



SONORAN
INSTITUTE



GROWING WATER SMART TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

MEXICALI-CALEXICO - REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Spring 2025

The work performed, the method of collaboration, and the results [arising from our Growing Water Smart technical assistance] are exactly what the City needed and will be long-lasting. This was a legacy project and the City is grateful.” Anne Best Johnson, | (Former) Community Development Director, City of Evans, Colorado

Application Window Now Open

The Sonoran Institute and the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy are requesting proposals from Border Growing Water Smart communities for technical assistance in implementing their action plans.

Deadline: 18 April 2025 5:00 PM MDT

Eligibility: The request for proposals is open to all participants from the Mexicali-Calexico Growing Water Smart workshop.

Requests for Assistance: Participants may apply for any project that advances the integration of land use planning and water resource management, however, preference will be given to projects that arose or were discussed during the Mexicali-Calexico GWS workshop.

Projects are typically less than one year in duration.

The requested technical assistance may be provided by third-party service providers such as consultants, non-profit organizations, or academic institutions. Recipients may request that Sonoran Institute contract directly with the provider on their behalf. Please confirm the desired scope of work with your preferred service provider prior to submitting your proposal.

Examples of Previous Projects Include:

Policy and Regulatory Updates

- Zoning or subdivision code
- Landscape ordinance

Demonstration Projects

- Projects that demonstrate proof of concept

Plans, Studies, and Metrics

- 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 Comprehensive Plans
- Drought management planning
- Green infrastructure planning
- Metrics and benchmarking

Education, Communication, and Collaboration

- Presentations by technical experts or peers
- Communications planning and messaging
- Facilitation of stakeholder groups

Contract Amount: Requests for projects may be granted up to USD \$15,000, including all relevant taxes. Matching funds are not required, though a technical assistance grant could be combined with other funds to support a larger project. 20% of the granted funds will be distributed upon grant agreement signing, and the remainder at conclusion of the project. Please allow for 1-2 months for contracting processes.

Permitted Expenses: Funds may be utilized for fees, travel, and other expenses incurred by the service provider/contractor. Funds may not be used for local government or water provider staff salaries.



Expectations of Recipients: Award recipients will sign a grant agreement, provide quarterly project status updates, and submit a final project report with outcomes, lessons learned and progress photos.

Proposal Submission Requirements and Deadline:

- **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Describe your project, including how your project integrates land use and water to improve community resiliency in the Mexicali-Calexico region. Describe how the project will lead to intended outcomes, either locally, binationally, or both, such as water savings, reduced flooding, or improved water quality. Explain how your project advances one or more goals in your Growing Water Smart Workshop action plan.
- **SERVICE PROVIDER:** List the desired technical assistance provider/consultant and include the consultant's scope of work and cost estimate, if applicable.
- **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.
- **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.
- **DELIVERABLES:** Describe the deliverable(s) and/or outcome(s) expected from the project. Also describe how you might measure the benefits identified in the project description. Preference will be given to applications with binational benefits.
- **PROJECT MANAGEMENT:** Include the names and contact information of 1-2 staff responsible for managing the project and the grant, as well as overseeing any additional service providers.
- **SIGNATORY:** Include the name, title, and contact information of the individual authorized to sign the grant agreement.
- **APPLICATION LENGTH:** Final applications must not exceed six pages and can be a Word Doc or PDF.

Applicants are encouraged to review their request with the **Sonoran Institute** prior to submission. Please submit any questions and your technical assistance proposal to nkaiser@sonoraninstitute.org by **18 April 2025**.

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.

Support the Sonoran Institute

Your support preserves the environment for future generations and makes a lasting impact in communities across Western North America. Learn more about how you can help at SonoranInstitute.org/Membership/

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Go to SonoranInstitute.org to learn about our programs, history, and recent news. Or find us on social media:

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BABBITT CENTER
FOR LAND AND WATER POLICY

A Center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy



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