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# WaterSMART: Water Recycling and Desalination Planning

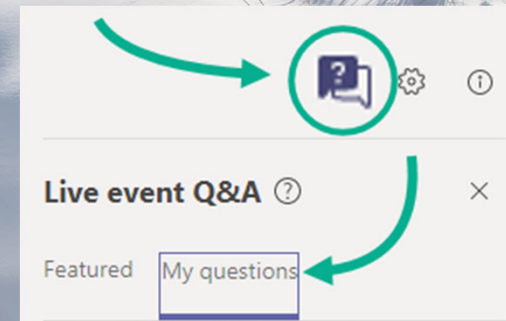
Funding Opportunity Information and Program  
Eligibility

# Getting Started

- To watch the recording, use the same link: [Join Live Teams Event](https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/)
- Attendees' cameras and microphones are muted
- A copy of the slides will be available on our website:

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/>

- Questions and comments can be posted in the Q&A icon on the bottom of the menu bar



# Today's Presenters

## **Water Resources and Planning Office**

- **Maribeth Menendez**
- **Katie Guerra**





# Agenda Overview

- Program Basics
- Water Recycling and Desalination Planning Funding Opportunity
  - Eligible Applicants
  - Eligible Projects
  - Program Funding
  - Evaluation Criteria
- Program Eligibility
- Questions



# WaterSMART Program Overview

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- Increases water supply reliability through investments and attention to local water conflicts
- Supports water conservation and water management improvements to help meet competing demands for water
- Leverages Federal and non-Federal funding
- Relies on collaboration with stakeholders to develop local solutions to water supply issues



**Growing Populations**



**Restoration Needs**



**Drought**



# Water Recycling and Desalination Program Overview



**Within the WaterSMART Program framework**



**Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program** - Projects that reclaim and/or reuse municipal, industrial, and agricultural wastewater; or impaired ground and surface waters



**Desalination Construction** - Ocean or brackish water desalination projects



**Upcoming: Large-Scale Water Recycling** - Projects that reclaim and/or reuse municipal, industrial, and agricultural wastewater; or impaired ground and surface waters, with a total project cost of \$500 million or more



# Current Funding Opportunity: Water Recycling and Desalination Planning

- Funding available for potential new Title XVI projects, Desalination Construction projects, and Large-Scale Water Recycling projects
- Posted on grants.gov on 12/23/2022 – R23AS00076
- All applications are due 2/28/2023 by 4:00 p.m. Mountain Time
- Applications must be submitted through grants.gov or hard copy
- Eligible Applicants:
  - Local water agencies that are sponsors of water recycling or desalination projects
  - States, Tribes, municipalities, irrigation districts, water districts, wastewater districts; and any state, regional, or local authorities
  - Located in a Reclamation state, or Hawaii
- Eligible Project Activities:
  - Development of new water recycling and desalination feasibility studies
  - Preparation of preliminary project cost estimates
  - Design activities
  - Environmental and cultural resource compliance activities



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Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R23AS00076

## **WaterSMART: Water Recycling and Desalination Planning**



U.S. Department of the Interior

December 2022





## Water Recycling and Desalination Planning *Program Funding*

- \$30 million in available program funds
- Funding Group I:
  - Projects with an anticipated total project cost of less than \$500 million
  - 50% Federal cost-share, up to \$1 million
- Funding Group II
  - Projects with an anticipated total project cost of greater than \$500 million
  - 25% Federal cost-share, up to \$5 million
- Applicants may request reimbursement for planning and pre-construction activities that can be completed within two years





# Funding Opportunity Evaluation Criteria

- 1) Project Planning and Analysis → 30 Points
  - a. Water Recycling Needs and Opportunities → 15 Points
  - b. Evaluation of Project Alternatives → 15 Points
- 2) Stretching Water Supplies → 20 Points
- 3) Environment and Water Quality → 20 Points
- 4) Department of the Interior Priorities → 15 Points
- 5) Watershed Perspective → 15 Points



# How to Become Eligible for Water Recycling and Desalination Construction Programs

A completed feasibility study must be submitted and found to meet all requirements of Reclamation's Directives and Standards

- [WTR 11-01 Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program and Desalination Construction Program Feasibility Study Review Process](#)
- *WTR TRMR-128: Additional requirements for Large-Scale Water Recycling*



# Feasibility Study Report Requirements

## 1) Flexibility Concerning Format

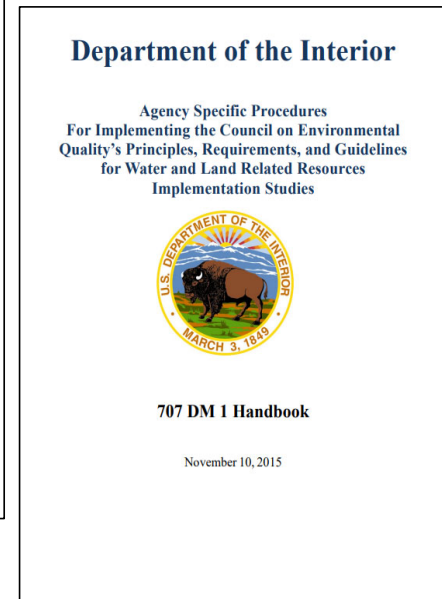
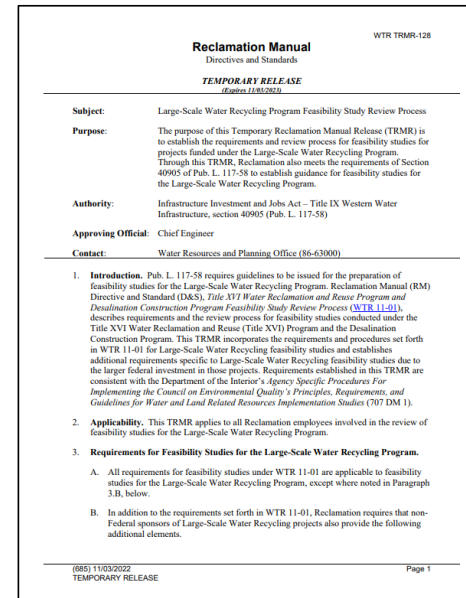
## 2) Report Contents

1. Introductory Information
2. Statement of Problems and Needs
3. Water Reclamation, Recycling or Desalination Opportunities
4. Description of Alternatives (additional requirements for large-scale projects)
5. Economic Analysis (additional requirements for large-scale projects)
6. Selection of the Proposed Project
7. Environmental Consideration and Potential Effects
8. Legal and Institutional Requirements
9. Financial Capability of Sponsor
10. Research Needs
11. Peer review (for large-scale water recycling projects only)



# Feasibility Study Guidance for Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects

- WTR TRMR-128
- Reclamation Manual WTR 11-01, plus the following:
  - An array of project alternatives
  - Trade-off analysis on alternatives
  - Benefit-cost analysis on the alternatives
  - Technical peer review



[WTR TRMR-128 \(usbr.gov\)](https://www.usbr.gov/wtr/trmr-128)





# Program Resources

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- Title XVI Program website:  
<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title/index.html>
  - Regional Coordinator Contact information available on Contacts page
  - Successful proposals are available on the website
- Large-Scale Water Recycling Program website:  
<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/largescale/index.html>
- For information about upcoming Title XVI Funding Opportunities, send an email to [watersmart@usbr.gov](mailto:watersmart@usbr.gov) with your name, email address, and “Title XVI mailing list” in the subject
- Funding Opportunities can be found at: [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)
- Program Coordinator:  
Maribeth Menendez, (303) 445-2094, [mmenendez@usbr.gov](mailto:mmenendez@usbr.gov)



# Questions



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