

DP PROPOSALS 2007 BIENNIUM

DIVISION: Water Resources Division DP # 2409

REPORTING LEVEL: 5706-24-01-02-00-00-00

 NEW PROPOSAL X PRESENT LAW ADJUSTMENT

TITLE: Water Rights Database

EPP REQUEST DESCRIPTION:

This proposal requests a biennial appropriation of \$254,844 of Resource Indemnity Trust funds to develop database functions necessary to support the Water Court's issuance and the District Courts' administration of decrees in the statewide water rights adjudication. The RIT balance is \$100,254,844, which in excess of the constitutionally required \$100 million. The excess balance would fund this proposal. Funds would be used for contracted services to extend the currently ongoing project of developing essential and critical functionality necessary to avoid costly and very slow manual manipulations.

SUPPORT JUSTIFICATION:

The water rights database supports the constitutionally mandated central record system for water rights. The database provides critical water right information for the general adjudication, new appropriation, utilization, and administration of water under Title 85, Chapter 2, MCA. Additionally the database provides information to real estate developers, entrepreneurs, realtors, title companies, government agencies, local watershed groups, and the public to assist in development and planning, and provides water right decree information to district courts for an orderly enforcement of water rights. The database also provides information to the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission to assist them in negotiations with federal and tribal entities. Without the additional automated functions costly and slow manual manipulation of the database is required. This monopolizes staff time that should be examining water right claims and providing essential support to the Water Court and results in significant delays in progress.

IS THERE AN ALTERNATE FUNDING SOURCE? YES NO
IS THERE PENDING LEGISLATION BEHIND THIS? YES NO

FUNDING INFORMATION:

AMOUNT:	FY2006	FY2007
Personal Services		
Contracted Services	254,844	0
Supplies & Materials		
Communications		
Travel		
Rent		
Utilities		
Repair & Maintenance		
Other		
Equipment		
Local Assistance		
Grants		
Transfers		
Debt Services		
TOTAL	\$254,844	\$0
FUND:	FY2006	FY2007
01100		
02272	\$254,844	\$0
03XXX		
TOTAL	\$254,844	\$
FTE:	FY2006	FY2007
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>