BROWNSVILLE
PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

Brownsville Public Utilities Board
Go-Green Water Conservation Program

Go-Green
BPUB Rebate Programs

Application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
for Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025
R24AS00059

Applicant:
Public Utilities Board of the City of Brownsville, TX
DBA **Brownsville Public Utilities Board**
UEI: C4QLMRKCDKR4
Address: 1425 Robinhood Dr., Brownsville, TX 78521

Project Manager:
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D.2.2.1. Mandatory Federal Forms

The following forms were submitted electronically via grants.gov:

- SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance
- SF-424 A Budget Information Form
- SF-424 B Assurances Form
- SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

D.2.2.2. Technical Proposal

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date: January 14, 2025
Applicant Name: Public Utilities Board of the City of Brownsville, TX
DBA Brownsville Public Utilities Board
Location: Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas

Eligibility: Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB) meets eligibility criteria under Category A as an organization with water authority in Texas.

Project Summary: The Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB) Go-Green Water Conservation Program will provide quantifiable and reliable water savings through the implementation of rebate programs incentivizing BPUB customers to purchase and install water efficient appliances and implement landscaping to reduce water consumption in our drought-prone area. Specifically, WaterSMART support will allow BPUB to expand the existing high-efficiency toilet rebate program, introduce washing machine and irrigation controller rebates, and implement a xeriscaping incentive program to encourage turf replacement among Brownsville residents. These programs are anticipated to help save more than 10.4 million gallons of water during the two-year project period. The water saved through these programs will help BPUB maintain its water resources by lowering demand in our area, which is currently experiencing sustained drought conditions. The support of the WaterSMART program will also make these water- and money-saving programs - which are still relatively rare in the Brownsville area - more accessible to the many residents of disadvantaged communities in our service area.

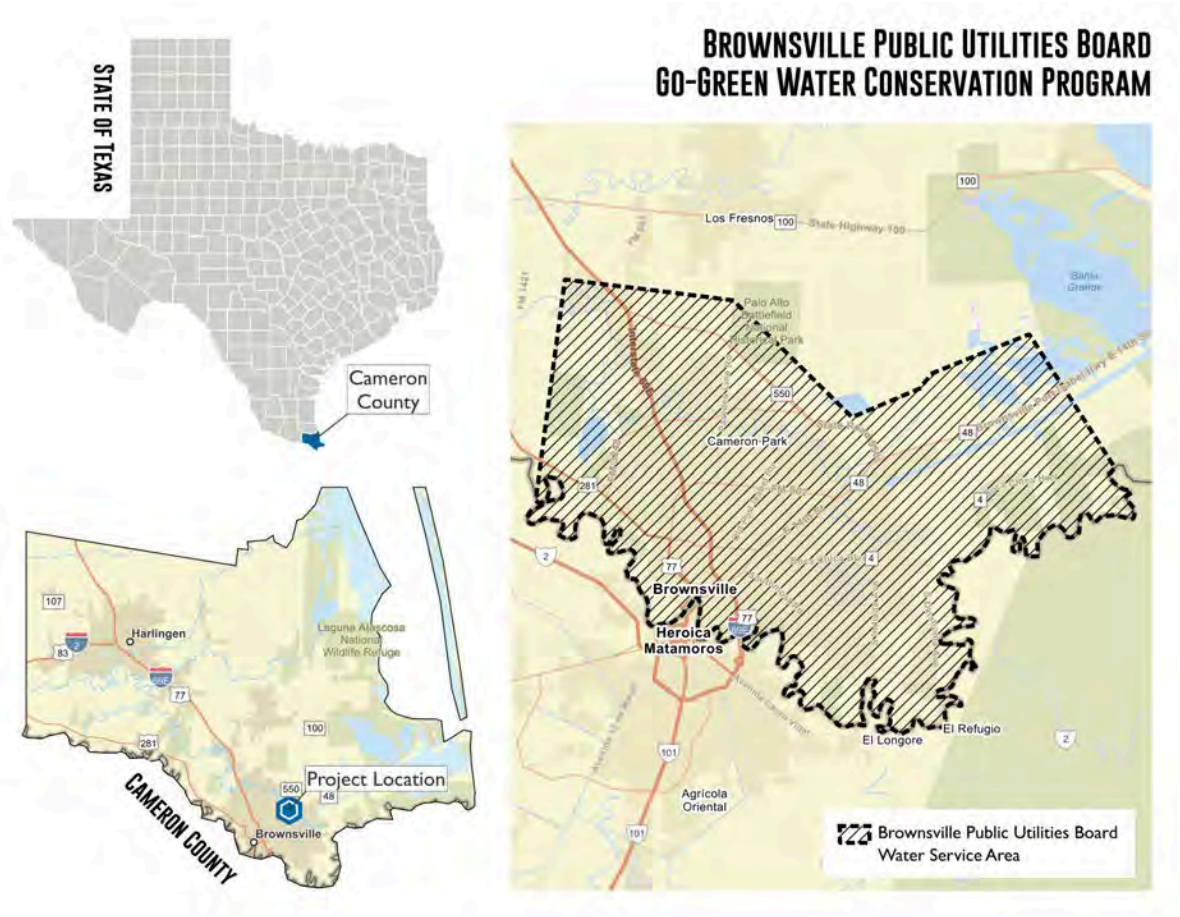
Project Start Date, Duration, and Estimated Completion Date: The project is estimated to take two years. Anticipated start date is October 1, 2025. Project completion date is anticipated to be September 30, 2027.

Federal Land: The project will not be located on Federal Land.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Brownsville Public Utilities Board Go-Green Water Conservation Program is located in the City of Brownsville, Texas, the county seat of Cameron County on the western Gulf Coast of Texas, directly north and across the border from Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Situated in the southernmost region of the Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville is a unique subtropical border city and is one of the most biologically diverse, historically significant, and culturally rich regions in Texas. The project latitude is approximately 25°54’N and longitude is 97°29’W. See Figure 1 for a map of BPUB’s service territory.

Figure 1: Project Location - BPUB Service Area



TECHNICAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

BPUB plans to increase water conservation efforts in our area by expanding the current Go-Green Water Conservation Program. This program will increase the rebates to residential users for the purchase of a new high-efficiency toilet and add rebate programs for high-efficiency washing machines, irrigation controllers, and xeriscaping.

The Go-Green toilet program began in FY 2023 by offering $50 rebates for high-efficiency toilets (HET). That year, 58 rebates were issued. The following year from October to May, 40 rebates were issued. In June 2023, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Department rolled out a marketing campaign for three months doubling the incentive to customers who participated in the program to $100 per toilet. This led to a huge increase in the number of participants, and the department decided to extend the promotion an additional month to the end of FY '24. During just those four months, 80 rebates were issued - more than twice the number issued during the other eight months of that year. The conversion by customers to a HET can save 13,000 gallons annually, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

With the support of this grant, BPUB will increase the HET rebate to $100 for the life of the program, thereby encouraging adoption among Brownsville residents. The goal would be to increase the number of rebates issued to 20 per month, or 240 annually.

High Efficiency Toilet Rebate Program Year over Year Review				
FY '23 Rebates	FY '24 Rebates			Potential Water Savings
Total	High-Efficiency Toilets (Oct. 22 - May 23)	Toilet Rebate Promotion (June '23 - Sept. '23)	Total	Total Annual Gallons
58	40	80	120	1,560,000

At the same time, BPUB is in the process of adding a high-efficiency washer rebate to the current line-up of energy efficiency incentive programs. WaterSMART grant support would allow BPUB to offer a $150 rebate for all new high-efficiency washers. This is a program that is planned now but has not yet been implemented, so the goal for this program is 10 rebates per month, or 120 rebates per year.

BPUB will also implement a rebate for WaterSense-labeled irrigation controllers, which help reduce overwatering. This program will offer a $75 rebate for a WaterSense labeled smart irrigation controller. The goal is to provide 5 rebates a month, or 60 per year.

Finally, BPUB will introduce a xeriscaping or turf conversion rebate, which will provide incentives up to $2,000, for conversion of turfgrass to low water-use plantings, such as native garden beds or drought-tolerant landscapes. Because xeriscaping is relatively new to the Brownsville community, this effort will include education and outreach and start with a goal of 10 lawn conversions per year.

BPUB will use its experience and applications for the existing rebate programs as the basis for these new programs. To qualify for the program, applicants must fill out an application for the respective rebate program, which can be submitted online or at the BPUB office. Applicants must meet eligibility criteria, which can be seen below.

Rebate program eligibility criteria:

- Applicants must complete and submit an application for the Go-Green Water Conservation Program category they wish to apply for (toilet, washing machine, irrigation controller, or xeriscaping). Applications can be submitted online or at our office.
- Applications are subject to verification.
- The installation address must match the address on the active BPUB water services account.
- The rebate recipient must be a BPUB customer. Property ownership will be verified using county records.

In addition to meeting the general eligibility criteria previously mentioned, the terms and conditions for each rebate program are as follows.

High-Efficiency Toilet Residential Rebate Program terms and conditions:

- Applicants must provide a copy of the purchase receipt.
- The High-Efficiency Toilet must be WaterSense Certified.
- The user's account will be credited up to $100 or the cost of the toilet (if less) per High-Efficiency Toilet installed.
- There is a limit of three High-Efficiency Toilets per address.

High-Efficiency Washing Machine Rebate program terms and conditions:

- Applicants must provide a copy of the purchase receipt.
- The user's account will be credited up to $150 for the installation of a High Efficiency (HE) Energy Star washing machine. Washing machines must have the Energy Star certification to qualify for the program.

Irrigation Controller Rebate Program terms and conditions:

- The user's account will be credited up to $75 for the installation of a WaterSense smart irrigation controller.
- Controllers should be programmed to follow the city's watering ordinances.

Landscape Conversion program terms and conditions:

- The user's account will be credited up to $2,000 for landscape conversion efforts, at a rate of $2.00 per square foot.
- Projects must be reviewed by a BPUB staff member before and after installation.
- Applicants must remove at least 200 square feet of turfgrass or non-drought tolerant landscape and replace with drought tolerant landscape and plants.
- Applicants must provide receipts of purchases and pictures of the landscape conversion.

The current staffing of one full-time coordinator in the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Department will not keep up with the expected volume for the expanded program, so BPUB is requesting the assistance of an additional part-time employee to help manage the program during the grant period. In addition, the project budget includes funding for marketing and advertising, since we have found that it is crucial to widely and repeatedly communicate the rebate opportunities and benefits to encourage adoption. BPUB will produce marketing materials internally and update as necessary during the project period. The benefits of the BPUB Go-Green Water Conservation Program will be communicated to customers using a variety of marketing methods, including bill inserts, billboards and signage and social media. These efforts have been effective in previous campaigns for the rebate program. Program benefits that will be communicated to customers include reduced monthly water consumption and bills and a contribution to BPUB's overall water usage during times of drought.

E.1. EVALUATION CRITERIA

E.1.1. Evaluation Criteria A - Project Benefits

Will the project result in more efficient management of the water supply?

BPUB provides water service to 54,000 customers in a service area of 148.28 square miles. We operate three water treatment facilities that provide safe drinking water with a total capacity of 50 MGD. We are dedicated to offering reliable and quality water services while responsibly managing the water resources of Brownsville.

These proactive efficiency initiatives aim to empower our community to conserve water, especially during drought conditions. The reduction in water usage from these programs can lead to more efficient management of the overall water supply, as less water is required for daily purposes.

- A toilet rebate program provides rebates for high-efficiency toilets, which can save up to 13,000 gallons annually per household. The anticipated water savings through this proposed rebate program in this application, with its goal of 240 toilet rebates per year, would be **3,120,000 gallons annually.**
- A washer rebate program encourages the use of high-efficiency washing machines, which can save 5.6 gallons per capita per day compared to traditional models. The anticipated water savings through this proposed rebate program in this application would be approximately **980,000 gallons per year** (estimate based on a goal of 120 rebates per year and 4-person households).
- Providing rebates for irrigation controllers can help users track their outdoor irrigation water use to help reduce water consumption. A WaterSense labeled irrigation controller helps cut down on overwatering by using the weather to determine when it's appropriate to water. According to the EPA's WaterSense site, replacing a clock-based controller with a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller can save an average home up to 15,000 gallons of water annually. The anticipated water savings through this proposed rebate program (with a goal of 60 rebates per year) would be **900,000 gallons per year.**
- Xeriscaping can reduce or end the need for extra watering. Native plants use approximately 80% less water than non-native plants and turfgrass. The EPA Water Budget tool notes that the monthly baseline for the Brownsville area is 2,421 gallons/month for a 500 square foot lawn. Using that size as the average for the 20 rebate properties provides an estimated baseline water usage of 29,052 gallons/year; an 80% reduction would save 23,242 gallons per year. For the goal of 10 properties per year, the overall anticipated water savings would be **232,420 gallons per year.**

Once implemented, these programs are anticipated to help save 5,232,420 of water annually; over the two-year span of this program, the total anticipated water savings is as much as 10,464,840 gallons.

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

The water saved through these programs will help BPUB maintain its water resources by lowering demand, especially during times of drought. This will not only sustain our existing customer base but also help us provide for the 1-2% increase in new customer acquisition we see on an annual basis. Additionally, it will promote economic development by supporting new water demands of new commercial projects. Lastly, it will assist in maintaining adequate water levels in reservoirs, support agriculture irrigation, and ensure a reliable supply for both residential and commercial needs.

Water Management Benefits for BPUB Water Delivery System and Customers

- *Are customers not currently getting their full water right at certain times of year?*

Due to ongoing drought conditions, BPUB has been forced to implement restrictions to guarantee a sustainable supply for everyone. We have limited non-essential water usage, such as car washing and lawn irrigation, to certain days and times of the week. These measures are necessary to conserve our water resources. If the drought conditions worsen, we will need to impose additional restrictions or surcharges up to rationing to manage the situation.

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

These programs help conserve water resources, especially during drought conditions, and can prevent lawsuits from water rights holders or environmental groups that might challenge water restrictions. When water resources are managed more effectively, the likelihood of conflicts over water rights decreases, promoting a more harmonious relationship among water users.

There is frequent tension over water from the Rio Grande river, which is the main water source for BPUB. The U.S. Mexico Water Treaty states that Mexico's obligation is to deliver 1,750,000 AF for every 5-year cycle (350,000 AF/year) to the U.S. As of June 2024, a total of 391,241 AF (at year 4 of the 5-year cycle)[1] had been delivered. If this situation continues, the current surface water supply may be exhausted in coming years. This conflict poses a great risk for water users in the area, as limited water supplies could lead to dire public health and safety concerns, which will be especially harmful for individuals from disadvantaged communities.

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

[1] BPUB Hosts Information Session About Drought - Brownsville Public Utilities Board

Implementing water conservation efforts is crucial for ensuring a sustainable and reliable water supply, minimizing environmental impact, and maintaining customer satisfaction. Some of the possible challenges of not making improvements include the following:

Increased Water Shortages: Without conservation efforts, water utility providers may face severe water shortages, especially during drought conditions. This can lead to restrictions on water usage and impact the reliability of water supply to customers.

Higher Operational Costs: Lack of conservation can lead to higher operation costs due to the need for more extensive water treatment and distribution infrastructure for increasing demand.

Environmental Impact: Failing to conserve water can lead to environmental degradation, including the depletion of water sources and negative impacts on local ecosystems.

Regulatory and Compliance Issues: Water utilities may face regulatory penalties and compliance issues if they do not adhere to state and federal water conservation mandates.

Customer Dissatisfaction: Customers may become dissatisfied with the utility provider if they experience frequent water shortages or higher water bills due to increased operational costs.

- *Are customer water restrictions currently required?*

Yes, due to the United States' water levels in the Amistad and Falcon International Reservoirs being at 25%, or 834,600 acre-feet, as reported by the TCEQ Rio Grande Watermaster, BPUB has implemented Stage 2 of its Drought Contingency Plan, which prohibits non-essential watering such as washing buildings, using water for dust control and allowing water to run into the streets. Lawn watering by sprinkler system is restricted to two days a week. Variances must be acquired from BPUB to water new landscapes outside the landscape irrigation schedule.

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

This water conservation project is extremely important for our residents. We continue to expect a warmer and drier-than-normal pattern to persist through the January-March 2025 period. Continued record to near-record lows, combined with low storage levels at the Amistad and Falcon International Reservoirs, means continued limits on agricultural and municipal water use. The likelihood of dryness/drought expansion combined with still-abundant grass and brush fuels increases the threat for wildfire growth and spread.

In addition, Brownsville has been slow to adopt many of the water conservation efforts that have become increasingly common in other parts of the country. This project has the potential to dramatically increase the use of water-efficient appliances in the city, and it will also help make drought-tolerant landscaping more visible and accepted. We hope that this program will continue to lead to increasing adoption of these practices throughout the community.

Broader Benefits

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

By implementing water management practices and technologies, we aim to optimize water distribution, reduce losses, and ensure a more consistent supply across the entire basin. Adoption of sustainable water use practices will help maintain water levels in reservoirs and aquifers, benefiting the broader ecosystem.

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

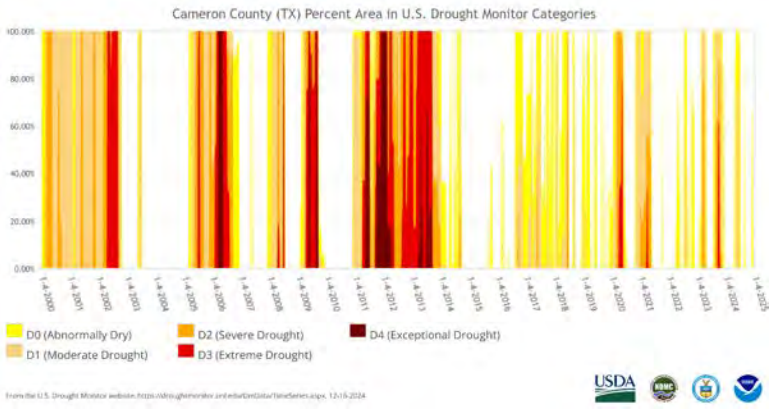
The Amistad and Falcon Reservoirs are located on the Rio Grande, which provides almost all of the water needs for the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The reservoirs are managed jointly by the governments of the United States and Mexico through the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC). Strengthening water supply reliability supports local communities by ensuring they have access to water during critical times, enhancing overall resilience. Additionally, implementing drought conservation strategies reduces the need for surface water, further bolstering the stability of the water supply.

- *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?*

Brownsville, Texas, is currently experiencing sustained drought conditions. The dry/drought conditions are likely to expand through the rest of the winter season and into early spring. There are 4 stages in the Drought Contingency Plan, and we are predicted to get to stage 3 in 2025. The implementation of drought conservation strategies reduces the need for surface water, further bolstering the stability of the water supply.

Cameron County was the subject of seven United States Department of Agriculture declarations for drought between 2012 and 2021. The Rio Grande, which is currently the major water source for BPUB, has also been significantly impacted by drought conditions. It serves as a water source for a variety of consumers in Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico, providing water for both consumption and irrigation. Reduced precipitation and higher temperatures have resulted in decreased flows despite growing demands for water in the region.

The figure at right depicts historical periods of drought since 2000 in the Rio Grande Region, demonstrating regular occurrences of moderate to exceptional drought. Several significant droughts have occurred in the last



several years, increasing stress on water supplies as the population and demand continues to grow.
This project, by helping to increase conservation and efficiency, will help reduce the reliance on these increasingly scarce water resources.

- *Will the project benefit species?*

These projects will indirectly benefit endangered and threatened species. Increased water conservation from these initiatives means more water will be available at the resacas, supporting various threatened species. Brownsville and the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) are home to over 400 species of birds and 700 vertebrate species, 86 of which are threatened or endangered. This region is also home to a variety of butterflies and insects that cannot be found anywhere else in the United States.

Drought and low depth are a major cause of species endangerment. At least two species of fish in the resaca are endangered or threatened: the Mexican goby (state threatened), and River goby (state threatened), declining due to drought and habitat loss. Two species – the Rio Grande silvery minnow and the Rio Grande shiner – have dwindled so desperately from their original range that they are both completely extirpated from the Rio Grande in Texas due to drought and fragmented habitat. All four fish species once thrived in the Rio Grande and Texas resaca system.

- *Will the proposed project positively impact/benefit various sectors and economies within the applicable geographic area?*

These programs promote water conservation, thereby reducing the overall demand on our water supply. This ensures more water remains available for agricultural purposes, supporting crop production and livestock maintenance. The programs help conserve water resources and reduce the strain on local ecosystems. This can lead to improved water quality in rivers and resacas, benefiting aquatic life and surrounding habitats. Water conservation efforts help maintain higher water levels in our reservoirs which are crucial for recreational activities like fishing, boating, and swimming. This enhances the quality of life for residents and attracts visitors to the area. A reliable water supply is essential for supporting tourism-related businesses such as hotels, restaurants, and recreational facilities. By ensuring a sustainable water supply, the project can help boost the local economy and create jobs in the tourism sector.

Additionally, this program puts money back in the hands of residents by providing incentives that will reduce their monthly water (and potentially electric) bill. This is especially important in our disadvantaged community, which faces many economic burdens.

- *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.*

The Go-Green Water Conservation Program will not directly impact on-farm irrigation improvements, but the rebate programs outlined in this application contribute to reducing the environmental impact of water use, complementing NRCS initiatives aimed at protecting local ecosystems and promoting biodiversity. The NRCS in Texas is offering financial assistance to farmers and ranchers along the southern border currently impacted by damage to fields and farming infrastructure, including fencing and water structures. BPUB will organize a marketing campaign to make all users aware of the available rebate programs, including farmers and ranchers in our area.

E.1.2. Evaluation Criteria B - Planning Efforts Supporting the Project

Plan Description and Objectives

This project is supported by the Brownsville Public Utilities Board's Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan, which was prepared and adopted by the BPUB in April 2024 pursuant to the provisions of Texas Administrative Code Chapter 288, Water Conservation Plans, Guidelines, and Requirements. The Plan contains conservation goals, and the specific strategies for attaining these goals, that will improve water use efficiency and reduce long-term water demands. Water Conservation Elements are presented in Section 3 of this plan and include Water Conservation Landscaping (3.6) and Plumbing Fixtures and Retrofit Programs (3.9).

Plan Development

The Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan was created by BPUB. The geographic scope is for BPUB's service area, which is described in detail in the "project location" section of this application.

Support for the Project: Is the project identified specifically by name and location in the planning effort?

The project is identified in the planning document as the "GreenLiving Residential Rebate Program", which is the former name of the program, located on page 24 of the document. This specifically describes the toilet and future washing machine rebate program, and describes water conservation landscaping goals on page 23 of the document.

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

Yes, as noted above, these types of projects are specifically identified in the Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan.

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

This proposed project implements a number of water conservation strategies outlined in the Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan. Section 3 of the Plan outlines 13 water conservation strategies; this project implements two of those strategies: 3.6 Water Conservation Landscaping and 3.9 Plumbing Fixtures and Retrofit Programs. It will also contribute to 3.1 Education and Public Information through the marketing efforts for this project, which will emphasize the importance and benefits of conservation as a way to encourage adoption.

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

Brownsville has promoted water conservation efforts with our users, acting as a WaterSense® partner since early 2013 and an ENERGY STAR® partner since 2011. BPUB also provides free water conservation kits to users, which include BPUB conservation tips and essential items for reducing water usage. BPUB has experienced great success with these initiatives and the High-Efficiency Toilet Replacement Rebate program, which indicates that expansion will be well-accepted by our users. Expansion of the Go-Green Water Conservation Program will incentivize residents to conserve water to meet local water conservation goals.

E.1.3. Evaluation Criteria C - Project Implementation

Implementation Plan

- Pre-Award
  - May 2025 - Anticipated award announcement date
  - July-September 2025 - Advertise and conduct hiring process for Program Administrator in order to have them in place for October 1st start date
  - October 1, 2025 - Anticipated performance period start date
- Program Preparation (Oct-Dec 2025)
  - Task 1: Refine Program Terms and Conditions
  - Task 2: Identify Target Audience and Eligibility Criteria
  - Task 3: Develop Application Process and Requirements
  - Task 4: Create a marketing and communication plan
  - Milestone: Launch expanded rebate program (January 1, 2026)
- Program Launch (Jan-Mar 2026)
  - Task 1: Initiate Marketing Campaign
  - Task 2: Accept and Process Rebate Applications
  - Task 3: Verify Applications and Issue Rebates
  - Milestone: First Round of Rebates Issued by March 31, 2026
- Monitoring and Evaluation (Apr-June 2026)
  - Task 1: Track Program Participation and Rebate Issuance
  - Task 2: Evaluate Program Impact on Water and Energy Savings
  - Milestone: Conduct a mid-term program review (June 30, 2026)

- Program Optimization and Expansion (July 2026-Sept 2027)
    - Task 1: Adjust Program Based on Feedback and Data Analysis
    - Task 2: Expand Marketing Efforts and Partnerships
    - Task 3: Explore Additional Rebate Opportunities
    - Milestone: Annual Program Reports Published at the end of Years 1 and 2

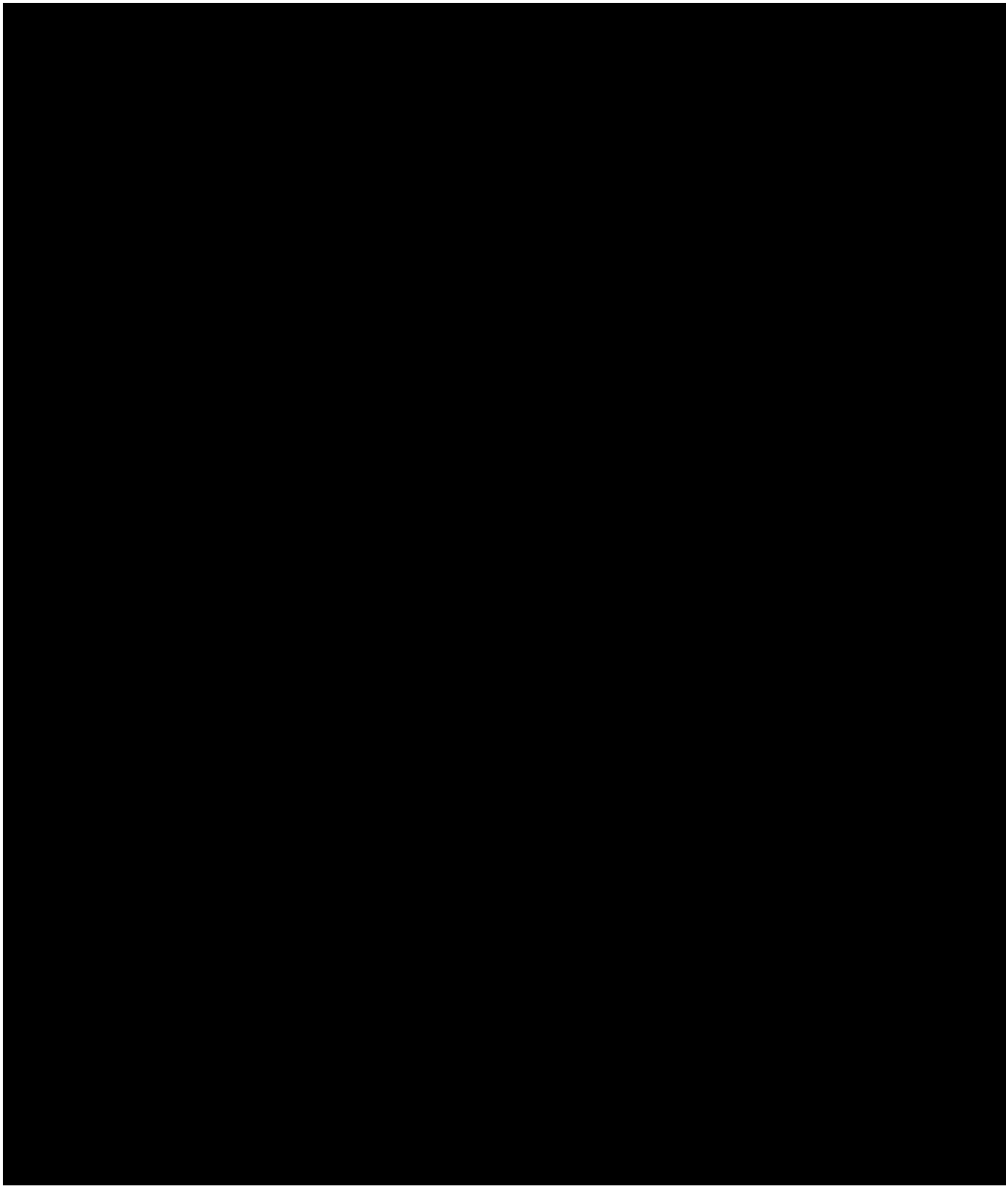
Additional Responses

- No permits and agency approvals will be required.
- No engineering or design work will be needed in support of the proposed project.
- The installation of appliances and landscaping will be done by the property owners, so no access or easements will be required.
- Environmental and cultural resource compliance is not expected to be required for this project.

E.1.4. Evaluation Criterion D - Nexus to Reclamation

BPUB does not have water service, repayment, or an O&M contract with Reclamation. BPUB does not receive Reclamation water through a Reclamation contractor or by any other means. This project supports the Lower Rio Grande Basin Study which highlighted the development of appropriate adaptation and mitigation strategies to meet future water demands.

BPUB did receive a FY2023 WaterSMART Water Efficiency and Energy Grant for Advanced Metering Infrastructure from the Bureau of Reclamation.



ATTACHMENTS

D.2.2.3. Budget Narrative

The total project budget for this program is $247,042 over two years. The grant request is $123,521. BPUB will provide its required 50% match from general funds.

FUNDING SOURCES	AMOUNT
Non-federal Entities	
Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB)	$123,521
REQUESTED RECLAMATION FUNDING	$123,521
TOTAL	**$247,042**

The proposed budget includes funds for rebates, marketing, and program administration.

- **High-Efficiency Toilet Rebates ($48,000):** Direct financial rebate credit up to $100.00 to a customer's account to install a High-Efficiency toilet. BPUB expects 20 rebates per month for 2 years.
- **Energy Star Washing Machine Rebates ($36,000):** Direct financial rebate credit of up to $150.00 to a customer's account to install a High-Efficiency Energy Star washing machine. BPUB expects 10 rebates per month for 2 years.
- **Irrigation Controller Rebates ($9,000)**: Direct financial rebate credit of up to $75.00 to a customer's account to install a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller. Expected 5 rebates per month for 2 years.
- **Xeriscaping Rebates ($40,000):** Direct financial rebate credit to customer's account to residents who convert their lawns to drought-tolerant landscape. Each participant can receive up to $2,000.00 based on the size and scope of their project. Expected 20 water residential customers over the 2 year grant period.
- **Marketing Expenses ($10,000):** Marketing materials will be produced internally, and are expected to include bill inserts, billboards and signage and social media.
- **Program Administrator:** A part-time staff member will be hired to work 20 hours per week to administer this program. The annual salary for this position is based on the total true compensation for a part-time employee working 20 hours at the entry rate for the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Coordinator position. Because this will be a two-year term-limited position, this new staff member will receive fringe benefits, as required for all term-limited employees according to BPUB human resources policy.

Itemized Budget

Budget Item Description	$/Unit	Quantity / Year	Year 1 Cost	Year 2 Cost	Total Cost
Personnel					
Program Admin (20 hours per week)	$26.77 per hour	1,040 hours	$27,841	$27,841	**$55,682**
Fringe Benefits					
Fringe Benefits (please see chart below for itemized list)	$23.25	1,040 hours	$24,180	$24,180	**$48,360**
Other Direct Costs					
Toilet rebates (20/month)	$100	240 rebates	$24,000	$24,000	**$48,000**
Washer rebates (10/month)	$150	120 rebates	$18,000	$18,000	**$36,000**
Irrigation controller (5/month)	$75	60 rebates	$4,500	$4,500	**$9,000**
Xeriscaping incentives	$2,000	10 rebates	$20,000	$20,000	**$40,000**
Marketing expenses	$5,000	Per year	$5,000	$5,000	**$10,000**
TOTAL					**$247,042**

Program Administrator Base Salary and Fringe Benefit Details:

Term Limited - 20hrs.
Base Annual Salary Offered: **Hourly:** **$26.77** **$ 27,840.80**

Benefit	Dollar Amount
Texas Municipal Retirement System (T.M.R.S)	$ 5,331.51
Federal Insurance Contributions Act (F.I.C.A.)	$ 1,726.13
Medicare	$ 403.69
Health Insurance	$ 10,664.76
Dental Insurance	$ 434.88
Life Insurance	$ 53.76
Long-term Disability Insurance	$ 55.68
Workers Compensation	$ 696.02
Vac./Sick Days Paid (30 days)	$ 3,212.40
Holiday Days Paid (15 days)	$ 1,606.20

D.2.2.4. Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment (e.g., soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat)?
No.

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?
No.

Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as "Waters of the United States"?
No.

When was the water delivery system constructed?
The Public Utilities Board was formed in 1960 to provide electric, water, wastewater, and gas services to its customers in the Brownsville area.

Will the proposed project result in any modification of or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes)?
No.

Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?
No.

Are there any known archeological sites in the proposed project area?
No.

Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?
No.

Will the proposed project limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands?
No.

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.

D.2.2.5 Required Permits or Approvals

No permits or approvals are needed for this project.

D.2.2.6. Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

BPUB affirms that there is no overlap between the proposed project and any other active or anticipated proposals or projects in terms of activities, costs, or commitment of key personnel. BPUB understands that if any overlap exists, it must provide a description of the overlap in its application for review.

D.2.2.7. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

Per 2 CFR §1402.112, "Financial Assistance Interior Regulation" BPUB does not affirm any actual or potential conflict of interest exists at the time of submission. Submission of a conflict of- interest disclosure or certification statement is mandatory prior to issue of an award.

Applicability

BPUB and its employees will take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements.
In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and services by recipients and by subrecipients, the conflict-of-interest provisions in 2 CFR§200.318 apply.

Notification

BPUB understands it must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the Department awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with 2 CFR §200.112.
BPUB has established internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. BPUB understands it is responsible for notifying the Financial Assistance Officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that have been reported by subrecipients.

Restrictions on Lobbying

BPUB understands it is strictly prohibited from using funds under a grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to 43 CFR §18 and 31 U.S.C. §1352.

Review Procedures

The Financial Assistance Officer will examine each conflict-of-interest disclosure on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of the proposed grant or cooperative agreement and will determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, develop an appropriate means for resolving it.

Enforcement
BPUB understands that failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the government may be cause for termination of the award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR §200.339, Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also 2 CFR §180).

D.2.2.8. Uniform Audit Reporting Statement
BPUB was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year.

D.2.2.9. Certification Regarding Lobbying
Through this application and the authorized official's signature on the appropriate SF-424 form, BPUB certifies to the statements in 43 CFR § 18, Appendix A.

D.2.2.10. SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
This form was submitted electronically via grants.gov.

D.2.2.11 Letters of Support
Please see Letters of Support from the Mayor of the City of Brownsville and Congressman Vicente Gonzalez on the following page.

D.2.2.12 Letter of Partnership - Not applicable

D.2.2.13 Official Resolution
If selected, BPUB will provide prior to award an official resolution adopted by the BPUB Board of Directors verifying the identity of the official with legal authority to enter into an agreement; the board of directors who has reviewed and supports the application submitted; and that our organization will work with Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a grant or cooperative agreement.

D.2.2.14. Letters of Funding Commitment - Not applicable

John Cowen, Jr.
Mayor

City of BROWNSVILLE Texas
On the Border, By the Sea and Beyond

Brownsville All-America City 2001 / 2014

January 6, 2025

Nickie McCann
United States Bureau of Reclamation
Water Resources and Planning Office
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, Colorado 80225-0007

RE: BPUB Go-Green Water Conservation Program application

Dear Ms. McCann,

As Mayor of the City of Brownsville, Texas, I am writing to express the city of Brownsville's full support for the Brownsville Public Utilities Board's (BPUB) Go-Green Water Conservation Program application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for FY2024 and FY2025.

BPUB provides essential water and wastewater services to approximately two hundred fourteen thousand three hundred sixty-eight (214,368) residents of Brownsville. As part of BPUB's commitment to sustainability and responsible water management, the Go-Green rebate program plays a crucial role in promoting water and energy efficiency among both residential and small business customers.

The Go-Green project is a vital initiative in addressing the increasing challenges posed by drought in our region, exacerbated by climate change. This program has already demonstrated significant success, issuing just over five hundred (500) rebates in FY2024 alone. By expanding and enhancing Go-Green, BPUB can further incentivize water conservation and significantly reduce overall water consumption and energy usage.

The city of Brownsville strongly supports BPUB's efforts to secure funding for this impactful project and urges the Bureau of Reclamation to favorably consider the Go-Green Water Conservation Program application.

Sincerely,

John Cowen, Jr., Mayor
City of Brownsville, Texas

City of Brownsville, Texas
1001 E. Elizabeth St., P.O. Box 911, Brownsville, Texas 78522 Telephone: 956-548-6007 Fax: 956-546-4021 www.brownsvilletx.gov

VICENTE GONZALEZ
34TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, ILLICIT FINANCE, AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–4315

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(956) 682-5545

gonzalez.house.gov

January 13, 2025

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

Dear Commissioner Touton,

I write to express my support for the Brownsville Public Utilities Board's (BPUB) application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. BPUB is requesting $125,000 to support their Go-Green Water Conservation project.

BPUB provides essential water treatment and conservation services to approximately 214,368 residents of Brownsville, Texas. As part of BPUB's commitment to sustainability and responsible water management, the Go-Green rebate program plays a crucial role in promoting water and energy efficiency among residential and small business customers throughout the service area.

The Go-Green project is a vital initiative in addressing the increasing challenges posed by drought in our region. This program has already demonstrated significant success, issuing just over 500 rebates in Fiscal Year 2024 alone. By expanding and enhancing Go-Green, BPUB can further incentivize vital water conservation and significantly reduce overall water consumption and energy usage.

For these reasons, I support BPUB's efforts to secure funding for this impactful project and ask for full and fair consideration within all applicable rules, regulations, laws, and guidelines. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Senior Outreach Coordinator, Victor Garza, at Victor.Garza@mail.house.gov or at (956) 682-5545.

Sincerely

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

John Cowen, Jr.
Mayor

City of BROWNSVILLE Texas
On the Border, By the Sea, and Beyond

Brownsville All-America City 2001 / 2014

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Sincerely

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress