

The evaluation panel would like to pass on some general suggestions that might help applicants improve their Tier-2 submissions and improve the application scores:

- Provide all supporting calculations and data you can for the quantity of water conserved or developed. (1.c. Being this question carries so much weight)
- Assure that total cost includes planning, design and construction fees.
- If you do not have firm numbers for costs or quantities, do your best to make good estimates. Anytime you use estimates, provide the calculations, assumptions, and basis for the estimate.
- If using older costs, inflate to current cost levels.
- Provide links to or attach full copies of reports, papers, articles, etc. that the proposal references. The panel does not have the time to go dig them up or search for them on the web.
- Include site maps if available. Even a schematic or not-to-scale drawing will help.
- Provide budgets with as much detail as possible.
- Provide all letters of support.
- % of local contributions must be specified in order to receive points.
- Document how local contributions will be provided; e.g., taxes, fees, in-kind, etc. If in-kind, provide documentation and calculations justifying amounts.
- AWSA funds could go much farther by providing cost-share match rather than full funding. Proponents might look at using AWSA to leverage other funding sources.
- For ditch and other irrigation improvement projects: have proponents sought funds from Farm Bill programs designed to meet needs or as cost-share?
- For water/wastewater infrastructure projects: have proponents sought funds from Water Trust Board? AWSA could provide seed money for planning, environmental compliance, repayment of WTB's 20% loan repayment requirement.
- For watershed and forestry projects: ditto for 319, RERI, NMDGF or Forestry grants
- Even if the proposal does not utilize AWSA water, it must still meet the requirements of the Act to meet a water supply demand. The application should so state and describe how.
- Be as short and concise as possible. The panel must digest a lot of information. It does not help to include input (such as plans, regulations, or policies) that do not apply specifically to the proposal or to the criterion being addressed.

Again, we pass these on in the hopes they will help you receive the highest scores possible. If you have questions, please contact Craig Roepke at craig.roepke@state.nm.us.