

Water Desalination Grant Program Continuous Application Process Guidance May 14, 2024 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 October 2022 because applications that had been received exceeded available funds. In March 2023, the available grant funds were committed by the award of the fifth round of CAP grants, referred to as CAP5.

In May 2024, approximately \$1,000,000 of Proposition 1 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 CAP6. This update describes the timeline and process for applying for the available funds.

PRE-APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

The proposal solicitation for the Water Desalination Grant Program is an online application process completed with the online submittal tool: Grants Review and Tracking System ([GRanTS](#)). Link to the application attachments with templates and additional guidelines will be provided upon request. For attachments with a provided template, the template is required to be used. The other attachments require the applicant to provide the requested information in files they create or as existing documents. **Send an email to DesalPSP@water.ca.gov to request these files.**

APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

After 8:00 am (PST) on September 18, 2024 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. Applications are due at 5:00 pm (PST) on September 19, 2024. 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. Applications are reviewed and qualified projects are awarded on a first-ready, first-served basis until all available funds are awarded. 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 application will be funded in CAP 6. The total amount of grant money is less than the maximum grant award for either construction (\$10 million) or design pilot (\$1.5 million) projects, so funding too many projects with these funds will diminish the potential benefit of each grant.

Applications for which review is completed and award is recommended 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 are committed.

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. 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 **Construction** and **Design Pilot** 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 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) 873 4633 - **Primary contact for information in the PSP.**
- Jennifer Pulido at Jennifer.Pulido@water.ca.gov or (279) 231-0756
- DesalPSP@water.ca.gov