



Good morning

Thank you for joining this webinar on the Fiscal Year 2023 Agricultural Water Conservation Grant period. My name is Belle Gonzalez and I am with the Agricultural Water Conservation team.

In this presentation I will give an overview of the Agricultural Water Conservation Grant program, give examples of previous projects that TWDB has funded, and then go over the current request for applications period. After this presentation we will be open to any questions that you may still have.

# TWDB MISSION

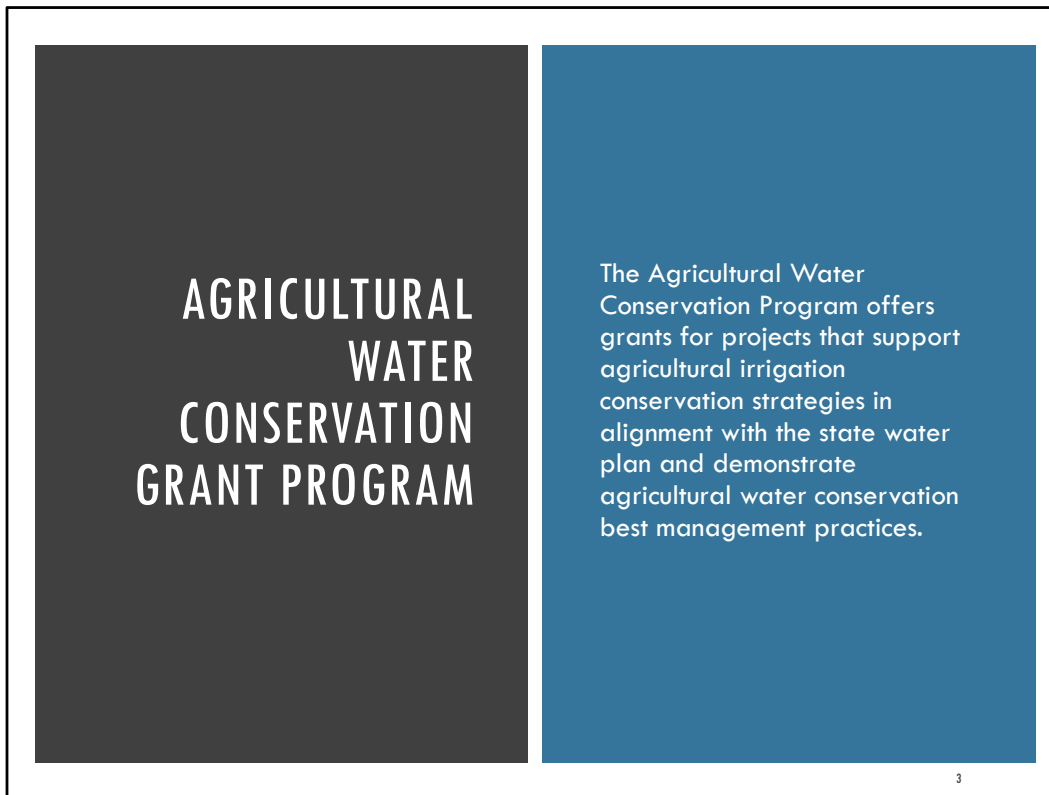
*To lead the state's efforts in ensuring a secure water future for Texas and its citizens.*

## Board Members



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The Texas Water Development Board is a non-regulatory state agency primarily responsible for water planning and water financing. Our mission is to lead the state's efforts in ensuring a secure water future for Texas and its citizens. To further this mission, the Agricultural Water Conservation department provides financial assistance through the Agricultural Water Conservation Grant Program in order to promote the adoption of agricultural water conservation best management practices.



The Agricultural Water Conservation Grant Program offers grants for projects that support agricultural irrigation conservation strategies in alignment with the state water plan and demonstrate agricultural water conservation best management practices.

Between the years 2011 and 2020, our program has provided over \$13 million in grants to eligible entities for their agricultural water conservation projects. These projects together have saved an estimated 537,218 acre-feet of water.

We currently have 51 active contracts through our Agricultural Water Conservation Grant Program.



Here is our Agricultural Water Conservation Team.

I'm Belle Gonzalez, I graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in May with a B.A. in Sustainability Studies and a B.A. in Geography. I started at TWDB in July of this year.

Antonio Delgado is our irrigation specialist and our Team lead and has been with the board for 8 years.

Jackie Buck graduated from ASU with a B.S. in Sustainability and started at the board in May.

## EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUSLY FUNDED PROJECTS



### Construction projects

Gate automation, pipe conversion, canal lining, headgate installation, etc.



### Equipment Cost-share projects

Flow meters, telemetry systems, remote monitoring systems, etc.



### Demonstration, Research, and Education projects

Soil health improvements, irrigation system comparisons, soil moisture monitoring, etc.

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These are some examples of the 3 different types of agricultural water conservation projects that we have previously funded through our program.

For construction projects, we have previously funded gate automation projects, pipe conversion projects, canal lining projects, and headgate installation projects.

For Equipment Cost-share projects, we have previously funded flow meter projects, telemetry system projects, and remote monitoring system projects.

For Demonstration, Research, and Education projects, we have previously funded soil health improvement projects, irrigation system comparison projects, and soil moisture monitoring projects.

What can be funded through the Agricultural Water Conservation Grant program is not limited to this list, these are just some examples.

## LCRA GATE AUTOMATION CONSTRUCTION PROJECT



Project goal → to expand the gate automation project that started in 2010 by retrofitting and automating 12 additional check gate structures at the end of the Wadsworth line in the eastern canal system of LCRA's Gulf Coast Irrigation Division.

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The LCRA Gate Automation project is an example of an active construction project that was granted funding through our program. The goal of this project was to expand the gate automation project that started in 2010 by retrofitting and automating 12 additional check gate structures at the end of the Wadsworth line in the eastern canal system of LCRA's Gulf Coast Irrigation division. This project was awarded grant funds in 2020 and its anticipated completion date is 2028.

## NORTH PLAINS GCD METER REIMBURSEMENT EQUIPMENT COST-SHARE PROJECT

Project goal → increase the adoption of metering by assisting irrigators with the cost of 600 new meters.

Since 2014 the District has partnered with the TWDB on multiple grants to provide a 50% cost share on agricultural irrigation meters to irrigators located in the District.



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An example of an active equipment cost-share project that was granted funding through our program is the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District's Meter Reimbursement Program. The goal of this project is to increase the adoption of metering by assisting irrigators with the cost of 600 new meters. Since 2014, North Plains Groundwater Conservation District has partnered with the TWDB on multiple grants to provide a 50% cost-share on agricultural irrigation meters to irrigators located within in the district.

The most recent project was awarded funding in 2022 and its anticipated completion date is 2029.

## EL PASO WATER UTILITIES IRRIGATION SYSTEMS COMPARISON DEMONSTRATION, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION PROJECT

Project goal → compare drip irrigation to flood and center pivot irrigation systems in Hudspeth County.

Project found that drip irrigation can improve efficiencies in water use, crop yields, fertilizer use, and tractor activities compared to conventional flood and center pivot irrigation systems.



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The El Paso Water Utilities Irrigation Systems Comparison project is an example of a completed Demonstration, Research, and Education project that was granted funds through our program. The goal of the project was to compare drip irrigation to flood and center pivot irrigation systems in Hudspeth County.

The completed project found that drip irrigation can improve efficiencies in water use, crop yields, fertilizer use, and tractor activities in Hudspeth County compared to conventional flood and center pivot irrigation systems. This project was awarded funds in 2018 and was completed in August of 2022.



## CURRENT SOLICITATION

\$1,200,000 in grant funding available

Applications are due by 2:00pm,  
Wednesday, **February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Anticipated award date is May 2023

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For the Fiscal Year 2023 Agricultural Water Conservation Grant Period, there will be \$1.2 million dollars in grant funding available.

Applications are due by 2:00pm, Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, of 2023.

The anticipated award date is May 2023.

## ELIGIBLE ENTITIES







Any political subdivision, such as a city, county, soil and water conservation district, underground water conservation district, groundwater conservation district, irrigation district, river authorities, etc., or university system can apply.




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Who can apply? An eligible entity that can apply for our Agricultural Water Conservation Grant Program would be any political subdivision, such as a city, county, soil and water conservation district, underground water conservation district, groundwater conservation district, irrigation district, river authorities, etc., or university systems.

This is not a complete list, if you are unsure if you are eligible, reach out to the Ag team.

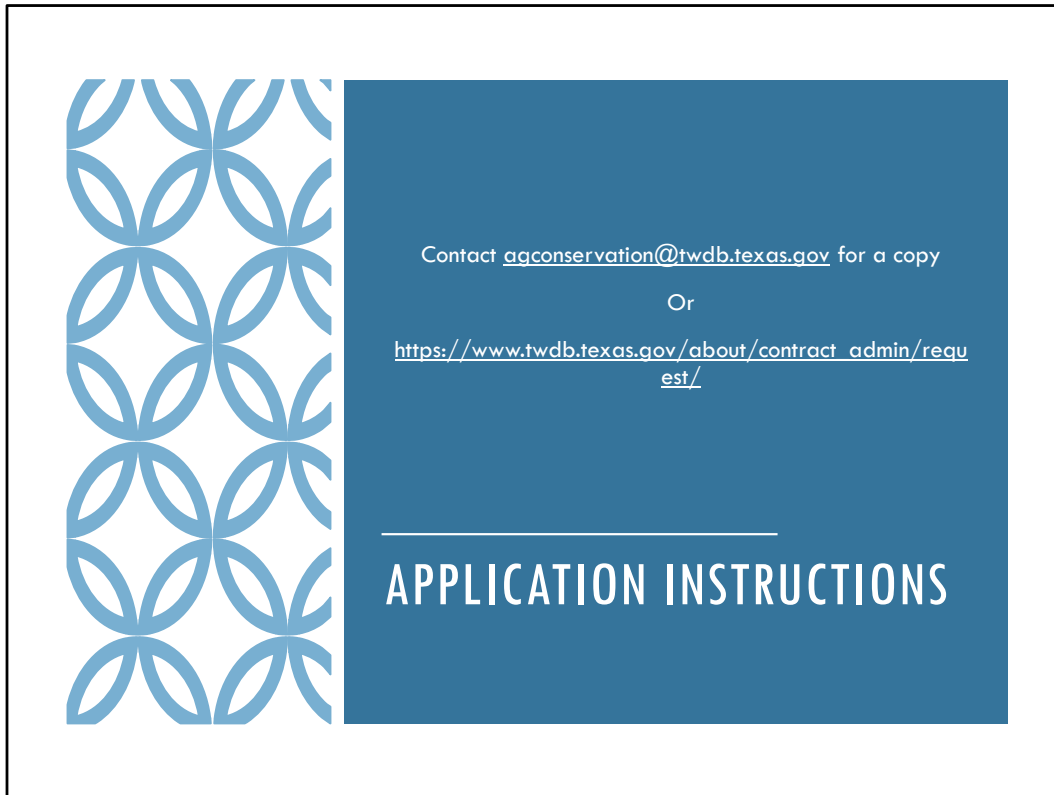
## TIPS

-  Agricultural Water Conservation strategy in the state and regional water plan
-  Follow the instructions and answer all questions in the order provided
-  Task and Expense budget totals should match
-  Include a brief scope of work by task
-  Don't miss the **2pm, February 8th, 2023** deadline!
-  Call or email the Ag team if you have any questions

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Here are some tips for applying for the agricultural water conservation grant program:

1. Have an agricultural water conservation strategy in the state and regional water plan
2. Follow the instructions of the application and answer all questions in the order provided
3. Your task and Expense budget totals should match in your application
4. Include a brief scope of work by task
5. Do not miss the 2pm, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 deadline
6. Call or email the Ag team if you have any questions. Our contact information can be found on our webpage at [www.twdb.texas.gov](http://www.twdb.texas.gov)



I will now go over the application instructions. If you need a copy of the instructions, you can contact our email or you can use the link provided above or go to our webpage at [www.twdb.texas.gov](http://www.twdb.texas.gov)

**Application deadline:** Applicants must submit one digital copy of a complete application to [Bid-Room@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Bid-Room@twdb.texas.gov) on or before 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 8, 2023, with a copy to: [antonio.delgado@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:antonio.delgado@twdb.texas.gov)

All applications must be complete and include general information, proposed project information, and written assurances, as outlined below. Refer to the Request for Applications for eligible activities, ranking criteria, and selection process, [www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml](http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml). A list of required items has been provided in the following pages to assist in completing an application.

For more information about the Agricultural Water Conservation Grants Program, contact Antonio Delgado, Team Lead, Agricultural Water Conservation, at (512) 463-7984 or e-mail at [antonio.delgado@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:antonio.delgado@twdb.texas.gov).

Questions about the Request for Applications must be submitted by Wednesday, January 25, 2023, two-weeks prior to the application deadline, to [Bid-room@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Bid-room@twdb.texas.gov) with a copy to: [antonio.delgado@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:antonio.delgado@twdb.texas.gov)

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Applications must be sent to [Bid-Room@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Bid-Room@twdb.texas.gov) on or before the 2pm, Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> 2023 deadline with a copy to [Antonio.Delgado@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Antonio.Delgado@twdb.texas.gov)

All applications must be complete and include general information, proposed project information, and written assurances, as outlined in the next couple slides.

If you need more information about the Agricultural Water Conservation Grants Program after this webinar, you can contact Antonio Delgado, our team lead.

Questions about the Request for Applications must be submitted by Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, two weeks prior to the application deadline. These must be submitted to [Bid-Room@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Bid-Room@twdb.texas.gov) with a copy to [Antonio.Delgado@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Antonio.Delgado@twdb.texas.gov)

### Section I. Administrative Requirements

1. Applicant information including:
  - a. The official name of the applicant (political subdivision or state agency);
  - b. Mailing and physical address of the applicant;
  - c. Constitutional and statutory authority creating the applicant, under which the applicant currently operates; and
  - d. The applicant's Vendor ID or Federal Tax ID number.
2. Names and addresses of the individual or individuals with the legal authority to perform the acts of the entity and title of position (presiding officer, chairman, general manager, or agency administrator).
3. Name, address, title, phone number, and email address of the designated representative (contract manager, project manager, district engineer, or conservation program coordinator).
4. An affidavit from the individual with the authority to act on behalf of the applicant, or a certified copy of a resolution adopted, or minutes approved by the governing body with the authority to act on behalf of the applicant, which:
  - a. Identifies the amount that the applicant is requesting, local match contributions, verification that the grant will supplement rather than replace the funding of the applicant, along with the most recent annual operating budget of the applicant;
  - b. Authorizes the submission of an application on behalf of the entity; and
  - c. Designates an authorized representative to submit the application and perform all reasonable and necessary action in support of the application and, if approved by the TWDB, to perform the terms and conditions of the award of money from the Fund.
5. Evidence of the applicant's commitment to water conservation; include appropriate excerpts from the applicant's management plan or conservation plan and examples of the applicant's existing conservation programs or projects.

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Section I of the Application are the Administrative Requirements. This section should include the applicant's information, names and addresses of the individual or individuals with the legal authority to perform the acts of the entity and their title of position, name, address, title, phone number, and email address of the designated representative, an affidavit from the individual with the authority to act on behalf of the applicant or a certified copy of a resolution adopted, or minutes approved by the governing body with the authority to act on behalf of the applicant, and evidence of the applicant's commitment to water conservation.

## **Section II. Project Information**

6. Project abstract, location, and personnel
  - a. Brief project title and abstract, 150-words or less, summarizing the project goals, actions, and objectives, along with a water savings estimate;
  - b. A map of the geographic area in which the applicant is authorized to conduct such actions as are necessary for the proposed conservation program or project, and a description of the geographic area in which the project will occur; and,
  - c. Identification of technical staff with the expertise needed to carry out this project, qualifications, and an estimate of what percentage of their time will be attributed to this project.
7. Budgets and supplemental funding
  - a. The amount requested, cost of each significant element of the project, and a reasonable and adequate justification of why this funding is needed;
  - b. Source of local match and an operating budget illustrating the financial need for the grant funds; and,

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Section II of the application is Project Information. This includes the project abstract, location, and personnel, and budgets and supplemental funding of the project.

8. Project description, scope of work, and deliverables
  - a. Project description explaining the Agricultural Water Conservation Program Goals to be achieved through the project;
  - b. Scope of work with clearly identified tasks and an explanation of how each task will incorporate the Agricultural Water Conservation Project Actions and Objectives identified in the solicitation, along with the estimated completion dates for each task and project reporting timelines; and,
  - c. Deliverables (data, reports, plans, or other products) that the TWDB will receive through this project.
9. Water conservation benefits
  - a. Identification of an agricultural water conservation water management strategy in the most recent applicable regional water plan or state water plan;
  - b. An explanation of how the proposed project will implement the conservation strategy through the grant, explaining why it is needed and how it will serve the public interest, such as adoption of best management conservation practices and water saving innovations; and,
  - c. An estimate of the baseline water usage prior to the program or project; estimated water savings to be realized by implementation of this program or project; and a description of monitoring procedures and methodology for calculating water savings.
10. Construction activities
  - a. If the proposed project involves TWDB funding for construction, the application shall include an engineering feasibility report signed and sealed by a professional engineer, in accordance with Texas Administrative Code §367.6; and,
  - b. If the TWDB funds would be used for construction of a conservation project that will require surface or subsurface disturbance of the soil or alter the existing vegetation, the applicant shall conduct an environmental assessment in compliance with Texas Administrative Code §367.7.

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This section also includes the project description, scope of work, and deliverables, water conservation benefits, and construction activities of the project. You can find more details of the requirements in each section on the application instructions.



Section III. Example Task and Expense Budgets

**TASK BUDGET**

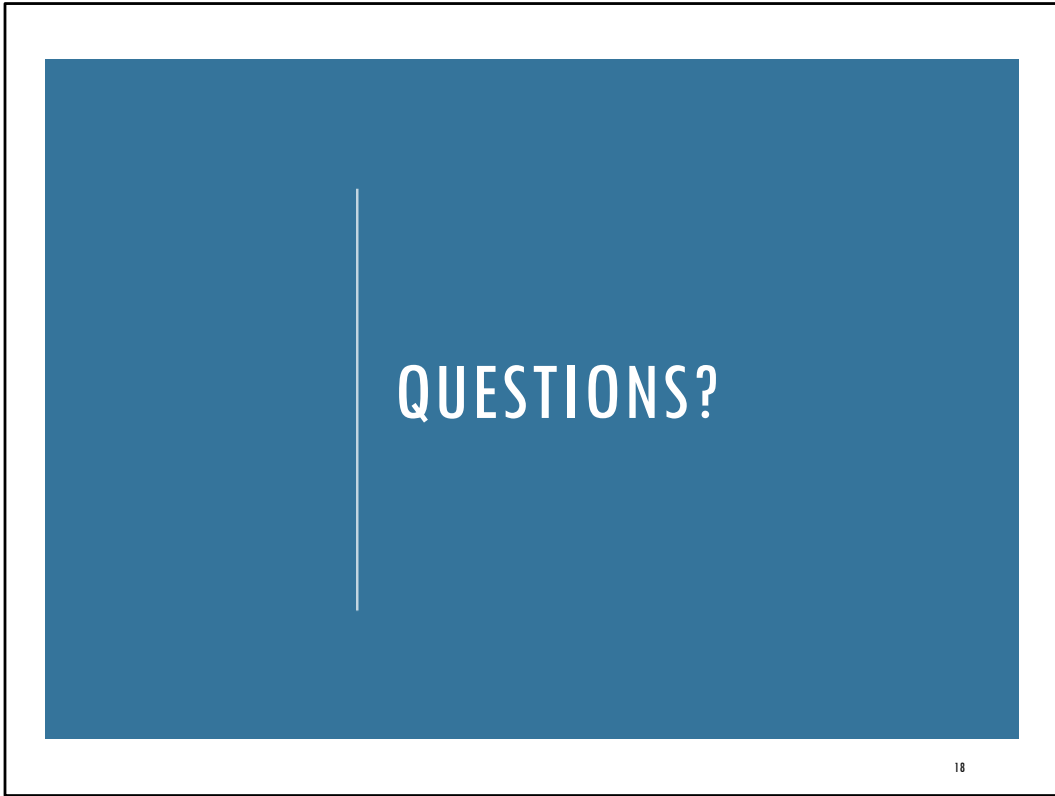
TASK	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL PROJECT COST
1	Purchase equipment, materials, and supplies	\$200,000.00
2	Establish field sites and install conservation practices	\$250,000.00
3	Education, outreach, workshops, and field days	\$50,000.00
4	Monitor, measure, and report results	\$50,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$550,000.00</b>

**EXPENSE BUDGET**

CATEGORY	LOCAL MATCH AMOUNT	TWDB GRANT AMOUNT
Salaries & Wages <sup>1</sup>	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Fringe <sup>2</sup>	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Travel <sup>3</sup>	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Other Expenses <sup>4</sup>	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Equipment, Materials, and Supplies <sup>5</sup>	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00
Subcontract Services	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$275,000.00</b>	<b>\$275,000.00</b>



The third and final section of the application is the Task and Expense budget section. This is an example of an appropriate task and expense budget. Note that the totals of the Task and Expense budget match.



That concludes our presentation. I want to thank you all for coming to our webinar. We will now start a question and answer period. If you have a question please use the raise hand function or send a chat message.