



**ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING ACT SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL (EFA SAP)
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**MEETING AGENDA
January 17, 2019**

EFA SAP MEMBERSHIP

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/efasap/>

Jocelyn Bridson, MSc, Rio Farms, Member and Chair
Don Cameron, Terranova Ranch, Member Jeff Dlott, PhD, SureHarvest, Member
Vicky Dawley, Tehama RCD, Member David Bunn, PhD, Resources Agency, DOC, Member
Emily Wimberger, CalEPA, ARB, Member Judith Redmond, Full Belly Farm, Member
Scott Couch, CalEPA, State Water Board, Member Julie Alvis, Resources Agency, Member
Tom Hedt, USDA NRCS, Subject Matter Expert Doug Parker, PhD, Subject Matter Expert

**Public Meeting
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
California Department of Food and Agriculture
Main Auditorium
1220 N Street, Sacramento CA 95814
916-654-0433**

REMOTE ACCESS

Webinar information

Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8417341349146769666>

Webinar ID: 209-558-035

Presentation materials will be posted at the following link prior to the meeting:
https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/EnvironmentalStewardship/Meetings_Presentations.html

Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions – Chair Bridson
2. Minutes - Chair Bridson Agenda item 2 requires EFA SAP approval
3. SWEEP Update – Scott Weeks, CDFA Agenda item 3 is for informational purposes only
 - Programmatic Update
 - Solicitation Release
4. Healthy Soils Program (HSP) – Geetika Joshi, PhD, CDFA Agenda item 4 is for informational purposes only
 - Programmatic Update
 - Solicitation Release
5. Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP) – Geetika Joshi, PhD, CDFA Agenda item 5 in for informational purposes only
6. AB 2377 Process and Timeline – Amrith Gunasekara, PhD, CDFA Agenda item 6 requires EFA SAP approval following public comment

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE CDFA ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING ACT SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL

7. AB 2377 Requirements – Amrith Gunasekara, PhD, CDFA Agenda item 7 is for informational purposes only
8. Panel Discussion on Technical Assistance for HSP, SWEEP and AMMP Agenda item 8 is for informational purposes only
Kevin Greer, Tehama County RCD, Project Manager
Paul Robbins, Monterey RCD Executive Director
Paul Sousa, WUD, Director of Environmental Services
Ruth Dahlquist-Willard, PhD. Small Farms Advisor. UCCE
9. Public Comments – Chair Bridson Stakeholders and members of the public at the meeting or on the webinar may comment on any matter on this agenda or related matter to the EFA SAP
10. Next Meeting and location – Chair Bridson Next EFA SAP meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2019.
Location TBD.

Amrith (Ami) Gunasekara, PhD, CDFA Liaison to the Science Panel

All meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you require reasonable accommodation as defined by the American with Disabilities Act, or if you have questions regarding this public meeting, please contact Amrith Gunasekara at (916) 654-0433.

More information at: <http://cdfa.ca.gov/Meetings.html> and http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/EnvironmentalStewardship/Meetings_Presentations.html

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(CDFA) ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING ACT SCIENCE ADVISORY
PANEL**

California Department of Food and
Agriculture Main Auditorium
1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
October 18, 2018

MEETING MINUTES

Panel Members in Attendance

Jocelyn Bridson, MSc, Rio Farms, (Chair and Member)
Don Cameron, Terranova Ranch (Member)
Clair Jahns, Natural Resources Agency (Filling in for Member Alvis)
Emily Wimberger, CalEPA, ARB (Member)
Vicky Dawley, Tehama RCD (Member)
Judith Redmond, Full Belly Farm (Member)
Doug Parker, PhD. UC ANR (Subject Matter Expert)
Tom Hedt, USDA NRCS (Subject Matter Expert)
Scott Couch, State Water Resources Control Board (Member)
David Bunn, PhD, Resources Agency, DOC, (Member)
Jeff Dlott, PhD, SureHarvest, (Member)

State Agency Staff and Presenters

Scott Weeks, CDFA
Guihua Chen, PhD, CDFA
Ravneet Behla, PhD, CDFA
Andrew Whitaker, PhD, CDFA
Carolyn Cook, MSc, CDFA
Thea Rittenhouse, CDFA
Geetika Joshi, PhD, CDFA
Amrith Gunasekara, PhD, CDFA
Karen Ross, Secretary, CDFA

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 AM by Chair Bridson. Introductions were made. Present at the meeting were all the members noted above under “Panel Members in Attendance.” CDFA Secretary Karen Ross attended the meeting and was introduced by Chair Bridson. Secretary Ross thanked the panel members for serving on the Science Advisory Panel and helping the California agriculture community in their efforts.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Previous Meeting Minutes

Chair Bridson, introduced the May 24, 2018 and July 19, 2018 meeting minutes. Given the lack of a quorum at the July 19, 2018, meeting, the May 24, 2018 minutes were presented at this meeting for approval. Member Bunn introduced a motion to accept the minutes provided by CDFA staff with Member Wimberger seconding the motion. The motion was approved by all members present and accepted without further changes.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – SWEEP update

Carolyn Cook, MSc, of CDFA provided programmatic updates on the State Water Efficiency Enhancement Program (SWEEP). She noted that CDFA received \$20 million through the Proposition 68 bond for SWEEP and proposed that these funds should be dispersed through two solicitations. Ms. Cook also discussed the tentative timeline for next solicitation. She further updated the panel on the public comments received in July through September 2108 and noted that SWEEP received 11 letters through electronic mail. CDFA provided responses to the comments in a summarized format and these responses were available on the CDFA SWEEP website for public accessibility. Ms. Cook proposed a revised scoring criteria for SWEEP applications to be included in the next solicitation, which was accepted by the panel.

Ms. Cook further updated the panel on the Climate Smart Agriculture Technical Assistance Request for Applications. She noted that CDFA received 28 applications and CDFA staff is evaluating applications for eligibility and qualifications.

Ms. Cook also reviewed new criteria for SWEEP Funding Priority. Several groups and geographies will receive funding priority in the upcoming SWEEP solicitation. This stems from the Proposition 68 bond funding which require consideration of Severely Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and the Famer Equity Act of 2017 which requires CDFA ensure funding access for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers. The panel member discussed the definitions of both criteria and asked for clarification on which groups would receive funding priority. Member Bunn inquired if LGBTQ farmers will receive priority through Socially Disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. Thea Rittenhouse of CDFA responded that there is no such provision in the Farm Equity Act. Member Dawley suggested that CDFA should create multilingual training videos for technical assistance providers.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – SWEEP Application Platform

Scott Weeks of CDFA provided a demonstration of the new application portal for SWEEP. He noted that the new application portal has the ability for one account holder to submit multiple applications which could be useful to technical assistance providers. The application process is streamlined through the elimination of multiple tabs and through the provision of active links for required information. Chair Bridson asked if the portal has the ability to send reminders to the applicants. Mr. Weeks responded that the portal has such ability. Dr. Parker asked if he portal allows the applicants to save the applications before submission and complete the application at later time. Mr. Weeks

responded that incomplete applications can be saved and could be completed at a later date.

Chair Bridson accommodated questions and comments from the public on SWEEP. One member of the public suggested the program should limit the cumulative SWEEP award to \$300,000 per applicant. Another public member sought clarity on the revised scoring criteria. A public member suggested that panel should consider CO2 enrichment as approved SWEEP practice. Dr. Parker suggested that there should a process to review and update the SWEEP-eligible practices. Chair Bridson suggested to add this as an agenda item for January 2019 meeting. Member Dlott supported the suggestion.

Member Cameron introduced a motion to accept all proposed program revisions from CDFA SWEEP staff. Member Couch seconded the motion and all members approved the motion to move forward on the staff recommendations of SWEEP.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Healthy Soils Program Update

Dr. Geetika Joshi of CDFA provided updates on the Healthy Soils Program (HSP). She noted that \$10 million were made available through Proposition 68 bond funding and an additional \$5 million were appropriated through Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (California Climate Investment Program). These funds will be dispersed through one solicitation. Dr. Joshi proposed a tentative timeline for HSP. She noted that 32 new practices were suggested by the public. CDFA staff evaluated these practices and categorized these new practices into three groups 1) Recommended for inclusion into 2018 HSP Incentives and Demonstration Projects 2) Recommended for Inclusion in 2018 HSP Demonstration Projects with Research (Type A) and 3) Practices not recommended for inclusion.

Dr. Joshi provided an update on public comments received on the draft HSP Request for Grant Applications. She noted that 21 letters were received between July 25 and September 12, 2018. CDFA has provided responses to the comments in a summarized format and these responses are available on CDFA HSP website. She further provided information on the Climate Smart Agriculture Technical Assistance Request for Applications and noted that 36 applications were received and are being evaluated for eligibility and qualifications. Panel member suggested that CDFA should invest in digital outreach and make technical assistance available on-demand.

The Science Panel received several comments and questions from the public. There were several comments in favor of and in opposition to the proposal of including nitrification inhibitors and slow release fertilizer practices into the HSP incentive program because they did not contribute to soil health and was not consistent with the legislative mandate. CDFA staff commented that the legislative mandate also notes practices that contribute the reduction in greenhouse gases. Members of the panel noted that a legal referral might be appropriate given the confusion and interpretation of the legislative language. A motion was made by Member Wimberger to move nitrification inhibitors and slow release fertilizers to HSP Demonstration Projects (Type A), research/data collection practices. Member Cameron seconded the motion. The

motion was accepted by all panel members.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – HSP Compost Application Ineligible Tool

Benjamin Nicholson of California Air Resources Board presented on a new Compost application ineligibility tool. He noted that per the HSP guidelines, compost application practice is only eligible for soils with organic matter content less than 20 percent. He further demonstrated the use of a map layer which can be used with Google Earth software. Chair Bridson asked about the spatial resolution of the soil map. Mr. Nicholson responded that resolution varies for soil type, for example, forest soils the grid size be bigger than farmlands. Dr. Joshi responded that if applicant thinks that map is inaccurate they may submit a soil test to be eligible for the compost application practice.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – HSP Application Platform

Dr. Guihua Chen of CDFA presented on the newly developed application portal for HSP. She noted that there are two separate web portals developed for HSP Incentive Program and HSP Demonstration Projects. Dr. Chen demonstrated the use of portals.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – Comet-Planner Update

Dr. Adam Chambers of USDA NRCS presented an update on Comet-Planner. He noted that Comet-Planner calculates the baseline, conservation practice impact and thus calculates the GHG reduction. He further noted the compost application has been included in the Comet-Planner.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – AB 2377 Technical Assistance Requirements

Dr. Amrith Gunasekara of CDFA presented on newly signed Assembly Bill 2377. Dr. Gunasekara noted that AB 2377 requires CDFA to establish a technical assistance grant program to provide funds to technical assistance providers for the Healthy Soils Program, Alternative Manure Management Program and State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program. He further noted that the new law requires a minimum 5% of the funds appropriated to these programs will be made available for technical assistance and maximum of up to \$5 million. CDFA will establish criteria and guidelines for technical assistance providers to qualify for these grants. Dr. Gunasekara further noted that CDFA will start developing guidelines and present to EFA-Science Advisory Panel more information on the new bill at the January 2019 meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 10 – Public Comments

Chair Bridson opened meeting for public comments. No additional public comments are made.

AGENDA ITEM 11 – Next Meeting and Location

Dr. Gunasekara stated that the next meeting will be on January 17, 2019, to cover HSP, SWEEP updates and programmatic technical assistance development of AB 2377 requirements. The location is not yet determined. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM by Chair Bridson.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amrith Gunasekara, Ph.D.
Liaison to Science Advisory Panel



State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program

UPDATE ON ONGOING APPLICATION PERIOD

Proposition 68

On June 5, 2018 California voters approved Proposition 68

\$4 Billion in bond funding was authorized for environmental protection project, water infrastructure, and flood protection

CDFA's SWEEP program received \$20 million

We began accepting applications on December 28, 2018. Applications will be due by 5 PM on March 8, 2019.



SWEEP Webpage Preview

CDFA Home > Office of Environmental Farming & Innovation > State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program

STATE WATER EFFICIENCY & ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) provides financial assistance in the form of grants to implement irrigation systems that reduce greenhouse gases and save water on California agricultural operations. Eligible system components include (among others) soil moisture monitoring, drip systems, switching to low pressure irrigation systems, pump retrofits, variable frequency drives and installation of renewable energy to reduce on-farm water use and energy.

Solicitation Documents

SWEEP is Now Accepting Applications! Applications are Due March 8th 2019 by 5 pm PST.

- [Click Here to APPLY](#)
- [Request for Grant Applications](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Flyer \(English\) | \(Spanish\) | \(Portuguese\) | \(Punjabi\) | \(Hmong\)](#)

| ITEM | TIMEFRAME |
|--|-------------------|
| Notification of funding (solicitation release) | December 28, 2018 |
| Grant Applications Due | March 8, 2019 |
| Review Process | March – June 2019 |
| Announce and Award Funding* | June 2019 |
| * Subject to change. | |

EMAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS

[Sign up for Email Notifications](#)

PROGRAM STATUS

OPEN
The SWEEP Program is currently accepting applications

RESOURCES

[Budget Worksheet](#)

[SWEEP Irrigation Water Savings Assessment Tool](#)

[GHG Calculator Tool](#)

[GHG Quantification Methodology](#)

[Critically Overdrafted Groundwater Basins](#)

[Irrigation Training Resources](#)

[Community Fact Finder](#)

SWEEP VIDEOS



CDFA Workshop Locations and Venues

CDFA will be conducting three informational workshops. Interested individuals may attend in person or register to the webinar.

| DATE AND TIME | LOCATION | WEBINAR LINK |
|------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 1/9/19 1-3 pm | CDFA Headquarters 1220 N St. Sacramento CA 95814 | Register here |
| 1/10/19 9 -11 am | Fresno County Farm Bureau 1274 W. Hedges Ave. Fresno Ca 93728 | Register here |
| 1/15/19 3-5 pm | Dorris City Hall 307 S. Main Street Dorris, CA 96023 | Register here |

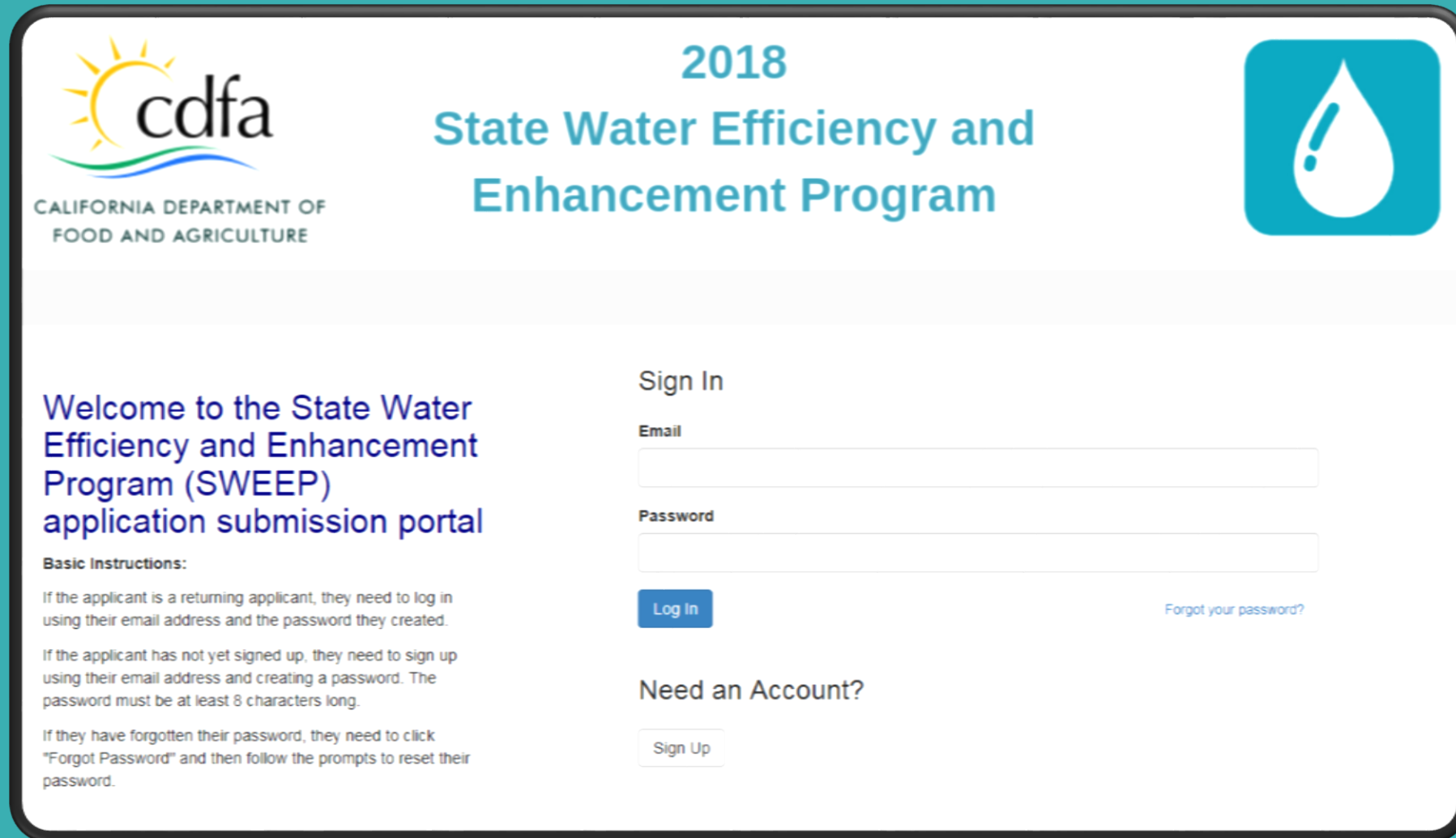
Technical Assistance Provider Information

CDFA has contracted with technical assistance providers to assist individuals interested in applying for SWEEP. Some providers will conduct regional workshops. Contact a provider in your area for more information.



- [List of Technical Assistance Providers \(PDF\)](#)

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/>

Portal is Now Accepting Applications



The screenshot shows the user interface of the 2018 State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET) application submission portal. At the top left is the logo for the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), featuring a stylized sun and waves. To the right of the logo, the text reads "2018 State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program". Further right is a blue square icon containing a white water droplet. Below the header, the main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a welcome message: "Welcome to the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET) application submission portal". Below this is a section titled "Basic Instructions:" which provides three paragraphs of text: "If the applicant is a returning applicant, they need to log in using their email address and the password they created.", "If the applicant has not yet signed up, they need to sign up using their email address and creating a password. The password must be at least 8 characters long.", and "If they have forgotten their password, they need to click 'Forgot Password' and then follow the prompts to reset their password." The right column contains a "Sign In" section with two input fields labeled "Email" and "Password", a blue "Log In" button, and a link for "Forgot your password?". Below the "Sign In" section is a "Need an Account?" section with a "Sign Up" button.

 **2018** 

State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program

California Department of Food and Agriculture

Welcome to the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET) application submission portal

Basic Instructions:

If the applicant is a returning applicant, they need to log in using their email address and the password they created.

If the applicant has not yet signed up, they need to sign up using their email address and creating a password. The password must be at least 8 characters long.

If they have forgotten their password, they need to click "Forgot Password" and then follow the prompts to reset their password.

Sign In

Email

Password

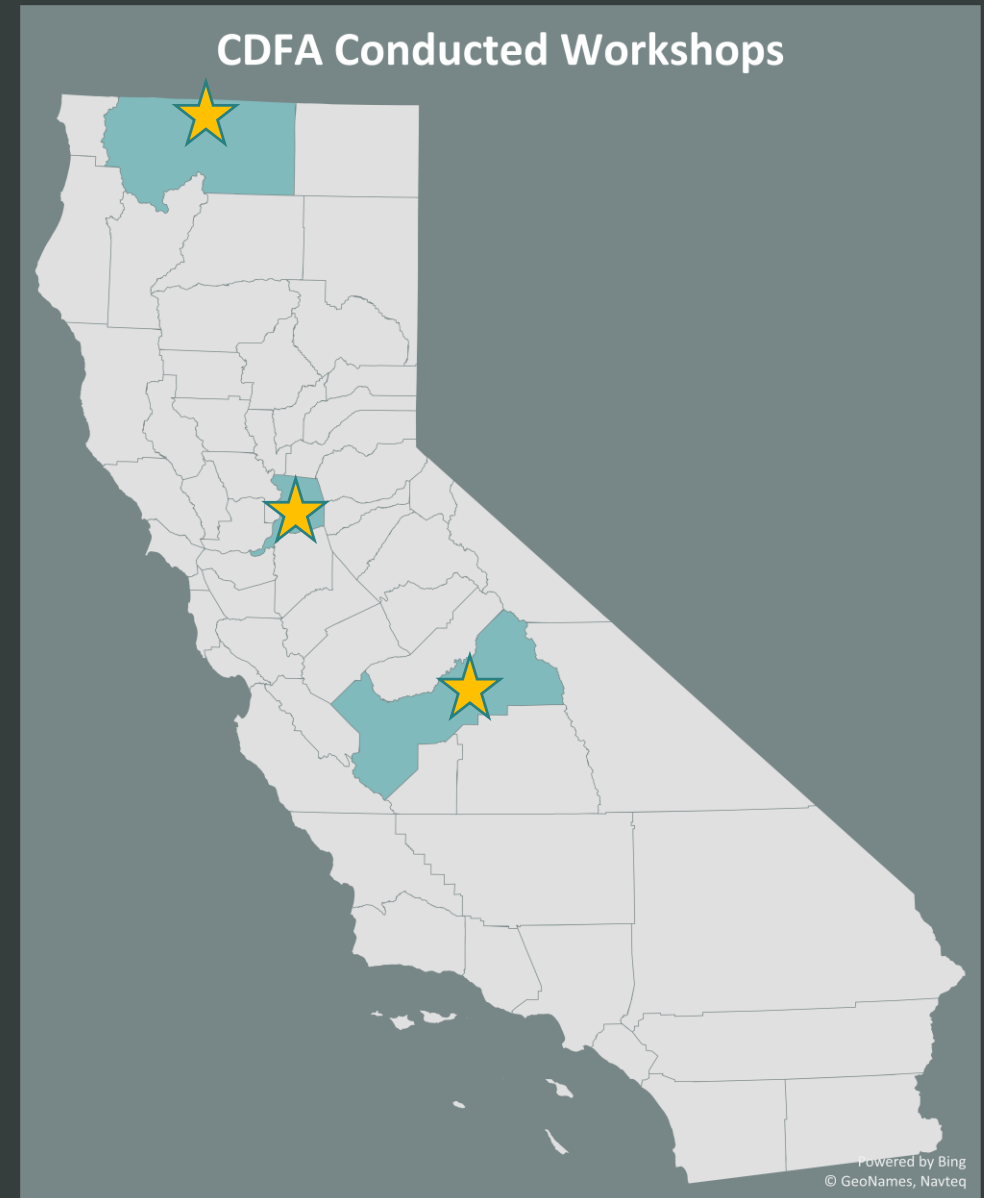
Log In [Forgot your password?](#)

Need an Account?

Sign Up

CDFA's Technical Workshops

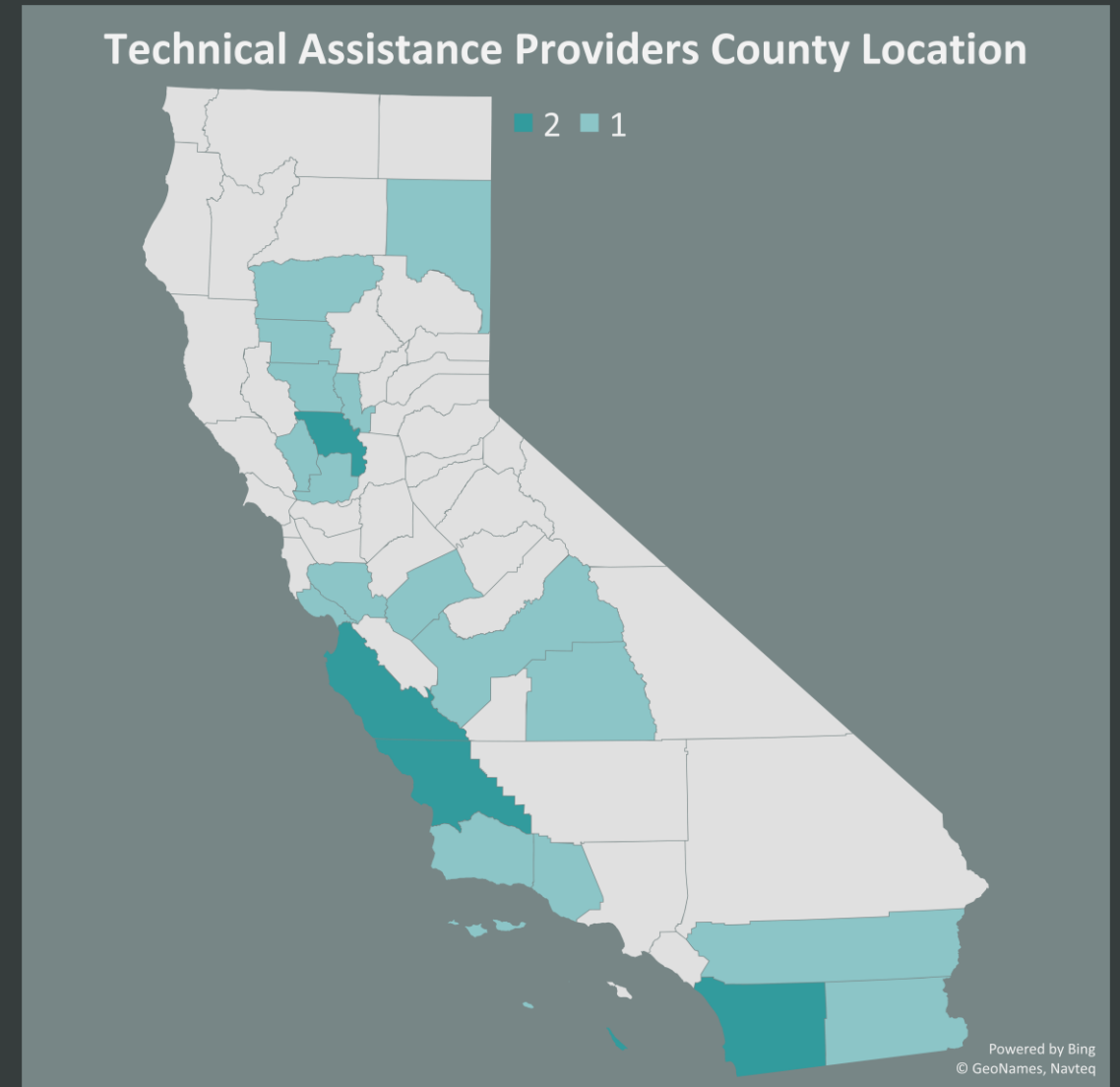
- CDFA conducted three technical workshops
 - January 9th in Sacramento
 - January 10th in Fresno
 - January 15th in Dorris
- All workshops also allowed for webinar participation
 - A recording will be put on the website



Technical Assistance Providers

- 27 Technical Assistance Providers for SWEEP
- Each will provide one on one assistance
- Some providers will hold workshops
- Information is updated on our website
- 7 Additional Technical Assistance Providers have been awarded

[List of Technical Assistance Providers \(PDF\)](#)



Estimated Timeline for Bond-Funded SWEEP Solicitation

| Item | Timeframe |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Solicitation Release | December 28 th 2018 |
| Grant Applications Due | March 8 th , 2019 |
| Review Process | March – June 2019 |
| Announce and Award Funding* | June 2019 |
| Project Start Date | September 1 st 2019 |
| *Subject to change | |





Thank you!



SWEEP TEAM

CAROLYN COOK

Senior Environmental Scientist, Supervisor

SCOTT WEEKS

Environmental Scientist

RAVNEET BEHLA

Senior Environmental Scientist, Specialist

CDFA HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM

Geetika Joshi, Ph.D.

Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor, HSP

Environmental Farming Act – Science Advisory Panel Meeting

January 17, 2019

Sacramento, CA



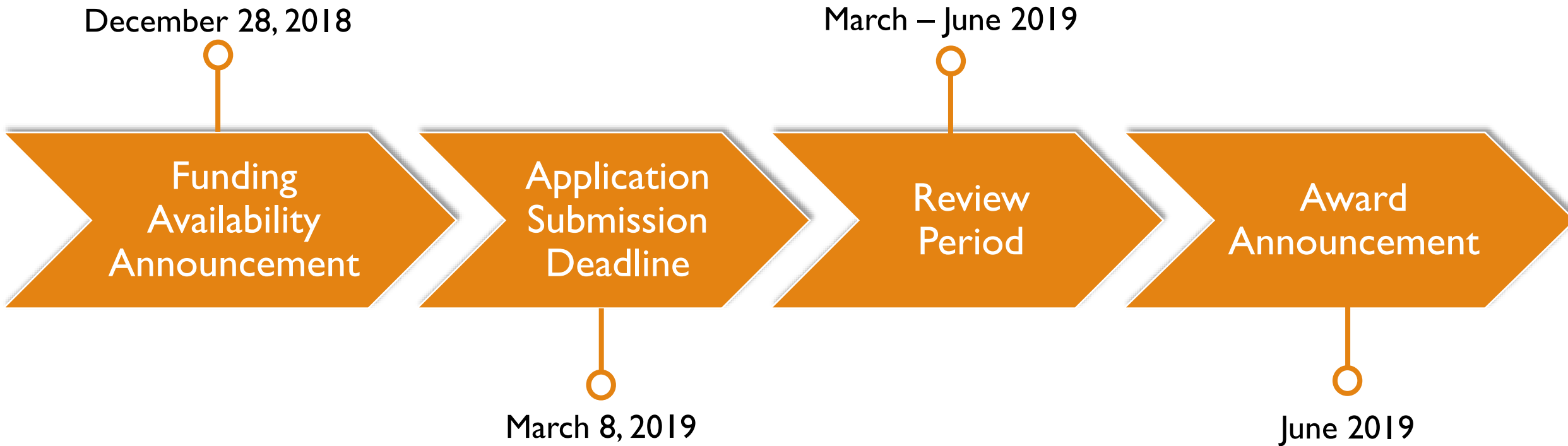
Outline

- HSP: Updates
- Program Timeline 2018-19
- Workshop Schedule
- Walkthrough of Programmatic Information

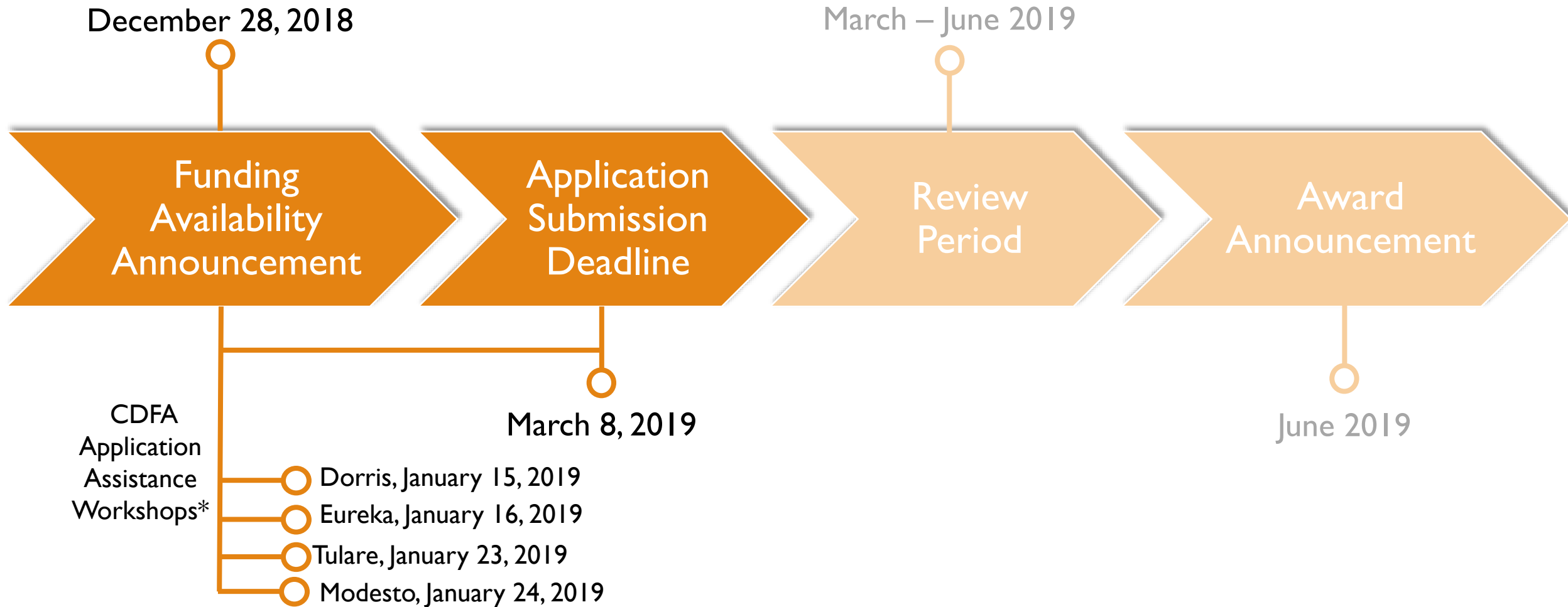
HSP Updates

- Funding sources:
 - Budget Act of 2018 - \$10 Million through Proposition 68 (California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018).
 - Budget Act of 2018 (SB 856) - \$5 Million through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)
- Request for Grant Applications released on December 28, 2018.

Program Timeline 2018-19



Workshop Schedule



*Additional workshops provided by Technical Assistance Providers for HSP Incentives Program Applicants

Programmatic Information

- HSP Incentives Program

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/IncentivesProgram.html>

- HSP Demonstration Projects

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/DemonstrationProjects.html>

Program Contacts

Guihua Chen, Ph.D.

Senior Environmental Scientist | Guihua.Chen@cdfa.ca.gov

Andrew Whitaker, Ph.D.

Environmental Scientist | Andrew.Whitaker@cdfa.ca.gov

Geetika Joshi, Ph.D.

Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory) | Geetika.Joshi@cdfa.ca.gov

Amrith Gunasekara, Ph.D.

Science Advisor to CDFa Secretary

Manager, Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation

Amrith.Gunasekara@cdfa.ca.gov



CDFA ALTERNATIVE MANURE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (AMMP)



Geetika Joshi, Ph.D.

Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor, AMMP

Environmental Farming Act – Science Advisory Panel Meeting

January 17, 2019

Sacramento, CA

Outline

- Background – Methane Emissions in California
- AMMP Funding
- Eligibility and Program Requirements
- Funded Projects
- Technical Assistance
- Upcoming Funding – 2019 AMMP

Background – Methane Emissions in California

- Methane is a short-lived climate pollutant:
 - Global Warming Potential (GWP) 80 over 20-year time-frame.
 - GWP 25 over 100-year timeframe.
- In California, methane emissions account for 9.07% of total GHG emissions. Of this share, approximately 55% can be attributed to dairy and livestock manure management and enteric fermentation.
- SB 1383 (2016, Lara) requires methane reductions 40 percent below the dairy and livestock sectors' 2013 levels by 2030, including adoption of regulations in or after 2024 to achieve these reductions.

AMMP Funding

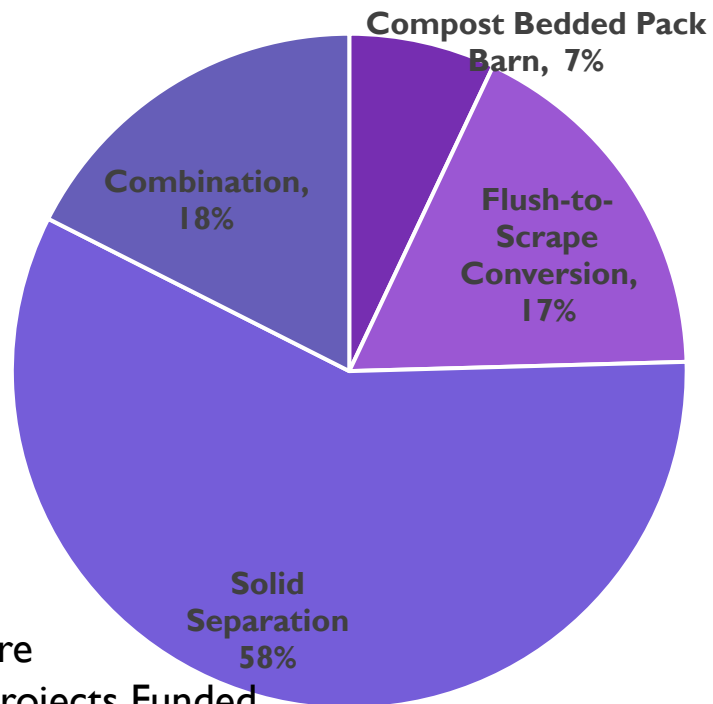
- Program established in 2016-17 to provide financial assistance for the implementation of non-digester manure management practices in California to reduce methane emissions.
- Funding allocation for dairy methane reduction:
 - 2016-17: \$50 million; \$9.9 million awarded to AMMP projects.
 - 2017-18: \$99 million, \$21.3 million awarded to AMMP projects.
 - Remainder funds awarded to dairy digester projects through the DDRDP.
 - 2018-19: \$99 million; awards not announced.
- Funding allocation between DDRDP and AMMP is based on GHG reduction potential of digesters and alternative manure management practices:
 - 65%-80% of the funds to DDRDP.
 - 20-35% of the funds to AMMP.

Eligibility and Program Requirements

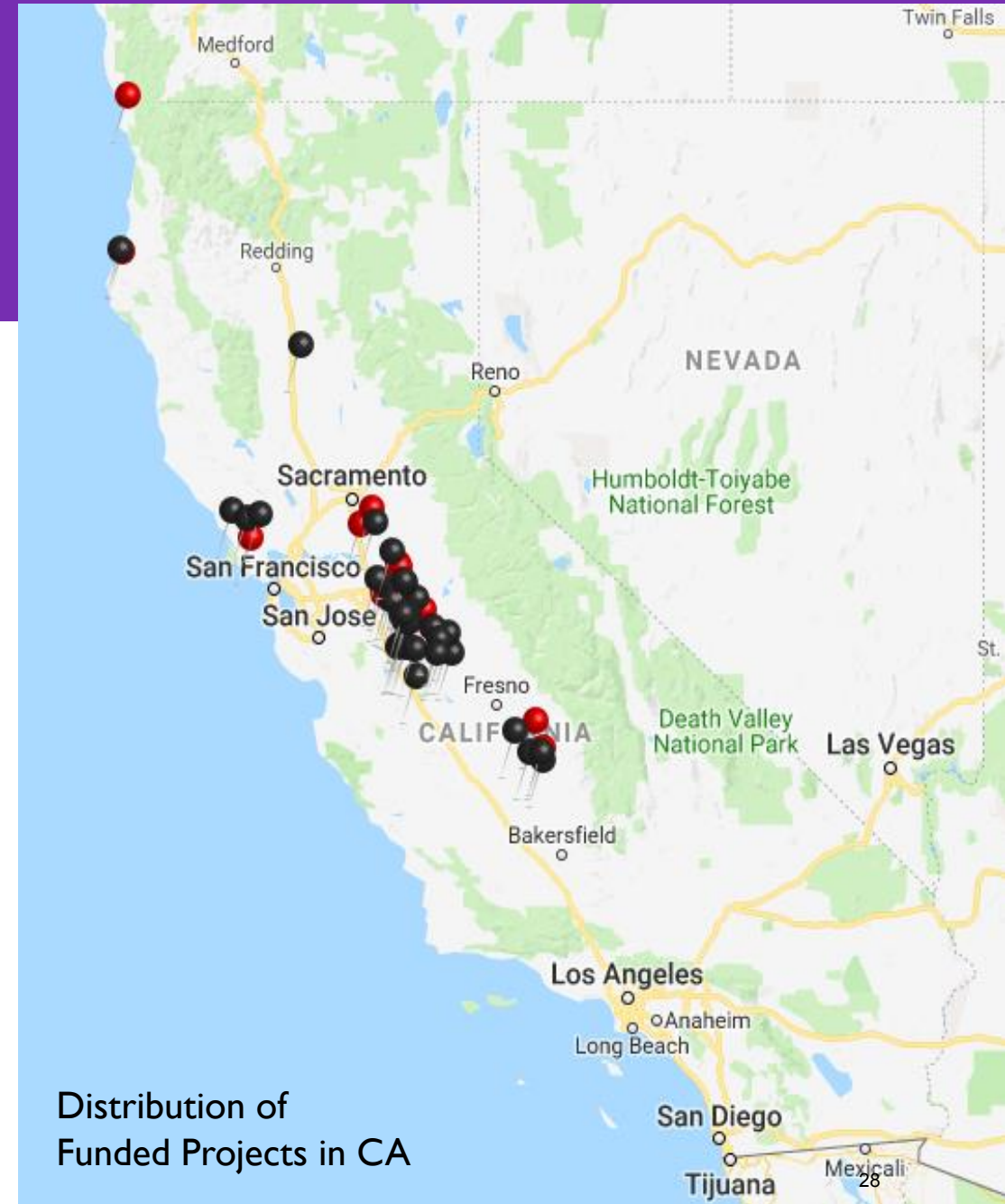
- California dairy and livestock operations.
- Maximum grant amount up to \$750,000.
- Existing manure management at operation must include the anaerobic decomposition of volatile solids stored in a lagoon or other predominantly liquid anaerobic environment.
- Eligible Practices:
 1. Pasture-based management.
 2. Alternative practices including: a) Installation of a compost bedded pack barn that composts manure *in situ*; or b) Installation of slatted floor pit storage manure collection that must be cleaned out at least monthly.
 3. Solid separation of manure solids prior to entry into a wet/anaerobic environment (e.g. lagoon, settling pond, settling basin) at a dairy or livestock operation in conjunction with drying or composting of the solids.
 4. Conversion from a flush to scrape manure collection system in conjunction with drying or composting of the solids.

Funded Projects

- 2016-18: \$31.2 million awarded to 57 projects; \$4.8 million in matching funds.
- Total annual GHG reductions: 142,276 MTCO₂e.



Types of Manure Management Projects Funded



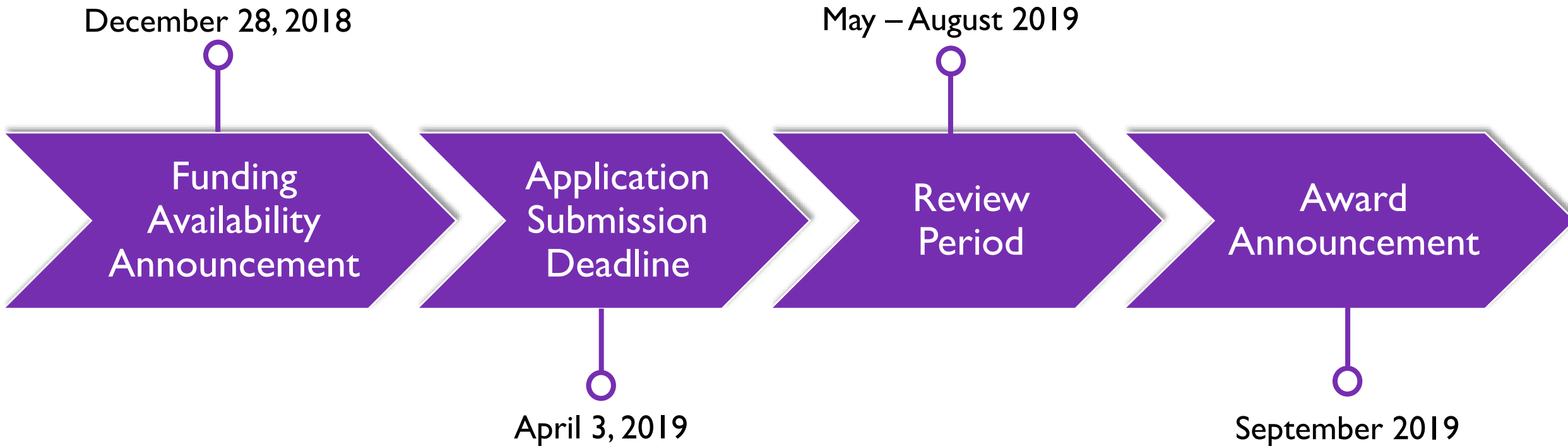
Technical Assistance

- Technical assistance providers include University Cooperative Extension, Resource Conservation Districts and non-profit organizations.
- 2016-17: \$52,000 awarded, 23 workshops
- 2017-18: \$61,500 awarded, 15 workshops
- 2018-19: \$210,00 awarded, workshops and one-on-one assistance ongoing.



Martins Farm flush-to-scrape conversion using a vacuum truck and composting

Upcoming Funding – 2019 AMMP



2019 AMMP includes up to \$2 million in funding for Demonstration Projects showcasing new and innovative manure management strategies, and, farmer-to-farmer outreach and education.

Program Contacts

Nilan Watmore

Environmental Scientist | Nilan.Watmore@cdfa.ca.gov

Ravneet Behla, Ph.D.

Senior Environmental Scientist | Ravneet.Behla@cdfa.ca.gov

Geetika Joshi, Ph.D.

Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory) | Geetika.Joshi@cdfa.ca.gov

Amrith Gunasekara, Ph.D.

Science Advisor to CDFA Secretary

Manager, Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation

Amrith.Gunasekara@cdfa.ca.gov



AB 2377 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS

Amrith Gunasekara, Ph.D.

Manager, Office of Environmental Farming & Innovation

Environmental Farming Act – Science Advisory Panel Meeting

January 17, 2019

Sacramento, CA



Outline

- Process for Implementation
- Timeline
- AB 2377 Requirements
- Next Steps

Program Timeline 2019

January 17,
2019



April 18, 2019



July 18, 2019

- Process for Implementation (this presentation)
- AB 2377 Requirements Presentation
- Timeline
- Technical Assistance Panel Discussion

- Draft RFP
- Overview Presentation at EFA-SAP meeting
- 30 day Public Comment of RFP following this EFA-SAP meeting

- Finalize RFP after consideration of public comments
- Overview Presentation at EFA-SAP meeting
- EFA SAP vote to move forward on RFP with recommendation to Secretary or request additional changes from staff for final consideration at next EFA SAP meeting

Process for Implementation

Process

- January 17, 2019 – Notice of official public engagement process using the Environmental Farming Act-Science Advisory Panel Meeting
 - One meeting to update EFA-SAP on process, timeline and requirements of SB 2377
 - Draft Technical Assistance RFP (January-April)
- April 18, 2019 – Draft materials presented at EFA-SAP meeting
 - One meeting to present draft RFP and overview presentation (April 18, 2019)
 - Release draft RFP for 30 day public comment (April-May)
 - One meeting to present draft RFP with public comment included (July 18, 2019 EFA SAP)
 - Opportunities for additional public comment period (if needed)
- July-August, 2019 – Finalize RFP and have ready for release if additional funds are allocated in 2019 for AMMP, HSP and SWEEP incentive programs

AB 2377 Requirements

AB 2377 Requirements

- Establish a technical assistance (TA) grant program to provide funds to technical assistance providers to Healthy Soils Program (HSP), Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP) and State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP).
- Total funding: Minimum 5% of the funds appropriated to the programs will be made available for technical assistance, up to a maximum of \$5 million.
- Grant award amount: minimum \$10,000 and up to \$100,000 annually for no more than 3 years, for a total grant of no more than \$300,000 per TA provider.
- TA to be prioritized for farms and ranches 500 acres or less.

AB 2377 Requirements

- TA activities to include outreach, education, project planning, project design, grant application assistance, project implementation or project reporting assistance.
- TA providers to include resource conservation districts (RCDs), University and non-profit organizations with demonstrated technical expertise in designing and implementing agricultural management practices.
- Annual information sharing between CDFA, TA providers and other stakeholders.

AB 2377 Requirements

- CDFA to:
 - Establish criteria and guidelines for TA providers to qualify to receive grants. Applications to include a work plan identifying activities undertaken, estimated number of farmers and ranchers to be served and statement of qualifications of staff/project partners.
 - Ensure at least 25% of the funds are used to provide TA to socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.
 - Review applications and recommend grant awardees to Secretary.
 - Allow direct project costs and a percentage of overhead expenses as part of the grant.
 - Consult with Environmental Farming Act – Science Advisory Panel (EFA-SAP) on program design, guidelines and outreach.
 - Provide update to the EFA-SAP on the grant program on or before January 31, 2021.

Thank you...

Amrith Gunasekara, Ph.D.

Science Advisor to CDFA Secretary

Manager, Office of Environmental Farming and
Innovation

Amrith.Gunasekara@cdfa.ca.gov

SWEEP: Carolyn Cook

Carolyn.Cook@cdfa.ca.gov

AMMP and HSP: Geetika Joshi

Geetika.Joshi@cdfa.ca.gov



Assembly Bill No. 2377

CHAPTER 868

An act to add Section 570 to the Food and Agricultural Code, relating to agriculture.

[Approved by Governor September 28, 2018. Filed with
Secretary of State September 28, 2018.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2377, Irwin. Agriculture: Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995: technical assistance grant program.

Existing law, the Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995, requires the Department of Food and Agriculture to establish and oversee an environmental farming program to provide incentives to farmers whose practices promote the well-being of ecosystems, air quality, and wildlife and their habitat. The act requires the Secretary of Food and Agriculture to convene the Scientific Advisory Panel on Environmental Farming, as prescribed, for the purpose of providing advice to the secretary on the implementation of the Healthy Soils Program and the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program and assistance to federal, state, and local government agencies on issues relating to the impact of agricultural practices on air, water, and wildlife habitat, as specified. Existing law requires the department, in consultation with the panel, to establish and oversee a Healthy Soils Program to seek to optimize climate benefits while supporting the economic viability of California agriculture by providing incentives, including, but not limited to, loans, grants, research, and technical assistance, and educational materials and outreach, to farmers whose management practices contribute to healthy soils and result in net long-term on-farm greenhouse gas benefits.

This bill would require the department to establish a technical assistance grant program to provide funds to technical assistance providers, as defined, to provide assistance to Healthy Soils Program, alternative manure management practices programs, and State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program applicants. The bill would require the secretary to make available to the grant program not less than 5% of the funds appropriated to the department for those programs, but not more than \$5,000,000, for the purposes of providing technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who apply for grants from those programs, prioritizing that technical assistance to farms and ranches that are 500 acres or less, and supporting annual information sharing among technical assistance providers, the department, and other relevant stakeholders for the continuous improvement of programmatic guidelines, application processes, and relevant climate change and agricultural research. The bill would require the

department, on or before January 31, 2021, to provide an update to the panel on the grant program.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(1) California's 77,000 farms and ranches are uniquely vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including rising temperatures, increased occurrences of extreme weather events, constrained water resources, new pest and disease pressures, reduced winter chilling hours, and rising sea levels.

(2) As described in the state's 2017 update of the scoping plan prepared pursuant to Section 38561 of the Health and Safety Code, the state's farms and ranches are also uniquely positioned to mitigate climate change by reducing potent greenhouse gas emissions, increasing carbon storage in agricultural lands, saving water and energy, and producing on-farm and on-ranch renewable energy.

(3) Many of agriculture's climate change mitigation strategies provide numerous agronomic, environmental, and public health benefits, including increased water retention in soils, groundwater recharge, and energy and water savings, improved crop and forage yields, improved air and water quality, and enhanced wildlife habitat.

(4) California's climate smart agriculture programs provide important financial resources to encourage farmers and ranchers to adopt farm and ranch management practices that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon sequestration, and help the state meet its 2030 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target. It is in the interest of the state that these resources be used as effectively as possible to maximize the programs' benefits to farmers, ranchers, and the state.

(5) Improved delivery of technical assistance to farmers and ranchers, including during project design, the grant application process, and project implementation, will allow for a greater number of farmers and ranchers to successfully participate in climate smart agriculture programs. Increased technical assistance for farmers and ranchers will also improve project implementation and increase the overall impact of climate smart agriculture programs.

(6) Small and moderately scaled farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and women farmers and ranchers, who may not have ready access to technical assistance, are especially in need of greater support to increase their participation in climate smart agriculture programs.

(7) Because agriculture is a management intensive business that requires ongoing knowledge transfer, California has developed public and private technical assistance programs for farmers and ranchers, including local resource conservation districts, the University of California Cooperative

Extension, and nonprofit organizations, to improve agriculture and resource conservation.

(8) These technical service providers can work with farmers and ranchers on climate change and agriculture issues to identify appropriate projects, determine project feasibility, design projects, and assist in project application and implementation.

(9) The Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture is an important partner in the state's efforts to promote climate smart agriculture. By coordinating efforts with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the state can more effectively and efficiently reach California's diverse farm and ranch communities.

(10) To ensure state funds expended to further California's greenhouse gas reduction goals are used as effectively as possible and for projects that are properly designed and implemented, it is vital that adequate technical assistance be provided to farmers and ranchers through climate smart agriculture programs and that qualified technical assistance be available for the design and implementation of those projects.

(11) It is in the interest of the state to improve the effectiveness of multiyear climate smart agriculture projects by ensuring that consistent and stable technical assistance is available throughout the life of those projects.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enhance the long-term viability of California agriculture by making technical assistance an integral component of California's climate smart agriculture programs, which will increase participation by the state's farmers and ranchers and improve project implementation, thereby increasing the climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits of climate smart agriculture programs.

SEC. 2. Section 570 is added to the Food and Agricultural Code, to read:

570. (a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Grant program" means the technical assistance grant program established pursuant to subdivision (c).

(2) "Programs" means the Healthy Soils Program established pursuant to Section 569, alternative manure management practices programs, and the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program established by the department from moneys made available pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Statutes of 2014.

(3) "Technical assistance" means outreach, education, project planning, project design, grant application assistance, project implementation, or project reporting assistance provided to a farmer or rancher to improve his or her successful participation in the programs.

(4) "Technical assistance providers" means resource conservation districts, the University of California Cooperative Extension, and nonprofit organizations, with demonstrated technical expertise in designing and implementing agricultural management practices to achieve the purposes identified in subdivision (b).

(b) The secretary shall make available not less than 5 percent of the funds appropriated to the department for the programs, but not more than five

million dollars (\$5,000,000), to the grant program established pursuant to subdivision (c) for both of the following purposes:

(1) Providing technical assistance, pursuant to subdivision (c), to farmers and ranchers who apply for grants from the programs, prioritizing that technical assistance to farms and ranches that are 500 acres or less.

(2) Supporting annual information sharing among technical assistance providers, the department, and other relevant stakeholders for the continuous improvement of programmatic guidelines, application processes, and relevant climate change and agricultural research.

(c) The department shall establish a technical assistance grant program to provide funds to technical assistance providers to provide assistance to program applicants, including, but not limited to, conducting initial program outreach to farmers and ranchers, and assisting farmers and ranchers to submit grant applications under the programs to the department and with project design, development, and implementation. The grant program shall do all of the following:

(1) Establish criteria and guidelines for technical assistance providers to qualify to receive grants to provide technical assistance. The criteria and guidelines shall require technical assistance providers to demonstrate expertise in working with California farmers and ranchers on projects relevant to one or more of the purposes identified in subdivision (b). The department shall coordinate grant program guideline development and outreach with the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

(2) Establish a process for technical assistance providers to apply to the department to receive grants to provide technical assistance. Grant applications shall include, at minimum, a work plan that identifies which of the purposes identified in subdivision (b) will be targeted by the technical assistance provider, specific activities that will be undertaken to maximize farmer and rancher program participation and project success, an estimate of the number of farmers and ranchers to be served by the technical assistance provider, and a statement of qualifications of its relevant staff and project partners.

(3) Ensure at least 25 percent of the grant program funds are used to provide technical assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, as defined in Section 512.

(4) Review grant program applications from technical assistance providers and recommend grant awardees to the secretary.

(5) Allow direct project costs and a percentage of overhead expenses, to be determined by the secretary, to be funded as part of the grant awards.

(6) Consult with the Scientific Advisory Panel on Environmental Farming on grant program design, guidelines, and outreach for the technical assistance to improve coordination and information sharing on technical assistance strategies and activities for the department's programs.

(d) The department shall provide an update to the Scientific Advisory Panel on Environmental Farming on or before January 31, 2021, on the

grant program, including grant program outcomes, ongoing technical assistance needs for the programs, and future plans for the grant program.

(e) The secretary shall award grants to technical assistance providers of no less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) annually for no more than three years, for a total grant of not more than three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) per technical assistance provider. A technical assistance provider that demonstrates on its application that the majority of the persons it provides technical assistance to are socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers shall receive priority consideration for additional grant program funding to cover translation services, the production of outreach materials, and additional outreach-related expenses.