

# RECLAMATION

WaterSMART

## Drought Response Program

Western States Water Council, Water Resources Committee



October 8, 2015

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

# Background

- **Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991**
- **Initial drought program used primarily for emergency response actions**
- **In FY 2015, \$5.6 million was allocated to the Drought Response Program**



# Background – New Drought Program

- **The New Drought Response Program enhances Reclamation's ability to assist in preparing for and addressing drought in advance of a crisis.**
- **The new program consists of three elements:**
  - **Drought Contingency Planning**
  - **Drought Resiliency Projects**
  - **Emergency Response Actions**



# Overall Funding & Process

- Funding

- Allocated through a competitive process
- Minimum 50% non-federal cost-share
- Federal share up to stated maximum

- Process

- Post Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)
- Evaluate eligible applications
- Notify applicants
- Execute financial assistance agreements

# Drought Response Program

In Fiscal Year 2015, Reclamation provided financial assistance to:

- Develop/Update Drought Contingency Plans
  - Up to \$200K per Plan
- Implement Drought Resiliency Projects
  - Up to \$300K per Project



# **Drought Response Program**

## **Eligible Applicants**

**Eligible Applicants for Drought Response Program funding include the following located within the 17 Western States:**

- States**
- Indian Tribes**
- Irrigation Districts**
- Water Districts**
- Other organizations with water and power delivery authority**



# Drought Contingency Planning

Funding is competitively awarded to assist development/updating Drought Plans addressing:

1. Drought Monitoring
2. Vulnerability Assessment (including Climate Change)
3. Mitigation Actions
4. Response Actions
5. Operational and Administrative Framework
6. Plan Update Process

Note: The applicable FOA provides details associated with addressing these 6 steps.



# Drought Resiliency Projects

Funding is competitively awarded to assist projects that build resiliency to drought by:

- Increasing the amount/reliability of water supplies
- Improving water management
- Facilitating the sale, transfer, or exchange of water
- Providing benefits for fish and wildlife and the environment

Water conservation activities are eligibility for funding under the WaterSMART Grants and Water Conservation Field Services Programs.





# Drought Response Program – FY 2015

## FOAs Result

	Number of Proposals Received	Requested Federal Funding	Total Funding
Contingency Plans	19	\$2.6 Million	\$5.7 Million
Resiliency Projects	30	\$7.3 Million	\$68.5 Million
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>\$9.9 Million</b>	<b>\$74.2 Million</b>

	Number of Proposals Funded	Federal Funding	Total Funding
Contingency Plans	11	\$1.8 Million	\$4 Million
Resiliency Projects	12	\$3.4 Million	\$36.5 Million
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>\$5.2 Million</b>	<b>\$40.5 Million</b>

# Drought Contingency Planning Example

**East Bay Municipal Utility District**

**Bay Area Regional Reliability Drought Contingency Plan**

- **Nine counties**
- **6 million customers**
- **“Exceptional” Drought**
- **Snowpack at lowest level**



# Drought Resiliency Project Example

**Merced Irrigation District**

**Drought Protection Water Management Tool**



# Drought Response Program Contact Information

## Program Website:

[www.usbr.gov/drought](http://www.usbr.gov/drought)

## Contacts:

Program Coordinator

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303-445-2906

## Regional Contacts:

<http://www.usbr.gov/drought/contacts>

