


**TIER-1 APPLICATION TO THE NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION  
FOR NEW MEXICO UNIT OR WATER UTILIZATION ALTERNATIVE  
UNDER THE ARIZONA WATER SETTLEMENTS ACT**

**APPLICANT INFORMATION (PRINT OR TYPE)**

**DATE: 7-14-2011**

<b>1. Legal Name:</b> City of Deming	<b>2. Organization:</b> City of Deming			
<b>3. Address (street, city, county, state, and zip code):</b>  P.O. Box 706 Deming, New Mexico 88031	<b>4. Name, email, and phone number of contract person:</b>  Lawrence Brookey (575) 546-8848 lbrookey@cityofdeming.org			
<b>5. TYPE OF APPLICATION (check one):</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Final <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary for review <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	<b>6. TYPE OF APPLICANT (CHECK BOX):</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local governments or municipalities  <input type="checkbox"/> soil and water conservation districts, irrigation districts or commissions, acequias, or other political subdivision of the State of New Mexico  <input type="checkbox"/> institutions of higher education or a consortium of such institutions  <input type="checkbox"/> non-profit organizations or associations  <input type="checkbox"/> private individual/s  <input type="checkbox"/> federal agency (ies)  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)			
<b>7. BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION:</b> Capitalize a fund to implement municipal conservation projects in the four-county area of the Southwest New Mexico Water Planning Region. The regional water plan identifies many different municipal conservation strategies that water suppliers could implement. However, the funds for implementing water conservation measures are generally lacking.	(This cell is shared with item 6)			
<b>8. AREAS AFFECTED (describe by county, municipality, township, etc. as applicable):</b>  City of Deming, Luna County, New Mexico	(This cell is shared with item 6)			
<b>9. TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED (in \$1,000): 1,400</b>				
2012:	2013:	2014: 350	2015: 350	2016: 350
2017: 350	2018:	2019:	2020:	2021:
<b>10a. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT, THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED REQUIREMENTS AND ASSURANCES IF THE PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED.</b>				
<b>10b. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Richard F. McInturff	<b>11. TITLE:</b> City Administrator	<b>12. PHONE NUMBER:</b> (575) 546-8848		
<b>13. SIGNATURE:</b> 			<b>DATE:</b> July 13, 2011	

14. Evaluation criteria. Comprehensive responses to criteria A through D should be supported where possible by the best available science and scientific data, studies, models, and, where applicable, cite state, regional, or other water plans. Where such data and information is not available, applications should include best estimates and describe how such information would be obtained. Applications that do not include the requested information will not satisfy Tier-1 standards and, therefore, will not be eligible for Tier-2 consideration. Use Form 14a if needed.

**A. State whether the proposal is for the “New Mexico Unit,” a “water utilization alternative,” or both.**

The City of Deming is proposing the Southwest Planning Region Municipal Conservation Fund to benefit residents in the four-county region. This project would qualify as a “water utilization alternative.” The project would be designed to capitalize permanent and program funds to implement municipal conservation projects for municipal suppliers with a focus on conservation projects that decrease the amount of pumping from the aquifers to meet demand.

**B. Describe how the proposal will meet a “water supply demand” in the Southwest New Mexico Water Planning Region, comprised of Catron, Grant, Hidalgo and Luna Counties.**

Water conservation is an important aspect of regional water planning, as it allows the region to make efficient use of and extend existing resources. Given that the largest supplies in the Southwest New Mexico Water Planning Region are in groundwater reservoirs, many of which have very low natural recharge rates, a reliable long-term supply projection depends on using these resources wisely. Groundwater resources are currently being depleted at an unsustainable rate, such that the communities of Santa Clara, Bayard, Deming, and Silver City will not be capable of meeting demands through 2040 with existing wells. By decreasing demand through water conservation, existing supplies can be extended to meet growing demands (DBS&A, 2005).

Conservation measures are implemented by water suppliers as well as the end users. Water suppliers can directly reduce water use by improving operations to reduce leaks or water waste. Use of treated municipal effluent for landscape irrigation or large water uses is another significant water-saving measure. Other programs create incentives for customers to reduce their use. An increasing block rate structure that increases the cost to the customer as more water is consumed creates an incentive to reduce use. Reducing indoor residential use through incentive programs to install low-flow toilets or update fixtures can also reduce per capita water use, as can xeriscaping to reduce residential outdoor watering. According to the *Regional Water Demand Study for Southwest New Mexico, Catron, Grant, Hidalgo and Luna Counties* (AMEC, 2010), implementation of water conservation measures by water suppliers in the four-county area could result in a 2,811-acre-foot per year (ac-ft/yr) reduction in municipal demand by 2020 and up to a 4,269-ac-ft/yr reduction by 2050.

*Continued on Form 14A*

**C. Describe how the proposal considers the Gila environment and describe how any negative impacts might be mitigated.**

This project considers increasing water conservation and could have only a positive effect on the Gila environment by decreasing water use and thereby decreasing stress on the Gila River ecology. The project most directly contributes to long-term sustainability, protection of finite groundwater resources, and improvement of water management practices, all of which indirectly benefit the Gila environment.

**D. Describe how the proposal considers the historic uses of and future demands for water in the Southwest New Mexico Water Planning Region and the traditions, cultures and customs affecting those uses.**

Many of the water studies completed in the Southwest New Mexico Water Planning Region have identified municipal conservation as a key strategy for ensuring that supplies can continue to meet future demand. Both Deming and Silver City have water conservation plans that identify conservation measures to implement as the funding becomes available. The Southwest New Mexico Regional Water Plan identifies many municipal conservation strategies that water suppliers could implement.

The proposed project objective is to achieve sustainable water use to meet municipal supply, so that the traditions, cultures, and customs that have given rise to the current uses and allocations of water can be protected. Other, non-municipal water uses (such as agriculture) would benefit as well because the Mimbres aquifer would be able to recover water levels in the areas that are most stressed. This would preserve the groundwater resources for current uses as well as for future increased water use due to population growth and economic development.

**Exhibit A. Interstate Stream Commission Gila Policy Statement, September 2004, and 2004 Arizona Water Settlements Act, Section 212 (i)**

**INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION GILA POLICY STATEMENT, SEPTEMBER 2004:**

The Interstate Stream Commission recognizes the unique and valuable ecology of the Gila Basin. In considering any proposal for water utilization under Section 212 of the Arizona Water Settlements Act, the Commission will apply the best available science to fully assess and mitigate the ecological impacts on Southwest New Mexico, the Gila River, its tributaries and associated riparian corridors, while also considering the historic uses of and future demands for water in the Basin and the traditions, cultures and customs affecting those uses.

**2004 ARIZONA WATER SETTLEMENTS ACT, SECTION 212 (i)**

(i) NEW MEXICO UNIT FUND- The Secretary shall deposit the amounts made available under paragraph (2)(D)(i) of section 403(f) of the Colorado River Basin Project Act (43 U.S.C. 1543(f)) (as amended by section 107(a)) into the New Mexico Unit Fund, a State of New Mexico Fund established and administered by the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission. Withdrawals from the New Mexico Unit Fund shall be for the purpose of paying costs of the New Mexico Unit or other water utilization alternatives to meet water supply demands in the Southwest Water Planning Region of New Mexico, as determined by the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission in consultation with the Southwest New Mexico Water Study Group or its successor, including costs associated with planning and environmental compliance activities and environmental mitigation and restoration.

FORM 14A

USE THIS FORM TO COMPLETE ANSWERS TO CRITERIA 1 THROUGH 4. NUMBER EACH ADDITIONAL RESPONSE WITH THE CORRESPONDING CRITERIA NUMBER AND SUB-CRITERIA. USE AS MANY PAGES AS NEEDED.

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The funding process will include a project review team that includes representatives from the four counties. The project review team, in cooperation with the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC), will develop a simplified set of criteria for project review that ensure maximum benefit in terms of conserving finite resources. Using these criteria, the project review team will evaluate the proposals and select projects subject to review and approval by the ISC. It is important to direct resources to projects that assist in reducing the amount of groundwater being pumped to meet demand.

The advantage to having a set of local representatives review the projects is coordination with the local regional planning process, which is not possible at the state level. The planning departments from the four counties already work closely with multiple water suppliers and will be able to educate them and encourage them to work together to prioritize conservation projects. This process will allow conservation to move forward at the local level with input from local governments regarding priorities. This will also help improve conservation awareness.

Levels of funding available will depend on how much funding is initially awarded to capitalize the fund.

**References:**

Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. (DBS&A). 2005. *Southwest New Mexico Regional Water Plan*. Prepared for Southwest New Mexico Regional Water Plan Steering Committee, City of Deming, New Mexico, Fiscal Agent. May 2005.

AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc. (AMEC). 2010. *Regional Water Demand Study for Southwest New Mexico, Catron, Grant, Hidalgo and Luna Counties*. Prepared for New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, Santa Fe, New Mexico. June 30, 2010.