



TO: San Geronio Pass Water Agency

DATE: June 23, 2022

FY 2023 WaterSMART Water Energy and Efficiency Grant

TFG and San Geronio Pass Water Agency (Water Agency) are exploring opportunities to complete a project to demonstrate potential water savings from turf removal and outdoor water efficiency improvements, while using the data and experience to launch a longer-term outdoor efficiency program. While there are several potential federal funding opportunities expected in the first quarter of 2023, the FY 2023 Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Water Energy and Efficiency Grant (WEEG) program was also identified as an open funding opportunity that could be pursued immediately. Funding to projects under the WEEG program is expected to be provided around May 2023. **The application must be submitted no later than 4:00PM Mountain Daylight Time on July 28, 2022**, making time extremely limited to put together required details of a pilot project and overall program. Timelines and data requirements to submit a WEEG application are outlined below.

Project

Pilot Program and Turf Removal Demonstration Project in Partnership with local Home Owners Associations

In order to submit an application that is competitive, the Water Agency and its partners will need to quickly develop the proposed project. Urgent action on the major components of an application include:

1. Develop a specific demonstration project, including an implementation plan;
2. Collect or provide data on existing outdoor watering in the region and specific to the project area; estimate water savings from the project and present methodology;
3. Develop and detail a monitoring plan;
4. Outline the goals of a longer-term turf removal and outdoor water use efficiency program, including the data that will be collected by the demonstration project to enable development.

TFG has put together a timeline and request for information, found below, that would need to be met in order to be able to complete a grant package for the FY23 competition. Generally speaking, one month is an extremely accelerated timeframe for scoping a project, collecting required data and methodology, and writing a grant. If the decision is instead made to seek one of the grants opening in Q1 of 2023, TFG would encourage the Water Agency and its partners to begin collecting the information requested below and develop a plan to be prepared for future funding opportunities.



Timeline

Assignment	Deadline (COB)	Responsible Entity
Kick—Off Discussion Call		Water Agency and TFG
Draft Letters of Support and Sample Resolution		TFG to Water Agency
All Administrative Tasks Complete		Water Agency
Information requested to TFG		Water Agency to TFG
Draft 1 of Narrative		TFG to Water Agency
Draft 1 feedback due		Water Agency to TFG
Draft 2 of Narrative		TFG to Water Agency
Draft 2 feedback due		Water Agency to TFG
All Letters of Support and Official Resolution Secured		Water Agency to TFG
Final Draft of Narrative		TFG to Water Agency
Final Draft feedback due		Water Agency to TFG
Application finalized and uploaded into grants.gov		TFG
Application submitted		Water Agency to submit through grants.gov
Deadline		

Administrative Tasks – Water Agency


- Confirm grants.gov and other registrations are up to date; create grant workspace in grants.gov and invite lead TFG grant writer assigned to the Water Agency (to be determined later) to join the workspace.
- Was the Water Agency required to submit a **Single Audit** report for the most recently closed fiscal year? If yes, please provide the **Employer Identification Number (EIN)** associated with that report and state if it is available through the [Federal Audit Clearinghouse](#) website.
- Secure official resolution from Board.

Discussion and Supporting Information Needed

- Provide specifics regarding the Demonstration Project and Pilot Program specifics:
 - What are the Demonstration **Project details – square footage of project area, type(s) of landscaping removed and replaced, how is the project currently used, etc.**
 - Identify all of the project **partners – retail utilities, homeowners association’s, or other community partners.**
 - Who is the **target audience** for the turf removal program? Residential, commercial, public properties?
 - How will the demonstration project be **structured – ownership, assignment of tasks, decision making structure, etc.?**

- How will funds be used to support the demonstration project?
 - How will the demonstration project advance a longer-term program and what are the parameters of such a program?
 - o What eligibility requirements will participants have?
 - o What will the rebate/financial assistance process look like?
 - o How/when
- How many square feet of lawn does the Water Agency have a goal of replacing in FY 2023 and over the longer-term?
- How will the pilot project and/or subsequent projects be selected?
- How many acre feet of water does the Water Agency estimate will be saved as a part of this project?
- How have average annual water savings estimates been determined? Please provide all relevant calculations, assumptions, and supporting data.
 - What is the total surface area of turf to be removed and what is the estimated average annual turf consumptive use rate per unit area?
 - Was historical water consumption data evaluated to estimate average annual turf consumptive use per unit area? If so, did the evaluation include a weather adjustment component?
 - Will site audits be performed before applicants are accepted into the program?
 - How will actual water savings be verified upon completion of the project?
- Will the project address energy demands and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by retrofitting equipment to increase energy efficiency and/or through water conservation improvements that result in reduced pumping or diversions?
- Can it be argued the project will result in reduced pumping? Provide description of current pumping requirements and the type of pumps (e.g. size) currently being used and how the proposed project would impact the current pumping requirements and energy usage.
 - Would there be energy saved as a result of less potable water being used for lawn maintenance and therefore less energy used to treat the water?
 - Would help with green waste possibly???
- Are there any renewable energy components to the project?
- What drought measures has the Water Agency had to take to date to respond to the ongoing drought in CA?
- Will the project allow for water to remain in the system (basin) for longer periods of time or result in ecological benefits?
 - Will the water provide greater flexibility to water managers resulting in a more efficient use of water supply? If yes, why?
 - Does the project address water shortage issues as a result of drought/climate change, increased demand or reduced deliveries? If yes, why?
 - For water conserved from the project, where will it go? Will it remain in the basin? Offset groundwater pumping? Reduce diversions? Used to address shortages that impact diversions or deliveries? Left in the river system?



- How will conserved water be used? What mechanisms are in place?
- Confirm project will not support on-farm efficiency improvement efforts
- Will the project require any **approvals or permits**?
- How did the Water Agency identify the need for a turf removal/outdoor water efficiency program? Was there **public engagement** and is there **support for a rebate program that the Water Agency can point to**? Is it included in any kind of formal drought or resource plan?
- Budget – **Total Project Cost** and Line-Item costs
 - Water Agency **staff positions that would be working on the grant** project implementation inclusive of: Position name, responsibility/role in grant, hourly rate & number of hours anticipated working on implementing the project, OR salary and what % of the time the employee is anticipated to work on the project; fringe benefits rates
 - Incentive details** – amount per rebate/incentive, how many rebates/incentives the Water Agency anticipates issuing and **logic behind the numbers**
 - Grant requires a **50% match – where will matching funds come from?** 

Budget Item Description	\$/Unit	Quantity	Quantity Type	Total Cost
Water Agency Costs				
Salaries and Wages				
Fringe Benefits				
Equipment				
Travel				
Supplies and Materials				
Contractual/Construction				
Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs				
Third-Party In-Kind Contributions				
Other				
Rebate Program - Residential				
Rebate Program - Commercial				



Total Direct Costs	
Indirect Costs	
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS \$	

What community members can provide letters of support to include in the application?