



## OVERVIEW INFORMATION SHEET

### New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission Lower Rio Grande 2022-2023 Groundwater Conservation Pilot Program

The State Legislature appropriated \$7 million in 2020 to the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) to develop and fund a Water Management Pilot Project for the Lower Rio Grande for fiscal years 2020 through 2023. The Groundwater Conservation Pilot Program (Program) is the first phase of this Water Management Project.

In the first year of the Program, applications were accepted in the fall of 2020. This application period resulted in a total of 24 grant agreement awards encompassing 1,272 acres for a total of \$865,000 in grant payments. These payments were for conservation grants to compensate irrigators for temporarily conserving groundwater by not irrigating previously irrigated parcels.

During the second year of the Program, applications were accepted between August 9<sup>th</sup> and August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. There are 29 applications under review from the August application period encompassing a total of 2,055 acres. The objective of the second year of the Program remains the same – to provide grants to compensate irrigators for temporarily conserving groundwater by not irrigating previously irrigated parcels.

The NMISC will be accepting a second round of grant applications from members of the agricultural community willing to conserve groundwater during 2022-2023.

**Applications will be accepted again from October 4<sup>th</sup> to October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.**

Successful applicants will receive grant funding to temporarily stop the use of groundwater for an 18-month period beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

#### **Groundwater Irrigated Parcel Eligibility Criteria**

Groundwater irrigated parcel(s) are eligible for participation in the Program, **if**:

- (1) The irrigated acreage within the parcel is at least 10 acres in size.
  - Partial parcels are acceptable, provided the 10-acre minimum groundwater irrigated acreage requirement is met.

- Multiple parcels are allowed so long as the total contiguous groundwater irrigated acreage meets the 10-acre minimum requirement.
- (2) The acreage has been irrigated with groundwater only, or a combination of groundwater and surface water, for at least four years out of the five years between 2016 and 2020.
- (3) The water rights associated with the acreage is in good standing with the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (NMOSE) Water Rights Division.
- (4) Other due diligence contingencies determined by the NMISC are satisfied.

## **Grant Application Information**

At a minimum, the Grant Application will require the following information:

### **(1) Applicant Name, Address and Signature**

- Applicant name, mailing address, email address, phone number(s) and signature will be required.
  - If the applicant is an entity (corporation, LLC, partnership, or trust), include legal name of entity and name and title of person signing on behalf of the entity.
  - A single Grant Application may be used for multiple parcels (as defined above under *Groundwater Irrigated Parcel Eligibility Criteria*) and is preferred, provided the applicant is the same person or entity for all parcels seeking enrollment.
- Applicant can be the landowner or tenant of the parcel(s) included within the Grant Application.
  - If applicant is a tenant, the landowner's name, mailing address, email address, phone number(s), signature, legal entity name, and title of person signing for entity (if applicable) will be required.
  - A single Grant Application may be used for multiple tenant or lease arrangements, and is preferred, provided the applicant is the same person or entity under all lease arrangements.

### **(2) Parcel Information**

- Multiple parcels can be included within a single Grant Application, provided the applicant is the same person or entity for all parcels.
- Doña Ana / Sierra County Account Number for each parcel seeking enrollment will be required.
- Partial portions of legal parcels will be allowed as long as the *Groundwater Irrigated Parcel Eligibility Criteria* are met.

### **(3) Water Rights Information**

- NMOSE Water Right File Number associated with each parcel seeking enrollment will be required and must be in good standing with the NMOSE Water Rights Division.
- Hydrographic Survey Subfile Number associated with each parcel seeking enrollment will be required.

#### (4) Enrollment Price

- Acreage enrolled in the Program will be paid \$1100/acre during the 18-month contract term.

#### (5) Documentation that will be needed to receive a grant award will include:

- **Deed or proof of ownership** (e.g. real-estate contract or installment sale contract) for the acreage seeking enrollment.
- **Lease**, if applicable (or other evidence of the Applicant's right to use the acreage seeking enrollment and the water rights).
- **EBID Parcel Information Report**, if applicable.
- **Map** that clearly identifies the acreage seeking enrollment.
- **New Mexico Substitute W-9 Form**
- **Legal Documentation** that will be required is as follows:
  - Click [here](#) if applicant is an **Individual**
  - Click [here](#) if applicant is a **Corporation**
  - Click [here](#) if applicant is a **Limited Liability Company (LLC)**
  - Click [here](#) if applicant is a **Partnership**
  - Click [here](#) if applicant is a **Trust**

**For more information on the Program, go to the NMOSE's website at:**

<https://www.ose.state.nm.us/LRGPilot/> or look under "[Hot Topics](#)"

*The Office of the State Engineer is charged with administering the state's water resources. The State Engineer has power over the supervision, measurement, appropriation, and distribution of all surface and groundwater in New Mexico, including streams and rivers that cross state boundaries. The State Engineer is also Secretary of the Interstate Stream Commission.*

*The nine-member Interstate Stream Commission is charged with separate duties including protecting New Mexico's right to water under eight interstate stream compacts, ensuring the state complies with each of those compacts as well as investigating, conserving and protecting the waters of the State, in addition to water planning.*