

**TIER-1 APPLICATION TO THE NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION
FOR NEW MEXICO UNIT OR WATER UTILIZATION ALTERNATIVE
UNDER THE ARIZONA WATER SETTLEMENTS ACT**

APPLICANT INFORMATION (PRINT OR

DATE: 4-29-11

1. Legal Name: City of Deming	2. Organization: City of Deming			
3. Address (street, city, county, state, and zip code): P.O. Box 706 Deming, New Mexico 88031	4. Name, email, and phone number of contract person: Lawrence Brookey (575) 546-8848 lbrookey@cityofdeming.org			
5. TYPE OF APPLICATION (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Final <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preliminary for review <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	6. TYPE OF APPLICANT (CHECK BOX): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local governments or municipalities <input type="checkbox"/> soil and water conservation districts, irrigation districts or commissions, acequias, or other political subdivision of the State of New Mexico <input type="checkbox"/> institutions of higher education or a consortium of such institutions <input type="checkbox"/> non-profit organizations or associations <input type="checkbox"/> private individual/s <input type="checkbox"/> federal agency (ies) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)			
7. BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Evaluate the conceptual feasibility of a regional water diversion project and identify potential diversion and storage options. Project would develop a sustainable conjunctive use system relying on both surface and groundwater to meet demand in the four-county region.				
8. AREAS AFFECTED (describe by county, municipality, township, etc. as applicable): Southwest New Mexico Planning Region, possibly including communities within Catron, Grant, Hidalgo, and Luna Counties, New Mexico				
9. TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED (in \$1,000): 250,000				
2012: 2500	2013: 2500	2014: 5000	2015: 5000	2016: 5000
2017: 45000	2018: 45000	2019: 45000	2020: 50000	2021: 45000
10a. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT, THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED REQUIREMENTS AND ASSURANCES IF THE PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED.				
10b. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: Richard F. McInturff	11. TITLE: City Administrator	12. PHONE NUMBER: (575) 546-8848		
13. SIGNATURE: /s/ Richard F. McInturff			DATE: 4-29-11	

14. Evaluation criteria. Comprehensive responses to criteria A through D should be supported where possible by the best available science and scientific data, studies, models, and, where applicable, cite state, regional, or other water plans. Where such data and information is not available, applications should include best estimates and describe how such information would be obtained. Applications that do not include the requested information will not satisfy Tier-1 standards and, therefore, will not be eligible for Tier-2 consideration. Use Form 14a if needed. Print or type only.

A. State whether the proposal is for the “New Mexico Unit,” a “water utilization alternative,” or both.

The City of Deming is proposing a regional water diversion project to benefit the region. This project would qualify as both a “New Mexico Unit” and a “water utilization alternative.” The project would be designed to divert flood flows as required by the Arizona Water Settlements Act (Settlements Act) and the Consumptive Use and Forbearance Agreement (CUFA) to be stored and delivered in a manner that is consistent with protecting the ecology of the Gila River. The scope of the project would include the conceptual feasibility and identify potential diversion and storage options such as side canyon diversion systems, infiltration galleries and/or radial collector wells, aquifer storage and recovery, or others. Funding in addition to AWSA resources would be required to implement a diversion project.

B. Describe how the proposal will meet a “water supply demand” in the Southwest New Mexico Water Planning Region, comprised of Catron, Grant, Hidalgo and Luna Counties.

The proposed project would increase the availability of Gila water to multiple communities in the region and most other demands that may develop. Water demands in the area are projected to increase, while water levels in the Mimbres Basin aquifer supplying these needs is steadily dropping. This project would provide an alternative source of supply for these needs that would allow them to develop a sustainable conjunctive use system relying on both surface water and groundwater to meet demand. It is similar in concept to the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Supply project that will bring surface water from the Canadian River to communities that rely solely on the diminishing Ogallala aquifer.

Current population and water demand data from 2002 for communities in the Southwest New Mexico Water Planning Region are as follows (DBS&A 2005):

Community	Population	Water Demand (ac-ft)
Lordsburg	3,300	780.9
Deming	16,000	4,074.8
Columbus	1,765	208.3
Reserve	318	88.1
Silver City ^a	13,700	2,819.2
Bayard	2,536	336.6
Santa Clara	1,944	228.9

^a Silver City's water system provides bulk water to Arenas Valley, Pinos Altos, Rosedale, and Tyrone.

C. Describe how the proposal considers the Gila environment and describe how any negative impacts might be mitigated.

This project contemplates the diversion of Gila River water in accordance with the Settlements Act and the CUFA. Studying environmental impacts would be a major component of the study. Until further planning and scoping studies are completed, along with the requisite environmental studies associated with the different options to be evaluated, impacts and mitigation measures cannot be identified. The objective will be to design a project that has minimal impacts to minimize the need for mitigation.

D. Describe how the proposal considers the historic uses of and future demands for water in the Southwest New Mexico Water Planning Region and the traditions, cultures and customs affecting those uses.

The proposed project objective is to achieve sustainable water use while protecting Gila River ecology. Because the project would allow for a sustainable conjunctive use system to meet municipal supply, the traditions, cultures and customs that have given rise to the current uses and allocations of water would be protected. Other, non-municipal water uses would benefit as well because the Mimbres Basin would be able to recover water levels in the areas that are most stressed. This would preserve the groundwater resources for current uses as well as future water use increases due to population growth and economic development.

Exhibit A. Interstate Stream Commission Gila Policy Statement, September 2004, and 2004 Arizona Water Settlements Act, Section 212 (i)

INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION GILA POLICY STATEMENT, SEPTEMBER 2004:

The Interstate Stream Commission recognizes the unique and valuable ecology of the Gila Basin. In considering any proposal for water utilization under Section 212 of the Arizona Water Settlements Act, the Commission will apply the best available science to fully assess and mitigate the ecological impacts on Southwest New Mexico, the Gila River, its tributaries and associated riparian corridors, while also considering the historic uses of and future demands for water in the Basin and the traditions, cultures and customs affecting those uses.

2004 ARIZONA WATER SETTLEMENTS ACT, SECTION 212 (i)

(i) NEW MEXICO UNIT FUND- The Secretary shall deposit the amounts made available under paragraph (2)(D)(i) of section 403(f) of the Colorado River Basin Project Act (43 U.S.C. 1543(f)) (as amended by section 107(a)) into the New Mexico Unit Fund, a State of New Mexico Fund established and administered by the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission. Withdrawals from the New Mexico Unit Fund shall be for the purpose of paying costs of the New Mexico Unit or other water utilization alternatives to meet water supply demands in the Southwest Water Planning Region of New Mexico, as determined by the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission in consultation with the Southwest New Mexico Water Study Group or its successor, including costs associated with planning and environmental compliance activities and environmental mitigation and restoration.

FORM 14A

USE THIS FORM TO COMPLETE ANSWERS TO CRITERIA 1 THROUGH 4. NUMBER EACH ADDITIONAL RESPONSE WITH THE CORRESPONDING CRITERIA NUMBER AND SUB-CRITERIA. USE AS MANY PAGES AS NEEDED.