



INFORMATION SHEET

New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission Lower Rio Grande 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 first phase of the Water Management Project will be this Groundwater Conservation Pilot Program (Program).

Starting November 9, 2020, the NMISC will be accepting grant applications from members of the agriculture community that are willing to conserve groundwater. Successful applicants will receive grant funding to temporarily stop the use of groundwater for a period of 12 months.

Parcel Eligibility Criteria for the Program

Land parcels eligible for participation in the Program must:

- (1) Be at least 10 acres in size (partial parcels are acceptable).
- (2) Have been irrigated with groundwater only or groundwater and surface water for at least four out of the past five years.
- (3) Satisfy other due diligence contingencies determined by the NMISC.

Grant Application Information

Grant applications will be accepted from November 9 through 23, 2020. 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 for the entity.
- A single Grant Application may be used for multiple parcels, 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, 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 eligibility criteria are met.

(3) Water Rights Information

- OSE Water Right File Number associated with each parcel seeking enrollment will be required.
- Hydrographic Survey Subfile Number associated with each parcel seeking enrollment will be required.

(4) Proposed Enrollment Acreage and Price

- The applicant will indicate the price tier they are willing to accept for each parcel seeking enrollment.
- Applicants may apply for grants in the following five price tiers: \$400/acre, \$500/acre, \$600/acre, \$700/acre or \$800/acre per 12-month period.
- If the application includes multiple parcels, different price tiers can be selected for each parcel seeking enrollment.

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.
- **Legal Documentation** of entity's organization (for applicant), if applicant is an entity.
- **Legal Documentation** of entity's organization (for landowner), if landowner is an entity and is not the applicant.
- **Map** that clearly identifies the acreage seeking enrollment.

Grant Ranking Information

Applications submitted between November 9 and 23, 2020, will be ranked according to multiple criteria. The grant ranking process will generally include an assessment of parcel eligibility, price and necessary documentation as described above.

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.

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