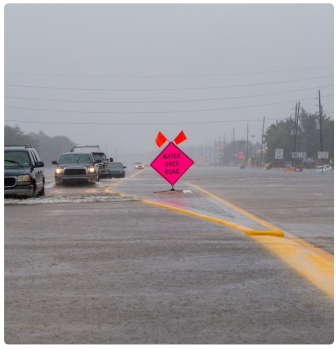




Katie Menzer
Senior Funding Specialist
Morgan Jackson, PE, CFM
Water Resources Engineer

Demystifying Federal Funding for Flood Resilience Projects

TFMA Annual Meeting 2025



3

Federal Grants: A Time-Honored Tradition

Historical Roots:

- First grant in 1785: Land awarded to Revolutionary War veterans before the Constitution was ratified.

Types of Grants:

- Formula Grants: Allocated based on specific criteria.
- Competitive Grants: Awarded through a merit-based process.

Recent Popularity:

- Boosted by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) of 2021 and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022.



FEDERAL GRANTS OVERVIEW

3

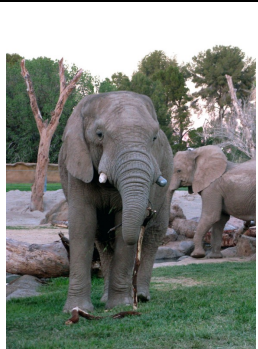
2025 Federal Funding Changes

Summary of actions:

- 50+ Executive Orders (EOs) have been signed by Trump.
- Many administrative actions are currently pending. They either incorporate an agency review period, are before the judiciary, or implementation has been paused as part of negotiations.

Impact:

- Longer-term impact uncertain.
- Select funding pauses related to current EO activities.
- Revision of NOFOs to reflect Administration priorities.
 - Removal of climate change, environmental justice, social equity and clean energy.
- Potential reduction in IJIA and IRA funding for water, environmental remediation.
- Changes to NEPA review process.
- Access to water is a bipartisan issue.



FEDERAL GRANTS OVERVIEW

FEDERAL GRANTS OVERVIEW

3

Federal Funding for Texas.

**We do great.
But we can do better.**



FEDERAL BRIC

3

FEMA's BRIC helps communities reduce natural disasters and extreme weather risk.




FEDERAL BRIC

3


BRIC 101

- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
- Annual, national competition
- Up to \$50M grant
- 6% set aside from each disaster declaration
- Project must be cost effective (BCA)
- Applicant must have local Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)



What's their secret?

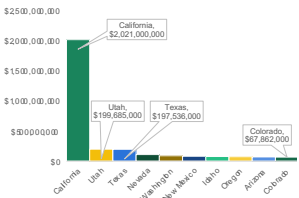
- FEMA favors flooding and coastal states
- Robust assistance at the state level with applications
- Lobbying
- Starting early
- Applying!



Top 10 Project Funded States*

USBR WaterSMART

- 2010: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation grant program to address water challenges in the American West
- 17 Western states and some territories, including Texas
- Examples:
 - Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
 - Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects
 - Environmental Water Resources Projects



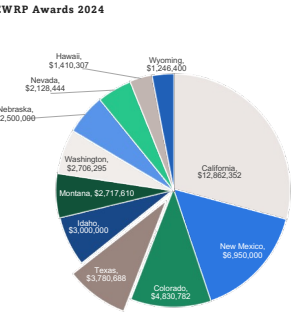
State	Amount
California	\$2,021,000,000
Texas	\$197,536,000
Colorado	\$67,852,000
Utah	\$199,685,000
Washington	
New Mexico	
Idaho	
Oregon	
Arizona	
California	

* WaterSMART Program Data Portal, Feb. 24, 2020. <https://reclamation.diggo.com/insights/56523767044608545718610834pageContent.html>

USBR Environmental Water Resources Projects

- Funds collaborative, water conservation and efficiency projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values/watershed health
- Project types:
 - Improve the timing or quantity of water available.
 - Improve water quality and temperature.
 - Improve stream or riparian conditions for plant and animals, fish and wildlife habitat, riparian areas, watershed health, and ecosystems.
 - Restore a natural feature or use a nature-based feature to reduce water supply imbalances or the risk of drought or flooding.
 - Projects that mitigate against the impacts of climate change to fish and wildlife habitats.
- Up to \$3M grant

EWRP Awards 2024



State	Amount
California	\$12,802,352
New Mexico	\$6,950,800
Texas	\$4,830,762
Wyoming	\$1,246,400
Nebraska	\$2,500,000
Washington	\$2,706,295
Montana	\$2,717,410
Idaho	\$3,000,000
Hawaii	\$1,410,307
Nevada	\$2,128,444

2024 USBR Environmental/ Water Resources Award Examples – Texas

PROJECT:	Restoring Aquatic and Riparian Habitat and Stream and Floodplain Connectivity through Nature-Based Solutions in the Chihuahuan Desert of Texas Reclamation Funding	Resaca de la Guerra Resilience and Restoration Project Reclamation Funding
Entity:	American Bird Conservancy	Brownsville Public Utilities Board
Award:	\$760,688	\$3,000,000
Key Project Elements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore stream function and improve riparian habitat along the Rio Grande tributary streams Install gabion baskets, brush weirs, loose rock structures, and media lunas to slow flows during flood events, reduce erosion, increase passive recharge, and reconnect floodplains. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve aquatic and riparian habitat, increase water storage capacity, and create recreational opportunities in the Resaca de la Guerra in southern Texas. Restore 3,000 linear feet of riparian corridor by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> removing invasive vegetation planting native plant species, remove sediment to add 27 acre-feet of storage capacity. install stormwater treatment units



USBR WaterSMART

- Applications usually receive extra points for having a nexus to USBR
 - Water service contract
 - Benefits USBR project area
 - Tribe
- Notable winners without a nexus:
 - Red River Authority of Texas: \$450k in 2023 for advanced metering
 - Arlington: \$2M for meters in 2023
 - Little Elm: \$334k in 2021 for a recycled water pipeline
- Need to apply

Number of USBR Projects/Facilities in State*

State	Number of Projects/Facilities
Colorado	96
California	76
Utah	42
Texas	8

*https://www.usbr.gov/ March 2, 2025

5

THE ALWAYS

What can we learn from the successes of other states?

5

THE ALWAYS

Path Forward

- **Embrace the challenge:** Don't let federal requirements hold you back!
- **Seek support:**
 - Tap into federal programs
 - Leverage state resources (<https://www.ncdos.gov/bric-winning-applications>)
 - Connect with your community
 - Consult the experts
- Engage with leaders

5

THE ALWAYS

What You Should Think About Before Applying

- Project Specific
- Does not cover full project cost
- Demonstration of Ability to Pay for Project
- Funding Restrictions
- Award Timing
- Project and Documentation Readiness
- Low-Interest Loan and Grant Reimbursement
- New language

 Stantec



Thank you
