



SONORAN
INSTITUTE

GROWING WATER SMART TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

ARIZONA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2025

Egor Shitikov

“As a rural community, our staff are commonly stretched thin and already carrying many tasks and duties. The option to take on technical assistance has ensured the success of [our landscape code], and the room for the conversation around water policy to flow naturally.”

Melissa Steele | Economic Development Manager, City of Globe, AZ

Application Window Now Open

The Sonoran Institute and the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy are now accepting proposals from Arizona Growing Water Smart (GWS) communities for technical assistance in implementing their water smart action plans.

Deadline: July 18, 5pm AZ time

Eligibility: All Arizona communities who have participated in a Growing Water Smart workshop may apply, with preference given to January 2025 Verde Watershed workshop teams.

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

Projects must be completed by September 1, 2026.

The requested technical assistance may be provided by third-party service providers such as consultants, non-profit organizations, or academic institutions. Please confirm the desired scope of work with your preferred service provider prior to submitting your proposal.

Eligible Projects Include (But Are Not Limited To):

Policy and Regulatory Updates

- Zoning or subdivision code
- Landscape ordinance

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 water-related General Plan elements
- 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: We can award up to two \$12,500 grants for individual communities or one grant of up to \$25,000 with demonstrated regional benefits. If more than one community is part of a grant application, please name which community will be the fiscal agent for the project. Matching funds are not required, though technical assistance grants may be combined with other funds to support a larger project budget.

Allowable Expenses: Funds may be used for fees, travel, and other expenses incurred by the service provider. Local government or water provider staff salaries are ineligible for funding.



Mead Mier, Pima Association of Governments



Ramone Farrier

Expectations of Recipients: Award recipients will sign a grant agreement and provide a mid-way and final project report. Recipients may contract with their preferred service provider or request that Sonoran Institute contract directly with the provider on their behalf. Award recipients submit a project report and case study that may be shared with peer communities and as part of program outreach.

Proposal Submission Format and Deadline:
Please submit a proposal of approximately two pages and include the following information:

- **Project Description:** a description of the project, how it will result in land use and water integration, and how the project advances one or more goals in the action plan(s) developed during the Growing Water Smart workshop.
- **Service Provider:** the desired technical assistance provider, including their scope of work, which should include a detailed list of tasks and deliverables. Tasks are specific work needed to complete the project and deliverables are the final product(s).
- **Project Budget and Timeline:** a detailed budget and timeline, specifying any secured or matching funds (if applicable).
- **Project Management:** the names and contact information of 1-2 staff responsible for managing the project and overseeing the service provider.
- **Signatory:** the name, title, and contact information of the individual authorized to sign the grant agreement.

Please submit your technical assistance proposal to growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org by July 18, 2025.

About Growing Water Smart

The Growing Water Smart training and assistance program empowers local leaders to implement plans and policies that support community and regional water resilience. Learn more at www.growingwatersmart.org.

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.

Connect With Us

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



BABBITT CENTER
FOR LAND AND WATER POLICY

A Center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy



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