



News for Immediate Release
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DWR ANNOUNCES \$25 MILLION IN WATER DESALINATION GRANTS

SACRAMENTO-the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is awarding \$25 million in grants to 25 water desalination projects. The funds will be used by local agencies, water districts, academic and research institutions for construction, pilot and demonstration projects, research and development, and feasibility studies to increase the development of new water supplies using water desalination technologies.

The awarded projects include desalination facilities in Marin, Alameda and San Bernardino counties. Pilot projects in Long Beach, Santa Cruz, San Diego and Carson are among those that will receive funds under this cycle of the desalination grants program. Research and development activities at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the University of California, Los Angeles are included in the awarded projects, as are feasibility studies by agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area, Monterey, and Riverside County.

Funding for the projects is available through Proposition 50, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act, passed by voters in 2002. Proposition 50 authorized the sale of \$3.4 billion in general obligation bonds for a variety of water projects including coastal protection, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, integrated regional water management, safe drinking water, and water quality.

In January 2005, DWR received 42 eligible applications requesting \$71.3 million. DWR decided that the available \$25 million under the current desalination grant cycle should be used to fund 25 of these projects. Approximately \$11.5 million of the available funds will support ocean water desalination related projects and \$13.5 million will support brackish water desalination related projects. The term "brackish" describes water with a high salinity level, found in surface and some groundwater supplies.

A Desalination Review Panel was formed to help the State review the applications. The panel comprises members representing local, State, and federal agencies and other stakeholders, and evaluates the proposals using the criteria established for the grant program.

A complete list of the awarded projects and other related information is at:
<http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/recycle/index.cfm>.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

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