



## Southwestern Water Conservation District FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM Frequently Asked Questions (*Updated for 2024*)

### 1. How much money can we ask for?

It depends on the type of project, how much funding your entity has received in recent years, and the total project cost:

There is a project cost limitation: SWCD will not award more than 50% of the total project cost.

There is a category limitation annually and over a five-year period:

- Recipients of grants for development or improvement of water-related projects may not receive more than \$60,000 in a single year or a total of \$120,000 in any given five (5) year period.
- Recipients of grants for participation in public forums and the performance of studies may not receive more than \$20,000 in any single year or a total of \$40,000 in any given five (5) year period.
- Recipients of grants for educational purposes may not receive more than \$10,000 in a single year or a total of \$20,000 in any given five (5) year period.

For example, if the total development project is estimated at \$120,000, you (the applicant) can request \$60,000 or less for one year.

### 2. Will SWCD fund a multi-year project?

As a public entity, SWCD only appropriates funding annually, and in general cannot commit to multiple year projects. 2024 grants are intended to be used in 2024. However, understanding that water projects often take time, you can split a multi-year project into phases. Separate applications can be filed for each phase or year of the project and will be considered by the board during each annual grant process. Please demonstrate what objectives will be completed in the first phase and show your plan for future years. *(It is important to note that approval of funding for an initial phase will not mean any preference will be given to future phases or applications.)*

### 3. What match is required?

Applicants must **also** demonstrate that they will provide, through a cash contribution and/or the performance of in-kind services, at least 25% of the total project costs.

For example, if the total development project is \$120,000, you (the applicant) must provide a minimum of \$30,000 in cash and/or in-kind towards this specific project. If it is a ditch repair and some labor will be done by the shareholders, calculate the value of their contribution in labor (number of hours x pay rate). Let's say that labor is valued at \$20,000, then \$10,000 in cash would be needed as a cash reserve contribution from a special assessment or as a loan taken on by the ditch company to complete the work.

If a project has several beneficiaries or sponsors (let's say a public process), the match can be demonstrated by contributions from all the project participants or sponsors that total 25% of the process costs. *(Grants, or requests for grants, from other funding entities such as the Southwest Basins Roundtable or Reclamation Water Smart programs will not be counted as a cash or in-kind contribution from the project beneficiary.)*

The board has the discretion to consider previous expenditures directly related to the proposed project as matching contributions if those expenditures occurred within six months of the grant application deadline.

Non-profit, or non-governmental organizations, serving on behalf of a broad group of local constituents that do not receive tax revenues and do not have opportunities for third party contributions for the project, may request a reduction of the match requirement to 10% of the total project cost (subject to approval by the board) by garnering and documenting strong community or watershed support for the project.

#### **4. Do I need to present my application to the board at their meeting?**

Grant requests will be considered by the board at their January 10th/11th meeting. Please set aside the date, as applicants are encouraged to attend, either by phone or in person, so they can answer questions and participate in the discussion. The board has not asked for formal presentations, instead relying on thorough application forms to address their questions.

#### **5. When are the grant applications due?**

Applications will only be accepted from August 1<sup>st</sup> to November 17<sup>th</sup> of the year prior to the project implementation. Staff will be available to answer questions about the process before these dates. Additional information or updates can also be requested prior to consideration by the board the following February.

#### **6. Will any requests be considered for emergency situations?**

SWCD understands that emergency situations may arise from catastrophic or unforeseen events such as flooding or structural failures and can consider granting emergency funds at other times during the year.