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Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2015 4:33 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: Guidance for USGS State Water Use Financial Assistance (Grants)

State Water Resource Agencies, Water Science Center Directors and Water Use Specialists:

The USGS received an appropriation in FY2015 to begin working with States to improve water use data collection, estimation, and reporting. Public Law 111-11 (SECURE Water Act) authorized the USGS to provide financial assistance to State water resource agencies to assist with the development and/or integration of water use datasets into databases developed or maintained by the USGS.

In an effort to provide additional information to USGS WSCs and our State partners about this new opportunity we have attached a financial assistance guidance document for the USGS State Water Use Data and Research (WUDR) Cooperative Agreements. This document provides details about both 2015 and 2016 technical and program requirements. The WUDR program will be carried out in close collaboration with the USGS National Water Use Leadership Team (NWULT), and USGS Water Science Center (WSC) Water Use Specialists (WUS), who will serve as a technical resource during categorical water use data collection and methods development activities. State recipients will be responsible for all data collection, methods development, and data management activities.

The NWULT has worked with USGS WUS to develop a contact list of the primary water use partner for each WSC, the USGS Office of Acquisitions and Grants (OAG) has received documentation for all 50 states, and the US Caribbean, for FY15 awards (\$26,000 each). OAG will reach out to the State contacts with instructions on how to apply for the FY15 awards. With these funds States will be asked to develop workplans outlining priorities for their use of funds and how USGS personnel will be an active partner with the States as they develop their plans. Beginning in FY16, program funds will be announced and awarded as part of a competitive process guided by a technical committee whose members will include representatives from the stakeholder community as well as USGS. We are in the process of completing approvals for the Paperwork Reduction Act and Program Announcements; our goal is to have the first competitive announcement published on Grants.gov in December 2015 with awards made in June 2016.

This fall the Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP), will hold a series of three Stakeholder meetings (in the Salt Lake City, UT, Chicago, IL, and Tuscaloosa, AL) to further develop the technical priorities of the WUDR Cooperative Agreements. The plans for these meetings are still in development and as they are finalized I will reach out to you all with more details.

We encourage State agency personnel and USGS Water Science Center personnel to begin communicating about the opportunities this funding provides, if you have any questions or would like any further information please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Thank you,
Sonya Jones

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