

San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency

DATE: February 5, 2024

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lance Eckhart, General Manager

SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution 2024-01 to Authorize the Turf Replacement Application for the WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant through the Bureau of Reclamation

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution #2024-01, authorizing the General Manager to apply for this grant funding and, if awarded, execute all related agreements and documents on behalf of the Agency.

BACKGROUND

As the State's hydrology has become more volatile, the need for additional conservation efforts has become even more important. In much of Southern California, replacing turf with drought-tolerant landscape has been crucial to long-term sustainability. No formal turf replacement program has been developed in the Pass region, leaving a substantial amount of turf that could be replaced with drought-tolerant landscaping.

Pass staff has been working with Solara Oak Valley Green HOA, a local HOA, to develop a turf replacement pilot project to replace ornamental turf with drought-tolerant landscaping.

The Bureau of Reclamation is offering a WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant (NOFO No. R24AS00052) that would provide funding for various projects that save water and/or energy. The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency is proposing to submit an application to move forward with the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Turf Replacement Project. As a part of this, Solara would replace approximately 7 acres of ornamental turf with drought-tolerant landscaping. It is estimated that this would provide approximately 28 acre-feet per year of water savings. Preliminary estimates for the cost of this project are upwards of \$1,000,000.00. It is expected that the grant would provide a 50% funding match. Solara would provide the local match for this project. The application is due to the Bureau of Reclamation by February 22, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT

Expenditures for this project will come from the General Fund and will be limited to the expenses related to preparing the grant. The grant application may cost between \$5,000 to \$9,000, and would be included in Grant Support Services. Currently about \$30,500 has been used of \$75,000 budgeted.

ACTION

Adopt Resolution #2024-01, authorizing the General Manager to apply for this grant funding and, if awarded, execute all related agreements and documents on behalf of the Agency.

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution No. 2024-01
- Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R24AS00052 Synopsis

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY AUTHORIZING THE AGENCY'S APPLICATION, AND APPROVING NEGOTIATION AND EXECUTION OF A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FOR A WATERSMART FY 2024/2025 WATER AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT (FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER R24AS00052)

WHEREAS the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (herein called the "Agency") is a wholesale water agency formed under the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Law set forth in Water Code Appendix 101 ("Law"); and

WHEREAS the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, under the WaterSMART FY 2024/2025 Water and Energy Efficiency Grant, will make funding available to qualifying applicants for projects covered by the grant program; and

WHEREAS the Solara Oak Valley Green Homeowner Association, located in Beaumont, CA ("HOA"), has requested that the Agency pursue funding from the grant program for the HOA's project to replace turf with drought resilient landscape on certain property of the HOA ("HOA Project"). Pursuant to the requirements of the grant program, applicants are required to be public agencies such as the Agency; and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of the Agency hereby determines that turf replacement and the use of drought-resilient landscaping, by large property owners such as the HOA, will further the goals of water conservation and the preservation of water supplies that the Agency imports and stores pursuant to its authority under the Law; and

WHEREAS the HOA has represented to the Agency that the HOA Project includes, but is not limited to, converting overhead spray stations to drip zone controllers, removing turf and soil, and implementing new drought-resistant landscape; and

WHEREAS the Agency is willing to Participate in the application process for the grant program subject to the terms of this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency in an open meeting assembled in the City of Beaumont, California, this 5th day of February 2024, as follows:

1. That the HOA Project will further the goals of the Agency in regard to the conservation and preservation of water supplies imported and stored by the Agency pursuant to its authority under the Law.
2. That General Manager, Lance Eckhart, is authorized to file, on behalf of the Agency, an application with the Bureau of Reclamation under the WaterSMART: FY 2024/2025 Water and Energy Efficiency Grant program and to take any and all other actions as may be necessary for the submission of an application.
3. The Agency is hereby authorized to receive, if awarded, the WaterSMART: FY 2024/2025 Water and Energy Efficiency Grant program funding and will make a good faith effort, in its reasonable discretion, to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation for the receipt and administration of said grant funds; and
4. The General Manager, Lance Eckhart, or his designee, is hereby authorized to take any and all actions which may be necessary for the completion and execution of the grant agreement and to take any and all other actions which may be necessary for the receipt and administration of the grant funding in accordance with the requirements of the Bureau of Reclamation; and
5. Except as otherwise specifically set forth herein, the Agency shall not be responsible for any other activities required for the receipt and use of grant funding or performance of a grant agreement required for. All other activities required under the grant program shall be performed by the HOA at its sole cost and expense including, but not limited to, additional non-grant funding and/or in-kind contributions specified in the grant application funding plan.

This Resolution shall be effective as of the date of adoption.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 5th day of February 2024.

Mickey Valdivia, President
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of Resolution No. 2024-01 adopted by the Board of Directors of San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency at a duly noticed regular meeting held on February 5, 2024.

Kevin Walton, Secretary
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency

Synopsis

Federal Agency Name:	Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Water Resources and Planning Office
Funding Opportunity Title:	WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and FY 2025
Announcement Type:	Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
Funding Opportunity Number:	R24AS00052
Assistance Listing Number:	15.507
Dates: (See NOFO Sec. D.4)	<p>This NOFO covers two application submittal periods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application Period 1: Proposals received by mail prior to Thursday, February 22, 2024, 4:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time or proposals submitted electronically in Grants.gov prior to Thursday, February 22, 2024, 4:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time, will be considered for FY 2024 funding. • Application Period 2: Proposals received by mail prior to Wednesday, October 30, 2024, 4:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Saving Time or proposals submitted electronically in Grants.gov prior to Wednesday, October 30, 2024, 4:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Saving Time, will be considered for FY 2025 funding.
Eligible Applicants: (See NOFO Sec. C.1)	<p>Applicants eligible to receive an award of financial assistance under this funding opportunity include:</p> <p>Category A: States, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; any state, regional, or local authority whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; and other organizations with water or power delivery authority. All Category A applicants must be located in the Western United States or United States Territories, including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Category B: Nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership and with the agreement of an entity described in Category A. All Category B applicants must be located in the United States, or the specific Territories identified above.</p>
Recipient Cost-Share: (See NOFO Sec. C.2)	50 percent or more of project costs (Note: this cost-sharing requirement is not applicable to American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands)
Federal Funding Amount: (See NOFO Sec. B.1)	<p>Funding Group I: Up to \$500,000 per agreement</p> <p>Funding Group II: Up to \$2,000,000 per agreement</p> <p>Funding Group III: Up to \$5,000,000 per agreement</p>
Estimated Number of Agreements to be Awarded: (See NOFO Sec. B.1)	Approximately 40-50 projects per application period, contingent on available funding.
Intergovernmental Review: (See NOFO Sec. D.5)	This NOFO is not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."