



MC ENGINEERING



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Principal

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Grant and Low Interest Financing for Water Projects in California

Funding Opportunities and Grant Application Strategy

The last drought in California has spurred the State Legislature to allocate bond money to water projects aimed at assisting struggling water agencies as they try to develop a response to droughts while wrestling with limited capital to fund projects. A variety of funding opportunities are becoming more available and priorities are typically given to those agencies that are proactive and able to develop sound justification for proposed projects that comply with required parameters. MC Engineering has the expertise to assist the City in identifying and developing the engineering and financial criteria to succeed in this competitive arena.

Eligible Water Projects

Most State agencies offering grant and loan funding place priorities select projects that meet their criteria. Some examples with high potential include:

- Reducing non-revenue water by installing water meters, replacing meters and/or increasing meter accuracy
- Identifying and mitigating Real Losses through leak detection systems
- Improving meter reading efficiencies and leveraging advanced meter analytical capabilities for aiding in drought response programs
- Groundwater source development and groundwater
- Improving irrigation and demand side management efficiency using smart Irrigation controls
- Providing cloud-based solutions to increase both utility and customer awareness

Projects are identified by applying a rigorous engineering approach that monetizes the benefits and focuses on sustainable long-term results.

Priority is often given to agencies able to demonstrate their financial need in order to minimize impacts on rate increases and customer impacts. The team at MC Engineering understands the operational aspects of these eligible projects and provides low cost services that can be tied to acquiring grant and loan funding.



Agencies Providing Financial Assistance

There are a number of Federal, State, Local, and Private organizations available to provide funding assistance for select projects. Each has specific criteria and the applicant must comply with various parameters, depending upon the project specifics and Agency structure. Examples include:

- California Department of Public Health (CDPH) grant and loan programs
- State Revolving Fund (SRF) low interest loans
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grants and loans
- United State Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) grant and loan programs for eligible water Districts and municipalities
- Private capital for performance based programs funded through increased revenues from efficiency gains

MC Engineering offers a free initial consultation to assess eligibility for these programs and is available to provide low cost assistance to clients.