have the most current information on parkway guidelines. CVWD offered a parkway turf rebate 10 years ago and is familiar with city parkway requirements. Our contractors will consider all of the cities' requirements when developing the designs offered.

All customers that complete the program will be encouraged to participate in a 1-day workshop conducted by CBWCD, which is significant added value for long-term thriving parkway landscapes. The workshop will be directed specifically toward maintenance and care of the parkway strip and will be offered no more than 6 months after the direct install of the parkway transformation. CBWCD has agreed to develop the curriculum for the program participants should the grant application be successful. Since the CBWCD helped design templates for the parkway landscapes, they will be prepared to focus the maintenance workshops directly for those plants. CBWCD will provide these services at no cost to CVWD or program participants.

CVWD and customers will be required to:

1. Customers must sign a waiver releasing all funding agencies of any liability.
2. Customers must choose a landscape design from a palette of 4 designs. These may be slightly adapted for specific shade/sun conditions at each site.
3. Customer must agree to maintain and keep the landscape in good repair for at least 5 years.
4. Customers must agree to allow CVWD to use their water use data for at least 36 months before and after the installation to compare water savings.
5. CVWD will work with each customer to let them know who the contractor is, how the project will progress, and provide staff contact to help the customer feel comfortable and supported.
6. CVWD will manage the contractor to ensure quality control and timeline adherence.
7. Customers must allow CVWD to take photos of the parkway area for archival purposes showing the pre- and post-landscape installation.
8. CVWD will ask that any customer that participates in the program and sells their home less than 5 years after installation disclose the maintenance requirements to the new owners.
9. CVWD will be very clear that long-term maintenance is the sole responsibility of the customer, not CVWD.
10. CVWD will be very clear that should the customer remove the drought-tolerant landscaping and reinstall turf, artificial turf, decomposed granite, bare rock, or other

non-drought-tolerant landscaping in the parkway before the 5 years has passed, the customer will be liable for the full cost of the installation.

11. CVWD will provide an educational sign for each transformed parkway recognizing the USBR as a funding contributor as well as promote the water efficiency of the parkway with a QR code linked to resources for passing neighbors to get started on their own water savvy projects.

1.4. Evaluation Criteria

All project evaluation criteria and sub-criteria are discussed in this section, pursuant to **Section E.1** of the NOFO.

1.4.A. Project Benefits

The Water Savvy Parkway Transformation program will have many benefits, including:

- Replace approximately 20,000 square feet of wasteful turf with attractive, drought-tolerant landscaping and upgrade the irrigation system for this landscaping to an efficient drip irrigation system
- Save 1.2 million gallons (or 3.6 acre-feet (AF)) of water per year which equates to 36 million gallons (or 110 AF) over 30 years
- Increase CVWD's overall water supply reliability by reducing the amount of water imported from Northern California and shifting our water supply portfolio to rely more heavily on local, reliable groundwater supply sources
- Help drought-proof our local community by reducing the need for imported water
- Mitigate the impacts of severe, long droughts by saving water now for future use and stretching supplies for everyone
- Improve water quality by reducing runoff from over irrigation
- Enhance climate resilience and reduce approximately 17,941 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions per year by avoiding energy consumption from importing water through the State Water Project
- Reduce maintenance costs by avoiding approximately 30 pounds per year of greenhouse gas emissions in landscaping activities
- Help change the paradigm of having a lush, green lawn in the Inland Empire region
- Create an indirect multiplier of program benefits and inspire new residential turf replacement

Water Savings

Based on calculation estimates from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Turf Study[1], the water savings for turf replacement in CVWD's service area is 60 gallons of water per square foot of turf removed, or approximately 3.6 acre-feet per year. Savings will be greater over time as the parkways mature and less supplemental water is needed. The MWD turf study showed that the savings should persist for 30 years. This program anticipates

[1] https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11011639&GUID=5F5046BC-9B2A-4BAB-B43C-62A32F626069

saving 1.2 million gallons (or 3.6 acre-feet) per year, which equates to 36 million gallons (or 110 acre-feet) over 30 years. That assumes a very conservative figure with no other savings from adaptive landscape retrofits, water overspray, or general parkway inefficiencies of turf. This is a benefit to CVWD's water supply because it decreases the need to acquire additional water supplies to meet growing demand and is a benefit to the individual customer pursuing the landscape changes because it reduces their water use and costs.

The MWD study shows that in the Inland Empire region, re-landscaping from turf to drought-tolerant plants results in water savings of approximately 60 gallons of water per year per square foot. CVWD serves an area with an evapotranspiration factor of 49.2 and an average annual temperature of 78.5^0 that is anticipated to increase to 82.1^0 due to climate change. Those savings will be at least 60 gallons per year per square foot without taking into account wasted water due to inefficient irrigation.

Water Supply Delivery System

The Project will reduce demand on the water supply delivery system, which will help avoid or delay costs associated with purchasing new water supplies. CVWD receives imported water from Metropolitan Water District and the Bay-Area Delta through the State Water Project at $903 per acre-foot. The Delta is the largest wetland ecosystem on the Pacific Coast of the United States and provides habitat to highly diverse plant and animal life. If CVWD reduces imported water use, CVWD is directly reducing water use from the high-water conflict area of the Bay-Area Delta. In addition, decreased water demands reduces the need to acquire new, expensive water supplies. By reducing irrigation needs, it will also reduce peak season and peak day demands. A lower peak demand will delay and/or reduce the size and cost of future expansions to treatment and delivery infrastructure.

Landscape retrofits improve CVWD and customers' resiliency to drought and climate change. Water supplies are faced with challenges every year and with more frequency. Drought and water shortages due to fire or other natural disasters, or infrastructure maintenance are an important and increasingly frequent reminder to strive for resiliency. The Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program will create highly visible parkways for the public to view and realize what water-wise landscapes can look like and how variable they can be. MWD's study shows there is evidence that for every 100 landscape retrofits, there are 14 that are customer-funded. This program is a visual water conservation and direct water savings program. We are confident that this program will demonstrate the feasibility and achievability of landscape transformation of parkways that saves water, beautifies the parkway areas, and inspires homeowners to eventually tackle landscape transformations on their own. This multiplier effect will proactively establish more drought-tolerant landscapes that require less water long term, allowing communities to navigate future shortages and warmer, drier climate conditions with fewer impacts. By reducing outdoor water use through landscape retrofits, water is made available for multiple beneficial uses, including lengthening CVWD's resiliency before enforcing customer response actions in a water shortage.

Additional Benefits

The program will demonstrate how attractive low-water use landscapes are, which can boost local support for water efficiency programs and serve as examples for those who are contemplating landscape changes. This program can help improve familiarity and comfort with low-water and native landscapes. The program will improve water literacy in the community by educating the community on water use, climate change, water rates, value of the water service, drought planning, water supply planning, and different landscape styles. MWD's turf study showed that for every agency provided landscape transformation, 14 residents are inspired move forward their own project. With the multiplier effect, this water savings could increase to 504 million gallons (36 MG x 14), dramatically reducing CVWD's reliance on imported water supplies and increasing CVWD's water supply reliability.

Environmental Benefits

- This program will provide other natural environment benefits. Drought-tolerant plants draw more local fauna, providing habitat and food for more butterflies, bees, lizards, birds and spiders. This will establish healthy, native flora/fauna communities which provides benefits to the entire community.
- Drought-tolerant plants are better suited to our local soils and require far fewer to no inputs like artificial pesticides and fertilizers. These are often over-applied by homeowners and permeate into our local groundwater basins or are rinsed off and become nonpoint source pollutants. Grass requires far more inputs, requires more attention, generates more waste, and generates little attraction for the local fauna.
- Water saved is always more water efficient in every way. Drought tolerant landscapes generate less runoff and encourage healthier natural environments. Re-landscaping parkways with drought tolerant plants and adding permeable groundcovers such as mulch or gravel, results in more infiltration with less water lost to runoff. Efficient water management starts with making the best possible use of the water that is available and eliminating waste in every way possible.
- This program saves water, cuts back on runoff, encourages a healthier local habitat and provides better groundwater infiltration in the designs.
- Any saved water is either retained in the local groundwater basin or not imported from distant sources. Either source – local or imported – is important to manage and keeps water production costs down and helps the State in managing water supplies.
- Less overspray on sidewalks and roads helps lessen water damage and hazards and reduces water waste.
- Lessening use of pesticides and fertilizers improves water quality, helps keep local fauna healthy, and avoids creating nonpoint source pollution and potential algal blooms in local streams.
- Less green waste generated means less inputs to local landfills and fewer truckloads to the landfill generates fewer emissions.

Broader Benefits

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

CVWD receives imported water from Metropolitan Water District through the Bay-Area Delta State Water Project. The 3.6 acre-feet per year of water savings from the program will result in this water remaining in the Bay-Area Delta, helping meet the State of California's objective to decrease reliance on the Bay-Area Delta. Reducing reliance on imported water through the implementation of this program will in turn reduce demands and impacts on the Delta's ecosystem. As discussed in CVWD's Urban Water Management Plan, reduced demands on the Delta mean reduced diversions from that sensitive ecosystem, thereby helping to contribute to instream flows, enhanced ecosystem protection, and improved water quality. With earthquakes and wildfires being hazards in California, water conveyance infrastructures are at high-risk of damage. With almost half of CVWD's water travelling a long distance—over hundreds of miles—the probability of an earthquake or wildfire impacting our water supply increases because we are not just looking at the probability of those events occurring in San Bernardino County, but throughout the state. As demand on imported supply decreases, the risk of earthquakes and wildfire is limited to local infrastructure. Therefore, supply reliability and resiliency increase and hazard risk decreases.

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

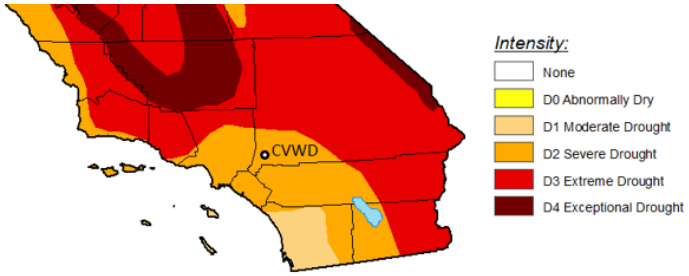
The proposed program will increase collaboration and information sharing. Throughout the Southern California region, water utilities often hear that there are not enough examples of water-wise landscapes. Upon successful completion, we anticipate creating a larger regional program through partnerships with our wholesale water agency, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, and the cities we serve. CVWD meets monthly with IEUA and other water providers in the Inland Empire to share ideas and create water efficiency programming to benefit customers in the region. Additionally, we plan to showcase this program at water conservation conferences such as at the California Water Efficiency Partnership's Peer to Peer as well as the WaterSmart Innovations Conference hosted by the American Water Works Association.

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

Like most of Southern California, CVWD is subject to severe drought. CVWD is dependent on State Water Project water supplies, which are reduced or unavailable during critical dry periods. During drought conditions, CVWD must shift its water supply portfolio to rely more heavily on local, reliable groundwater supply sources such as the Chino Basin and Cucamonga Basin.

During the most recent drought (2020-2022), CVWD was subject to severely restricted State Water Project water supplies and diminished local surface water supplies. **Figure 3** presents the U.S. Drought Monitor for California on May 24, 2022, showing drought conditions in Southern California at the height of the 2020-2022 drought.

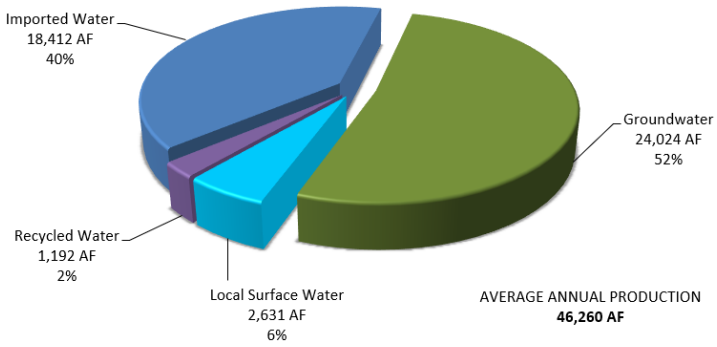
Figure 3. California Drought Monitoring (May 24, 2022)



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California supplies State Water Project water supplies to CVWD from Northern California through the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, a MWD member agency. In April 2022, MWD declared a water shortage emergency due to two consecutive years of 5% SWP allocations, and the lowest 3-year combined allocation in the history of the SWP. This imposed an emergency water conservation program in the portions of the MWD's service area which are dependent on SWP supplies, which includes CVWD. As required by CVWD's Water Shortage Contingency Plan, CVWD performed an Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment for FY22/23 (provided in **Appendix A**). The reduced imported water supply resulted in a water supply deficit of 4,226 AF, about 9% of projected demands.

In order to meet demands with reduced supplies, the CVWD Board of Directors declared a Stage 3 Water Shortage on May 24, 2022 and implemented outdoor watering restrictions. Per California Water Code Section 10632(a)(3), Standard Water Shortage Level 3 corresponds to a shortage level of 20-30% and specific mandatory response actions. Restrictions on imported water pose a significant challenge for CVWD because imported water constitutes a large portion of CVWD's total water supply. **Figure 4** shows CVWD's average annual water supply portfolio over the past 10 years, of which 40% is supplied by the State Water Project.

Figure 4. 10-Year Average Annual Water Production by Source (FY2014-FY2023)



In December 2022, CVWD was faced with the prospect of even further reductions in imported water supply for January 2023 to June 2023. These potential reductions amounted to a 72% reduction of imported water from CVWD's 3-year average. This reduced availability of imported water demonstrated a clear need for increased drought resiliency measures in future years.

According to CDC studies on Climate and Health, droughts will be twice as likely to occur by 2050. Extreme heat days are projected to increase 250 percent by 2050 and 500 percent by

2100. Heat wave duration is expected to increase 174 percent by 2100 (CDC, Climate and Health). The Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program will positively impact the way the community approaches outdoor landscaping and prepares for future droughts. It will also reduce outdoor water usage, which allows CVWD to reduce reliance on imported water supplies, ultimately improving CVWD's drought resiliency.

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.

The Delta Smelt was listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) in 1993. In 2009, CESA status was changed to endangered. The decline of the Delta Smelt population is of great concern to scientists. It is part of a serious decline of pelagic fish species in the Delta collectively called the "pelagic organism decline". This program specifically benefits this species by reducing the demand on imported water from the State Water Project/Bay Delta. Additionally, it will benefit many species as it will provide natural environment benefits. Drought-tolerant plants draw more local fauna, providing habitat and food for more butterflies, bees, lizards, birds and spiders. This will establish healthy, native flora/fauna communities, which benefits the entire community and the environment.

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

The proposed program will positively impact local economies. The program will utilize local professional contractors, landscapers, and vendors found through a competitive bidding process, and nurseries that specialize in high-efficiency irrigation equipment and drought-tolerant plant materials. Overall, the estimated cost of the program of $225,000 will go directly to the local economy. The program will also impact the environment by reducing runoff from overwatering. By replacing the older irrigation system with a water efficient system, water loss through inefficiencies will be gone. In addition, part of the program involves creating awareness of resources for installing high-efficiency controllers and other water saving devices that will stop watering if a leak is detected.

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

Not applicable.

1.4.B. Planning Efforts Supporting the Project

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 objectives of the plan?

The Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program is supported by three planning documents including CVWD's 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP), the Regional Water Use

Efficiency Business Plan developed in 2022 through our wholesale water provider IEUA, and IEUA's 2020 Regional Drought Contingency Plan (DCP)[2].

The objectives of the WSCP are to analyze supplies and demands during drought periods and identify actions to promote conservation, while the objectives of the Water Use Efficiency Business Plan is to discuss the need and benefits of making large efforts and investments in turf removal programs to reduce the region's water usage.

The 2020 DCP (funded partially through a USBR grant) was developed by IEUA in partnership with CVWD and other stakeholders. The objectives of the 2020 DCP are to recognize drought in its early stages, identify the effects of drought or water shortages, and provide water supply protection into the future. The DCP contains a number of drought-focused elements. The system for monitoring droughts involves indicator data collection and distribution, reporting from CVWD and other member agencies, index calculations, and shortage classifications. The drought response actions identified in the DCP are to invest in local supplies, and to enhance groundwater availability.

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.

CVWD, as part of its Urban Water Management Plan, developed our Water Shortage Contingency plan which covers CVWD's service area. IEUA spearheaded the planning effort on the Regional Water Use Efficiency Business Plan and the DCP, but both were driven primarily by input received through its retail water agencies including CVWD. CVWD is deeply involved in the planning to increase the region's drought resiliency. IEUA's service area covers 242 square miles in western San Bernardino County. CVWD and IEUA's other retail agencies collaborated closely, meeting many times to develop both plans.

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

CVWD is identified in the Water Use Efficiency Business Plan by name and location. The plan identifies the need for turf replacement projects and programs, and the goals for public acceptance for drought-tolerant landscaping and water conservation are also recognized in the plan. The plan also references future regulations by the state, to require great conservation by water providers. A piece of this is turf removal, especially turf that is deemed non-functional. Turf in parkways is considered non-functional. The plan also identifies the need to increase irrigation efficiency and reduce water run-off. Parkways with turf and traditional sprinkler systems are the most wasteful pieces of landscaping, and the program provides a solution to this program.

Turf replacement is specifically identified in the 2020 DCP in Section 6.7 as a drought mitigation strategy to be employed:

[2] Inland Empire Utilities Agency Regional Drought Contingency Plan, April 2020

"At Stage Zero, a non-drought stage, programs and incentives will continue to be offered to customers at standard levels. During this time, the goal will be to encourage and incentivize customers to create drought sustainable properties in advance of an emergency. The focus will be on turf replacement programs and customer education offerings."

1.4.C. Project Implementation

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

CVWD will be able to quickly begin implementation on the Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program because we have participated with similar programs over the last decade and it is a "shovel-ready" program. The program improves upon previous efforts by implementing a 'direct install' program that already has landscape design templates created. The designs can/will be adapted to site conditions as needed and as customers request. Upon receipt of USBR's award letter, CVWD would be able to send out RFPs to local contractors who have shown success in similar programs and the turnaround could be as quick as 30 days, as shown in

Table 1. Assuming a start date of August 1, 2025, the project construction is anticipated to be completed by June 2026.

Table 1. Project Schedule

	Task	Start Date	End Date
1	CEQA Categorical Exemption/ NEPA Categorical Exclusion	August 2025	September 2025
2	Bidding	September 2025	November 2025
3	Installations and Workshops	November 2025	June 2026

Additionally, CVWD has worked extensively with the IEUA (its local wholesale water provider, through MWD) on similar, larger-scale programs. They have been quite successful and we have retrofitted hundreds of landscapes over the last decade through training provided at regional landscape workshops and a rebate for turf removal. CVWD developed this programmatic idea in 2022 after seeing a presentation by partnering water agencies in Utah sharing their "You're your Strip" program at the WaterSmart Innovations Conference and when talking with other

local water agencies that have similar demographics and staffing at their agencies. As mentioned in CVWD's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, we have already conducted a similar program where we reimbursed customers $300 to replace the turf in their parkways and they responded very positively (pg. 9-7)[3]. 189 customers took advantage of the program, with an estimated water savings of 3.7 million gallons of water annually (over 11 acre-feet). We hope that the Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program will prove to be even easier for customers to take advantage of and continue to generate water savings anticipated.

No permits or approvals are required for the implementation of this project. All work will take place on non-Federal, residential parkways.

1.5.D. Nexus to Reclamation

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

CVWD does not have a direct connection to the US Bureau of Reclamation as a retail water provider. However, we are connected through the MWD, and any water saved saves the need for MWD to import water from long distances via from either the State Water Project, or the Colorado River Aqueduct. Both of those sources serve areas of Southern California and when there is lessened demand, there is lesser need to import the water. The water saved remains in those areas for better wildlife habitat, flood control, and more local water uses elsewhere, including agriculture and wildfire control. Water transmission remains one of the largest single energy users in the State, approximately 20%. Limiting transmission of water limits energy use throughout the State.

1.5.E. Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities

Sub-criterion No E1. Climate Change

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

Climate change has already impacted the Inland Empire Region – we have more heat events, longer, more severe droughts and more urban, wildland interface wildfires. This project will help those items in a number of ways, including:

- This direct install helps control the types of materials being used to replace turf. Using mulch and vegetation is more conducive to local groundwater recharge, mitigates heat island effects, and provides climate change resiliency, compared to rock, concrete or other impermeable surfaces.
- Local flora is better adapted to the climate and adapt better to the dry conditions of drought and overcome the stress of drought conditions more easily and effectively.

[3] Cucamonga Valley Water District Urban Water Management Plan, June 2020

- Local flora draws more local fauna to help bee, butterfly, lizard, populations remain stable, healthy.
- Reducing water use saves water in local groundwater basins, cutting back on the need to import large amounts of water, lessening pumping and energy requirements.
- Using drought-tolerant plants to replace nonfunctional turf saves water. Saving water now provides for a more sustainable supply for future drought conditions.
- Lessening use of pesticides, fertilizers help groundwater quality, helps keep local fauna healthy, and does not create nonpoint source pollution and potential algal blooms in local streams.
- Less green waste generated means less inputs to local landfills and fewer truckloads to the landfill generates fewer emissions.

Additionally, on an average year, 40% of CVWD's water supply is imported water from MWD from the State Water Project whose source is the Bay-Delta (approximately 500 miles away). The Delta is the largest wetland ecosystem on the Pacific Coast of the United States and provides habitat to highly diverse plant and animal life. Climate change has been negatively impacting the Bay-Delta, so the water saved from this Project directly helps mitigate climate change impacts to this vital ecosystem. Wildfires are high-risk factors and frequent hazards in California, putting CVWD's water conveyance infrastructures at high risk of damage. With climate change, the probability of wildfires will increase (U.S. Geological Survey). By reducing imported supply, the risk of hazards like wildfires becomes more locally centered. Therefore, system reliability increases, and hazard risk decreases. Due to the water-energy nexus, reduced imported water will also result in reduced energy requirements and related emissions associated with source production, conveyance, and treatment requirements. Assuming the Project will result in 3.6 acre-feet less water diverted from the Delta and transported via the SWP to CVWD's distribution system, the program would result in annual energy savings of approximately 11,649 kWh or avoiding 17,941 pounds of Carbon Dioxide equivalent (lbs CO2e) per year. This is based on a 2005 study by the California Energy Commission that estimates that SWP East Branch water energy intensity is 3,236 kWh/AF and the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies online calculator[4]. Additionally, reduction in mowing frequency depends on several factors including turfgrass species and fertilizer applications that affect plant growth rate. The University of Florida estimated greenhouse gas emissions from landscape activities and assessed those mowing activities produced 15 lbs CO2e/1000SF/yr[5]. It is anticipated that the landscape retrofit project implementation and associated reduction in mowing will reduce 300 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions per year for the project (lbs CO2e).

[4] https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator

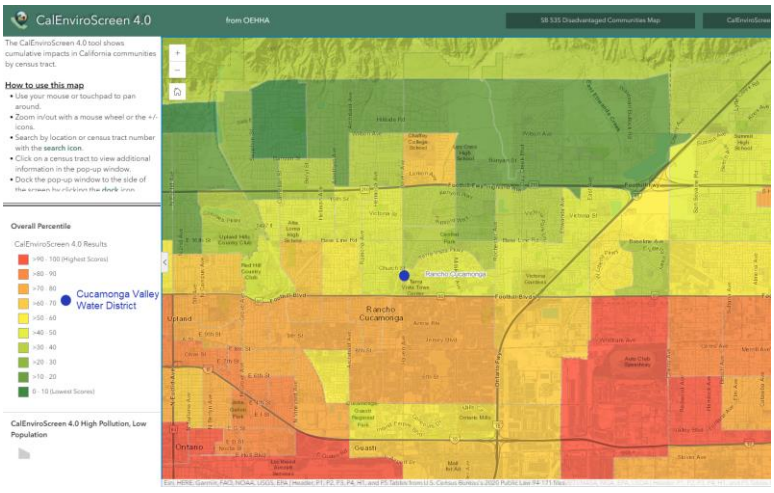
[5] https://buildgreen.ifas.ufl.edu/ppt/Handout_Landscaping_Carbon_Footprint.pdf

Sub-criterion No E2. Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities

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?

The proposed program will benefit a disadvantaged community through addressing water quality from irrigation runoff and provide education to the local community, both of which have high negative exposure (CalEnviroScreen). In addition, $225,000 of project costs will be put into the local economy and could assist the unemployment rating for the region. In order to address the cumulative effects of both pollution burden and socioeconomic stressors, and to identify which communities might be in need of particular policy, investment, or programmatic interventions, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) developed and now maintains and updates the CalEnviroScreen tool on behalf of CalEPA. The tool indicates how disadvantaged a community is through a score of 1–100. The higher the score, the more disadvantaged a community is. **Figure 5** shows that the census tracts within CVWD's service area. The overall CalEnviroScreen community scores are driven by indicators, such as environmental exposure indicators, environmental effect indicators, sensitive population indicators, and socio-economic factor indicators. CVWD will first market the Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program to our low-income program participants who are identified through our Customer Assistance program (1,200 customers). Our goal is to have a minimum of 20% of program participants from our low-income customer base.

Figure 5. CalEnviroScreen Map of Disadvantaged Communities Served by the Project



Sub-criterion No E3. Tribal Benefits

Does the proposed project directly serve and/or benefit a Tribe?

The Project will not directly benefit any tribes.

2. Project Budget

A summary of non-federal and federal funding sources is provided in **Table 2** below. The budget narrative was submitted to Grants.gov separately.

Table 2. Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources

FUNDING SOURCES	AMOUNT
Non-Federal Entities	
1. Cucamonga Valley Water District	$168,096
Non-Federal Subtotal	**$168,096**
REQUESTED RECLAMATION FUNDING	**$100,000**

3. Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

The program is anticipated to fall within a Categorical Exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

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.

All work will be completed on previously established landscapes primarily within the City right of way parkway areas and residential customer private irrigation systems. Some earth-disturbing work will include replacing turf-grasses with drought-tolerant materials and modifying irrigation systems to accommodate the new low water-use landscape. No sensitive resources will be impacted.

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?

No. All work will be completed on previously established landscapes primarily within the City right of way parkway areas and residential customer private irrigation systems. No threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitats will be impacted.

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.

No. All work will be completed on previously established landscapes primarily within the City right of way parkway areas and residential customer private irrigation systems. No "Waters of the United States" will be impacted.

When was the water delivery system constructed?

In 1955, the Cucamonga County Water District (now Cucamonga Valley Water District) was organized from the consolidation of several water suppliers. CVWD's water system has been continuously upgraded and expanded since then.

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.

Modifications to residential customer irrigation sprinkler systems will be needed to accommodate new, low water-use landscaping. No modifications will be made to CVWD's water system.

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 buildings, structures, or features associated with the program are listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

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

No, there are no known archeological sites in the proposed project areas.

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

The proposed project will have a positive impact on low-income and minority populations as it will transform landscapes and upgrade irrigation systems for approximately 50 CVWD customers, of which at least 20% will be low-income customers.

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

No, the proposed project will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites or results in other impacts on 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, the proposed project will not contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area.

4. Required Permits or Approvals

No permits or approvals are required for the implementation of this project. All work will take place on non-Federal, City right-of-way within the parkway area.

5. Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

There is **no** overlap between the Project and any other active or anticipated proposals or projects. The Project does **not** in any way duplicate any proposal or project that has been or will be submitted for funding consideration to any other potential funding source at the time of submission.

6. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

There is **no** actual or potential conflict of interest at the time of submission.

7. Uniform Audit Reporting Statement

CVWD was **not** required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year.

8. SF-LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activity (if Applicable)

The CVWD does **not** retain a Federal lobbyist. The Grants.gov Lobbying Form, Certification Regarding Lobbying was submitted in Grants.gov separately.

7. Letters of Support

Letters of support from the following entities are included in **Appendix B.**

- Congressional Representative Norma Torres
- Congressional Representative Pete Aguilar
- Chino Basin Water Conservation District
- Inland Empire Utilities Agency
- City of Fontana
- City of Ontario
- City of Rancho Cucamonga
- City of Upland

8. Official Resolution (Draft)

The official resolution is scheduled to be reviewed and approved by the Cucamonga Valley Water District Board of Directors in August 2024. The draft resolution is attached to this application in **Appendix C.**

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-7-1

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CUCAMONGA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE CUCAMONGA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT TO ENTER INTO A FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION UNDER THE WATERSMART SMALL-SCALE WATER EFFICIENCY PROJECTS AND DESIGNATING A REPRESENTATIVE TO EXECUTE THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT, AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO, FOR THE WATER SAVVY PARKWAY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Cucamonga Valley Water District (District) has submitted an application for a financial assistance award from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to assist in the funding of water efficiency improvements; and

WHEREAS, the funding opportunity is provided by USBR through their grant program entitled "WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects" and has the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) number R24AS00059; and

WHEREAS, the grant program entitled "WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects" funds small-scale, on-the-ground water efficiency improvement projects supported by previous planning efforts that seek to conserve, better manage, or otherwise make more efficient use of water supplies; and

WHEREAS, the Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program will provide efficient outdoor water use and savings through turnkey parkway landscape transformations which will replace turf with drought-tolerant landscapes; and

WHEREAS, the District's mission is to provide high quality, safe, and reliable drinking water while practicing good stewardship of natural and financial resources; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Cucamonga Valley Water District finds and determines that it is in the best interest of the District and its residents to apply for this grant opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the NOFO requires an official resolution by the applicant's board of directors prior to award; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CUCAMONGA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT THAT:

1. The District is authorized to enter into a financial assistance agreement with USBR under the "WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects" for the Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program; and

2. The application submitted has been reviewed by the General Manager/CEO, or his designee, and the District Board of Directors supports the application submitted; and

3. The District will work with USBR to meet established deadlines for entering into an agreement; and

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-7-1

4. The District has the capacity to provide the amount of funding and/or in-kind contribution specified in the grant cost share requirements; and

5. The District Board of Directors authorizes and designates the General Manager/CEO, or designee, to represent the District in conducting all financial and legal obligations associated with receipt of a financial assistance award under the NOFO.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 23rd day of July 2024.

Randall James Reed
President

ATTEST:

John Bosler
Secretary

Appendix B. Letters of Support

NORMA J. TORRES
35TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

2227 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-6161
FAX: (202) 225-8671

3200 INLAND EMPIRE BLVD., SUITE 200B
ONTARIO, CA 91764
PHONE: (909) 481-6474
FAX: (909) 941-1362

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

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND
RELATED PROGRAMS

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND
GENERAL GOVERNMENT

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
SUBCOMMITTEES:
OVERSIGHT, RANKING MEMBER
ELECTIONS

July 1, 2024

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

Re: Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R24AS00059
WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects, FY'25

Dear Commissioner Calimlim Touton,

As the Representative from California's 35th Congressional District, I write in support of Cucamonga Valley Water District's (CVWD) application for funding under the United States Bureau of Reclamation's "WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects" program, entitled the "Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program."

It is my understanding that the primary goal of the proposed project is to remove non-functional turf from residential parkways within the CVWD service area and replace the non-functional turf with drought-resistant and sustainable landscaping. According to CVWD, parkways are the most challenging areas of turf to water and maintain and replacing them with climate appropriate landscaping has the potential to have multiple benefits for water efficiency within the region.

This project is anticipated to replace approximately 20,000 square feet of non-functional turf, saving an estimated 1.2 million gallons of water annually. Additionally, this water efficiency improvement project has the potential to protect stormwater runoff by reducing irrigation runoff contaminated with fertilizer and pet waste as well as provide a model for future larger parkway turf replacement projects.

Water efficiency improvements can be a powerful vehicle for sustainability and quality-of-life improvements. I believe that this project will prioritize solutions to the region's existing water challenges. For the reasons provided, I respectfully request that you give this grant proposal your full and fair consideration pursuant to all applicable rules and regulations.

Sincerely,

Norma J. Torres

NORMA J. TORRES
Member of Congress (CA-35)

108 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3201

685 EAST CARNEGIE DRIVE
SUITE 100
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408
(909) 890-4445

CHAIR OF THE
HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

PETE AGUILAR
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
33RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION,
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND
RELATED AGENCIES

HOUSE DEMOCRATIC STEERING
AND POLICY COMMITTEE

July 08, 2024

The Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton
Commissioner
United States Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington D.C. 20240

RE: CVWD's Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program.

Dear Commissioner Touton,

I am writing to express my support for the Cucamonga Valley Water District's (CVWD) application for funding under the FY 25 WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Grant Application. CVWD is requesting $100,000 for the Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program and has budgeted an additional $100,000 in matching funds. If approved, the grant will enable CVWD to remove non-functional parkway turf and transform 40 to 50 residential parkways into drought tolerant landscapes without cost to CVWD's consumers and without disruption to the existing flora and fauna. Additionally, the project is estimated to save 1.2 million gallons of water per year.

Cucamonga Valley Water District provides water and wastewater services to nearly 200,000 people in the cities of Rancho Cucamonga, Fontana, Upland, Ontario and unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County. According to CVWD, Parkways are the most challenging areas of turf to maintain and pose a considerable environmental challenge to CVWD and municipal authorities throughout Southern California.

The Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program will address these environmental challenges and provide multiple benefits to residential areas such as reducing contaminated irrigation runoff, protecting stormwater quality and educating neighbors on using a full-scale turf replacement service at their homes. CVWD is committed to increasing its water use efficiency programming and this project will bolster sustainability and serve as a model for larger projects in our region.

I strongly encourage you to give CVWD's application your full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable laws and regulations. If you have any questions, please contact Curt Lewis, Grant Program Director in my office at Curt.Lewis@mail.house.gov

Sincerely,

Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress

Chino Basin
Water Conservation District
Waterwise Community Center

4594 San Bernardino St
Montclair, CA 91763
Ph. (909) 626-2711
Fax. (909) 626-5974
info@cbwcd.org
cbwcd.org

June 17, 2024

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Operations Section
Attn: NOFO Team
P.O. Box 25007, MC 86-63000
Denver, CO 80225-0007

RE: Letter of Support
Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R24AS00059
WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2025

Chino Basin Water Conservation District is pleased to support the Cucamonga Valley Water District (CVWD) in its submission of a grant application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2025. The grant's 50% funding of the program to remove and replace non-functional turf on 40-50 residential parkways at no cost to the customer would make a significant contribution to encouraging alternatives to turfgrass parkways in our region.

At Chino Basin Water Conservation District, we provide water conservation and sustainable landscaping education to residents in our sphere of influence, which includes Cucamonga Valley Water District's service area. We often hear from residents that they are open removing grass parkways, but many of them will be the first person on their block or in their immediate neighborhood to do so. They are often concerned about their parkway not fitting in with the neighbors' turf parkways.

This program would ensure that 40-50 yards "make the leap" to removing turf parkways by incentivizing the adoption of waterwise landscaping in them through providing the landscape renovation at no cost. While the water saved will be substantial and quantifiable, we believe the demonstration benefit to be even more important. Residents seeing other residents with beautiful, low-water parkways will inspire their future confidence to take on similar projects to remove non-functional front-yard and parkway turf on their own properties.

Parkways are logical "high-priority" targets for turf replacement because irrigation of them in our area is often inefficient and the turf

on them is not used recreationally. The extreme reflected heat conditions that parkway turf faces in our region further increases the water needed to keep these non-functional spaces green.

To this end, if Cucamonga Valley Water District is awarded this grant, Chino Basin Water Conservation District will enthusiastically provide technical support including but not limited to creating waterwise parkway planting design templates adapted to parkway conditions in the CVWD service area, providing consultation on best practices for installation and ongoing care of waterwise parkway areas, and additional technical support as requested.

CBWCD supports CVWD in its commitment to increase its already significant water use efficiency programming in anticipation of the State of California's "Making Conservation a California Way of Life" regulations.

A key to water retailers meeting water conservation targets provided by these regulations will be public communications and marketing. The Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program will also feature a significant public relations campaign promoting the benefits of turf replacement which will be leveraged to inspire residents to go beyond the parkway replacements covered in the grant and eventually replace additional portions of their turf with waterwise landscaping.

Chino Basin Water Conservation District respectfully requests USBR's support of this program. The Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program will provide immediate water savings while serving as a vehicle to promote and inspire further water-efficient landscape transformation projects in our region.

Sincerely,

Scott Kleinrock
Conservation Programs Manager
Chino Basin Water Conservation District

Inland Empire Utilities Agency
A MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

6075 Kimball Avenue • Chino, CA 91708
P.O. Box 9020 • Chino Hills, CA 91709
TEL (909) 993-1600 • FAX (909) 993-1985
www.ieua.org

June 20, 2024

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Operations Section
Attn: NOFO Team
P.O. Box 25007, MC 86-63000
Denver, CO 80225-0007

RE: Letter of Support
Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R24AS00059
WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2025

To the Selection Committee:

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA/Agency) is pleased to support the Cucamonga Valley Water District (CVWD) in its submission of a grant application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2025. If awarded, the grant would fund half of the implementation of a valuable program to remove and replace non-functional turf for 40 to 50 residential parkways (the traditional grass area between the sidewalk and street) with beautiful drought tolerant landscaping at no cost to the customer. The "Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program" will replace approximately 20,000 square feet of non-functional turf with sustainable materials such as California-friendly plants and mulch, while preserving existing trees, in neighborhoods throughout CVWD's service area.

As a regional partner to CVWD, IEUA serves approximately 935,000 residents in western San Bernardino County and is proud of our reputation of promoting greater water supply reliability through significant contributions to a diverse regional water supply portfolio, including water from stormwater capture, recycling and reuse, and imported water supplies. The Agency continues to be fully committed to ensuring long-term success for the region by leading the way in water resource management, environmental sustainability, and providing essential sanitation services in a regionally planned and cost-effective manner while safeguarding public health and promoting economic development.

Parkways are the most challenging areas of turf to water and maintain, and replacing them with climate appropriate landscaping will have multiple benefits including but not limited to replacing water wasting grass, beautifying the community with thoughtfully designed drought tolerant landscaping, protecting stormwater quality by reducing irrigation runoff contaminated with fertilizer and pet waste, inspiring surrounding neighbors to follow the example and make water saving improvements at their homes, and educate homeowners about other water efficiency programs currently available to assist them.

Additionally, this small-scale program would provide a model for larger parkway turf transformation programs in the future. The water savings benefits for replacing 20,000 square feet of turf is estimated to be at least 1,200,000 gallons of water per year.

We support CVWD with its commitment to increase its already robust water use efficiency programming in anticipation of the State of California's "Making Conservation a California Way of Life" Regulation expected to be finalized July 2024. CVWD has allocated 50 percent in match share funding as well as additional in-kind value and partnerships with partnering agencies. The Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program will also have an extensive public relations campaign to promote the benefits of turf replacement and inspire residents to transform not only their parkways but other portions of their lawns. IEUA respectfully requests your consideration to award grant funding of this valuable program which will help increase water use efficiency in CVWD's service area as well as promote the many benefits associated with waterwise landscapes.

Sincerely,
INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY

Shivaji Deshmukh

Shivaji Deshmukh, PE
General Manager

FONTANA
CALIFORNIA

June 24, 2024

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Operations Section
Attn: NOFO Team
P.O. Box 25007, MC 86-63000
Denver, CO 80225-0007

RE: Letter of Support
Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R24AS00059
WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2025

To the Selection Committee:

The City of Fontana is pleased to support the Cucamonga Valley Water District (CVWD) in its submission of a grant application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2025. If awarded, the grant would fund half of the implementation of a valuable program to remove and replace non-functional turf for 40 to 50 residential parkways (the traditional grass area between the sidewalk and street) with beautiful drought tolerant landscaping at no cost to the customer. The "Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program" will replace approximately 20,000 square feet of non-functional turf with sustainable materials such as California-friendly plants and mulch, while preserving existing trees, in neighborhoods throughout CVWD's service area.

Parkways are the most challenging areas of turf to water and maintain, and replacing them with climate appropriate landscaping will have multiple benefits including but not limited to replacing water wasting grass, beautifying the community with thoughtfully designed drought tolerant landscaping, protecting stormwater quality by reducing irrigation runoff contaminated with fertilizer and pet waste, inspiring surrounding neighbors to follow the example and make water saving improvements at their homes, and educate homeowners about other water efficiency programs currently available to assist them. Additionally, this small-scale program would provide a model for larger parkway turf transformation programs in the future. The water savings benefits for replacing 20,000 square feet of turf is estimated to be at least 1,200,000 gallons of water per year.

We support CVWD with its commitment to increase its already robust water use efficiency programming in anticipation of the State of California's "Making Conservation a California Way of Life" Regulation expected to be finalized July 2024. CVWD has allocated 50 percent

in match share funding as well as additional in-kind value and partnerships with partnering agencies. The Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program will also have an extensive public relations campaign to promote the benefits of turf replacement and to inspire residents to transform not only their parkways but other portions of their lawns. The City of Fontana respectfully requests USBR's support of this valuable program which will help increase water use efficiency in CVWD's service area as well as promote the many benefits associated with waterwise landscapes.

Sincerely,

Gia Kim
Public Works Director/City Engineer
City of Fontana

CITY OF ONTARIO
303 EAST B STREET | ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA 91764
(909) 395-2000 FAX (909) 395-2070 OntarioCA.gov

July 1, 2024

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Operations Section
Attn: NOFO Team
P.O. Box 25007, MC 86-63000
Denver, CO 80225-0007

Subject: Letter of Support for CVWD's USBR Grant Application: Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program

To the Selection Committee:

Ontario Municipal Utilities Company (OMUC) is pleased to support the Cucamonga Valley Water District (CVWD) in its submission of a grant application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2025. If awarded, the grant would fund half of the implementation of a valuable program to remove and replace non-functional turf for 40 to 50 residential parkways with beautiful drought tolerant landscaping at no cost to the customer. The "Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program" will replace approximately 20,000 square feet of non-functional turf with sustainable materials such as California-friendly plants and mulch, while preserving existing trees, in neighborhoods throughout CVWD's service area.

Parkways are the most challenging areas of turf to water and maintain, and replacing them with climate appropriate landscaping will have multiple benefits including but not limited to replacing water wasting grass, beautifying the community with thoughtfully designed drought tolerant landscaping, protecting stormwater quality by reducing irrigation runoff contaminated with fertilizer and pet waste, inspiring surrounding neighbors to follow the example and make water saving improvements at their homes, and educate homeowners about other water efficiency programs currently available to assist them. Additionally, this small-scale program would provide a model for larger parkway turf transformation programs in the future. The water savings benefits for replacing 20,000 square feet of turf is estimated to be at least 1,200,000 gallons of water per year.

We support CVWD with its commitment to increase its already robust water use efficiency programming in anticipation of the State of California's "Making Conservation a California Way of Life" Regulation expected

CITY OF RANCHO CUCAMONGA

10500 Civic Center | Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730 | 1-909-477-2700 | www.CityofRC.us

June 24, 2024

Bureau of Reclamation-Financial Assistance Operations Section
Attn: NOFO Team
P.O. Box 25007, MC 86-63000
Denver, CO 80225-0007

RE: **Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R24AS00059 - WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2025: Letter of Support**

To the Selection Committee:

The City of Rancho Cucamonga is pleased to support the Cucamonga Valley Water District (CVWD) in its submission of a grant application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2025. If awarded, the grant would fund half of the implementation of a valuable program to remove and replace non-functional turf for 40 to 50 residential parkways (the traditional grass area between the sidewalk and street) with beautiful drought tolerant landscaping at no cost to the customer. The "Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program" will replace approximately 20,000 square feet of non-functional turf with sustainable materials such as California-friendly plants and mulch, while preserving existing trees, in neighborhoods throughout CVWD's service area.

Parkways are the most challenging areas of turf to water and maintain, and replacing them with climate appropriate landscaping will have multiple benefits including but not limited to replacing water wasting grass, beautifying the community with thoughtfully designed drought tolerant landscaping, protecting stormwater quality by reducing irrigation runoff contaminated with fertilizer and pet waste, and educating homeowners about other water efficiency programs currently available to assist them. Additionally, this small-scale program would provide a model for larger parkway turf transformation programs in the future. The water savings benefits for replacing 20,000 square feet of turf are estimated to be at least 1,200,000 gallons of water per year.

We support CVWD and its commitment to increase its already robust water use efficiency programming in anticipation of the State of California's "Making Conservation a California Way of Life" Regulation expected to be finalized July 2024. CVWD has allocated 50 percent in match share funding as well as additional in-kind value and partnerships with partnering agencies. The Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program will also have an extensive public relations campaign to promote the benefits of turf replacement and to inspire residents to transform not only their parkways but other portions of their lawns. The City of Rancho Cucamonga respectfully requests USBR's support of this valuable program which will help increase water use efficiency in CVWD's service area as well as promote the many benefits associated with waterwise landscapes.

Sincerely,

John Gillison
City Manager

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
1370 North Benson Avenue
Upland, California 91786-0460
Telephone (909) 291-2930
Facsimile (909) 291-2974

July 1, 2024

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Operations Section
Attn: NOFO Team
P.O. Box 25007, MC 86-63000
Denver, CO 80225-0007

RE: Letter of Support
Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R24AS00059
WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2025

To the Selection Committee:

The City of Upland is pleased to support the Cucamonga Valley Water District (CVWD) in its submission of a grant application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2025. The proposed 'Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program' is a unique initiative that, if awarded, would fund half of the implementation of a valuable program to remove and replace non-functional turf for 40 to 50 residential parkways with beautiful drought-tolerant landscaping at no cost to the customer. This innovative program will replace approximately 20,000 square feet of non-functional turf with sustainable materials such as California-friendly plants and mulch, while preserving existing trees in neighborhoods throughout CVWD's service area.

Parkways are the most challenging areas of turf to water and maintain, and replacing them with climate-appropriate landscaping will have multiple benefits including but not limited to replacing water-wasting grass, beautifying the community with thoughtfully designed drought-tolerant landscaping, protecting stormwater quality by reducing irrigation runoff contaminated with fertilizer and pet waste, inspiring surrounding neighbors to follow the example and make water saving improvements at their homes, and educate homeowners about other water efficiency programs currently available to assist them. Additionally, this small-scale program would provide a model for larger parkway turf transformation programs in the future. The water savings benefits for replacing 20,000 square feet of turf are estimated to be at least 1,200,000 gallons of water per year.

We support CVWD with its commitment to increase its already robust water use efficiency programming in anticipation of the State of California's 'Making Conservation a California Way of Life' Regulation. CVWD has allocated 50 percent in match share funding as well as additional in-kind value and partnerships with other agencies. The 'Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program' will also have an extensive public relations campaign to promote the benefits of turf replacement and to inspire residents to transform not only their parkways but other portions of their lawns. The City of Upland respectfully requests USBR's support of this valuable program. We are grateful for your consideration and look forward to the positive

Budget Narrative

Cucamonga Valley Water District (CVWD) is applying for grant funding to assist with the Water Savvy Parkway Transformation Program (program) under the Notice of Funding Opportunity number R24AS00059. This Budget Narrative was prepared in accordance with the Budget Narrative Guidance and corresponds to Section B of the SF-424A.

6. Budget Object Category	Total Cost	Federal Estimated Amount	Non-Federal Estimated Amount
a. Personnel	$33,614		
b. Fringe Benefits	$9,482		
c. Travel	$0		
d. Equipment	$0		
e. Supplies	$0		
f. Contractual	$0		
g. Construction	$225,000		
h. Other Direct Costs	$0		
i. Total Direct Costs	**$268,096**		
i. Indirect Charges	$0		
Total Costs	**$268,096**	**$100,000**	**$168,096**
Cost Share Percentage		**37%**	**63%**

CVWD will not be seeking reimbursement of Personnel and Fringe Benefits costs ($43,096). CVWD will cash-fund the non-federal share of Construction costs ($125,000) through its annual Flex Budget allocated to CVWD through Inland Empire Utilities Agency and through its Capital Improvement Projects budget (CIP). For FY24/25, CVWD has been allocated a Flex Budget of $200,470 (as shown in **Attachment A**). CVWD is entitled to use the Flex Budget for water use efficiency programs at its discretion and has set aside $100,000 to fund the program. The remaining $25,000 will be funded with CVWD's CIP for construction cost share.

No funding will be provided by funding partners and therefore no letters of commitment are provided. The program budget does not include design or other project costs that will be incurred prior to award.

Personnel and Fringe Benefits

CVWD will not seek reimbursement for staff time spent on the program, as it is considered normal staff activity. However, estimated costs for Personnel and Fringe Benefits have been included in the program budget to illustrate an in-kind contribution by CVWD. USBR grant funds will not be used to reimburse CVWD for staff time.

Position Title	Time (Hrs)	Rate ($/Hr)	Fringe Benefits (%)	Total Cost ($)
Water Use Efficiency Programs Supervisor	366[a]	$71	32%	**$34,471**
Intern	500[b]	$15	15%	**$8,625**
			Total	**$43,096**

[a] Based on 6 hours per week for 61 weeks

[b] Based on 10 hours per week for 50 weeks

CVWD staff will perform tasks including, but not limited to, the following:

- Program oversight
- Contractor management
- Grant administration
- Customer selection and satisfaction
- Conduct site visits
- Answer questions from customers
- Review edits to parkway designs

Travel

CVWD will not seek reimbursement for travel for the program, as it is considered normal staff activity. Travel is not included in the program budget.

Equipment and Supplies

CVWD will not directly purchase equipment or supplies for the program. Purchase of equipment and supplies will be by the construction contractor and are described in the **Construction** section narrative.

Contractual

CVWD will not hire consultants for the program. Contractual costs are not included in the program budget.

Construction

The estimated construction cost for the program is based on preliminary quotes indicating that direct installations will cost approximately $10 per square foot of turf replaced with drought-tolerant landscape. The construction cost estimate includes a 12.5% contingency for unanticipated costs. The contractor will perform tasks including, but not limited to, the following:

- Turf removal/disposal and grading
- Planting, including procuring and installing the plant material
- Drip irrigation conversion, which includes replacing existing valves with new pressure regulated valves, capping off sprinklers, and installing drip tubing
- Covering the planting areas with mulch and grading of finished area

CVWD's purchasing policy requires that all procurements for materials, supplies, equipment, services, and construction employ competitive bidding whenever practicable. CVWD shall strive to obtain the best value in awarding contracts, service agreements, and purchase agreements.

Other Direct Costs

The Chino Basin Water Conservation District will be providing third-party in-kind contributions by providing parkway designs and offering approximately 2-3 landscape workshops on parkway maintenance to program participants. These third-party in-kind contributions and Other Direct Costs are not included in the program budget.

Indirect Costs

CVWD does not have a current Federal negotiated indirect cost rate agreement. Indirect Costs are not included in the Project Budget.

Appendix A. FY22/23 CVWD Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment

Table 4(P): Potable Water Shortage Assessment[1]	Start Year: 2022					Volumetric Unit Used[2]:					AF		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun[3]	Total
Anticipated Unconstrained Demand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49,350	49,350
Anticipated Total Water Supply	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45,124	45,124
Surplus/Shortage w/o WSCP Action	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(4,226)	(4,226)
% Surplus/Shortage w/o WSCP Action												-9%	-9%
State Standard Shortage Level	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Planned WSCP Actions													
Benefit from WSCP: Supply Augmentation													-
Benefit from WSCP: Demand Reduction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,870	9,870
Revised Surplus/Shortage with WSCP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,644	5,644
% Revised Surplus/Shortage with WSCP												11%	11%

[1]Assessments are based on best available data at time of submitting the report and actual volumes could be different due to many factors.

[2]Units of measure (AF, CCF, MG) must remain consistent.

[3]When optional monthly volumes aren't provided, verify Tables 2 and 3 use the same columns for data entry and are reflected properly in Table 4 and make sure to use those same columns to enter the benefits from Planned WSCP Actions. Please see directions on the shortage balancing exercise in the Table Instructions. If a shortage is projected, the supplier is highly recommended to perform a monthly analysis to more accurately identify the time of shortage.