

Growing Water Smart



GROWING WATER SMART TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

CALIFORNIA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS JUNE 2024 WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Jacob Findlay

Technical Assistance RFP Requirements

Sonoran Institute, the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, and Water Education for Latino Leaders are requesting proposals from California Growing Water Smart communities for technical assistance projects that implement goals and outcomes identified in the team action plan.

Deadline: May 7, 2025

Eligibility: This request for proposals is open to all cities and/or water retailers that participated in the June 2024 Growing Water Smart workshop and are located within the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District service area.

Project Proposals: Cities and/or water retailers may apply individually or jointly for projects that advance the integration of land use planning and water resource management.

Eligible Projects Include (but are not limited to):

Plans, Studies, and Metrics

- Making Conservation a California Way of Life: Special consideration will be given to projects focused on enhancing data collection and/or data management to support compliance with reporting requirements.
- Identification of metrics to measure the impact of integrating water and land use planning.
- Design and implementation of visioning, scenario planning, or other planning processes.
- Assessment and opportunities scan of local plans, policies, and programs.
- Strengthening the water-related elements of General Plans.
- Drought management planning.
- Green infrastructure planning.
- Stormwater management planning.

Policy and Regulatory Updates

- Zoning or subdivision code updates.
- Landscape ordinances.
- Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance improvements.

Education, Communication, and Collaboration

- Presentations by technical experts or peer communities.
- Communications planning and messaging.
- Facilitation of stakeholder groups.

Contract Amount: Funding requests of up to \$20,000 per project will be considered. Projects with regional benefits or replicable elements may be eligible for up to \$40,000. Matching funds are not required, but applicants may combine this grant with other funding sources to support a larger project.

Permitted Expenses: Grant funds may be used for fees, travel, and other expenses incurred by the service provider. Local city or water retailer staff salaries are ineligible.

Timeline and Contracting: Before May 7, 2025, interested applicants must schedule a meeting with the Sonoran Institute to review the potential project.

- **May 7, 2025** – Applications due.
- **May 30, 2025** – Grant awards announced.
- **June 13, 2025** – Grant agreements must be finalized between the Sonoran Institute and award recipients or service providers.

Funding and Support: Funding for this round of California Growing Water Smart Technical Assistance is provided by San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District.

Application Requirements

Expectations of Recipients: Secure necessary approvals (e.g., from leadership, city councils, or boards) before applying. Provide regular project status updates as defined in the grant agreement and submit a final project report detailing outcomes, lessons learned, and progress photos (if applicable).

Proposal Submission Requirements:

1. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Describe your project, including how it integrates land use and water management to improve community resiliency. Describe how the project will lead to intended outcomes such as water savings, reduced flooding, or improved water quality and describe how you will measure the outcomes. Clearly connect the project to one or more goals in your Growing Water Smart Workshop action plan.
2. **SERVICE PROVIDER:** List the preferred technical assistance service provider and include their scope of work and cost estimate. If you plan to issue an RFP, describe the steps taken to develop the project scope within the available budget. The grant agreement may be between the Sonoran Institute and the award recipient (city and/or retailer) or directly between the Sonoran Institute and the technical assistance service provider.
3. **SCOPE OF WORK:** Provide a detailed list of tasks and deliverables from the technical assistance service provider.
 - Tasks refer to the specific work needed to complete the project, such as review existing drought management plan(s).
 - Deliverables are the final products, such as a completed policy scan or a new General Plan element.
4. **PROJECT BUDGET AND TIMELINE:** Include a detailed budget and timeline, specifying any secured or pending matching funds (if applicable). Projects are typically expected to be completed within one year.
5. **PROJECT MANAGEMENT:** Provide the name and contact information of 1–2 staff members responsible for managing the project and overseeing the technical assistance service provider.
6. **SIGNATORY:** Include the name, title, and contact information of the individual authorized to sign the grant agreement.
7. **APPLICATION LENGTH:** Final applications must not exceed four pages and can be a Word Doc or PDF.

Please submit your technical assistance proposal by May 7, 2025 to growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org.



Ramone Ferrier

San Bernardino Valley

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (San Bernardino Valley) is a regional water agency with a service area that covers around 353 square miles in southwestern San Bernardino County and a population of approximately 714,000. With a dedicated team of experts and partnerships across the region, San Bernardino Valley is committed to building a resilient and sustainable water future for the community. Learn more at www.sbvmd.com.

Sonoran Institute

The Sonoran Institute's mission is to connect people and communities with the natural resources that nourish and sustain them. Learn more about how you can help at SonoranInstitute.org/donate.

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.

Water Education for Latino Leaders

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.

