

# CALIFORNIA GROWING WATER SMART

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS  
DUE APRIL 19, 2024**

**WORKSHOP  
JUNE 3-5, 2024**

## Connecting Water and Land Use

A changing climate, declining groundwater availability, and increasing housing pressures are contributing to significant challenges around water management, availability, and access in communities across California. This has caused state, regional, and local agencies to take action to conserve, replenish, and manage water resources.

Historically, planning for water resources and land use have been conducted separately. Yet, where and how cities develop directly impacts the quantity of water needed and the quality of water that supports the aquatic environments.

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

Growing Water Smart is a joint program of Sonoran Institute and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy's Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, and is administered in California in partnership with Water Education for Latino Leaders.



## The Growing Water Smart Workshop

Growing Water Smart consists of a 2.5-day workshop, follow-up technical assistance grants, and ongoing support for integrating water conservation, efficiency, and reuse strategies into land use plans and policies.

The program offers public engagement, planning, communication, and policy tools to ensure that local governments and water retailers can collaborate to make water conservation a California way of life, further water quality and watershed health, and ensure equitable access to water.

**Location:** University of Redlands

**Date:** June 3-5, 2024

**Eligibility:** Counties, municipalities, and water retailers served by the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District.

**Costs:** The workshop is free for accepted teams, including meals. Participants cover their own travel.

**Communities participating in this program gain:**

**Insight.** Achieve a better understanding of how land use and climate trends impact water supply and demand in Southern California.

**Tools.** Explore the strategies and tools to align water and land use planning to meet state, regional, and local goals.

**Collaboration.** Engage with colleagues and counterparts from key disciplines, agencies, and organizations to establish common goals around water and growth.

**Messaging.** Develop clear and concise language to communicate goals around water resilience and gain support for proposed actions.

**A path forward.** Establish a regional water resiliency action plan based on your community's needs.

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



A REGIONAL WATER AGENCY  
SINCE 1954

*“Participating in the Growing Water Smart workshop gave our team the opportunity and support that we needed to strategically think through some of the toughest water issues that our community is currently facing. With the support of the Sonoran Institute and their partners, we were able to identify our team’s common goals for a turf removal program, as well as build a plan to get to our desired policy.” Mayor Oscar Ortiz | City of Indio*

## 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 city's growth and development. The workshop is comprised of the following elements:

**Key Learning:** Live presentations and written guidance documents provide knowledge and training around integrating water conservation, efficiency, reuse, and watershed protection into new and existing development through land use plans, codes, and programs.

**Team-Oriented Work Sessions:** Teams assess community data, trends, and existing policies; develop succinct messaging around water; identify strategies to align land use plans and policies with water resource management goals; and develop an action plan to implement these strategies. Sessions are facilitated by professionals in the field who guide teams through these strategic discussions.

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

## Post-Workshop Funding Support

Upon workshop completion, teams become eligible to apply for up to \$10,000 in technical assistance grants to help implement their action plan (subject to project approval and funding availability). Previous technical assistance has included:

- Land use code audits, policy recommendations, and updates
- 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

## 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 six to eight senior to mid-level individuals with diverse knowledge, skills, and perspectives. Team composition varies, and often includes:

- Local government elected and appointed officials\*
- Current and long-range land use planners\*
- Representatives from water utilities and retailers\*
- 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 current water and land use efforts

\* Denotes required representative

## How to Apply

Submit the Growing Water Smart application below to [growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org](mailto:growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org).

## Questions?

Please email: [growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org](mailto:growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org)

## 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.

**Application Due: April 19, 2024 at 5:00 PM PT**

Funding for California Growing Water Smart is provided by San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Hunter Industries and private donors.



## 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](https://sonoraninstitute.org/donate). Your support preserves the environment for future generations and makes a lasting impact in communities across Western North America.

## 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.



BABBITT CENTER  
FOR LAND AND WATER POLICY

A Center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy



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Water Education for Latino Leaders

**Team:**

**Team Composition**

1a. Provide the names, titles, organizations, and email addresses of the 6-8 team members who will participate in the workshop. (For the greatest impact, we recommend including mid-to-senior level staff on your team.)

Category Represented	Name	Title	Organization	Email
Land Use Planner (Required)				
Water Utility/Resource Manager (Required)				
Elected and/or Appointed Official (Highly Recommended)				

1b. Please briefly describe why you chose this combination of participants to attend and represent your community at the Growing Water Smart workshop.

1c. Which team member will serve as the lead for pre-workshop communications?

**Water Awareness**

2a. Please describe your community's most pressing water challenges. (Examples include water demand exceeding supply, stormwater management/flooding, water quality/watershed health, etc.)

2b. What are the biggest barriers to addressing these challenges? (Examples include lack of political will, competing priorities, community support, funding, etc.)

2c. What is your community's projected population growth rate? Is land use in your community changing, and if so, in what sectors (residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural)?

**Plans and Processes**

3a. What plans currently govern or significantly address your water goals? Are any of these plans being updated now or in the near future?

**Team:**

3b. Is your community in the process of updating any land use codes or standards (such as landscape, zoning, subdivision, building, or plumbing code)? If so, please describe.

3c. What is the current status of your community's regional housing plan and housing element of the general plan? Are you encountering any challenges related to water and housing needs?

**Collaboration**

4. How are your local government land use planners and water resource managers currently collaborating around water and land use? For example, is collaboration occurring around how to reduce water demand in development to meet the water supplier's Urban Water Use Objective? Please describe any opportunities or challenges to collaboration.

## Team:

### Desired Outcomes

5. 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? Be as specific as possible.

### Team Orientation

6. If your team is selected, we will host a virtual one-hour orientation call during the week of April 29-May 3. This session is essential for successful participation and will include a detailed workshop primer and an introduction to the Community Self-Assessment tool. Attendance for all team members is required. Please select the top four times that work for the entire team and hold the preferred time slots on your calendars after submitting your application.

<b>April 29</b>	<b>April 30</b>	<b>May 1</b>	<b>May 2</b>	<b>May 3</b>
9:00-10:00 AM	9:00-10:00 AM	9:00-10:00 AM	9:00-10:00 AM	9:00-10:00 AM
12:00-1:00 PM	10:00-11:00 AM	10:00-11:00 AM	10:00-11:00 AM	10:00-11:00 AM
1:00-2:00 PM	11:00-12:00 PM	1:00-2:00 PM	11:00-12:00 PM	11:00-12:00 PM
2:00-3:00 PM	2:00-3:00 PM	3:00-4:00 PM	1:00-2:00 PM	1:00-2:00 PM
3:00-4:00 PM	3:00-4:00 PM		3:00-4:00 PM	3:00-4:00 PM

## Thank You!

Please email your completed application to [GrowingWaterSmart@SonoranInstitute.org](mailto:GrowingWaterSmart@SonoranInstitute.org)