



Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority  
933 E. Court Street, Seguin TX 78155  
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June 27, 2014

## Bureau of Reclamation Funding to Boost Progress on GBRA's Proposed Integrated Water Power Project

### For more information

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*IWPP Feasibility Is Study of Seawater Desalination and Co-located Power along Texas Coast*

*MWH Global Was Selected to Complete the Two-Year Feasibility Study*

Washington, D.C. — Bureau of Reclamation Acting Commissioner Lowell Pimley announced that Reclamation will provide \$1.29 million to nine projects for Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Feasibility Studies, including \$450,000 for the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's "Integrated Water and Power Project: A Drought-Proof Water Supply for Texas."

GBRA officials and their partners, the General Land Office (GLO), and the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) last May named a team led by MWH Global to conduct a feasibility assessment study for developing ocean water desalination as a regional water supply, including the option of co-located power generation facilities.

"Planning and preparation are essential for communities looking to meet their growing water needs," Pimley said. "This funding will help communities gather critical information in assessing whether these water recycling and reuse projects can meet their future water needs."

"This Reclamation funding could not have come at a better time. We are taking a regional approach to solving our water issues and we have been moving this very important IWPP study along so that relevant questions will be addressed when the Texas Water Development Board begins evaluating projects to support with SWIFT and SWIRFT funding," Bill West, GBRA general manager said.

"Yesterday, the TWDB approved the publication of the proposed draft rules for the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) and the State Water Implementation Revenue Fund for Texas (SWIRFT) in the *Texas Register*," West said, explaining that in addition to the IWPP, GBRA has been working on a Mid-Basin Project to bring much-needed water to high growth areas along the I-35 and Texas 130 corridors, and a Lower Basin Project that would help supply water for municipalities, industry and agriculture in the lower basin region and possibly relieve some of the downstream demands on Canyon Reservoir.

Last November, Texas voters approved legislation that created the SWIFT and SWIRFT. Both funds will be used to finance water projects in the current state water plan.

"The IWPP feasibility study takes into consideration many factors, such as plant location, most effective and efficient water conveyance system, fuel source, safe brine disposal and other environmental issues, economic issues, and construction timelines. This funding will be instrumental in helping us get the remaining issues completed," James L. Murphy, GBRA executive manager for Water Resources and Utility Operations said. Total cost of the IWPP study is expected to be about \$2 million.

According to the Bureau of Reclamation, the first funding group will receive up to \$150,000 and studies must be completed within 18 months. The six selected projects in this group include:

Pitkin County Clean Water Effluent Re-Use Feasibility Study, Pitkin County (Colorado), \$149,500;

Providing for Santa Fe Basin's Future Water Supply Needs: A Feasibility Study to Optimize the Use of Regional Reclaimed Wastewater, City of Santa Fe (New Mexico), \$132,000;

Port Isabel Water Reclamation Facility, Laguna Madre Water District (Texas), \$150,000;

Feasibility Study of Augmenting Regional Water Supply System for Tarrant Regional Water District and Wichita Falls with Impaired Groundwater Supplies, Tarrant Regional Water District (Texas), \$150,000;



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Feasibility Study of Industrial Water Management and Reclamation for the Permian Basin , Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority (Texas), \$150,000;  
Collection, Storage, Recharge and Recovery of Conserved Source Waters for Advanced Purified Treatment of Reclaimed Water, El Paso Water Utilities-Public Service Board (Texas), \$150,000.

The second funding group will receive up to \$450,000 (up to \$150,000 per year) and studies must be completed within 36 months. In addition to GBRA's IWPP, the selected projects in this group include:

San Juan Groundwater Basin Recharge, Reclamation and Reuse Feasibility Study, Santa Margarita Water District (California), \$225,000;

Indirect Potable Reuse Project Feasibility Study, Eastern Municipal Water District (California), \$450,000.

Applicants must provide at least 50 percent non-federal cost-shared funding for the feasibility study. To view a complete description of all the projects, visit: <http://www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART/title>.

The Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program focuses on identifying and investigating opportunities to reclaim and reuse wastewater and naturally impaired ground and surface water in the 17 Western states and Hawaii.

It has the potential to provide communities with a new source of clean water while promoting water and energy efficiency and environmental stewardship. Through Title XVI projects, Reclamation has conserved nearly 390,000 acre-feet of water in 2013 – enough to supply 1.5 million people with water for one year.

#### **U.S. Department of the Interior's WaterSMART**

WaterSMART is the U.S. Department of the Interior's sustainable water initiative that uses the best available science to improve water conservation and help water resource managers identify strategies to narrow the gap between supply and demand. Since its establishment in 2010, WaterSMART has provided about \$200 million in competitively awarded funding to non-federal partners, including tribes, water districts, municipalities and universities through WaterSMART Grants and the Title XVI Program. Learn more at <http://www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART>.

#### **Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority**

GBRA was established by the Texas Legislature in 1933 and provides stewardship for the water resources in its ten-county statutory district, which begins near the headwaters of the Guadalupe and Blanco Rivers, ends at San Antonio Bay. GBRA's planning and resource development efforts are carefully coordinated within the broader consideration of regional and statewide water needs in order to fulfill GBRA's mission of protecting, conserving, reclaiming and stewarding the resources of its 10-county district to ensure and promote quality of life for the constituents it serves.