

Water Desalination Grant Program Continuous Application Process Guidance August 4, 2020 Update

This document describes the Continuous Application Process (CAP) referred to in Section 4.1 (page 19) of the June 14, 2017 Round 4 Water Desalination Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP). The Continuous Application Process will be conducted with the same submittal and review process described in the PSP and previous CAP awards. Schedule and additional submittal information are described below.

REASON FOR UPDATE

The CAP was suspended in April 2019 because applications that had been received exceeded available funds. In October 2019, the available grant funds were committed by the award of the third round of CAP grants, referred to as CAP3.

In July 2020, \$600,000 of Proposition 50 funds reverted to the Water Desalination Grant Program and is now available to be awarded to other grant projects. Grants awarded with these funds will be referred to as CAP4. This update describes the timeline and process for applying for the available funds.

APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

GRanTS will be available after August 7, 2020 to begin application preparation. After 8:00 am (PST) on September 4, 2020 applications can be submitted by sending an email to DesalPSP@water.ca.gov to notify DWR that the application in GRanTS (the online submittal portal) is officially submitted for review. The receipt of the email will be considered the application submittal date and time. DWR will notify the applicant that the application has been received. The application cannot be modified after that time and will be locked until DWR has completed its review and submitted comments to the applicant. All applications must meet the requirements of the PSP.

Applications for **Construction** and **Design Pilot** projects will be accepted.

An application may be submitted for work related to a project previously funded by the Water Desalination Grant Program if the new proposal is a stand-alone, operationally independent project that is not part of the Eligible Project (see PSP Section 4.2) in the previously funded grant. Applications will not be accepted for work either within the previously funded Eligible Project scope of work or needed to make a previously funded incomplete project functional or operational.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Applications will be screened, reviewed, and scored as described in Section 8 of the PSP. At the conclusion of DWR's review, applications may be determined eligible and ready for recommendation for award, eligible but not ready for award, or ineligible.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

It is expected that only 1 or 2 applications will be funded in CAP4. The total amount of grant money is less than the maximum grant award for either construction (\$10 million dollars) or design pilot (\$1.5 million dollars) projects, so funding too many projects with these funds will diminish the potential benefit of each grant.

Unlike the earlier CAP process which reviewed projects on a quarterly basis, applications for which review is completed and award is recommended amounting to the \$600,000 of available funds will be submitted to DWR management in a memorandum requesting approval to publicly release a draft funding recommendation, using the same process as the previous funding rounds. Within 10 days of the release of the draft funding recommendation a public meeting will be held to receive public comments. This meeting will be online or at an in-person location. Following the public meeting and specified closing period for public comment, DWR will issue a final funding recommendation. Projects that meet the funding criteria will be awarded until funds have been exhausted.

APPLICATIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING

If an application is determined to be eligible but not ready for award, comments will be provided to the applicant at the completion of the review. Comments will identify the application shortcomings and the information or corrective action needed to satisfy program requirements. Except for Research Pilot projects, applicants will have opportunity to submit additional information to GRanTS. Any modified attachment submitted in response to comments should have changes identified at the beginning or redlined within the document unless the changes are too substantial or numerous to show in redlined version. If the changes are too numerous to show in redlined version, the document should be classified as "new".

If an application is determined to be ineligible, the applicant will be notified of the reason and the application will be closed from further consideration.

APPLICATION RESUBMITTAL

The Continuous Application Process is open to all eligible applications as defined in the PSP. Also, applications previously submitted to DWR that did not meet the requirements of the PSP and were found ineligible or did not meet funding requirements in Round 4 may be resubmitted during the Continuous Application Process, provided

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the applications are corrected to meet all the PSP requirements.

The information specified in the Round 4 PSP, including attachments, must be submitted, even if unchanged. For resubmitted applications, a table must be submitted in Attachment 21 to show whether each submitted attachment is New, Modified, or Unchanged. A template for this attachment is available upon request by sending an email to one of the program contacts listed below.

CONTACTS

Sean Sou at Sean.Sou@water.ca.gov or (916) 651-9269 - primary contact for information in the PSP.

Toni Pezzetti at Tonianne.Pezzetti@water.ca.gov or (916) 651-7024

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