

GROWING WATER SMART CALIFORNIA

August 2022

The Water and Land Use Connection

California is navigating challenges around water availability, access, and management. Many users, from farms to cities, depend on water to thrive, and all Californians have a human right to safe, clean, and affordable drinking water.

The way our urban areas grow directly impacts our water supply and demand. Similarly, our water management should inform future land use decisions.

Local governments can “grow water smart” by collaborating to resolve their water resource challenges.



Growing Water Smart Training and Assistance

Growing Water Smart brings teams of 5-7 local water and land use decision-makers together to collaborate on long-term water security. You will learn about public engagement, planning, communication, and policy tools to ensure your team can realize its water conservation, watershed health, and community resilience goals. Communities participating in this program gain:

Insight. A better understanding of how land use and climatic trends impact water supply and demand at local, state, and basin levels.

Flexibility. The strategies and tools to integrate water and land use planning to better adapt to change and uncertainty.

Engagement. Decision makers from multiple disciplines, departments, agencies, and organizations agree to common goals around water.

Clarity. Clear and concise language to communicate critical community goals around water to gain community and decision maker support.

Collaboration. Regional professional relationships with peers.

A path forward. An action plan tailored to your community's needs.

The Sonoran Institute and the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy have offered Growing Water Smart in Arizona and Colorado since 2017, resulting in:

- 11 workshops.
- 400+ participants representing over 70 towns, cities, and states trained in water-smart growth.
- 25+ communities received funds to implement water-saving strategies.

“Arizona Growing Water Smart was a fantastic experience. Hearing from other cities reinforced our need for action: integrating land and water is a real issue and it’s universal!”

Lacey James | City of Avondale, Arizona



Program at a Glance

Growing Water Smart participants attend a multi-day interactive workshop that facilitates their team's assessment of local water resource challenges influencing your community's future growth and development, and coming up with an action plan to address that challenge. The workshop will provide:

Team-Oriented Work Sessions: Assess community data, trends, and policies; develop succinct messaging around water; identify strategies to become water resilient and develop an action plan to implement these strategies. Sessions are facilitated by trained water and planning professionals and utilize interactive technology to guide teams through discussions.

Best Practices: Presentations and written materials provide key content and real-world examples on how to integrate water conservation, efficiency, and reuse into future development.

Peer-to-Peer Networking: Build relationships with peers; meet and exchange ideas with experts and counterparts from other jurisdictions.

Follow-up Technical Assistance: Upon workshop completion, teams become eligible to apply for follow-up technical assistance to help implement your action plan (subject to project approval and funding availability). Previous technical assistance has included:

- Land use code audits and policy recommendations
- Guidance for general plan updates
- Collaborative stakeholder engagement and facilitation
- Strategic communication plans and messaging

“Colorado Growing Water Smart opened our eyes about critical gaps in our planning efforts. Now our local governments and service providers are using a common set of data and growth projections in our planning efforts.”

James Dickoff | Town of Pagosa Springs, Colorado





Monica Volpin



Amy McCoy, Martin and McCoy, LLC

Interested? Please Contact Us

We are seeking expressions of interest from California communities to participate in this program. The workshop is expected to be delivered in Summer 2023. The timing can be flexible according to the community's needs. If interested, please submit the following information to growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org:

- Anticipated growth and uncertainties associated with meeting future water demand;
- Existing partnerships among agencies responsible for land use planning and water resource management (or the need/desire for these partnerships if not currently occurring);
- Potential or desired outcome of participating in Growing Water Smart.
- Lead contact person with whom we may follow up with any requests for additional information.

Contact Information

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See [GrowingWaterSmart.org](https://growingwatersmart.org) for more information.

About the Babbitt Center

The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, a center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, seeks to advance the integration of land and water management to meet the current and future water needs of Colorado River Basin communities, economies, and the environment.

About the Sonoran Institute

The Sonoran Institute's mission is to connect people and communities with the natural resources that nourish and sustain them. Go to SonoranInstitute.org to learn about our programs, history, and recent news. Or find us on Social Media.



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A Center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy



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