

THE CITY OF CLOVIS



**FOR
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION-2018-1
GROUNDWATER BANKING / PLAYA RESTORATION
OPENING DATE: June 4th, 2018
2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME**

**IMPORTANT
RFI MUST BE SUBMITTED IN A SEALED ENVELOPE WITH THE
RFI NUMBER AND DEADLINE DATE CLEARLY INDICATED ON
THE BOTTOM LEFT HAND SIDE OF THE ENVELOPE**

GENERAL CONDITIONS

RFI responses must include but are not limited to the requirements set forth in this RFI. Responses deposited with the City may be withdrawn or modified prior to the time set for opening of responses by delivering written or telegraphic notice to the City. Responders submitting responses may be afforded an opportunity for discussion and revision of responses.

The opening of responses shall be conducted in private to maintain the confidentiality of the contents of all responses during the consideration process. Upon reviewing the responses, qualified responders may be contacted for additional qualifying information.

The City will open and evaluate all responses; determine the need for and conduct any discussions; and make a final recommendation to the City Commission for issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP).

CONFIDENTIALITY/PROPRIETARY INFORMATION: Responders should give specific attention to the identification of those portions of responses deemed to be confidential, proprietary information or trade secrets, and provide justification of why such materials, upon request, should not be disclosed by the City under the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act, and must clearly indicate each and every section that is deemed to be confidential, proprietary, or a trade secret. It is not sufficient to preface the request with a proprietary statement. Unless materials are properly noted as confidential/proprietary and proper justification is provided as required above, all materials submitted by the Responder become the property of the City of Clovis and may be returned to the Responder at the sole discretion of the City. The City has the right to use any/all ideas, not noted as confidential/proprietary, presented in any response to the RFI.

PREPARATION COSTS: The City of Clovis is not responsible for any costs associated with the preparation of submittal or this RFI.

PURPOSE: The RFI is issued by the City of Clovis to solicit information from water rights owners for the implementation of the City's Master Water Assurance Plan, adopted by the Clovis City Commission on December 21, 2017. The City is seeking information regarding the availability of wet water from water right owners in Curry County to participate in groundwater banking, playa lake conservation/restoration, and/or conservation easements. It is the goal of the City to receive and develop information from which to initiate a formal Request for Proposal. Information provided in response to this RFI will be reviewed to determine the availability, willingness, and conditions for water conservation, groundwater banking, water right acquisitions and/or perpetual leases, and conservation easements that may be developed and included in a RFP.

For the purposes of this RFI, the definition of groundwater banking is as follows:

Groundwater Banking seeks to stop irrigation wells from pumping in one contiguous well field where little or no competition from other water users exists, so the depletion of the localized Ogallala Aquifer can be slowed down and the water can be saved to meet future domestic water needs. To achieve this goal, the City buys, secures, reserves, and/or leases wet water from agricultural water rights owners and saves or "banks" this water much like keeping money in a savings account for future needs.

BACKGROUND: In 2017, the Clovis City Commission appointed, upon the recommendation of the City of Clovis Water Policy Advisory Committee, a task force to review and make recommendations to the City Commission for water planning in the future. The task force developed a water plan, the City of Clovis Master Water Assurance Plan. The plan was accepted and approved by the Water Policy Advisory Committee on December 1, 2017. The Clovis City Commission, after conducting additional public meetings, adopted the Master Water Assurance Plan on December 21, 2017. In order to proceed with implementing a portion of the Plan, specifically Action Plan #2 (Groundwater Banking), Action Plan #3 (Playa Restoration), and Action Plan #4 (Conservation Land and Water Trust), the City is issuing this Request for Information to assist in evaluating the willingness and essential terms for water rights owners to participate in submitting proposals to carry out the Plan's goals and objectives. A full copy of the Master Water Assurance Plan is available at www.cityofclovis.org or by contacting the office of the Clovis City Manager, 321 N. Connelly, Clovis, NM 88101, (575)763-9650, jhowalt@cityofclovis.org.

Submittals to this Request for Information (RFI) may be made individually by one landowner or on behalf of multiple landowners with contiguous properties.

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN RELATION TO YOUR PROPOSED AREA:

1. Legal description and total number of water rights acres in your proposed project area that you are willing to consider taking out of irrigated production and conveying to the City of Clovis, or placing in a conservation trust created by the City.
2. Description of land use in your proposed area, including total number of water rights acres you own, lease, or operate, in addition to the water rights you are aware are being offered under this RFI within a 10-mile radius of the area being proposed for consideration.
3. Location of proposed area relative to existing or planned infrastructure, including existing underground connecting pipelines.
4. Any available information regarding aquifer recharge potential within the proposed area.
5. General average depth to water and depth to red bed of the proposed area.

6. Average general saturated water thickness of the proposed area.
7. Number of existing agricultural irrigation wells located on the proposed area.
8. General average pumping rate in gallons per minute for current wells located in the proposed area.
9. Location of water relative to competition of other well owners and/or water users pumping wells that have an impact on wells in the proposed area. Please list water users adjoining the proposed area that could impact wells located within the proposed area.
10. Quality of the water being pumped from the proposed area's existing water rights and whether there are any known adverse issues relating to water quality.
11. What type of funding stream, and/or terms, would you demand or prefer for terminating agricultural irrigation either by sale of water rights, perpetual lease of water rights, and/or commitment to a conservation easement/water trust within the proposed area?
12. Are any existing wells metered in the proposed area? If so, how many?
13. If water were diverted from irrigated agricultural cropping practices in your proposed area, how much water would be required for:
 - a) Domestic use
 - b) Livestock use
 - c) Number of domestic home sites located on your property area
14. Are any Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's) located in the proposed area or adjoining the proposed area? If CAFO's do exist, how many gallons of water are used daily, how many acres are used for discharge, and how much additional water is required to discharge effluent on the proposed area? Please include a copy of any discharge permits issued by New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
15. Would you consider placement of land/water into a water trust in the proposed area?
16. Would you consider a conservation easement in the proposed area?
17. How many playas are in your proposed area, and are you currently or would you consider committing to participation in playa restoration and conservation programs?
18. Please identify any additional considerations/questions/information.
19. Are there any limiting terms or conditions that you would require for participation/submission of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the proposed area?

20. Have you participated or are you currently participating in a CRP or other conservation program in the proposed area?

SCHEDULE:

Advertisement and release of RFI	April 20 th , 2018
Deadline for Questions	5:00 p.m., May 21 st , 2018
Deadline for Responses	2:00 p.m., June 4 th , 2018
Evaluations by Committee	June 6 th -July 13 th , 2018
Present to City Commission	July 19 th , 2018