



Hidalgo County • Department of Budget & Management American Rescue Plan Act

Project Description

Project Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Assistance to the City of Mercedes Water Well Project

Project Number:

ARPA-24-121-367

Department Name:

Hidalgo County Precinct 1

ARPA Expenditure Category:

5: Infrastructure

ARPA Eligibility Category:

5.13: Source

Project Description:

The provision of safe water and functioning waste management play key roles in preventing and combating disease outbreaks such as COVID-19. Good water quality and pressure are needed for effective hygiene measures, lowering pathogen, microbes, harmful bacteria transmission, other household uses and to assist with fire suppression, specifically in rural, unserved areas. The City of Mercedes, 400 S. Ohio Ave, Mercedes, TX, 78570, located in a low-to-moderate income area, provides potable water services for a portion of Hidalgo County Precinct 1 residents. Due to prolonged drought conditions affecting the Rio Grande River and the wider region, the City of Mercedes is in the process of developing an alternative water source to mitigate water insecurity. This Water Well Project will not only assist the City of Mercedes but the Rio Grande Valley with providing a safe, reliable and sustainable water source. Hidalgo County Precinct 1 intends to assist the City of Mercedes to actualize this project to be located at 520 E. 2nd St, Mercedes, TX, 78570. This includes but is not limited to professional services and other provisions necessary for potable water. These provisions will provide long term sustainable levels of essential services, accounting for climate and other expected demands on the source of water, thereby increasing community quality of life for constituents, businesses and other consumers in the affected areas.

The interim final rule permitted a broad range of necessary investments in projects that improve access to clean drinking water and improve wastewater and stormwater infrastructure systems.¹ Eligibilities under the DWSRF, the interim final rule, and the final rule include projects that address present or prevent future violations of health-based drinking water standards. These include projects needed to maintain compliance with existing national primary drinking water

¹ Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), P. 4409

regulations for contaminants with acute and chronic health effects. Projects to replace aging infrastructure are also eligible uses if they are needed to maintain compliance or further the public health protection objectives of section 1452 of the SDWA.² Eligible drinking water projects under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#) (DWSRF) and the final rule must be in alignment with one of the identified six eligible categories for eligible projects.³ This project falls under Category 3 of the [DWSRF Eligibility Handbook](#).

TABLE 3.3: Category 3 – Source
<i>Example Projects</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of new sources to replace a contaminated drinking water source or to increase drought resilience • Raw water intakes, wells or other constructed infrastructure that allows for movement of raw water into the treatment plant or into the distribution system • Alternative supply in case of emergency or drought, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interconnections ○ Surface water intakes ○ Ground water wells • Aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) system for water storage (e.g., part of a reclaimed water system), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wells ○ Pumps ○ Pipes ○ Wellhead structures • Riverbank filtration wells <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plugging abandoned wells when new replacement wells are drilled

Fiscal Impact:

Estimated Budget: \$150,000.00

² Department of the Treasury. (2022). Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. *Federal Register*, 87(18), P. 4412

³ <https://www.epa.gov/climate-change-water-sector/drinking-water-state-revolving-fund-program>