

**TO:** Board Members

**THROUGH:** Kevin Patteson, Executive Administrator  
Robert E. Mace, Ph.D., P.G., Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Science and Conservation

**FROM:** Matt Webb, Innovative Water Technologies

**DATE:** September 8, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Authorization to Publish a Request for Applications for Demonstration Projects for Alternative Water Supplies

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to publish a Request for Applications for Demonstration Projects for Alternative Water Supplies.

**BACKGROUND**

The 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature appropriated \$1,000,000 from General Revenue to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to fund grants for demonstration projects for alternative water supplies (House Bill 1, General Appropriations Act, 2015 Legislature, Regular Session, page VI-60, Rider 25):

Out of funds appropriated above in Strategy A.2.2, Water Resources Planning, the Water Development Board shall allocate \$1,000,000 out of the General Revenue Fund in fiscal year 2016 to fund grants for demonstration projects or feasibility studies to prove up certain aquifer storage and recovery projects or any other demonstration projects or feasibility studies that will create new water supplies or otherwise increase the availability of water through use of innovative storage approaches that improve operational efficiencies. Such projects should be targeted to provide cost-effective and long-term regional water supplies that can be made available within a region to help meet the various competing demands for water, including those of agricultural, industrial, municipal and others.

The Water Development Board shall award the grants through a competitive process to Groundwater Conservation Districts and stipulate that such districts require grant applicants and/or their partner organizations to provide matching funds. Any unexpended balances remaining in this appropriation as of August 31, 2016 are appropriated to the

	:	<b>Our Mission</b>
	:	<b>Board Members</b>
To provide leadership, information, education, and support for planning, financial assistance, and outreach for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas	:	Bech Bruun, Chairman   Kathleen Jackson, Member
	:	
	:	Kevin Patteson, Executive Administrator

Water Development Board for the same purpose for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2016.

### **KEY ISSUES**

To implement the \$1,000,000 grant, staff proposes publishing a Request for Applications in the *Texas Register* for demonstration projects or feasibility studies that will prove up aquifer storage and recovery projects or that will create new water supplies or increase the availability of water through the use of innovative storage approaches that improve operational efficiencies. Details of the Request for Applications are provided in Attachment A which also includes guidelines for submitting the request.

All applications received will be assessed and ranked by a review panel. One, several, or no projects may be funded. The level of funding for each project is at the discretion of the TWDB and will be based on the applications received. In the event that acceptable applications are not received, the Board retains the right not to award contract funds. Any unspent balances as of August 31, 2016, will be available for the same purpose for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2016.

Grants can only be awarded to groundwater conservation districts. The districts and/or their partner organizations will be required to provide matching funds. Consistent with similar funding programs administered by TWDB, applicants will be expected to provide at least a dollar-for-dollar matching contribution for each project selected. When completed, all funded projects will be expected to provide cost-effective and long-term regional water supplies that can be made available within a region to help meet the various competing demands for water, including those of agricultural, industrial, and municipal.

Because of the nature of funding (General Revenue Fund), funds that are committed and encumbered in Biennium 2016-2017 will need to be expended by August 31, 2019.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Executive Administrator recommends approval of this item.

This recommendation has been reviewed by legal counsel and is in compliance with applicable statutes and Board rules.

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Les Trobman  
General Counsel

Attachment A: Request for Applications

## **Attachment A**

(To be published in the *Texas Register*)

### **Texas Water Development Board**

#### **Request for Applications for Demonstration Projects for Alternative Water Supplies**

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) solicits Request for Applications from groundwater conservation districts for demonstration projects or feasibility studies that will prove up aquifer storage and recovery, or any demonstration projects or feasibility studies that will create new water supplies or otherwise increase the availability of water through use of innovative storage approaches that improve operational efficiencies. Such projects should be targeted to provide cost-effective and regional water supplies that can be made available within a region to help meet the various competing demands for water, including those of agricultural, industrial, municipal, and others.

#### **Grant Amount**

The total grant amount for all projects shall not exceed \$1,000,000. The applicants and/or their partner organizations will be required to provide matching funds. Consistent with similar funding programs administered by TWDB, applicants will be expected to provide at least a dollar-for-dollar matching contribution for each project selected. Because of the nature of funding (General Revenue Fund), funds that are committed and encumbered in Biennium 2016-2017 will need to be expended by August 31, 2019.

#### **Application Review**

All applications received will be assessed, scored, and ranked by a review panel. Applications will be evaluated in accordance with 31 Texas Administrative Code §355.5 and may include the following factors:

- Overall approach and organization
- Methodology
- Qualifications and resources
- Organization and management
- Reports and deliverables
- Assessment of proposer's ability to perform this research and complete the project

In addition to the general information required as part of a TWDB Request for Applications (see attachment), proposals must include evidence of financial commitment from the applicant and/or their partner organization for at least a dollar-for-dollar cost sharing in the project.

The applicable scope of work, schedule, and contract amount will be negotiated after the TWDB selects the most qualified applicants or the desired projects for funding. Failure to arrive at mutually agreeable terms of a contract with the most qualified applicant shall constitute a rejection of the Board's offer and may result in subsequent negotiations with the next most qualified applicant. The TWDB reserves the right to reject any or all applications if staff

determines that an application does not adequately meet the required criteria or if the funding available is less than that requested.

### **Deadline for Submission of Applications**

Six double-sided, double-spaced copies on recycled paper and one digital copy (CD) of a completed application must be filed with the TWDB on or before 12:00 p.m. on November 3, 2015. Applications can be directed either in person to David Carter, Texas Water Development Board, Stephen F. Austin Building, Room 610D, 1700 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas, 78701; or by mail to David Carter, Texas Water Development Board, P.O. Box 13231-Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-3231.

**Texas Water Development Board  
Guidelines for Request for Applications**

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Legal name of applicant(s).
2. Legal name of each participant.
3. Applicant's Official Representative, Name, Title, Mailing Address, Phone Number, Fax Number, if available, e-mail Address, and Vendor ID Number.
4. Is the application in response to a Request for Applications in the Texas Register?  
Yes  No
5. If yes to number 4 above, list document's number and date of publication of the Texas Register.
6. A brief description of the research proposal (not to exceed 1 page).
7. A list of potential users and their possible involvement with the research.
8. Are you an individual member of the Texas Water Development Board, a Board staff member, or a member of their immediate families?  
Yes  No
9. Please include a completed Historically Underutilized Business Subcontracting Plan. The forms are available at: <http://www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog/hub/hub-subcontracting-plan/>

**II. RESEARCH PROJECT INFORMATION**

- Explanation of why this project is needed (not to exceed 1 page).
- A detailed scope of work describing each task, a percent of effort per each task, a time schedule for each task, and the amount of time each team member will spend on the project (not to exceed 10 pages using Times Roman 12 font).
- A description of project-monitoring procedures.
- Qualifications and experience of project staff that are directly related to this project only and that are no more than two pages in length per person.
- A list of products (reports, plans, or other products) that the Board will receive as a result of this project.

**III. WRITTEN ASSURANCE**

Written assurance of the following item:

- Proposed water research does not duplicate previously completed or ongoing research.