

## Walker Basin Conservancy's Request for Water

The Walker Basin Conservancy (Conservancy) 2021 Request for Water is now open for interested water rights sellers to submit applications for consideration. Eligible water rights include those with a minimum of 1.0 cfs decreed surface water, 300 acre-feet of supplemental or New Land storage water rights. The Request for Water can be found on the Conservancy's webpage: [www.walkerbasin.org/request-for-water](http://www.walkerbasin.org/request-for-water)

### BACKGROUND

The Conservancy is responsible for implementing the Walker Basin Restoration Program (Program), previously administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The primary purpose of the Program is to restore and maintain Walker Lake, while protecting the agricultural, environmental and habitat interests in the Walker Basin consistent with that primary purpose. Decades of reduced freshwater inflows have resulted in a decline of the Lake's volume causing an increase in lake salinity, which today threatens complete ecological collapse of Walker Lake. The Conservancy is seeking to reverse that decline through a voluntary market-based program working with willing sellers to acquire water rights for the benefit of Walker Lake. To date, approximately 46% of the water needed to restore Walker Lake's fishery has been acquired.

### 2020-2021 REQUEST FOR WATER

The Conservancy invites water right owners interested in exploring the sale of their water rights to submit a confidential inquiry to the Conservancy with the Preliminary Water Right Review Form below.

All inquiries are confidential and voluntary. The Conservancy only purchases water from willing sellers who contact the Conservancy directly or through this Request for Water.

When contacted by an interested seller, the Conservancy works with the seller to understand their water rights portfolio. Conservancy staff completes the initial due diligence of the water right at no cost to the water right owner and will identify whether the water rights being offered will meet the Conservancy's needs. If so, the Conservancy will make an initial offer based on fair market value. The Conservancy will not acquire water rights if negotiations fail to result in a mutually agreed upon purchase and sale agreement.

Submission of this Inquiry Form will NOT commit owners to pursuing a transaction with the Conservancy and does NOT constitute a formal offer from the Conservancy to purchase the offered Water Right. All Inquiries are confidential. The Conservancy will not discuss individual water rights with any person or entity without the owner's permission.

**The deadline for submission is March 1st 2021.**

### WATER RIGHT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Must have a good history of use

- Decreed diversion rate with a minimum of 1.0 cfs
- Storage rights greater than 300-acre feet
- Cannot be on the Division Engineer's abandonment list
- No conditional water rights
- No groundwater or spring rights
- Water Right Point of Diversion and Place of use must be located in Nevada

### **2021 REQUEST FOR WATER TIMELINE**

December 2020 RFW Workshop –Explain procedure, timeline and tools, and answer questions.

December 2020 through February 2021 – Monthly presentations

March 1, 2021 – Deadline for Water Rights Opens to submit Interest forms

March through June 30, 2021 – Initial confidential review and due diligence of water rights, identify potential tools and need for additional analyses; respond to owners.

July 2021- January 2022 Subsequent analyses, contract development and approval processes will depend on the water right. Some acquisitions of water rights may only require a few months to finalize, other acquisitions requiring water court approval may take a year or two to finalize.

If you have any questions please reach out to Silas Adams, water manager, at:  
[silas.adams@walkerbasin.org](mailto:silas.adams@walkerbasin.org) or by phone: 775-463-9887 x 103

