

John Galusha, Chairman
Arica Andreatta, Commissioner
Karl Sporleder, Commissioner



HUERFANO COUNTY GOVERNMENT GRANT APPROVAL MEMORANDUM

Date: January 23, 2024
To: Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners
From: Carl Young, County Administrator
Re: 24.02G Small-Scale Water Efficiency grant for Gardner Public Improvement District
Attachments: Application Narrative and Budget

Summary: This is a request to approve an application to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Grant in the amount of \$45,000 with another \$45,000 required in match from the County. If awarded this grant will fund the addition of Advanced Metering Infrastructure, telemetry, and a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and Automation (SCADA) system, which will enable the County to operate and monitor critical components of the system remotely which will include the wells, tank levels, and meter reading. This will improve service quality and reliability for system users. Notification of award is expected in May 2024.

Requested Motion/Action:

Motion to approve the application to the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Program in the amount of \$45,000 with another \$45,000 in County matching funds.

Grant Program:

The U.S. Department of the Interior's (Department) WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program provides a framework for Federal leadership and assistance to stretch and secure water supplies for future generations in support of the Department's priorities. Through WaterSMART, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) leverages Federal and non-Federal funding to work cooperatively with States, Tribes, and local entities as they plan for and implement actions to increase water supply sustainability through investments in existing infrastructure and attention to local water conflicts. WaterSMART provides support for priorities identified in Presidential Executive Order 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (E.O. 14008) and aligned with other priorities, such as those identified in Presidential Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government (E.O. 13985). The WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects also support the goals of the Interagency Drought Relief Working Group established in March 2021 and the National Drought Resiliency Partnership. These grants will advance the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative. Established by E.O. 14008, the Justice40 Initiative has it made it a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities. Federal agencies are using the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool to help identify disadvantaged communities.

Our Project:

In consultation with GMS, Inc., we have identified two priorities to better manage the Gardner Public Improvement District's water distribution system:
Telemetry and SCADA to be added to the wells to ensure its proper operation and monitor the tank level. This will allow the County to remotely monitor the system to ensure there is not a waste of water. There is a need to operate remotely in order to restart or stop the well pumps if they are not working properly. Additionally, there are times it will need to be turned on remotely, as when there is a fire in the area and the water tank needs to be continuously filled.

AMI will be added as part of the water meter system. This will allow for real time water usage data from all the customers and allow for the customer leaks and breaks to be identified within 24 hours rather than on a monthly basis (what is done currently). The County can notify the customer without traveling to the location of the leak/break.

Alignment with County Objectives:

This project aligns with the following strategic priorities:

- **RESILIENCY:** Integrate disaster preparedness, risk reduction, and resilience into County operations, through training, planning, community involvement and land stewardship
- **INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES:** Maintain, preserve, and improve the quality of County-owned infrastructure and facilities, particularly the County Road System

Financial Considerations:

The County will apply to receive \$45,000 from the Bureau of Reclamation. The total project cost is \$90,000, which includes a 20% contingency. Funds will be available no earlier than October 31, 2024 and work must be completed by October 31, 2026. This is a project I would budget for 2024, with funds coming from either American Rescue Plan dollars or PILT.

Signature of the Chair

Approved

Approved w/ Changes

Denied