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**URC and Tribal Project Concept Form**

**Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Funding**

***November 2021***

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has announced a set aside of at least $50 million will be made to support Underrepresented Communities (URCs) and Native American Tribes (Tribes) for drought relief projects under the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program. For this round of funding, up to approximately $5 million may be available to the Colorado River Funding Area. Allocation of these funds among the Coachella Valley, Mojave, San Gorgonio, and Imperial IRWM Regions and those not within the Coachella Valley, Mojave San Gorgonio, and Imperial IRWM boundaries is still under consideration.

**Eligible Project Types**

The purpose of the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program is to fund projects that provide interim and immediate drought relief to urban communities and for multibenefit projects. The grants are intended to provide water to communities that face the loss or contamination of their water supplies, to address immediate impacts on human health and safety, and to protect fish and wildlife resources. The priority of the URC and Tribes set aside is to fund eligible drought relief projects benefitting URCs or Tribes. For purposes of this grant, DWR collectively refers to disadvantaged communities, severely disadvantaged communities, economically distressed areas, Tribes, environmentally disadvantaged communities, and fringe communities as URCs.

Eligible project types include:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Eligible Project Types** | **Prioritized for Funding** |
| * Hauled Water * Installation of temporary community water tanks * Bottled water * Water vending machine * Emergency water interties * New wells or rehabilitation of existing wells * Construction of installation of permanent connection to adjacent water systems, recycled water projects that support immediate relief to potable water supplies * Fish and wildlife rescue, protection, and relocation * Drought resiliency planning (not applicable to Multibenefit Drought Funds) * Other projects that support immediate drought response | * Projects that respond to critical human and/or wildlife emergencies will be prioritized for funding first. * Projects that can commence immediately upon receiving funding due to CEQA completion, having secured other environmental approvals, acquired necessary land or landowner permission, and completed plans specifications. * The applicant is an Urban Water Supplier and has activated its Water Shortage Contingency Plan commensurate with a state appropriate for their current water supply conditions. A higher priority will be placed on Urban Water Suppliers that have activated a higher stage of their Water Shortage Contingency Plan. |

**Project Concept Information**

To have your project considered for the URC and Tribes set aside funding, **please fill out the concept form and return it** [**CVRWMG@woodardcurran.com**](mailto:CVRWMG@woodardcurran.com) **by Friday, November 19, 2021.** If you have any questions about the selection process or concept form, please contact Erica Wolski ([ewolski@woodardcurran.com](mailto:ewolski@woodardcurran.com); 858-875-7425)

In order to be eligible for the set aside, the following must apply:

* Project Sponsor: must be a public agency, a public utility, a special district, a college and university, a mutual water company, a non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status, a Regional Management Group, a Federally recognized California Native American Tribe, or a Non-federally recognized Native American Tribe on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission.
* Underrepresented Community or Native American Tribe Status: must benefit a disadvantaged community (DAC), severely disadvantaged community (SDAC), economically distressed area (EDA), Tribes, environmentally disadvantaged community (EnvDAC), or fringe communities, which are collectively referred to as URCs in the draft GL/PSP.
* Project Type: must have a drought nexus, multiple benefits, and align with the goals and objectives of IRWM Plan.
* Funding Match: there is no funding match requirement for the set aside, but it is highly encouraged.
* Project Schedule: projects must be complete by March 31, 2026.

**Basic Project Information**

Please fill out each row in **Table 1** for your project.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Table1: Basic Project Information** | | | | |
| 1. **Project Title:** |  | | | |
| 1. **Project Sponsor(s):** |  | | | |
| 1. **Project Partner(s) (if applicable):** |  | | | |
| 1. **Primary Project Sponsor Contact Information:** |  | | | |
| 1. **Project Location:** | Latitude: | | | Longitude: |
| 1. **Project Description:** |  | | | |
| 1. **Does the project directly benefit underrepresented communities and Tribes? Please explain how.**   If your project benefits an underrepresented community, please explain the community and how it is underrepresented, and/or provide citation for source showing it is an underrepresented community. |  | | | |
| 1. **Briefly describe how the community/area benefitting from this project is being impacted by the current drought.** |  | | | |
| 1. **Describe the need for state funding. If state funding is not secured, what will happen to the project?** |  | | | |
| 1. **Describe how the project responds to an existing emergency to humans and/or wildlife if applicable.** |  | | | |
| 1. **Each project must meet one of the following purposes as it relates to drought. Please indicate the appropriate purpose for your project:** | A – Address immediate impacts on human health and safety, including providing or improving availability of food, water, or shelter. | |  | |
| B – Address immediate impacts on fish and wildlife resources. | |  | |
| C – Provide water to persons or communities that lose or are threatened with the loss or contamination of water supplies. | |  | |
| 1. **Please identify the IRWM objective your project addresses. The Coachella Valley IRWM Plan Objectives can be found in Chapter 6 of the IRWM Plan:** [**www.cvrwmg.org**](http://www.cvrwmg.org) |  | | | |
| 1. **Describe the Primary Benefit:** | Benefit: | Quantification of Benefit (with Units): | | |
| 1. **Describe the Secondary Benefit of the project:** | Benefit: | Quantification of Benefit (with Units): | | |
| 1. **Describe how the project will achieve the claimed benefits.** |  | | | |
| 1. **Anticipated Project Schedule:** | Project Administration: | |  | |
| Land Purchase/Easement: | |  | |
| Planning/Design/Engineering/Environmental Documentation: | |  | |
| Construction: | |  | |
| 1. **Proposed Project Budget:** | Project Administration: | |  | |
| Land Purchase/Easement: | |  | |
| Planning/Design/Engineering/Environmental Documentation | |  | |
| Construction/Implementation | |  | |
| Total Project Costs: | |  | |
| Total Grant Funding Requested: | |  | |
| 1. **Are the CEQA (and NEPA if applicable) and permitting processes for this project complete? If not, please briefly describe the permits and CEQA (or NEPA) documents to be completed and projected schedule for completion.** |  | | | |
| 1. **Briefly describe the necessary construction/implementation for this project.** |  | | | |

**Back-Up Documentation**

Please provide any backup materials (project maps, partnerships agreements, etc.) that support the information provided in your concept form. Note that during the project selection process, additional information may be requested for your project.

**Please submit any back-up documentation, together with this concept form, to** [**CVRWMG@woodardcurran.com**](mailto:CVRWMG@woodardcurran.com) **by Friday, November 19, 2021.**

**Definitions**

**Disadvantaged Community (DAC):** DACs are communities with a median household income (MHI) less than 80% of the statewide MHO. Under this solicitation, DACs are communities with a MHI less than $51,026.

**Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC):** SDACs are communities with a median household income of less than 60% of the Statewide average.

**Economically Distressed Area (EDA):** EDAs are defined as a “municipality with a population of 20,000 persons or less, a rural county, or a reasonably isolated and divisible segment of a larger municipality where the segment of the population is 20,000 persons or less, with an annual MHI less than 85% of the statewide MHI and with one or more of the following:

1. Financial hardship
2. Unemployment rate at least 2% higher than the statewide average
3. Low population density

**Tribes:** Tribes arefederally recognized Indian Tribes and California State Indian Tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission’s California Tribal Consultation List under the Urban and Multibenefit Grant Relief Program.

**Environmentally Disadvantaged Communities (EnvDACs):** The California Environmental Protection Agency designates the top 25% scoring census tracts as DACs. Census tracts that score the highest 5% of Pollution Burden scores, but do not have an overall CalEnviroScreen score because of unreliable socioeconomic or health data, are also designated as DACs.

**Fringe Communities:** Communities that do not meet the established DAC, SDAC, and EDA definitions, but can show they score in the top 25% of either the Pollution Burden or Population Characteristics score, using CalEnviroScreen.

**Additional Information on Grant Funding**

The Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant funding is distributed by DWR. Coachella Valley Water District will be the regional grantee. This grant funding has several stipulations that should be understood by project sponsors. Consult the DWR Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief website or contact Erica Wolski ([ewolski@woodardcurran.com](mailto:ewolski@woodardcurran.com); 858-875-7425).

*2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Funding Website:*

[*https://water.ca.gov/Water-Basics/Drought/Urban-Multi-Benefit-Drought*](https://water.ca.gov/Water-Basics/Drought/Urban-Multi-Benefit-Drought)