

ADWR Water Management Assistance Program

PURPOSE OF THE WATER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WMAP)

The Water Management Assistance Program (WMAP) provides financial and technical resources to assist water users achieve the efficient use of water supplies and help the AMA meet its water management goal. The WMAP provides assistance for developing and implementing conservation, augmentation and monitoring programs as described below:

➤ **Conservation Assistance**

Conservation assistance helps water users plan and undertake conservation programs and lessens the number of enforcement actions related to conservation requirements. It is used for information and education services, including services that increase public awareness about the importance of water conservation and the AMA's groundwater supplies. It also provides technical support designed to increase water use efficiency across the AMA. Conservation assistance supports ADWR's role as a central source for information on water conservation, augmentation, and recharge.

➤ **Augmentation**

Augmentation assistance helps supplement the water supply of an AMA, including the importation of water, water storage, and artificial groundwater recharge. Augmentation assistance helps water users study, design and construct renewable resource facilities and provides information to resolve technical feasibility issues or to optimize operation of recharge projects. It also includes studies initiated or conducted by ADWR, cost sharing grants for augmentation projects, studies initiated or conducted by others; and planning and technical support for AMA-wide and local area water management strategies.

➤ **Monitoring and Assessment**

Monitoring and assessment activities provide information and data that various water-using sectors can use to develop strategies for reaching safe-yield in the context of the hydrologic conditions in the AMA. Monitoring and assessment activities are also critical to developing water management strategies that take more localized water conditions into account and in the revision of the well spacing and impact rules. *(Examples include groundwater movement and volumes; locations of recharge and depletions; location and movement of poor quality water; impact of continued groundwater pumping, water level declines and subsidence; and streamflows, snowmelt and precipitation data.)*

PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING AND FUNDING PROJECTS¹

1. Identifying Priority Projects

ADWR identifies priorities with assistance from members of the water-using community and the GUAC. Information is gathered in the following ways:

- a) Soliciting public input at GUAC meetings/reviewing GUAC meeting minutes for recommendations and comments from the GUAC and the public.
- b) Soliciting ideas from regional water conservation groups and conservation practitioners
- c) Meeting with technical administrators of currently funded projects to assess project progress and anticipate future needs.
- d) Conducting surveys and/or requesting letters of intent so that stakeholders have the opportunity to put their ideas in writing.

¹ The process for soliciting and awarding grants changed due to legislation enacted in 1999. A.R.S. §§ 41-2701 through 41-2706. The legislation requires state agencies to follow specific procedures including: 1) publishing notice of a request for grant applications; 2) appointing at least three people to evaluate applications who are not members of the GUAC; and 3) keeping applications confidential until the grants are awarded. As a result, Chapter 9 of the Third Management Plan was modified in 2003.

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- e) Documenting expressions of interest and inquiries received via phone, email, or in person.
- f) Meeting with appropriate water management staff to learn about agency needs, resources, and legal or financial changes. (Industrial, Municipal, Municipal BMP, Agricultural BMP, Water Duty)
- g) Reviewing current focus areas of other funding agencies and/or meeting with grant coordinators(e.g. BOR) to identify needs, gaps, and/or areas for collaboration.

2. Applying Funds to WMAP Projects

Recommendations are made to the director about allocating funds among the program categories: conservation, augmentation, and monitoring/assessment. The type of project or program to be funded determines which of the following methods are used to apply funds:

- a. *Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)*
ADWR may enter into an IGA² with public agencies. IGAs are appropriate when the source of the service requested is limited, and the awards do not have to be competitive. The project must involve a joint exercise of powers common to the parties or an agreement for joint or cooperative action.
- b. *Contract resulting from Request for Proposal*
ADWR may enter into a contract for specific services by issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP). An RFP is used for a narrow scope of work (i.e., procuring a specific end product in the form of materials, services, or construction) and where the lowest bid is not necessarily the winning bid.
- c. *Grant resulting from Request for Grant Application*
A grant process is used when selection requires a competitive process to be fair. It can be used for both governmental and non-governmental entities. The scope of the project should not be too specific as to single out only one or two possible entities and not too general so as to generate projects that do not meet project objectives. (See footnote #1.)
- d. *Direct use by ADWR*
If a project is to be implemented by ADWR, it will use monies directly from the WMAP.

ADWR STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Prioritize, review, provide input on, and develop project proposals.
2. Analyze potential projects and identify appropriate funding methods (grant, IGA, procurement contract).
3. Administer IGAs, contracts, and grants.
4. Implement ADWR projects.
5. Provide technical and field assistance
6. Provide information and educational services. ADWR staff develop water conservation information materials, educational curricula and displays, and programs specific to water users within the AMAs. These materials and programs may be developed independently, with WMAP funding, or through partnerships with other government agencies, community groups or utilities. ADWR staff also maintain web-based or hard copy inventories of information and educational materials for

² As defined in ARS § 11-951, an IGA is “public agency’ includes the federal government or any federal department or agency, Indian tribes, this state, any other state, all departments, agencies, boards and commissions of this state or any other state, counties, school districts, fire districts, cities, towns, all municipal corporations, and any other political subdivisions of this state or any other state.”

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distribution to water users, and provide water-related presentations to civic groups, schools and other groups.

GROUNDWATER USERS ADVISORY COUNCIL (GUAC) ROLE IN THE WMAP

1. Provides recommendations regarding withdrawal fees.
2. Provides input and recommendations about the goals and priority focus areas for the AMA.
3. Provides advice/feedback to ADWR in selecting general project ideas for funding.
4. Allows public input and comment on potential projects at meetings.
5. Identifies sets of criteria for evaluating proposals and contracts.

CRITERIA USED TO EVALUATE PROJECTS

Specific sets of criteria are needed when developing RFGAs or RFPs. These criteria are established by ADWR with input from the GUAC. Certain criteria may be given greater weight, and any weighted system must be applied consistently. Following is a list of criteria to be considered:

1. Compatibility of the project with ADWR policies and programs and the management goal of the AMA.
2. Compliance of the project with applicable laws and administrative regulations. In the case of regulated water users, this includes the extent to which this project helps that regulated water user reach 4MP conservation requirements.
3. Cost effectiveness of the project. Positive factors include the ability to combine the project with other projects if that combination will result in cost and human resource savings; the ability to predict water demand reduction and the extent and duration of the reduction relative to project costs.
4. Extent to which the type of project is applicable to other users, other sectors, and other AMAs and the likelihood of community and/or sector support for the project.
5. Significance of the project's potential economic, environmental, and social impacts.
6. Extent to which the type of project has previously been proven feasible and effective, or the extent to which implementation of the project will provide information on feasibility and effectiveness, if not previously proven.
7. Evidence of a demonstrated need and that it is likely that the project would not be implemented without water management assistance funding.
8. Ability to measure demand reductions during and after implementation of the project. Existence of metrics allowing for comparisons of pre-project and post-project water savings, scientific data collections and reporting methods, or pre-program and post-program surveys to verify project results.
9. Effectiveness of project, which includes factors such as a clear statement of purpose, goals, methodology, and list of deliverables (data collection, interim and final reports, etc.). Contains background on current and historic water use, if applicable.
10. Whether the project is innovative and includes sufficiently researched budget information to determine if the requested funding is warranted (e.g. salary costs and benefits, retrofit device costs, equipment purchases, and supplies).

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11. Ability to result in timely and efficient development of alternative renewable water supplies or contributions to regional or critical area water management solutions.
12. Likelihood of developing transferable information or technology.