WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY2016

Accurate Management: Quantifiable, improved water management by installing smart meters.

FOA: R16-FOA-DO-004

WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Water for Today and Tomorrow • Conservation Everyday

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January 20, 2016

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Executive Summary

January 20, 2016 Washington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD) Saint George, Washington County, Utah (Southwest Utah)

Water Conservation – Irrigation Flow Measurements

In this project, WCWCD will install AMI meters for the end users of Toquerville Secondary Water System (TSWS). WCWCD owns, operates and delivers irrigation water to this pressurized water system. Sensus iPerl 3/4" meters (larger meters will go will Sensus Omni meters) have been tested by other water districts in the state and have been proven to work well in secondary water conditions. Overall, the project can provide information on water use which can assist in understanding irrigation needs of residential and agriculture users and assist in better management of the water resource.

Specifically, the information collected from the meters can:

- Create a bigger picture of water use and assist in making needed and wise policy decisions.
- Aid in the reduction of water use through ability to audit the system, maintain water allotments among the users and determine high water users.
- Allow financial incentives when users conserve water.
- Provide watering habits; hourly data provides education to homeowner in dispute of water use and watering habits.
- Identify high water users to help educate them on their use and if necessary penalize them for irresponsible use allowing high water users to pay the brunt of the cost when additional water supply is driven by the demand of irresponsible users.
- Allow for equitable use on the system.

The project's timeline will begin on September 1, 2016 and complete by August 31, 2017.

This project is not located on a federal facility.

Background Data

Washington County is in the Virgin River/Kanab Creek Basin located in the southwest corner of Utah. This area is located in the Lower Colorado River Basin and is a tributary to Lake Mead which is identified as a highly likely area to experience a water crisis by the year 2025. The following map shows the location of the project.

<u>WCWCD</u>

WCWCD is a local government entity with a property tax base and revenues from hydroelectric power and wholesale water sales. The break-down of the county's water sources are 49 percent surface, 44 percent ground and 7 percent springs. WCWCD's jurisdiction corners all of Washington County although most of its projects are located in the heaviest populated, central south, areas of the county. The 2010 Census listed the county's population at 138,115. Even with the economic downturn the nation has seen, this county continues to grow. According to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, the county has seen a healthy growth rate of 1.8 percent. Based on a 2010 Water Needs Assessment report, the county will need additional water sources by the year 2020.

WCWCD manages and operates 6 reservoirs (2 for culinary use), 100 miles of culinary pipelines, 80 miles of secondary pipelines, two hydroelectric plants, 4 pump stations, 23 wells, 6 tanks and a 48 mgd culinary water treatment plant.

WCWCD has had a water conservation plan since its adoption in 1996. Since then, this plan has gone through 3 updates, the most recent one 2015. The current water conservation plan can be found on our website at: http://www.wcwcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/WC-Plan-2010.pdf. WCWCD is a water wholesaler for eight (8) municipalities in the county. All these municipalities are a member of a regional water supply agreement initiated by WCWCD. Each municipality has a drought contingency plan adopted by each city council and in place. In the event of a drought, the regional water supply agencies will meet to determine which stage of the plan to execute throughout the county as needed through a drought period.

It is estimated over 60 percent of Utah's water use is applied outside. The Governor's Road Map identifies this county to reduce 35 percent of its 2000 per capita water use. This is a state initiative and WCWCD is in full support of reducing water use. Based on the year 2000's per capita water use, WCWCD has already realized a 26 percent reduction. This project will help WCWCD in meeting its goal to reduce the county's per capita water use by another nine (9) percent by 2025. This would bring the per capita of **all** water use in 2000 from 435 and reducing it to 325. This project will continue the momentum of conservation. Implementing a secondary metering system will help to minimize loss, improve water management and reduce overall water use.

<u>TSWS</u>

TSWS was created through a cooperative agreement between Toquerville City, WCWCD and Toquerville Irrigation Company to convert an open-ditch irrigation delivery system to a pressurized irrigation system. This project began in 1998 and completed two years later. TSWS is owned and operated by WCWCD, but to allow the community input in the management of the system, a five member board was created with representative from WCWCD, Toquerville city and three system water users. The goals of the TSWS project was to conserve, efficiently manage and protect the water source for current and future users and to mitigate the safety issues presented by an open canal. Adding meters continue the conservation and efficiently management of this city's water supply. With Toquerville City's population tripling from 1990 to 2010, this proposal with help meet the demand of this water system's population growth.

Prior Projects with Bureau of Reclamation

In the past, WCWCD has had many opportunities of working with Bureau of Reclamation. Current BOR grants are funding assistance with water conservation programs offered in the county and a studying for understanding arsenic occurrence and mobilization in the Navajo Sandstone Aquifer. In the past, WCWCD installed a telemetry system along the local river diversions. This project was funded in part by a WaterSMART grant (then known as Water 2025). WCWCD also frequently applies for grants through BOR's Water Conservation Field Service Program. These grant opportunities help to extend limited funding to offer water saving programs and implement changes to facilities and structures to further save water resources and reduce the impacts of power use in water delivery.



Technical Project Description

This project would install meters at the customer-side on the TSWS system. Currently, there are only valves and no water use measurement at the customer end. Meters will be installed to put the accountability of water use shared by all users on the system. From the users perspective, information on water use can help change watering habits and assist in understanding irrigation needs of landscapes. From a utility perspective, the information collected from the meters can create a bigger picture of water use and assist in making needed and wise policy decisions. Meters will aid in the reduction of water use through ability to audit the system, maintain water allotments among the users and determine high water users. Meters where water use has been reduced which can allow the utility to provide financial incentives when users conserve water. Meters can help compare watering habits; hourly data provides education to homeowner in dispute of water use and if necessary penalize them for irresponsible use and pay for future water supply that is driven by the demand of irresponsible users. Meters can justify changes in rates for high users as well as the need for future water supply. Overall, meters allow for equitable use on the system.

There will be a large outreach and public education component of this project. This will help in reducing negative feelings that could arise from customers as the system changes. The education will also promote proper irrigation practices and information on their water use to help identify water use habits and change them to reduce their use.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evaluation Criterion A: Water Conservation

Subcriterion No A.1 Water Conservation

This project is for a secondary water system in Toquerville. This city is 20 miles north of St. George Utah and 24 miles west of Zion Nation Park. The population of this town was 1,370 in 2010. This town's population has increased almost 300 percent since 1990. Though most of the community is residential, small agriculture spaces are interspersed among new developments. The District manages 2,210 acre-feet of water for this system's 374 connections. Three cities share the same spring and this spring is used for culinary water supply as well as irrigation. Saved water from this project can help meet the water needs of the three growing communities. In addition, this spring flows into the Virgin River which is a contributory to Lake Mead. There are also six (6) native fish species in the Virgin River that are either endangered or threatened. This project will also benefit the fish population and habitat.

This project will have a large education component to bring awareness of efficient water use in the landscape. Metering this project will allow water use information to be dispersed. With this information the customer will receive education on appropriate water use. The education will focus on what is appropriate landscape water use and provide target water use for the customer to what is appropriate water use. Education will promote behavior change, a major component in finding additional water savings.

A.1: Quantifiable Water Savings

This project will allow better management of water delivery through installing Sensus iPERL meters on end users of the system. Right now the water is only tracked where WCWCD delivers it. TSWS delivers 30 percent of the water to agriculture. 70 percent is delivered to residential.

TSWS will be able to track user's water use and audit system by the upgrade to meters. The meters will bring better management for these shortages within this system and verification of potential water savings. WCWCD administers delivery of all the water to all water users on the river system.

Currently these connections are not metered and this project will allow for verification to:

• Track system water loss. Increased measurement will allow for better management of water.



- Implement an audit and loss control program.
- Provide an education to water users on watering habits; hourly data provides education to homeowner in a monthly statement of water use.
- Identify high water users to help educate them on their use and, if necessary, penalize them for irresponsible use allowing high water users to pay the brunt of the cost when additional water supply is driven by the demand of irresponsible users.
- Provide data for flagging accounts with excess water use on the system.

Currently a complete audit cannot be performed on the system because meters are not available at end use. Using Utah State University research of systems with similar characteristics, the studies found customers on average used 35 percent more water than necessary for their landscape's water needs. It is also assumed another 5 percent water savings could be found by reducing system loss. With these estimates, conservatively 40 percent of the water on the system could be saved. This would equate to 884 AF saved from this project.

Irrigation Flow Measurement

At this point it is important to note that the water in this system, although used for irrigation, is high quality spring water. Irrigation flow measurement will reducing water on this system and will allow this water to be used for culinary purposes. So, this project would save higher quality water for human consumption. Reduction of water use in the secondary water system will save this water for culinary water. The spring is also a tributary to the Virgin River which ultimately drains into Lake Mead. Efficient use of TSWS system will minimize system loss and contribute to a healthier Colorado River Basin.

Subcriterion No. A.2. Percentage of Total SupplyEstimated Amount of Water Better Managed=Average Annual Water Supply2,210 AF

Using the above formula, 40 percent of the total water allotment could be better managed through this project. This equates to at least 884 AF annually of better managed water and a potential for water savings with the metering of this system. The benefits found from the education component of this project can be measured and quantified through these meters. The

analytic software available with the AMI/AMR provides a series of reports and applications

WCWCD can use to manage the system better and promote water conservation with the customers. This software has the ability to create reports monthly which will be shared with the customers to educate on appropriate water use and how to conserve water.

Evaluation Criterion B: Energy-Water Nexus Subcriterion No B.1. Implementation of Renewable Energy Improvements Related to Water Management and Delivery.

This project does not involve any implementation of renewable energy improvements as it relates to



water management and delivery. This project will, however, help in water management and energy conservation by reducing pumping.

Subcriterion No B.2. Increasing Energy Efficiency in Water Management.

The reduction of secondary water use will provide a direct reduction in energy consumption. Water from Toquerville Spring is pumped into a reservoir by the TSWS pump station to supply pressure for TSWS. The right angle driven pump is currently powered by a 200-hp Cummins natural gas generator. Over the past three years, the TSWS pump station has used on average approximately 6,100 decatherms or 1,787,000 kWh annually. A 40 percent reduction in TSWS water use would result in nearly 715,000 fewer kWh being consumed each year. Reducing the hours of pumping will also reduce the carbon footprint of TSWS. The EPA (www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/refs.html) estimates 0.005302 metric ton of CO₂ are released for every therm of natural gas burned. Using this estimate, the project will reduce carbon emissions by 323 metric tons every year. Nitrogen oxide emissions will be reduced as well.

A large education component is included as part of this project. As the district will track individual use with the meters, monthly reports will be provided for the resident to educate them on appropriate landscape water needs to prevent over watering. This water use reduction will thus save on energy use and cost used in pumping.

Evaluation Criterion C: Benefits to Endangered Species

The county's major river is home to some of the rarest fish species on earth. The project benefits these six endangered or threatened species.

- Virgin Spinedace
- Flannelmouth Sucker
- Woundfin
- Speckled Dace
- Desert Sucker
- Virgin River Chub

Water in the county has been regionalized. Water conservation measures implemented and benefited in one area will benefit the entire county. WCWCD's main surface water source is the Virgin River. This river is diverted to the two major reservoirs during high flows of spring snow

melt. There are six native fish in the river system which is listed as endangered or threatened. The spring that is diverted for the irrigation system is a contributory the Virgin River. Reducing water use on TSWS system will improve water supply and habitat providing the endangered species a chance to thrive and aid in recovery.

Evaluation Criterion D: Water Marketing

This project does not have a water marketing component.

Evaluation Criterion E: Other Contributions to Water Supply Sustainability

Subcriterion No. E.1. Addressing Adaptation Strategies in a WaterSMART Basin Study – This project is in the lower Colorado River basin and addresses the issue raised with the BOR Colorado River Basin Study which identifies a 9 percent decrease in the Colorado River basin flows in the next 50 years due to climate change. This report identifies an imbalance of water supply and demand. Of the four category options to resolve the demand and supply issue, one option was to reduce demand. This project would aid in water reduction from two perspectives. <u>Utility Benefit</u>: 1) meters allow for the system to be audited and manage system losses. 2) The information collected from the meters can create a bigger picture of water use and assist in making needed and wise policy decisions. 3) Meters can be used to enforce water allotments among the users and eliminate water waste.

<u>Water User</u>: Information on individual water use can help change watering habits and assist in understanding irrigation needs of landscapes with present behaviors.

Ultimately, the meters will put accountability of water at the end user and promote efficient use. Meters can track water use reduction which can allow the utility to provide financial incentives when conserving water. Meters can help show watering habits; hourly data provides education to homeowner of their habits and help to even resolve disputes of water use and watering habits. Meters can also identify high water users to help educate them on their use and if necessary penalize them for irresponsible use pay for future water supply that is driven by the demand of irresponsible users. Meters can provide justification needed to make changes in rates for high water users. As such, meters allow for equitable use on the system.

Subcriterion No. E.2. Expediting Future On-Farm Irrigation Improvements – This proposal does not directly expedite future on-farm irrigation improvements.

Subcriterion No. E.3. Building Drought Resiliency – This area just ended its 3rd year of drought. The water source of this irrigation company is shared with three municipalities: Toquerville, La Verkin and Hurricane. With reduced flows from the springs, all agencies had to share shortages on the drainage. This last season because of these shortages, an aggressive irrigation schedule was adopted and implemented. The schedule allowed water users to irrigate in a short window in the morning and evening every other day and there was no irrigation on Sunday. This project will improve reliability of the water source because of the better management tools available with the metering project. These meters will provide accountability of using water efficiently on the entire system. In the event of a drought, the regional water supply agencies will meet to determine which stage of the plan to execute as needed through a drought period. Metering will help to share system shortages due to drought and climate change.

Subcriterion No. E.4. Other Water Supply Sustainability Benefits – Water sustainability benefits expected from this project is the ability to address the concern of over use of water in the area among the 3 municipalities. In the event of a drought, the regional water supply agencies will meet to determine which stage of the plan to execute as needed through a drought period. Metering will help to share system shortages due to drought and climate change.

This rural area has a strong history of agriculture. Many of the residents irrigate their ornamental landscapes as they would their crop. The meters on this project would allow for education on proper irrigation practices for landscapes. Reducing this system's water use will help to alleviate tensions present among the other water users of the spring. This would allow the water saved to be given

Evaluation Criterion F: Implementation and Results

Subcriterion No. F.1. Project Planning – WCWCD has had a water conservation plan since its adoption in 1996. Since then, this plan has gone through two (3) revisions, the most recent being 2015. The current water conservation plan can be found on our website at: <u>http://www.wcwcd.org/conservation/plan-tips-resources/</u>. WCWCD is a water wholesaler for eight (8) municipalities in the county. All these municipalities are a member of a regional water supply agreement initiated by WCWCD. Each municipality has a drought contingency plan adopted by each city council and in place. In the event of a drought, the regional water supply agencies will meet to determine which stage of the plan to execute as needed through a drought period. Metering will help to share system shortages due to drought and climate change.

Subcriterion No. F.2. Readiness to Proceed – No construction is needed for this project, only meter installation is involved. The system has end user valves that will be replaced with AMR/AMI. WCWCCD is ready to go on this project, and has the ability to complete this project within two years of award. The board has approved this project and the cost has been budgeted for the years of the project. There is not any environmental compliance applicable with this project. No construction is needed for this project, only meter installation is involved in existing valve boxes. The system has end user valves that will be replaced with AMR/AMI. The district is ready to move on this project, and has the ability to complete this project within two (2) years of award. The performance measures listed below indicates the project's readiness to proceed with the project as soon as approval is received from Bureau of Reclamation. July 2016 to September 2016.

- Create a coordination team between WCWCD and Toquerville City to complete the process of the work with all performance measures. Order meters and other pertinent equipment needed for meter installation.
- Firm up project budget and schedule with coordination team. Request bids for meter installation.
- Develop a procedure for leak detection/management policy and guidelines with the coordination team.
- Start implementing the developed public education/outreach campaign with events and materials.
- Develop database with coordination team and start integrating monthly statement software.

August 2016 to January 2017

- As soon as bid has been accepted install AMI/AMR and leak management technologies.
- Launch public information/outreach campaign and arrange for a TSWS water users open house.
- As meters are installed provide customers with statements of use and estimated landscape need. This will be implementation of the education component of the grant to help understand plant water needs with irrigation habits.

March 2017

• Begin the process of closing out grant. Draft results, success stories and lessons learned. June 2017

• Submit final report to Bureau of Reclamation.

Subcriterion No. F.3. Performance Measures – Improving Water Management through measurement in TSWS System: by installing Smart Water Meters to find water savings will produce the follow performance measures: (1) The <u>water savings</u>, found through this project is estimated to be 884 AF annually. Following the installation of the meters, TSWS will establish a baseline of water use, water demand reductions and system audits and loss using the individual readings, meter routing groups and an aggregate assessment of the entire project area. (2) The <u>energy savings</u> found when these meters are installed will be through a reduction on energy use through pumping and water use. Using residential meters to reduce water use and to identify peak water use will allow better management of system to achieve a reduction in energy. (3) Through <u>customer engagement</u>, monthly information will be provided on what the customer's monthly water use has been and what is appropriate water use for water-efficient landscapes. (4) Better <u>water utility management</u> will be achieved as the completion of all AMR/AMI installation project will allow the district ability to account for losses, integration of AMI systems with GIS/SCADA systems, and allow customer accountability of water use.

Subcriterion No. F.4. Reasonableness of Costs – The TSWS AMR/AMI project has total cost of \$704,244 with a life expectancy of the needed items as follows:

| Meters | 20 years |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Meter Reader | 20 years |
| Average Lifespan of the system | 20 years |

Using the following formula, this brings the reasonableness of cost rate to: Total Project Cost = Reasonableness of Cost

(AF better managed x lifespan of system) <u>\$704,244</u> = \$39.83 Reasonableness of Cost 884 * 20

Evaluation Criterion G: Additional Non-Federal Funding WCWCD will provide 57 percent of the project cost.

> <u>Federal Funding</u> = Total Project Funding

> > <u>\$300,000</u> = 43% \$748,719.37

Evaluation Criterion H: Connection to Reclamation Project Activities

Part of the BOR's mission is to develop partnerships with local agencies "to address the competing needs of our limited water resources". This grant will allow our agency to implement better water management practices and reduce adverse effects of a using a generator for power production to meet water demand in the area. Without funding from these grants, these system upgrades will be curtailed or even eliminated.

Washington County is upstream of a major hot spot area. This project will maximize our water resources by minimizing water waste benefitting this "hot spot" area identified by BOR as having a high potential in experiencing a water crisis by the year 2025.

Also, in the recent study published by the BOR: Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study, it identifies this area as one to experience a nine (9) percent decrease in the Colorado River basin flows in the next 50 years due to climate change. This report considers four options to resolve the imbalance of water supply and demand. One of those options is to reduce demand in water and energy. This project would work toward utilizing that option.

Performance Measures

This project: Accurate Management: Quantifiable, improved water management by installing smart meters will produce the follow performance measures:

Water Savings

All 2,210 AF annually of the water received through this system will be better managed through this project. However, it is expected to reduce water use by at least 40 percent. This would be a savings of 884 AF. While education is a large component of this project, the savings can be quantified because of the new meters installed from the project. These meters are able to provide education to promote customer behavior changes. Engaging the consumer with information on water use will help to change water use habits. The information the meters provide will also help in managing the system to understand the patterns of peak water use. Following the installation of the meters, TSWS will establish a baseline of water use, water demand reductions and system audits and loss using the individual readings, meter routing groups and an aggregate assessment of the entire project area.

Energy Savings

When these meters are installed, TSWS will establish a baseline use on energy use through pumping and water use. From here, TSWS will be able to see were a reduction in pumping costs correlate with the less water use. Reducing water use on this system will make a big impact on reducing energy use due to the fact that the pump runs 24/7 during the season. During this past season a restriction was placed on the system to limit hours on the system and no watering on Sunday. The implementation of this restriction allowed for a more appropriate water use according to plant water needs, not a detriment to the plants.

Customer Engagement

This project will have a high customer engagement element. During the construction process, information will be presented prior to installation and through the installation. With the installation of the meters, the district will track the monthly water use for use in educating the residents on appropriate water use. The project will also measure the success of customer actually engaged in the self-monitoring, self-assessment and consumption changes provided each month. This will promote what WCWCD is anticipating a conservative 10 percent reduction in residential and agriculture water use. The public outreach campaign will assess the water users willingness to monitor, assess and correct water use (using the existing unmetered, no information provided system) to the system that will be available after the installation of the AMI/AMR tools are available. Education will promote change in customers' behavior to find additional and maintain water savings.

Utility Management

At the completion of all AMR/AMI installation project, the district will establish baseline measures for effective water management and add the additional measurement provided will allow inclusion in its ongoing audit and leak detection program. After establishing the baseline of water use through the new measurement resources, the district will be able to account for all water use on the system. The increased metering of this system will aid in effective water management that will consider factors including leak detection, response time in leak management, ability to account for losses, integration of AMI systems with GIS/SCADA systems, and allow better consumer management of water use.

Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

- 1. **Impact on Surrounding Environment.** The Smart Meter project for TSWS will have little or no impact on the surrounding environment, including through earth-disturbing. Any ground that must be broken, it will all be in the urban environment on existing streets or other manmade surfaces and will not have any known or significant impact on air, land, water, or wildlife habitat.
- 2. **Impact on Endangered or Threatened Species.** The river water diverted for TSWS is from Toquerville Springs which is a tributary to the Virgin River. Virgin River has six native fish species. The native fish species of this river are endangered or threatened. This project will help manage shortages on this tributary. The project construction will not have any impact on the native fish species.
- 3. **Impact on Wetlands.** This project will not have any known or expected impact on wetlands, surface waters or other waters of the US.
- 4. **Age of Delivery System.** TSWS was created in 1998 when the original Toquerville Irrigation Company was dissolved. TSWS converted its open ditch system to a pressurized delivery system between the years of 1998 completing in 2000.
- 5. Effects of Modification to the System. This project will not result in any modification of or effects to, any major features of an irrigation system. This project only installs meters to replace an existing valve in an already existing valve box at the end use of the system.
- 6. **NRHP Eligibility.** There are not any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district that will be affected by this project. Any ground that must be broken, it will all be in the developed environment on existing streets or other manmade surfaces. This project only installs meters to an already existing valve at the end use of the system.
- 7. Known Archeological Sites. This project will not affect any archeological sites in the proposed project area.
- 8. Effect on Low Income or Minority Populations. This project will not have a negative effect on the lowest income or minority population census tract in the Toquerville Town area.
- 9. Effect Indian Sacred or Tribal Lands. This project will not limit access to or ceremonial use of Indian scared sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands.
- 10. **Potential Spread of Noxious or non-native Invasive Species.** This project will not contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species located in the area.

Required Permits and Approvals

This project will have minimal permits and approval requirements. The only needed one will be an encroachment permit from Toquerville City. Since Toquerville is a member of the regional water supply agreement with the regionalization of the local water supply, these permit costs have been waived.

Letters of Support

Letters of support were not available upon submission.

EXHIBIT A: BOARD RESOLUTION AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENT LETTER



January 20, 2016

Bureau of Reclamation **Financial Assistance Management Branch** Janeen Koza -Mail Code: 84-27852 PO Box 25007 Denver, CO 80225

This letter explains the financial ability of Washington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD). WCWCD was established to conserve, develop, manage and stabilize water supplies within the county. WCWCD is a political subdivision of the State of Utah organized and existing under the Water Conservancy District Act.

WCWCD is a local government entity with a property tax base and revenues from hydroelectric power and water sales. This provides adequate monies for the cost share of the grant proposal. Therefore, WCWCD is able to fulfill the obligation of the costs identified in this funding request in this proposal.

WCWCD is committed to conserving the limited and unpredictable water resources of this county. Grant opportunities like these allow projects, such as these, to be implemented in this area. The partnership with Bureau of Reclamation has proved beneficial to this local community in the past and WCWCD looks forward to future opportunities.

Respectfully,

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Ronald W. Thompson General Manager

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EXHIBIT B: 2015 GENERAL BUDGET