



**Growing
Water
Smart**

GROWING WATER SMART TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

COLORADO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FALL 2025

Jeremy Stapleton, Sonoran Institute

Technical Assistance Request for Proposals

Sonoran Institute and the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy are requesting proposals from Colorado Growing Water Smart communities for technical assistance projects that implement goals and outcomes identified in their team action plans.

Deadline: October 31, 2025

Eligibility: The request for proposals is open to all communities that have participated in a Growing Water Smart workshop, with preference given to October 2023 Colorado River District and April 2025 Colorado River District and Southwestern Water Conservation District 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.

The requested technical assistance must 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 selected provider on their behalf. 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

- Landscape ordinance
- Zoning or subdivision code

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 group

Contract Amount: Funding requests of up to \$10,000 per community will be considered. Joint applications from two or more of the participating communities may request up to \$20,000. Matching funds are not required.

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

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

TIMELINE:

- **August 25, 2025** – Applications open.
- **October 31, 2025** – Applications due.
- **November 21, 2025** – Grant awards announced.

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).

Applications must fully address each requirement:

- 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.
- 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 utility) or directly between the Sonoran Institute and the technical assistance service provider.
- 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 of existing drought management plan(s).
 - Deliverables are the final products, such as a completed policy scan.
- 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.
- 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.
- SIGNATORY:** Include the name, title, and contact information of the individual authorized to sign the grant agreement.
- APPLICATION LENGTH:** The final applications must respond to each requirement listed, not exceed four pages and can be a Word Doc or PDF.

Please submit your technical assistance proposal to growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org.



Diego Trejo, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

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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