The Bergamont Pump Station Turf Replacement Project

Bureau of Reclamation Funding Opportunity No. R24AS00059

Western Municipal Water District

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Section 1: Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.1 Executive Summary

Date:	January 10, 2025
Applicant:	Western Municipal Water District
Applicant City, County, State:	Riverside, Riverside County, California
Project Name:	The Bergamont Pump Station Turf Replacement Project
Applicant Category:	A – Local authority with water delivery authority

The Bergamont Pump Station Turf Replacement Project ("Project") is a water conservation initiative by Western Municipal Water District (Western Water) aimed at removing approximately 8,860 square feet (sq. ft.) of non-functional turf [1]surrounding the Bergamont Pump Station in the City of Riverside and replacing it with a drought-tolerant, water-efficient landscape. As defined in California Assembly Bill 1572, "Non-functional Turf" is any "turf that is non-functional, and includes turf located within streets, rights-of-way and parking lots"; this is usually inferred as being ornamental turf. The Bergamont Pump Station Turf Replacement Project is a critical step in aligning with California's new regulations, which prohibit the use of potable water for irrigating non-functional turf starting in 2027. This initiative supports Western Water's commitment to water conservation and sustainable landscaping, ensuring compliance with upcoming state regulations while enhancing the aesthetic and environmental value of the site. The Project will reduce potable water usage and serve as a visible example of responsible landscaping practices for the community. With the implementation of drought-tolerant landscaping and efficient irrigation systems, this Project will contribute to long-term water savings and resilience against future drought conditions. These implementation goals are supported by Western Water's 2022 Drought Contingency Plan, funded with assistance from the United States Bureau of Reclamation.

The Project will begin in December 2025 and will be completed by October 2026. Construction is estimated to start no earlier than January 2026 and will be completed by October 2026. No pre-award or design/engineering costs are included in this proposal. Project costs are limited to construction activities. The Project is not located on a federal facility site and does not involve federal land.

1.2 Project Location

The proposed Project will be implemented at the Bergamont Pump Station location at the corner of Bergamont Drive and Cole Avenue in the City of Riverside, California (please see Figure 1-1 in Appendix A). The general latitude and longitude of the Project location is 33°53'11.13"N, 117°19'26.22"W. Please see Figure 1-2 (provided in Appendix A), for more details on the project.

[1] https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1572

1.3 Technical Project Description

Western Water is a public agency in Riverside County, California that provides water, wastewater, and recycled water services to nearly 1 million people across 527 square miles in western Riverside County, consisting of retail and wholesale customers. Western Water provides potable drinking water for residential, commercial, institutional, industrial, landscape, military, and agricultural uses. Western Riverside County has experienced some of the most severe and prolonged drought conditions, both statewide and nationwide. These conditions impact water management flexibility, drought resiliency, and water supply reliability for Western Water.

Western Water utilizes imported water supplies for both wholesale and retail potable and non-potable uses. These imported supplies come from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) State Water Project (SWP) Northern California Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Bay Delta) and the Colorado River and are delivered to member agencies of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), including Western Water (see Figure 1-3 in Appendix A). SWP supplies have become increasingly restricted over the last decades. In December of 2024, DWR announced that the initial SWP allocation for 2025 will be only 15% (DWR, 2024). SWP supplies are becoming increasingly strained by more frequent and intense drought conditions and overall hydrologic variability.

In order to reduce imported water demands, Western Water is proposing the Bergamont Pump Station Turf Replacement Project. The Project consists of the removal of 8,860 square feet (sq. ft.) of non-functional turf which will result in an estimated water savings of 18.30 AF over a ten-year period, and a savings of 54.90 AF over a 30-year period. The Project is critical for Western Water to continue providing reliable water supplies to customers, especially in times of drought.

Western Water will implement the project by utilizing Metropolitan's Turf Replacement program. The intent of this program is to identify areas where existing grass can be removed and replaced with organic, drought tolerant landscaping. The Turf Replacement program aims to combine turf removal, irrigation modification and rainwater retention or filtration to support reuse or increased rainwater soil absorption. Removing turf grass is one of the most water conscious adjustments a water user can make to reduce their water usage.

The Project will begin with turf removal and soil preparation. The existing irrigation system in this area will be removed and replaced with a more water-efficient irrigation system consisting of low-flow drip irrigation heads and weather-based irrigation controllers. Additionally, a high-efficiency controller with leak detection will be installed to prevent further water loss. Drought-tolerant landscaping will be installed using drought-tolerant native plants, or those that are well-suited to the local climate. Groundcover comprised of mulch and decomposed granite will be added to help retain moisture and reduce erosion. Pre- and post-construction educational signage will be established at the site to inform the public about the Project and the work being done to reduce water loss, conserve water, and improve water supply reliability.

By implementing this Project, Western Water and the City of Riverside, are addressing the need, especially in times of drought, to manage their water supply and demand as efficiently as possible by removing non-essential turf to decrease outdoor water usage. The Project supports both agencies' commitment to efficient and sustainable water use and environmental

stewardship, while also complying with new state regulations that prohibit the use of potable water for the irrigation of non-functional turf starting in 2027.

Evaluation Criterion A. Project Benefits

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

The Project is a water conservation initiative by Western Water aimed at removing approximately 8,860 sq. ft. of non-functional turf in the City of Riverside by replacing it with drought-tolerant, water-efficient landscaping. The turf targeted for removal has an unnecessarily high-water demand, the Project will replace it with a lower water demand landscape that includes a more efficient irrigation system, thereby contributing to more efficient use and management of water supplies.

Additionally, this Project supports Western Water's commitment to sustainable water use and environmental stewardship, while also complying with new state regulations that prohibit the use of potable water for irrigating non-functional turf starting in 2027.

By implementing this Project, Western Water is addressing the need, especially in times of drought, to manage water supply and demand as efficiently as possible by removing non-essential turf to decrease outdoor water usage.

Calculation of the water savings expected for the Project was based on the following:

An estimated evapotranspiration rate of 57.81 inches based on Riverside CIMIS data; a cubic value of 8.324 cubic inches per year of estimated demand translated into gallons per year per square foot for a maximum demand; the amount of square footage to be replaced (8,860 sq. ft.); and actual estimated consumption on the site of 772 gallons per year.

The estimated savings over a ten-year period was calculated to be 18.30 AF, and over a 30-year period, the savings are estimated to be 54.90 AF. Therefore, with an annual water savings of 18.30 AFY, over a 10-year period and over a 30-year period would be 54.90 AF.

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

Current water losses at the project site occur as runoff due to inefficient landscaping and irrigation overwatering for turf. Runoff and irrigation water will both be reduced as part of this Project. Runoff that occurs in the project area enters nearby drainages and seeps into the ground. The water that will be conserved as a result of the water efficient management of the turf removal site generally would be available for other beneficial uses within Western Water/Riverside's system and will contribute to the reduction in need to pump imported water from the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta for delivery to Southern California.

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

Western Water customers are currently getting their full water right. Supplies are managed so that demands are always met, even in times of drought.

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

The Project will not directly fulfill Reclamation's legal or contractual obligations and would not prevent any lawsuits or water calls relating to possible competition or conflicts for water managed by Reclamation. By increasing water efficiency through the implementation of this

Project, Western Water is helping to reduce dependence on imported water and make use of available water supplies, thereby helping to prevent conflicts in the event of a future drought and potential water use reduction measures that could be imposed by Metropolitan and the State of California during the next drought. Although 2023 was a well above average water year for California, climate change points to less snowpack and more statewide droughts becoming the norm. As of December 2024, DWR has stated that only 15% of normal supplies will be available to state water contractors in 2025 (DWR, 2024).

What are the consequences of not making the improvement?

The water that will be conserved as a result of the water efficient management of the turf removal sites generally would remain in the SWP system and reduce the need to pump imported water from the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta for delivery to Southern California. Without the Project, water would continue to be used inefficiently for a high demand non-functional landscape, rather than be available for other beneficial uses and the project site would not be compliant with new State regulations that prohibit the use of potable water for the irrigation of non-functional turf starting in 2027.

Additionally, by implementing this Project, Western Water is addressing the need, especially in times of drought, to manage their water supply and demand as efficiently as possible by removing non-essential turf to decrease outdoor water usage. In California, the next drought is highly dependent on the status of seasonal snowpack and temperature, making water availability unreliable from year to year. Thus, it is critical to continue implementing projects like this one that will maximize the use of available water resources.

Are customer water restrictions currently required?

Customer water restrictions are not currently required but could be implemented to reduce demands and increase efficiency under water supply shortage conditions. As noted in Western Water's 2022 update of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Western, 2022), the District uses budget-based rates to control water usage and the District has identified a variety of demand reduction actions to offset supply shortages. These actions include, but are not limited to conservation and rebate programs, leak detection and repair, limitations on irrigation and other voluntary actions to reduce customer demand. This Project would increase water use efficiency in the service area and reduce demands, thereby contributing to greater availability of supplies for alternative uses, and a lower likelihood of water use restrictions.

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

Yes, the Project will improve broader water supply reliability at the basin scale. Due to climate change and current droughts, the water supplies in the western United States are extremely low. By removing water-thirsty grass and better managing landscape water use, Western Water is investing in long-term water savings. In a changing climate that must adapt to variability in hydrologic conditions, along with the threatened risk of availability of water supplies, reducing water use that is non-essential will improve overall water supply reliability.

By reducing imported water usage and overall imported water purchases, available local supplies can be utilized for more essential uses

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

Yes, the goals, progress, and outcomes of this Project will be shared with Western Water's Drought Task Force, consisting of local agencies and stakeholders, in an effort to increase collaboration and information sharing among water managers in the region who are preparing for compliance with upcoming State regulation that will prohibit the use of potable water for the irrigation of non-functional turf starting in 2027. Please refer to Evaluation Criterion B, Planning Efforts Supporting the Project for detail regarding the Drought Task Force.

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

Western Water's service area and the project site has experienced among the most severe and prolonged drought conditions both statewide and nationwide (see Figure 1-4 in Appendix A). Starting in 2014 through the end of 2022, the County experienced abnormally dry to extreme drought conditions, with most of the County experiencing at least extreme drought for a majority of those years. Recently, Riverside County had three consecutive dry years, with the driest year on record in 2021. (https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu).

The western portion of the County experienced the most prolonged drought and most severe conditions during that timeframe, which due to the reliance on imported water supplies, decreased precipitation, increased demand, and a lack of access to SWP water for drought resiliency, made this area vulnerable to supply fluctuations. Imported water supplies were particularly hard hit by recent drought conditions. It is impossible to predict how drought conditions may improve or worsen in the next few years, however, severe drought conditions are certain to occur in the short-term and the long-term. To mitigate future drought impacts, Western Water is proactively taking steps to maximize water use efficiency as a key strategy for continued reliable water management operations. By removing water-intensive turf, the 18.30 AF of water conserved over a 10-year period will directly address the current drought and climate impacts. The water conserved will stay at its source, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and be available to meet other beneficial uses, thereby extending limited supplies.

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.

Work will be performed within areas where there is limited potential for critical habitat or otherwise suitable for sensitive species. By conserving water supplies imported from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta, and allowing those supplies to remain at their source, the Project will benefit species living in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, like the Delta Smelt. Delta Smelt was listed as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) in 2009. The causes for Delta Smelt decline are multiple and synergistic, and it is likely that different causes are important in different years. Some single causes outlined in Moyle, (2002) include:

- Reduction in freshwater outflows
- Entrainment losses to water diversion
- High outflows
- Changes in food organisms
- Toxic substances
- Disease, competition, and predation
- Loss of genetic integrity

Reducing the amount of water that Western Water takes from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta allows more water to stay in this vital ecosystem, where some aquatic species are endangered or threatened, including the federally endangered Delta Smelt, which is endemic to the upper Sacramento-San Joaquin Estuary and mainly inhabits the freshwater saltwater mixing zone. Implementation of this Project will reduce the amount of water exported from Northern California stream systems, providing a positive benefit for the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta including the Delta Smelt and its critical habitat.

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)?
The Project will benefit Western Water's entire service area and the communities that rely on Western Water for water supplies, including the City of Riverside, Corona, Elsinore Valley, and Temescal Valley. Land uses within Western Water's service area include agriculture (8% of the total service area), municipal (1%), environmental (8%), and industrial (4%). Improved water efficiency benefits all communities and sectors by creating higher water supply resilience during droughts.

At the local scale, the Project will enhance the aesthetic, recreational, and environmental value (by planting native plants that will attract diverse pollinators) and positively impact community members that visit the project site and adjacent community park.

Will the project complement work being done in coordination with NRCS in the area (e.g., the area with a direct connection to the districts water supply)?
No.

Evaluation Criterion 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 objective of the plan?
This project is supported by Western Water's Drought Contingency Plan (Plan), developed in 2022. The purpose and objective of the Plan is to increase water supply reliability and proactively address the region's concern with drought. It notes that climate change is expected to increase outdoor water usage, requiring more water to maintain turf landscapes (pg. 2-14). The Plan prioritizes replacing non-functional turf due to its excessive water use with water efficient landscaping..

Plan Development: Who developed the planning effort? What is the geographic scope of the plan? Is the project identified specifically by name and location in the planning effort? Is this type of project identified in the planning effort? Explain whether the proposed project implement a goal, objective, or address a need or problem identified in the existing planning effort?
The Project is widely supported by regional stakeholders in Western Water's service area. In 2021, Western Water embarked on the preparation of a regional Drought Contingency Plan (DCP), funded in part by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) (Western Water, 2022). The DCP (Executive Summary provided in Appendix B) was developed by implementing a tiered engagement plan that included local, regional, state, and national participation, including the general public and Western Water's Board of Directors. Western Water recruited, convened, and engaged a Drought

Task Force comprised of twenty-nine organizations represented by knowledgeable community leaders who offer diverse, informed perspectives to support effective drought contingency planning. The members of the Drought Task Force organized by stakeholder segment group are presented in Figure 1-5. All retail water agencies in Western Water's service area are represented on the Drought Task Force. The geographic scope of the plan covers Western Water's general service area which covers nearly 1 million people in western Riverside County, consisting of retail and wholesale customers.

Via the Drought Task Force, turf removal projects have received the support of a diverse set of stakeholders representing various segments of the community. As stated above, the Project meets the potential mitigations actions listed in Western's DCP which includes promoting water conservation, enhancing water supply reliability, and enhancing operational flexibility through the improvement of water delivery infrastructure.

The Project promotes collaborative projects as a method for increasing regional water supply reliability. Western Water recognizes that optimizing water use efficiency, through the conversion of non-functional turf to more water efficient landscaping is critical for increasing water supply reliability in order to reliably meet projected water demands and reduce dependence on energy-intensive and increasingly unreliable imported water supplies.

Letters of support for the Project documenting the regional support are listed below and are provided in Appendix C.

- California Water Efficiency Partnership
- City of Riverside, Mayor's Office
- Alliance for Water Efficiency

Evaluation Criterion C. Implementation and Results

The proposed Project has a detailed schedule, the duration of each task is shown in Table 1-1 below. These tasks are described in detail in Section 1.3. According to the NOFO, the expected grant award date is October 2025. Based on the schedule provided below, the project will commence prior to award. No pre-award costs are included in the budget. The project will be completed by the fall of 2026 (prior to the October 2027 deadline). The timeline for environmental and cultural compliance will be discussed with the local Reclamation Regional office.

Table 1-1 Project Schedule *(dates are approximate)*

Task	Start Date	End Date
Project Kick-Off	December 2024	Complete
Pre-Construction Signage	December 2024	March 2025
Architectural Design Stage, Permitting, and CEQA Evaluation	January 2025	March 2025
RFP Development & Issuance	March 2025	March 2025
Bidding Process	June 2025	August 2025
Contract Award & Preparation	September 2025	October 2025
Breaking Ground	November 2025	November 2025
Construction	January 2026	November 2026

Post-Construction & Final Reporting	November 2026	October 2026

The following tasks outline the activities necessary to implement the Project.

Tasks	Details
Project Kick-Off	- Initial meeting with Western Water stakeholders. - Finalize project scope, deliverables, and timelines. - Assign roles and responsibilities. - Schedule recurring meetings with internal staff and consultants.
Pre-Construction Signage	- Design and install pre-construction signage to inform the public about the project. - Ensure signage includes project details, timeline, and funding sources.
Architectural Design Stage, Permitting, and CEQA	- Engage architectural design firm. - Develop detailed design plans for the water-efficient landscape. - Review and revise designs based on feedback. - Obtain necessary approvals from Western Water.
RFP Development & Issuance	- Draft the Request for Proposals (RFP) for landscape contractors. - Define the scope of work, evaluation criteria, and submission requirements. - Issue the RFP to potential contractors. - Manage and respond to contractor inquiries during the RFP period.
Bidding Process	- Receive and evaluate contractor bids. - Conduct bid meetings and interviews if necessary. - Select the preferred contractor based on the evaluation criteria. - Prepare contract negotiations.
Contract Award & Preparation	- Finalize contract terms with selected contractors. - Obtain necessary signatures and approvals. - Prepare for the construction phase. - Ensure all materials and permits are ready for construction. - Weekly meetings to finalize contracts and prepare for groundbreaking.
Breaking Ground	- Official start of construction at the Bergamont Pump Station site. - Conduct a site walkthrough to confirm readiness. - Begin initial site preparation activities.
Construction	- Complete 8,860 sq. ft. turf removal and soil preparation. - Install new drought-tolerant landscaping and water-efficient irrigation system. - Regular monitoring and quality checks. - Address any issues that arise during construction. - Weekly site meetings with the construction team to monitor progress.
Post-Construction & Final Reporting	- Conduct a final site inspection. - Compile a final project report. - Final wrap-up meeting with internal staff and consultants.

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

Permits are not anticipated to be needed for the Project. However, should permits be identified they will be obtained during environmental compliance and permitting activities during and after design activities. The Project has been approved by Western Water's Board of Directors and there are no additional new policies or administrative actions required.

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?
All work for the Project will be contracted through a competitive bidding process. Figure 1-2, provided in Appendix A, shows the detailed project design for the Project. As of December 2024, the Project is at 50% design. Any additional design will be contracted out to an architectural design firm.

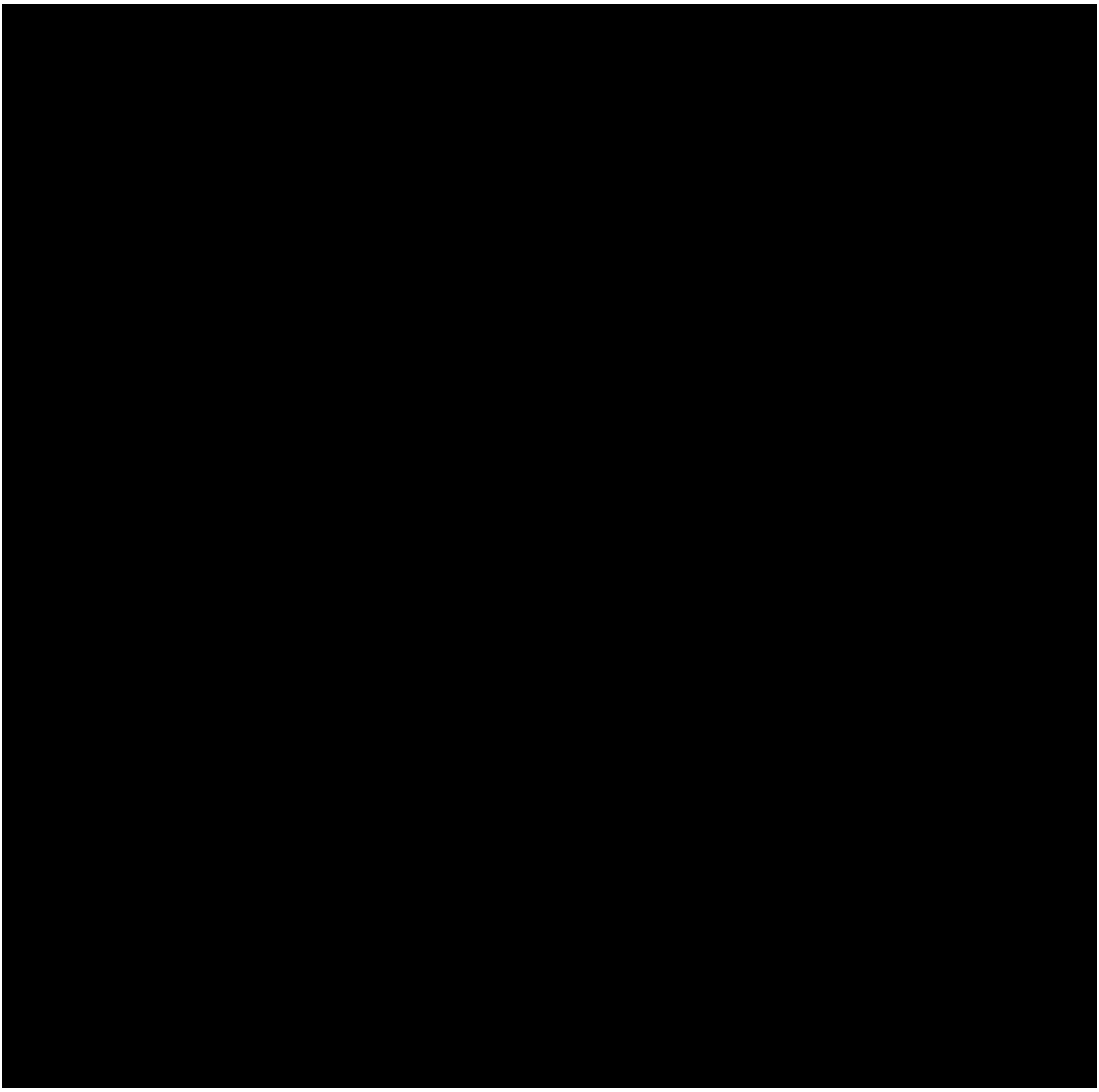
Does the applicant have access to the land or water source where the project is located? Has the applicant obtained any easements that are required for the project?
Western Water has the permission and authority to implement the project at the pump station location. No easements are required, nor is there a need to seek out additional permissions.

Identify whether the applicant has contacted the local Reclamation office to discuss the potential environmental and cultural resource compliance requirements for the project and the associated costs. Has a line item been included in the budget for costs associated with compliance?
The Project is anticipated to fall within a Categorical Exemption pursuant to CEQA and Categorical Exclusion pursuant to NEPA that will require minimal effort for filing applicable documentation. Western Water will not be seeking reimbursement for staff time related to this effort. As noted in Section 2.3.5, the costs for CEQA/NEPA are assumed in the Contractual budget category, however Western Water is not asking for reimbursement for these costs with this budget.

Evaluation Criterion D. Nexus to Reclamation
The Project is neither on Reclamation lands nor does it involve Reclamation facilities. Western Water does not have a water service, repayment, or O&M contract with Reclamation.

The proposed Project will be implemented within Western Water's service area in western Riverside County. This region is within Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region and is served by Reclamation's Boulder Canyon Project. As a Metropolitan member agency, Western Water receives water from Reclamation's Colorado River Project, and the SWP. However, the proposed Project is not located on Reclamation project lands. The Project will reduce water loss by removing a significant amount of water-wasting turf and replacing it with drought-tolerant plants, and efficient irrigation groundcover. This will then reduce demands for these water sources and help to establish drought resiliency for the region.

[redacted]



Section 2: Project Budget

2.1 Funding Plan and Letters of Commitment

Applicant cost-share funding for this project will be provided by Western Water. Project funding does not include in-kind contributions. The sources of federal and non-federal funding sources and total project cost sources are summarized in Table 2-1 and Table 2-2.

Table 2-1 Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Costs to be reimbursed with the requested Federal funding	$125,000
Costs to be paid by the applicant	$125,000
Value of third-party contributions	$0
TOTAL PROJECT COST	**$250,000**

2.2 Budget Proposal

The budget includes costs associated with the implementation of the proposed Project and fall within the construction budget category. No pre-award cost requests are included in this budget. This budget is associated with the Tasks identified in Section 1.3 and only includes construction costs that will be incurred after award and when environmental compliance activities are complete. The budget is summarized in Table 2-2 and described in more detail in the narrative that follows.

Cost estimates are outlined in Section 2.3 with documentation provided in Appendix D.

Table 2-2 Budget Summary

Budget Object Category	Total Cost	Federal Estimated Amount	Non-Federal Estimated Amount
a. Personnel	**$0**		
b. Fringe Benefits	**$0**		
c. Travel	**$0**		
d. Equipment	**$0**		
e. Supplies	**$0**		
f. Contractual	**$250,000**		
g. Construction	**$0**		
h. Other Direct Costs	**$0**		
i. Total Direct Costs	**$250,000**		
i. Indirect Charges	**$0**		
Total Costs	**$250,000**	**$125,000**	**$125,000**
	Cost Share Percentage	**50%**	**50%**

2.3 Budget Narrative

2.3.1 Personnel

Project implementation will primarily be conducted by specialized contractors whose costs are further detailed below. Western Water will not seek reimbursement for staff time spent on the Project, such as project management and grant administration activities.

2.3.2 Fringe Benefits and Travel Costs

Fringe benefits and travel costs are not anticipated and are not included in the overall project budget.

2.3.3 Equipment

All anticipated equipment costs, such as the new irrigation system, are included in the contractual costs identified in Section 2.3.5.

2.3.4 Supplies

All anticipated supply costs, such as drought tolerant plants and moisture efficient ground cover, are included in the contractor costs described in Section 2.3.5.

2.3.5 Contractual

Implementation of the project, including installation of irrigation and procurement of materials will be contracted through a competitive bidding process. A preliminary cost estimate, based on an Engineers' Opinion of Probable Cost is provided in Appendix D. This estimate was performed by a licensed engineering consultant and based on experience with similar projects.

The costs for CEQA/NEPA are assumed in in this budget category, however Western Water is not asking for reimbursement for these costs with this budget. The total estimated cost for contractual services is $250,000. All estimates are considered fair and reasonable.

2.3.6 Construction

All construction work, including installation of the new irrigation system and placement of drought tolerant plants and moisture efficient ground cover will be contracted through a competitive bidding process as identified in Section 2.3.5.

2.3.7 Other Direct Costs

No other direct costs are included in the proposed budget.

2.3.8 Indirect Costs

No indirect costs are included in the proposed budget.

Section 3: Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

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

The Project will be constructed within the existing Bergamont Pump Station boundaries and is anticipated to qualify for a CEQA Categorical Exemption given the very low expectation from the turf removal to result in an environmental impact. Western Water will also conduct NEPA with Reclamation upon award, a Categorical Exclusion is anticipated.

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?

Work will be performed within areas where there is limited potential for critical habitat or otherwise suitable for sensitive species.

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.

When was the water delivery system constructed?

In 1978, Metropolitan started operating the Henry J. Mills Water Treatment Plant in Riverside, California. This plant exclusively treats water from the East Branch of the SWP. The Mills Gravity Line, constructed in 1992, delivers treated SWP water from the Mills Treatment Plant to communities in Riverside, Temescal Valley, Corona, and Elsinore Valley, including the project site.

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.

The proposed Project will not result in any modification of or effects to, individual features of a major irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes). By design, the proposed project will remove turf that is currently being overwatered. A more efficient irrigation system will be installed at the site with the implementation of this project.

Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places? A cultural resources specialist at your local Reclamation office or the State Historic Preservation Office can assist in answering this question.

No buildings, structures, or features within the vicinity of the project are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (National Park Service, 2020).

Are there any known archeological sites in the proposed project area?
There are no known archaeological sites within the project area.

Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?
The Project will not have a disproportionately high or adverse effect on low income or minority populations. The Project would have a long-term benefit of increasing the resiliency of the local water distribution system and improving regional water supply reliability. These benefits would serve all residents in the project area regardless of race, ethnicity, or income level.

Will the proposed project limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands?
The Project will not limit access to or ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites or result 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?
The Project is not anticipated to contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of, noxious weeds or non-native invasive species.

Section 4: Other

4.1 Required Permits and Approvals

Western Water does not anticipate that permits will be required for the proposed Project. This is due to the fact that all turf replacement will be installed in and around previously landscaped areas.

4.2 Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

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

The proposal submitted for consideration under this program is not duplicative of a proposal or project that has been or will be submitted for funding consideration to another potential federal grant funding source. If at any time the project is awarded funds from any federal or non-federal source, Western will notify the NOFO point of contact and/or the Program Coordinator or assigned Grants Officer immediately.

4.3 Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

There are no actual or potential conflicts of interests at the time of submission.

4.4 Uniform Audit Reporting Statement

Western Municipal Water District was required to submit a Single Audit Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, in accordance with 2 CFR §200 subpart F. That audit is available at the Federal Audit Clearinghouse under EIN 95-6005108.

4.5 SF-LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activity

A fully completed and signed SF-LLL: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form has been uploaded to grants.gov.

4.6 Letters of Support

Letters of support for the Project are included in Appendix C.

4.7 Official Resolution

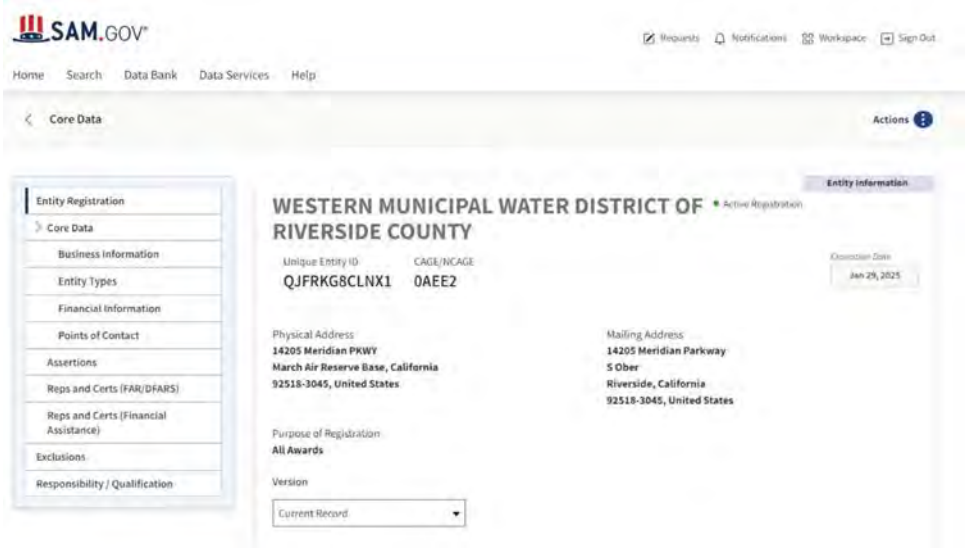
Prior to award, a resolution from Western Water's Board of Directors to commit to the financial and legal obligations associated with receipt of a financial assistance award and negotiate and execute the grant agreement will be provided. A draft Resolution can be found in Appendix E.

4.8 Letters of Funding Commitment

Western Water will provide the funding for the cost-share requirement in the amount of $125,000. Accordingly, there are no other entities that are needed to provide a funding letter of commitment.

4.9 Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management

Western Water is registered in the System for Award Management. Western Water's unique Entity ID is QJFRKG8CLNX1. An active SAM registration will be maintained during any period in which an active Federal award or application is under consideration by a Federal entity.



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Appendix A: Project Figures

FIGURE 1-1 BERGAMONT PROJECT AREA

FIGURE 1-2 BERGAMONT PROJECT DESIGN

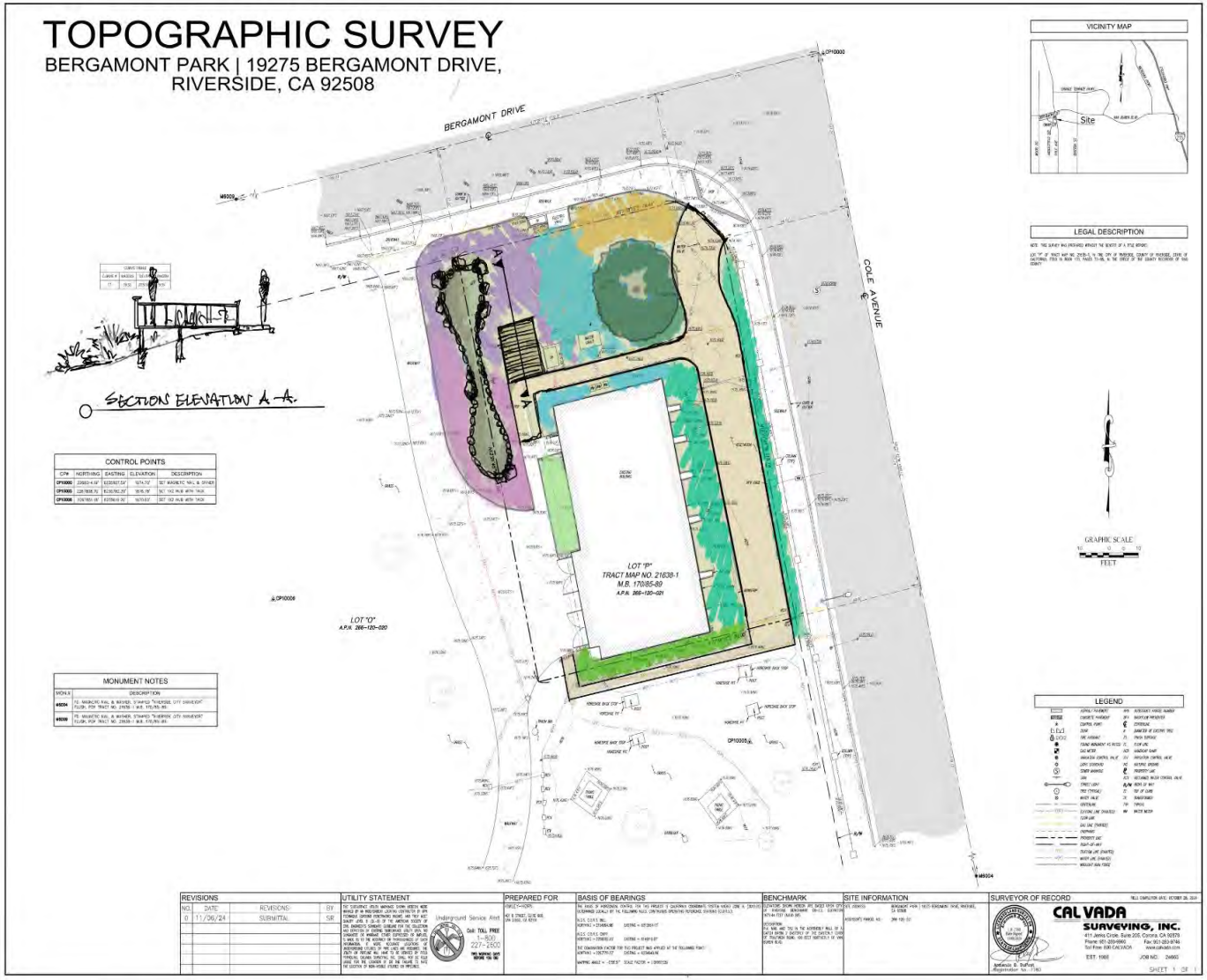


FIGURE 1-3 WESTERN WATER AND MWD SERVICE AREAS

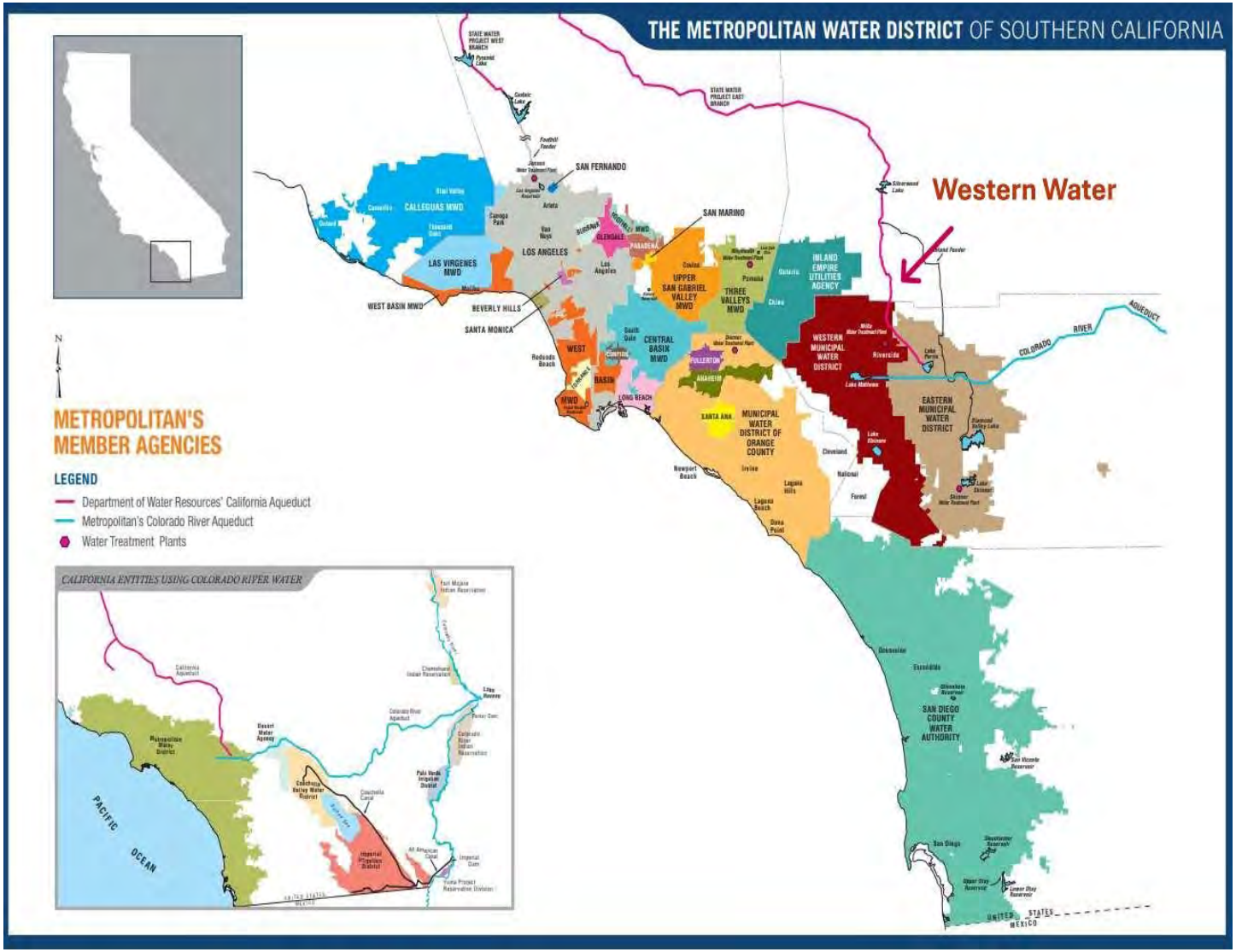
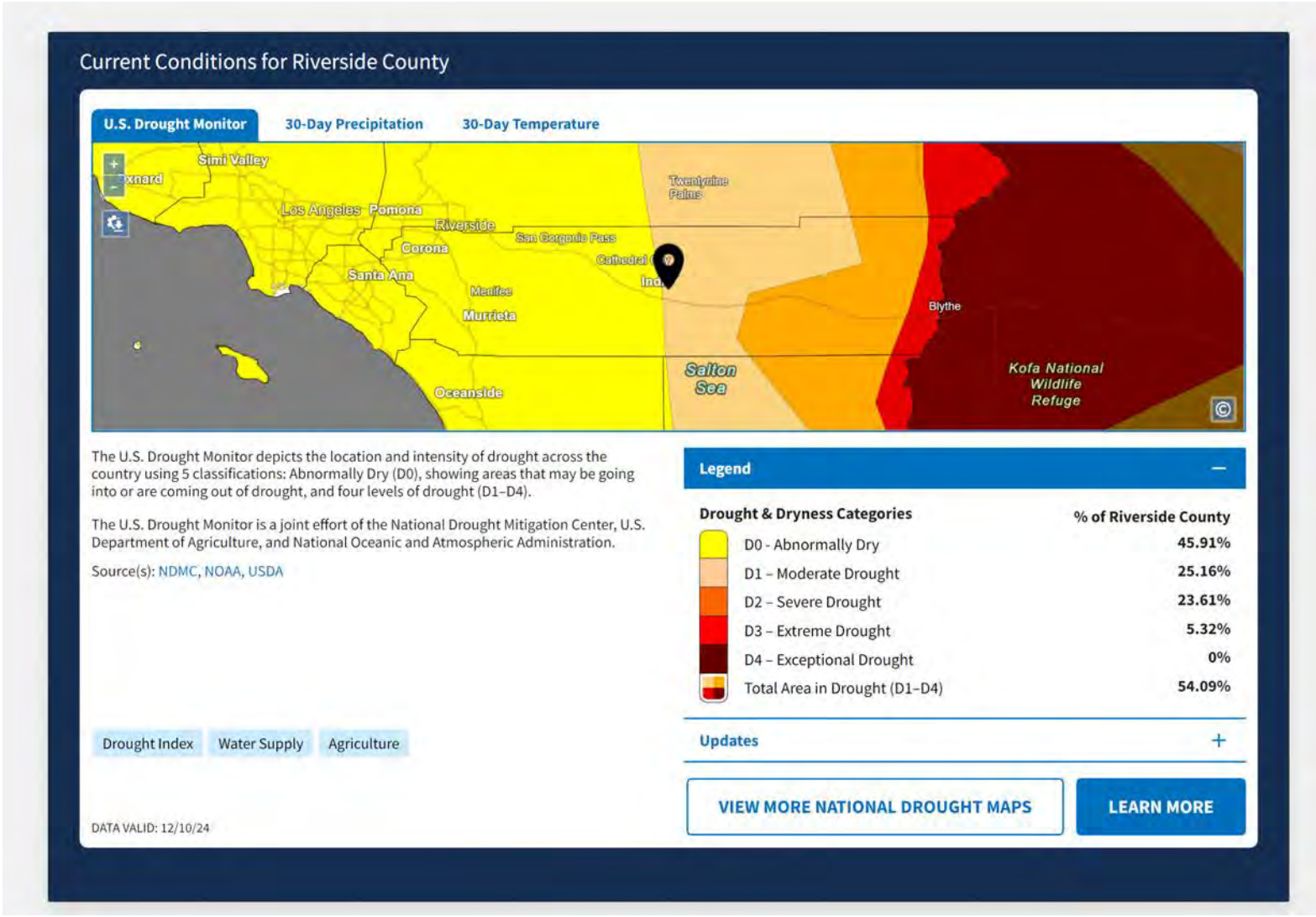


FIGURE 1-4 DROUGHT ACROSS RIVERSIDE COUNTY



https://www.drought.gov/states/california/county/riverside
Riverside County Conditions | Drought.gov

FIGURE 1-5 DROUGHT PLAN STAKEHOLDERS

SEGMENT	PERCENT REPRESENTATION	ORGANIZATION
Environmental and Conservation Groups	10%	Inland Empire Resource Conservation District Inland Empire Waterkeeper Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District
Environment and Social Justice	3%	Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice
Regional Government	7%	Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Western Riverside Council of Governments
Research	7%	University of California, Riverside Water Resources Institute
Local Government	3%	City of Murrieta
Retail: Customer Stakeholder	17%	Altman Plants March Air Reserve Base Vons/Kroger Riverside County Woodcrest Municipal Advisory Council
Tribal Representatives	4%	Pechanga Tribal Government
Water Agency: Regional	14%	Eastern Municipal Water District Metropolitan Water District of Southern California San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Water Agency: Retail Agencies in Western Service Area	34%	Box Springs Mutual Water Company City of Corona City of Norco Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Jurupa Community Services District Rancho California Water District Riverside Highland Water Company Riverside Public Utilities Rubidoux Community Services District Temescal Valley Water District

A Proactive Approach to Building Long-Term Resiliency to Drought

Western's 2022 Drought Contingency Plan

The Western Municipal Water District (Western) was formed in 1954 to bring supplemental water to the growing western Riverside county. Today, Western provides water supply, wastewater treatment and disposal, and water resource management to nearly one million people in a service area covering roughly 527 square-miles in western Riverside County. Western serves approximately 25,000 retail and 14 wholesale customers with water from the Colorado River, State Water Project, recycled water, and local groundwater.

With drought and emergency situations continuously a threat to water supply, Western has had a Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) in place since 1992. In 2020, Western received a grant from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) WaterSMART program to update their DCP with the goal of developing a more comprehensive, proactive, and robust regional plan that considers drought impacts to local water supplies and infrastructure. Starting in mid-2020, Western embarked on the DCP update through a collaborative process with a Drought Task Force comprised of 29 organizations represented by knowledgeable community leaders. These 29 organizations span the range of entities responsible and involved in water management for all beneficial uses of water across all levels of water need.

Together with the Drought Task Force over a two-year period, the regional DCP was updated to answer the following questions:

How will we recognize drought in the early stages?

How will drought affect us?

How can we protect ourselves from the next drought?

Planning for and Managing Drought

How will we recognize drought in the early stages?

Planning for and managing drought requires monitoring to identify the onset of drought and to assess its severity. Western, along with the Drought Task Force, developed a regional Drought Monitoring Framework to establish a process for monitoring near- and long-term water availability and for predicting the probability of future droughts or confirming an existing drought. Included within this framework is a Regional Drought Portal and ongoing Drought Task Force meetings.

The Regional Drought Portal is in the conceptual planning phase, and would provide a platform to post, collect, and disseminate key datasets identified as being pertinent to regional drought planning and response. In addition to the information-sharing framework that is proposed as part of the Regional Drought Portal, moving forward, Western will convene the Drought Task Force based on regional conditions to further enhance regional coordination and information sharing regarding droughts and shortages.

Drought Monitoring Framework Benefits

- Early alerts of troubling drought indicators
- Information and knowledge exchange
- Opportunity to promote consistent messaging
- Address regional challenges and identify collaborative opportunities
- Grant and other funding opportunities

REGIONAL TRIGGERS AND STAGES FOR DROUGHT TASK FORCE MEETINGS

		Regional Conditions				
Regional Drought Stage	Meeting Frequency	U.S. Drought Monitor (DCP Region)	MWD WSAP/ Similar Action	Agencies in Declared Shortage*	Statewide Drought Proclamation	Riverside County Drought Proclamation
Normal	Annual	None-Abnormally Dry	--	None	--	--
Watch	Quarterly	Moderate-Extreme Drought	Levels 1 and 2	3 or more	Drought	Drought
Alert	Monthly	Exceptional Drought	Levels 3 thru 5	6 or more	Drought	Drought
Emergency	Weekly	Exceptional Drought	Levels 6 and 10	10 or more	Drought	Drought

*Not including State-mandated shortage

Identifying and Mitigating the Risks and Impacts of Drought

How will drought affect us?

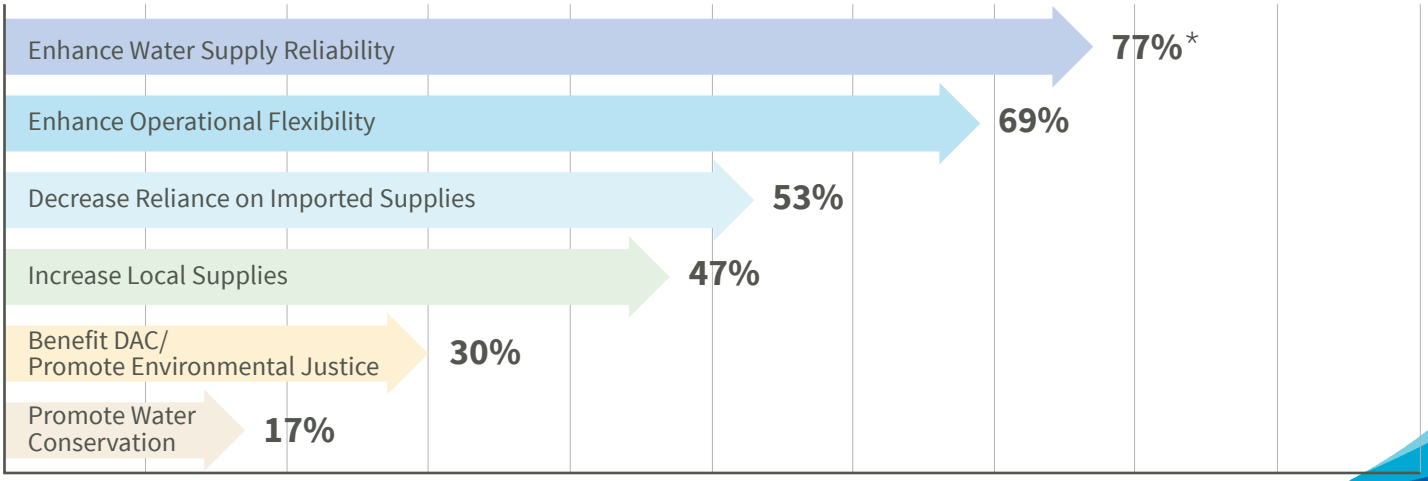
Understanding how drought will affect the region requires evaluating the risks from drought, and the factors driving those risks. To evaluate these risks and the factors that drive them, Western performed a vulnerability assessment which incorporated projected climate change data and the potential impacts to future water supplies and demands. Overall, the results of the vulnerability assessment indicated projected decreases in surface water supplies, precipitation, and natural recharge, and increases in outdoor water use. These findings demonstrate that the region's dependence on imported water, which is highly variable and is projected to be more expensive in the future, will increase if Western does not implement strategies ahead of drought to address these potential impacts.

The results from the vulnerability assessment also provide Western's retail agencies the opportunity to evaluate future estimates of supplies and demands considering the effects of climate change. The tools to perform these evaluations are available upon request from Western.

How can we protect ourselves from the next drought?

Understanding that the region's dependence on imported water could increase in the future if Western does not implement mitigation strategies ahead of drought, a suite of mitigation actions was compiled by Western and the Drought Task Force. These mitigation actions have the potential to protect the region from the next drought by increasing local supply, enhancing water supply reliability and operational flexibility, decreasing reliance on imported supplies, and promoting water conservation. Select projects also benefit disadvantaged communities and/or promote environmental justice. Inclusion of these actions in the DCP not only identifies ways that the region can reduce the future risks and impacts of drought, but it increases opportunities for grant funding, and provides a mechanism for Western and its retail agencies to identify regional partners for upcoming projects which can make grant applications more competitive.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE REGIONAL DCP MITIGATION ACTIONS



* Percentage of Mitigation Actions Included in the Regional DCP that would Enhance Water Supply Reliability

Looking to the Future– Providing Long-Term Resilience to Drought

Drought Management Moving Forward

With drought becoming a more persistent way of life in California, the region must continue to prepare and plan for droughts in the future. To ensure effective regional drought contingency planning, the region will take the following steps as related to the DCP:

- Enhance regional coordination, collaboration, and information sharing by convening the Drought Task Force based on local conditions and considering the establishment of a regional drought portal
- Evaluate opportunities to collaborate on projects that address drought impacts and support investments in drought resilience and drought management
- Continue exploring funding opportunities for planned and potential future actions to enhance drought resilience using the regional DCP as a tool to strengthen grant applications
- Plan for future DCP updates to meet the needs of the region to support member agencies and regional interests in ensuring the region has access to safe drinking water, while maximizing conservation efforts, and supporting climate-smart practices to meet the region's socioeconomic and environmental needs

Stay Informed and Involved

To stay informed and involved in Western's ongoing programs and efforts, check out our website at www.wmwd.com, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

@WesternMWD *@WesternMWD*

@WesternMWD *www.WMWD.com*

Last year the Governor and the Legislature enacted an historic three-year, $5.2 billion investment in California water systems to support immediate drought response and to build water resilience statewide. This includes $750 million for drought-response activities in 2022-2023, including:

- $200 million for water conservation
- $150 million for water storage and reliability
- $85 million for lands management and habitat enhancement
- $65 million for immediate drought response
- $250 million in unallocated drought funding

Given the intensification of drought conditions since January 2022, the May 2022 Revise allocates an additional $1.6 billion to continue the state's drought response. These additional funds are allocated to immediate drought support, including support of efforts to encourage conservation and replenishment of drought-relief grant programs.

Operations Section
Attn: NOFO Team
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

December 19, 2024

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Operations Section
Attn: NOFO Team
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

Re: Support for Western Municipal Water District's WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025

Dear Mr. Miller,

I am writing on behalf of Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) to express our strong support for Western Municipal Water District's (Western Water) application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 (R24AS00059). The proposed project, *Transforming Turf to Drought-Tolerant Landscape: Modernizing the Bergamont Pump Station* (Project), is an initiative by Western Water to enhance water supply reliability for the Riverside community by using water more efficiently.

Western Water is addressing the long-term goals for sustainable water management while demonstrating a commitment to California's new conservation standards. This Project showcases how public agencies can transform landscapes, optimize irrigation systems, and set new standards for sustainable water practices to benefit their service areas

The proposed project aligns with California's water conservation objectives by reducing potable water use on non-functional turf established by Assembly Bill 1572 while producing water savings and preparing the community for future drought conditions.

The proposed project also aligns with AWE's work. AWE is North America's only non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to the efficient and sustainable use of water. AWE provides research, resources, and networking that help utility professionals better design and implement water conservation programs. Western Water has been an active member and partner in this work since 2009.

We fully support Western Water's application for WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects and their vision to modernize the landscape at the Bergamont Pump Station. We believe this project demonstrates the commitment and technical capability necessary to make a meaningful impact on the region's long-term sustainability.

Sincerely,

Ron Burke
President and CEO
Alliance for Water Efficiency

CALIFORNIA
WATER EFFICIENCY
PARTNERSHIP
A Chapter of the Alliance *for* Water Efficiency

Operations Section
Attn: NOFO Team
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

January 6, 2025

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Operations Section
Attn: NOFO Team
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

Re: Support for Western Municipal Water District's WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025

Dear Mr. Miller,

I am writing on behalf of the California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP) to express our strong support for Western Municipal Water District's (Western Water) application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 (R24AS00059). The proposed project, Transforming Turf to Drought-Tolerant Landscape: Modernizing the Bergamont Pump Station (Project), is an initiative by Western Water to enhance water supply reliability for the Riverside community by using water more efficiently.

CalWEP is a membership-based non-profit organization with a mission to maximize urban water efficiency and conservation throughout California by supporting and integrating innovative technologies and practices; encouraging effective public policies; advancing research, training, and public education; and building collaborative approaches and partnerships. Our membership consists of many urban retail water suppliers required to comply with California's Urban Water Management Plan, Water Shortage Contingency Plan, and water efficiency regulations established under Senate Bill 606 and Assembly Bill 1668 (2018).

Western Water is addressing the long-term goals for sustainable water management while demonstrating a commitment to California's new conservation standards. This Project showcases how public agencies can transform landscapes, optimize irrigation systems, and set new standards for sustainable water practices to benefit their service areas.

By modernizing 8,860 square feet of turf adjacent to the pump station and within Bergamont Park, the Project will replace non-functional turf with drought-resilient landscaping and make critical irrigation system upgrades. When completed, the Project will reduce water consumption by an estimated 18 acre-feet over a ten year period. This initiative extends beyond basic landscape and irrigation enhancements; it aligns with California's water conservation objectives by reducing potable water use on non-functional turf established by Assembly Bill 1572 while producing water savings and preparing the community for future drought conditions.

Completion of a turf replacement project demonstrates what can be achieved in a water-efficient landscape transformation and reinforces Western Water's strong commitment to California's new conservation standards. The improved landscape will serve as a model for sustainable landscaping that other communities can follow.

We support Western Water's application for WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects and their vision to modernize the landscape at the Bergamont Pump Station. We believe this project demonstrates the commitment and technical capability necessary to make a meaningful impact on the region's long-term sustainability. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

TC Fleming

Tia Fleming
Co-Executive Director
California Water Efficiency Partnership

City of Riverside, California
Office of the Mayor
PATRICIA LOCK DAWSON

Operations Section
Attn: NOFO Team
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Operations Section
Attn: NOFO Team
P.O. Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

January 10, 2025

Re: Support for Western **Municipal Water District's** WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025

The City of Riverside is excited to express our strong support for Western Municipal Water District's (Western Water) application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 (R24AS00059). The proposed project, *Transforming Turf to Drought-Tolerant Landscape: Modernizing the Bergamont Pump Station* (Project), is an initiative by Western Water to enhance water supply reliability for the Riverside community by using water more efficiently.

Western Water is addressing the long-term goals for sustainable water management while demonstrating a commitment to California's new conservation standards. This project showcases how public agencies can transform landscapes, optimize irrigation systems, and set new standards for sustainable water practices to benefit their service areas.

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Completion of a turf replacement project demonstrates what can be achieved in a water-efficient landscape transformation and reinforces Western Water's strong commitment to California's new conservation standards. The improved landscape will serve as a model for sustainable landscaping that other communities can follow.

The City is excited to support Western Water's project as a catalyst for other similar improvements in the park facilities or within the public right of way. Further, the City recently formed its Office of Sustainability, and this project would be highlighted when pursuing guidelines and policies to implement projects that beautify the community while helping conserve water resources.

We fully support Western Water's application for WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects and their vision to modernize the landscape at the Bergamont Pump Station. We believe this project demonstrates the commitment and technical capability necessary to make a meaningful impact on the region's long-term sustainability.

Sincerely,

Patricia Lock Dawson

Patricia Lock Dawson
Mayor, City of Riverside

Appendix D: Cost Backup Documentation

Bergamont
Preliminary Estimate
Date: 12/4/2024
Prepared by: Ken Smith
Reviewed by: Jake Loukeh
= backup Breakdown of the bid item based on a previous project at March Air Force Base

Bid #	Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Subtotal
General					
1	Mobilization/ Demobilization (not to exceed 5% of subtotal)	1	LS	$ 30,000.00	$ 30,000.00
2	Construction Survey and Staking	1	LS	$ 30,000.00	$ 25,000.00
3	Clearing and Grubbing	1	LS	$ 25,000.00	$ 23,000.00
				SUBTOTAL (General):	$ 78,000.00
Miscellaneous Improvements					
Landscape Improvements					
4	15-gallon tree	5	EA	$ 110.00	$ 550.00
5	Shrub and Groundcover Planting	8,860	SF	$ 8.00	$ 70,880.00
6	Soil Preparation + Amendments	410	CY	$ 95.00	$ 38,950.00
7	Root Barrier	120	LF	$ 10.00	$ 1,200.00
8	Mulch	60	CY	$ 75.00	$ 4,500.00
9	Drip Irrigation/Low Flow Overhead	2,100	SF	$ 12.00	$ 25,200.00
10	Decomposed Granite, 4" min Depth	2,500	SF	$ 3.00	$ 7,500.00
				SUBTOTAL (Landscape Improvements):	$ 148,780.00
				SUBTOTAL:	$ 226,780
				10% Contingency:	$ 22,700
				TOTAL:	$ 249,500
				For Budget Purposes, use	**$ 250,000**

Alta's opinions of estimated construction costs are made on the basis of Altas' experience and qualifications. However, since Alta has no control over the cost of labor, materials, equipment, or services furnished by others, or over the Contractor's methods of determining prices, or over competitive bidding or market conditions, Alta cannot and does not guarantee that proposals, bids, or actual construction cost will not vary from the estimates as prepared by Alta.