

## White Paper | WaterSMART Grants

as of May 9, 2018

### Issue

Funding for the WaterSMART grants program has hovered around \$20-29 million. Unfortunately, in the President's FY2019 budget request, funding for WaterSMART grants was cut in half.

### Impacts on Stakeholders

The WaterSMART grant program provides 50/50 cost share funding for irrigation and water districts, tribes, states and other entities with water or power delivery authority. These grants leverage federal funds in combination with private and state funds to build critical, public, federally owned, infrastructure. The Program focuses on improving water conservation and helping water-resource managers make sound decisions about water use. WaterSMART projects replace and upgrade aging infrastructure and benefit operations and maintenance efforts. There are three main grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants, Water Marketing Strategy Grants, and Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects.

In the Columbia Basin Project (CBP), the three irrigation districts have successfully applied to WaterSMART grants. WaterSMART grants directly benefit water users in Washington State and throughout the entire West. Below is a list of the most recent WaterSMART grants awarded to irrigation districts in the CBP. The CBP irrigation districts rely on this program to continue to improve water conservation. WaterSMART conservation projects in the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District have helped to develop a water supply for ground water replacement while remaining neutral to the Columbia River and its wildlife.

District	Year	Project	Funding Source	Funding Amount
South	2011	Potholes East Canal Shotcrete Liner	Water and Energy Efficiency	Federal: \$300,000 Non-Federal: \$354,076
East	2011	Conversion of 85,440 feet of Open Canals to Pipelines	Water and Energy Efficiency	Federal: \$1,000,000 Non-Federal: \$2,030,000
East	2013	Installation of Conservation Pipeline - Moses Lake	Water and Energy Efficiency	Federal: \$300,000 Non-Federal: \$359,032
East	2013	Water and Energy Efficiency	Water and Energy Efficiency	Federal: \$300,000 Non-Federal: \$443,240
East	2015	Installation of Conservation Pipelines -- Block 47	Water and Energy Efficiency	Federal: \$300,000 Non-Federal: \$466,000
Quincy	2015	W53.1D Canal Lining	Water and Energy Efficiency	Federal: \$300,000 Non-Federal: \$400,000
East	2017	Installation of Conservation Pipelines-- Blocks 41, 42, 45, 47, & 49	Water and Energy Efficiency	Federal: \$300,000 Non-Federal: \$362,445.02
Quincy	2017	Automation of W3 Lateral Turnout of the West Canal	Small-Scale Water Efficiency Project	Federal: \$46,482 Non-Federal: \$46,482
Quincy	2017	W53.1E Lateral Lining	Water and Energy Efficiency	Federal: \$300,000 Non-Federal: \$422,000

## Action Requested

In recent years, Congress has allocated funding above the Administration's request for WaterSMART grants. The Columbia Basin Development League appreciates the increased funding and **respectfully requests that Congress continue to fund the WaterSMART grants at higher levels than requested by the President.**

FY 2019 Request	FY 2018 Enacted	FY 2018 Request	FY 2017 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted
\$10 M	\$34 M	\$23.4 M	\$28.5 M	\$23.4 M	\$20 M	\$23.5 M

## Support

The following irrigation districts support this request:

- Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District, currently serving over 250,000 acres of land
- South Columbia Basin Irrigation District, currently serving over 230,000 acres of land
- East Columbia Basin Irrigation District, currently serving over 150,000 acres of land