

CALIFORNIA GROWING WATER SMART

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Summer 2023 Workshop

The Water and Land Use Connection

California is navigating significant 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.

Historically, planning for water resources and land use have been conducted separately. Yet, where and how we build impacts the quantity of water needed and the quality of water that supports our ecosystems.

Elected officials, water resource managers, and land use planners can increase resilience and create water smart communities even as populations grow by collaborating to identify and implement strategies that address local and regional water concerns.



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The Growing Water Smart Workshop

The Sonoran Institute and the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy have successfully provided Growing Water Smart as a training and assistance program in Arizona and Colorado since 2017. Now, we are partnering with CivicWell and Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL) to offer a California-tailored program.

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.

Location: San Bernardino Valley, CA

Date: June 13-15, 2023 (tentative)

Eligibility: Counties and municipalities located in Southern CA

Costs: The workshop is free. Participants cover their own travel. Meals and lodging are provided.

Communities participating in this program gain:

Insight. A better understanding of how land use and climatic trends impact water supply and demand at the state and local level.

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 establish common goals around water.

Clarity. Clear and concise language to communicate goals around water resilience and gain support for proposed actions.

Collaboration. A regional professional relationship exchange with your peers.

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

Follow up. Post-workshop resources to carry out your goals.



Program at a Glance

The Growing Water Smart workshop offers your team the time to collaborate and focus on the water resource challenges that are influencing your community's growth and development. The program is comprised of the following elements:

Team-Oriented Work Sessions: Teams assess community data, trends, and existing 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 professionals in the field who guide teams through strategic discussions.

Learning Best Practices: Presentations and written materials provide key knowledge around integrating water conservation, efficiency, reuse, and watershed protection into existing and future development.

Peer-to-Peer Networking: Participants meet and exchange ideas with peers from other jurisdictions and past workshop participants.

Follow up Funding

Upon workshop completion, teams become eligible to apply for up to \$10,000 in 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
- The inclusion of water in comprehensive plan updates
- Collaborative stakeholder engagement and facilitation
- Metrics to measure water and land use integration
- 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





Photo by Levi Meir Clancy on Unsplash



Amy McCoy, Martin and McCoy, LLC

“Colorado Growing Water Smart helped Fort Collins better collaborate with all of our water providers to plan for growth so that we consider cost and availability of water.”

Donnie Dustin | City of Fort Collins

Eligibility and Team Composition

The workshop is designed to build and foster interdisciplinary teams from counties, municipalities, and water districts committed to taking collaborative action around water. Applicants build a team of five to seven individuals with diverse knowledge, skills, and perspectives needed to secure their community’s water future and implement the developed action plan. Team composition varies to reflect the needs of each community, and often includes:

- Elected and appointed officials*
- Current and long-range land use planners*
- Water resource managers*
- Economic development leaders
- Sustainability and resilience officers
- Parks and public works staff
- Representatives of regional planning organizations
- Local non-profit organizational representatives
- Community task force members
- Consultants contributing to your current water and land use efforts

* Denotes required representative

Multi-jurisdictional or regional teams may also apply. One or more representatives from each local government should be represented, and the team should be in pursuit of a common water goal.

How to Apply

To participate in our Growing Water Smart program, please submit answers to the following five questions in .doc or .pdf format to growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org

Please limit responses to 250-500 words per question.

- 1. Team Composition:** Provide the names, titles, organizations, and email addresses of 5-7 team members who will participate in the workshop. Please identify who will serve as the team leader for pre-workshop communication.
- 2. Water Awareness:** Describe your community’s water challenges, particularly around balancing water supply and demand, but also around stormwater management, integrated water resource management, and watershed health, as applicable. How well do decision-makers and the community understand and prioritize these challenges?
- 3. Planning and Policy:** What plans, policies, and programs are currently in place in your community that address water in new and existing development? How well are they being implemented? What plans or processes are in progress related to water and land use planning integration?
- 4. Community Readiness:** How are your land use planners and water resource managers currently collaborating around water and land use? Please describe any opportunities or challenges that you want to address during this workshop.
- 5. Desired Outcomes:** What does your community hope to achieve from participation in the Growing Water Smart workshop? How does your community believe it will benefit from better integration of water and land use planning? Please be as specific as possible.



Monica Volpin



Amy McCoy, Martin and McCoy, LLC

Selection Criteria

Teams will be selected based on:

1. Team composition that includes required representatives.
2. Demonstrated local commitment toward addressing water sustainability.
3. Severity of need around current and projected water conditions.
4. Capacity to foster dialogue or partnerships among agencies and entities overseeing land use planning and water resource management.

Deadline

Please submit this information by **April 1, 2023**.

Contact Information

We are here to help! If you are interested in applying or have questions about the program, please contact:

Waverly Klaw, AICP
 Director, Growing Water Smart
 Sonoran Institute
growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org

Funding for California Growing Water Smart is provided by Hunter Industries and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.


This workshop is offered in Arizona, California, and Colorado.

Sonoran Institute

The Sonoran Institute's mission is to connect people and communities with the natural resources that nourish and sustain them.

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Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy

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 needs of Colorado River Basin communities, economies, and the environment.

CivicWell

CivicWell supports local policymakers through nationally recognized events, cost effective technical assistance, and policy guidance, on climate change, community design, energy, water, and national service.

WELL

WELL educates and trains local Latino elected officials about California water policy to promote timely and equitable actions that serve to develop a robust economy, healthy communities, and a resilient environment for all Californians.

