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Texas Water Trade announces its centerpiece Texas Water Market Makers program on February 26

AUSTIN, TEXAS – February 26, 2020 – Texas Water Trade (TWT) announced today one of its signature programs – Texas Water Market Makers – at the Texas Land Conservation Conference. Market Makers is designed to expand the use of voluntary water transactions to restore flow in priority Texas basins.

Although voluntary market transactions have long been described by the Texas Legislature as the preferred means for addressing environmental water needs, Texas has seen only about 1% of the environmental water trades of other states like California, Oregon and Nevada. In the broader West, environmental buyers leasing or purchasing water rights for the benefit of wildlife comprise about 25% of all water trades by volume, according to WestWater Research.

Market Makers is designed to assist willing conservation buyers through the process of identifying, negotiating and executing water trades. “We will provide hands-on support to nonprofit entities committed to accelerating the use of voluntary water markets to meet quantifiable conservation goals,” says Sharlene Leurig, Chief Executive Officer of Texas Water Trade. “Texas has the science, the funding and the legal framework to meet its environmental water needs—what we need now are the boots-on-the-ground who can make deals happen.”

The two-year competitive program will provide qualified nonprofit entities with the technical support needed to develop environmental water trades, including hydrology, ecology, water appraisal and brokerage, agricultural irrigation demand management and water law. More details on the program can be found in the [Request for Qualifications](#) (RFQ). Applications to become a Market Maker will be accepted until 5 pm CST on April 10, 2020 through TWT’s online [portal](#).

“By leveraging Texas’ flexible water rights framework, diverse water resources, advanced science and deep capital resources, we can deliver market trades that create mutual benefit for the environment and water rights holders – a win-win for everyone involved,” says Leurig.

Texas Water Trade will publicly announce the groups selected to be Market Makers on May 15, 2020 at the River Network’s River Rally in San Antonio.

About Texas Water Trade

Texas Water Trade is a nonprofit organization harnessing the power of markets and technological innovation to build a future of clean, flowing water for all Texans. Learn more at www.texaswatertrade.org

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