

**FY22 WATERSHED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION
SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS
QUESTIONS and ANSWERS**

Note: Some of the questions below have been edited for clarity.

Distribution List

The following people or organizations indicated in writing their interest in the Solicitation for Applications (SFA).

Last Name	First Name	Organization	Email address
Cole	A.T.	Pitchfork Ranch	atandcinda@gmail.com
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Sandoval	Arturo	Private landowner, Rio Puerco de Chama watershed	asandsdc@gmail.com
Vigil	Peter	Taos Soil and Water Conservation District	pvigil@tswcd.org

1) Are individuals among eligible applicants? Can two individuals apply for this funding?

Yes. If two individuals are interested in working together on a project, then they have three main options. They may each submit a separate application. Or they may submit one application with one individual as the applicant, and another individual as a contractor. The third option is that one of the individuals may be contributing match only, in which case that person may be listed as a cooperator and their contribution described in the Complementary Programs and Match section of the application, as well as in the Budget section.

2) If my neighbor uses his backhoe on the project, can the value of the backhoe be used for match?

Yes. If a non-federal cooperator has heavy equipment that will be used to implement the project, and the cooperator will not be charging for the use of the equipment, then fair market cost to rent similar equipment may be offered in the application as in-kind match. Alternatively, if you will be paying for heavy equipment from non-federal funds, then the amount you plan to pay may be offered in the application as cash match.

3) If my neighbor runs that backhoe, can the value of the operator be used for match?

Yes. If a non-federal cooperator will operate heavy equipment to implement the project, and the cooperator will not be charging for operating the equipment, then fair market cost of an equipment operator may be offered in the application as in-kind match. Alternatively, if you

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will paying an operator from non-federal funds, then the amount you plan to pay may be offered in the application as cash match.

4) Can we use our one-seed juniper posts as match?

Yes. Fair market value of the posts may be included in the budget within your application. If the applicant or a cooperator owns supplies such as posts that will be used to implement the project, and will not charge for those supplies, then the fair market cost of purchasing similar supplies may be offered as in-kind match.

5) What are the applicable hourly volunteer rates?

There is no standard schedule of volunteer rates to be used for this application process. The rates that can be reported for volunteer time vary depending on the nature of the work. The best option is to use a rate similar to what the actual hourly rate would be were the person paid. Some useful references include the rates at https://independentsector.org/resource/vovt_details/ (most applicable to unskilled volunteer labor) or the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (<https://www.bls.gov/bls/blswage.htm>).

6) The federal mileage rate as of January 1, 2021 appears to be \$0.56/mile. The application offers \$0.575/mile. Which amount should we use?

You can use \$0.575/mile or less. NMED and applicants are not bound to a specific rate, but NMED needed to specify a maximum.

7) Does NMED have a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Forest Service or with the New Mexico State Land Office?

NMED has a Memorandum of Understanding in place with the United States Forest Service, called the New Mexico Water Quality Protection Agreement, attached. NMED does not have an MOU with the State Land Office.

8) State fiscal year 2022 is the reference year for this application in most of the places throughout the application documents, but the instruction for application submission in the application form asks applicants to place in the subject line of the email, "FY21 Implementation Grant Application." Is this erroneous and should it be "FY22 Implementation Grant Applications" or should we in fact reference FY21 as stated in the instruction?

The application submission instructions in the application form do ask that applicants place in the subject line, "FY21 Implementation Grant Application." That is a typographical error. We will accept applications with either "FY21 Implementation Grant Application" or "FY22 Implementation Grant Application" in the subject line of the email.

9) Is there a maximum award?

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No. There is not a maximum award. However, the Environment Department expects to have approximately \$900,000 to support one or more projects selected through this SFA.

10) What was the approximate average grant size in previous years?

The average grant size has been approximately \$175,000. The range has varied from around \$40,000 to around \$400,000.

11) Is there a web site with final reports for past projects funded under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act in New Mexico?

Yes. The project list at https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/nmed_319_and_rsp_project_list/ has links to a database for each project. Each completed project should have a final report attached to its database entry.

12) Can you provide an example of an application that for a project that was funded?

Yes. Attached is an example of an application that was funded, from the previous (state fiscal year 2021) SFA. Also attached is a project work plan based on the application, that shows how the application was revised prior to finalizing a sub-grant agreement.

13) We're interested in developing a project in the Rio Puerco de Chama watershed, east of Gallina. Would the project be eligible?

No, because there is neither a Watershed-Based Plan (WBP) that has been accepted as such by EPA, nor a Wetlands Action Plan (WAP), for any portion of the Rio Puerco de Chama watershed. EPA-accepted WBPs are available for review at <https://www.env.nm.gov/swqb/wps/WBP/Accepted/index.html>. WAPs are available for review at <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/wap/>. There is also a GIS tool for locating and reviewing WAPs. At the mapping site <https://gis.web.env.nm.gov/oem/?map=swqb>, choose the "Wetland Action Plans" group.