

Appendix 8A (in progress – available for Final GSP)

Funding Mechanisms

Appendix 8B

Overview of Grants Available

8B OVERVIEW OF POTENTIAL GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

This document summarizes the potential grant funding sources from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), CALFED Bay-Delta Program, and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for funding Corning Subbasin GSP projects. Only the relevant information is summarized below. Grants may also include other project types or serve different applicant types that are not applicable to the Subbasin. The information summarized is from past grant releases, information regarding schedule and funding amounts for new grant releases is generally available a few months in advance. This summary does not include California Department of Water Resources (DWR) grants that are available for SGMA projects.

8B.1. USBR/NRCS Agricultural Water Use Efficiency Program

- Overview: Under the Interim Federal Action Plan, USBR and the NRCS partner to provide complementary funding opportunities. USBR has authority to provide assistance to entities with water or power delivery authority, whereas NRCS has authority to provide on-farm assistance
 - Goal 1: promote district-level improvements to increase on-farm water use efficiency and conservation projects
 - Goal 2: create new supplies for agricultural irrigation
 - Goal 3: benefit endangered species
- Grant Amounts: \$5M in grants awarded for 2021 and 2022.
- Next submittal window: Not released
- Eligible applicants in Corning Subbasin:
 - Water districts
- Example project types in Corning Subbasin:
 - Canal improvements (i.e., OUWUA pressurized system upgrade)
 - Irrigation efficiency improvements with SCADA technology (i.e., OUWUA irrigation metering upgrade)
 - On-farm groundwater recharge projects

8B.2. USBR CALFED Water Use Efficiency Program

- Overview: Funding for water use efficiency grants with the following objectives:
 - Goal 1: Reduce existing irrecoverable losses, increasing the overall volume of available water
 - Goal 2: Achieve multiple state-wide benefits

- Goal 3: Preserve local flexibility
- Goal 4: Build on existing water use efficiency programs
- Grant amounts: up to \$500k available, at least 50% of total project cost from non-federal sources
- Next submittal window: Through November 30, 2021
- Eligible applicants in Corning Subbasin:
 - Water districts
 - “Organizations with water delivery authority” (i.e., TCCA, GCID)
 - Indian tribes
- Example project types in Corning Subbasin:
 - Canal improvements (i.e., OUWUA pressurized system upgrade)
 - Irrigation efficiency improvements with SCADA technology (i.e., OUWUA irrigation metering upgrade)
 - Groundwater recharge including stormwater runoff management (i.e., City of Corning stormwater capture, other conceptual conjunctive use recharge projects throughout Subbasin)
- Other relevant details:
 - The Bay-Delta Restoration Program: CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grants Program will fund feasible urban and agricultural projects that improve ecosystem health (including protection of endangered and threatened species), water supply reliability, or water quality of the California Bay-Delta through water use efficiency and conservation measures that result in quantifiable and reliable water savings or improved water management.
 - Proposals may include any type of implementation, demonstration, pilot water use efficiency, or conservation projects that have benefits to the California Bay-Delta.
 - Projects that only consist of research or feasibility studies, planning or education will not be funded.
 - Priority will be given to projects that can be completed within two (2) years from the date of award.
 - All projects being considered for award funding will require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) before any ground-disturbing activity may begin.
 - Routine maintenance projects are not eligible.

- Project cannot use any associated water savings to increase the total irrigated acreage of the eligible applicant, or increase the consumptive use of water

8B.3. USBR WaterSMART Drought Response Program – Drought Resiliency Projects

- Overview: Funding for on-the-ground projects and modeling tools that will increase water reliability, improve water management, and/or provide benefits for fish, wildlife and the environment.
- Grant amounts: up to \$1.5M available, at least 50% of total project cost from non-federal sources
- Next submittal window: Through October 2021
- Eligible applicants in Corning Subbasin:
 - Water districts
 - “Organizations with water delivery authority” (i.e., TCCA, GCID)
 - Indian tribes
- Example project types in Corning Subbasin:
 - Constructing new conveyance system components to increase flexibility to deliver water from different sources (i.e., OUWUA dual-system upgrades)
 - Groundwater recharge including stormwater runoff management (i.e., City of Corning stormwater capture, other conceptual conjunctive use recharge projects throughout Subbasin)
 - Development of water market that would provide a mechanism for willing participants to buy, sell, lease, or exchange water to avoid or reduce water conflicts (no conceptual projects in Subbasin at this time – this may be useful for further implementation funding development)
 - Improving habitat, including restoring habitat to pre-drought conditions. For example, restoring stream banks, managing and enhancing native vegetation, and installing stream flow deflectors in order to enhance pool and riffle habitats (i.e., Arundo removal on Stony Creek)
- Relevant details:
 - These projects are generally in the final design stage, environmental and cultural resources compliance may have been initiated, and the non-Federal funding, necessary permits, and other required approvals have been secured.
 - Proposed projects that are supported by an existing drought plan are prioritized.

- To be eligible for funding, the proposed resiliency project should improve the ability of water managers to continue to deliver water and power during a drought.

8B.4. USBR WaterSMART Grant Program for Water and Energy Efficiency Projects

- On-the-ground water management improvement projects including projects that conserve water and address water supply reliability.
- Grant amounts: Up to \$2M for 3-yr projects, at least 50% of total project cost from non-federal sources
- Next submittal window: Through November 3, 2021
- Eligible applicants in Corning Subbasin:
 - Water districts
 - “Organizations with water delivery authority” (i.e., TCCA, GCID)
 - Indian tribes
- Example project types in Corning Subbasin:
 - See USBR WaterSMART Drought Response Program

8B.5. USBR WaterSMART Grant Program for Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

- Small-scale projects that conserve and use water more efficiently; mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict; and accomplish other benefits that contribute to water supply reliability
- Grant amounts: Up to \$75K for 2-yr projects, at least 50% of total project cost from non-federal sources
- Next submittal window: Possibly January to March 2022
- Eligible applicants in Corning Subbasin:
 - Water districts
 - “Organizations with water delivery authority” (i.e. TCCA, GCID)
 - Indian tribes
- Example project types in Corning Subbasin:
 - See USBR CalFED Bay Delta Restoration Program Grants
- Relevant details:

- These projects are generally in the final design stage, environmental and cultural resources compliance may have been initiated, and the non-Federal funding, necessary permits, and other required approvals have been secured.
- Proposed projects that are supported by an existing drought plan are prioritized.
- To be eligible for funding, the proposed resiliency project should improve the ability of water managers to continue to deliver water and power during a drought.

8B.6. USBR WaterSMART Grant Program for Water Marketing Strategy

- Planning activities to develop water marketing strategies that establish or expand water markets or water marketing activities between willing participants.
- Grant amounts: Up to \$400K for 3-yr projects, at least 50% of total project cost from non-federal sources
- Next submittal window: Possibly February to April 2022
- Eligible applicants in Corning Subbasin:
 - Water districts
 - “Organizations with water delivery authority” (i.e. TCCA, GCID)
 - Indian tribes
- Example project types in Corning Subbasin:
 - Development of water market that would provide a mechanism for willing participants to buy, sell, lease, or exchange water to avoid or reduce water conflicts (no conceptual projects in Subbasin at this time – this may be useful for further implementation funding development)

8B.7. USBR WaterSMART Grant Program for Environmental Water Resources Projects

- Support projects focused on environmental benefits that increase the reliability of water resources
- Preferred projects address either the timing or quantity of water available; improve water quality and temperature; or improve stream or riparian conditions for the benefit of plant and animal species, fish and wildlife habitat, riparian areas, and ecosystems.
- Grant amounts: Up to \$2M for 3-yr projects, at least 25% of total project cost from non-federal sources
- Next submittal window: Possibly August to December 2023
- Eligible applicants in Corning Subbasin:

- Water districts
- “Organizations with water delivery authority” (i.e. TCCA, GCID)
- GSAs
- Nonprofit organizations
- Indian tribes
- Example project types in Corning Subbasin:
 - water conservation and efficiency projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values;
 - water management or infrastructure improvements to mitigate drought-related impacts to ecological values; and
 - watershed management or restoration projects benefitting ecological values that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management.

8B.8. USBR Cooperative Watershed Management Program

- Phase I - Watershed group development, watershed restoration planning, and watershed management project design.
- Grant amounts: Up to \$200K. No non-Federal cost-share required.
- Next submittal window: Possibly November 2021 to January 2022
- Eligible applicants in Corning Subbasin:
 - Water districts
 - “Organizations with water delivery authority” (i.e., TCCA, GCID)
 - Indian tribes
- As part of Phase I activities, applicants may use funding to develop bylaws, a mission statement, complete stakeholder outreach, develop a watershed restoration plan, and watershed management project design.
- Example project types in Corning Subbasin:
 - Develop watershed restoration plans to limit runoff, promote native vegetation, and mitigate impacts of wildfire.

8B.9. USBR Basin Study Program

- Applied Science projects to develop hydrologic information and water management tools and to improve modeling and forecasting capabilities.
- Grant amounts: Up to \$300K at least 50% of total project cost from non-federal sources

- Next submittal window: Possibly November 2021 to January 2022
- Eligible applicants in Corning Subbasin:
 - Local government
 - Universities
 - Non-profit research institutions
 - Water districts
 - “Organizations with water delivery authority” (i.e., TCCA, GCID)
 - Indian tribes
- Example project types in Corning Subbasin:
 - Collect AEM or other geophysical data to improve hydrogeologic conceptual model in Tehama-Tuscan transition zone and western Subbasin

8B.10. USBR Title XVI Authorized Projects (Water reclamation and reuse)

- Funding for planning, design, and construction of specific congressionally authorized water recycling and reuse projects
- Next submittal window: Possibly January to April 2022
- Grant amounts: Typically, between \$1 million and \$6 million at least 75% of total project cost from non-federal sources
- Example projects in Corning Subbasin:
 - Wastewater treatment and reuse project for City of Corning, though from City feedback, this concept is unlikely to be feasible or pursued for the GSP.

8B.11. NRCS Conservation Innovation Strategy Grant Program

- Voluntary program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies that provide environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production and forestry management.
- Next submittal window: Possibly early 2022, with applications due in April.
- Grant amounts: Typically, up to \$150,000, with a minimum 50% cost share provided from non-federal sources. Cost share funding can include a combination of cash and in-kind contributions.
- Eligible applicants in the Corning Subbasin:
 - All US-based, non-Federal entities and individuals.

- Example projects in Corning Subbasin
 - Development of groundwater recharge strategies on agricultural lands.
 - Development of market incentives for local water use efficiency.
 - Development of best management practices for agricultural production to protect local surface and groundwater quality.