WELCOME

Order of Presentations:

2016 State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Solicitation Process

Grant Application Questions

Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST) Demonstration

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Office of Grants Administration

2016 State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (Round 1)

Solicitation Process

2016 Request for Grant Applications

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- Project Types
- Program Requirements
- Technical Assistance
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About the Program

- A competitive grant application process conducted by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).
- Funded through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund referred to as the “California Climate Investment” program.
- Purpose is to provide financial incentives for California agriculture operations to invest in irrigation systems that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and save water.

*Projects **must** reduce GHG emissions **and** save water*

Changes to the Program for 2016 Round 1

- Climate Change Investment Program Requirements
- Maximum Grant Award and Funding Cap
- Project Duration
- Previously funded SWEEP Projects
- Additional Considerations

Funding and Duration

- 2016 SWEEP Round 1 will disperse up to **$16 million** to California agricultural operations investing in irrigation systems that reduce GHG emissions and save water.
- Project Grant Amount:
  $200,000 maximum grant award *(no minimum grant award)*
- Project Duration:
  Between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017 *(no exceptions)*

Grant funds cannot be expended before April 1, 2016 or after March 31, 2017

Eligibility and Exclusions

- Installation must be on a California agricultural operation.
  - A row, vineyard, field and tree crops, commercial nurseries, nursery stock production and greenhouse operations
- Projects **must** reduce GHG emissions **and** save water
- Supporting documentation related to on-farm water and energy use must be provided to be eligible for funding.
- SWEEP funding cannot be combined with EQIP.

Solicitation Timeline

Invitation to submit Grant Applications	**November 20, 2015 5:00 p.m. PST**
Application Workshops & Webinar	December 1 – 10, 2015
Grant Applications Due	January 8, 2016 5:00 p.m. PST
Announce and Award Funding	March 2016

CDFA will advise all applicants as to the outcome of the application review process.

Project Types

- **Water Conservation Priorities**
  - Weather, Soil or Plant based sensors for irrigation scheduling:

    Examples include soil moisture or plant sensors (NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 449) with electronic data output or electronic weather station linked to irrigation controller, for growers to ensure efficient irrigation scheduling. Use of ET based irrigation scheduling, such as the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) on existing or proposed projects to optimize water efficiency for crops. Telemetry components that allow the electronic communication between technology devices are eligible

  - Micro-Irrigation or Drip Systems:

    Use of micro-irrigation or drip systems, including sub-surface drip systems. Should follow NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 441.

Project Types

- **Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Priorities**
  - Fuel Conversion:
    The conversion of a fossil fuel pumps to solar, wind, electric, or natural gas resulting in a reduction of GHG emissions. Renewable energy, including solar, installations that power irrigation systems are eligible.
  - Improved Energy Efficiency:
    Examples include retrofitting or replacing pumps. NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 372 may apply.
  - Low Pressure Systems:
    Use of low pressure irrigation systems to reduce pumping and energy use. For example, the conversion of a high pressure sprinkler system to a low pressure micro-irrigation system or lower pressure sprinkler system. Should follow NRCS Conservation Practice Standards 441 or 442.

Project Types

- **Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Priorities**
  - Variable Frequency Drives:

    Use of Variable Frequency Drives to reduce energy use and match pump flow to load requirements. Should follow NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 533.

  - Reduced Pumping:

    For example, improved irrigation scheduling may lead to reduced pump operation times.

Project Types

- **Other Management Practices**
  - Innovative projects that do not fit into the project type categories listed under water conservation or greenhouse gas emission reduction priorities.
  - Must be able to calculate water savings and quantify GHG reductions using the Air Resources Board (ARB) – approved methodology.

Program Requirements

- Only submit one application using a unique tax identification number.
  - Must use legal business name
- Cannot build upon a previously funded 2015 project affecting the same Assessor's Parcel Number(s).
- Must include flow meters or demonstrate actual water use will be ***measured*** with existing flow meters.

Program Requirements

- Must use the ARB-approved GHG quantification methodology and GHG calculator tool.
  - GHG Calculator Tool is intended to assist applicants in determining estimated GHG reductions from proposed projects.

The ARB-approved GHG quantification methodology is available at:
http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/auctionproceeds/draftsweepqm.pdf

Program Requirements

- SWEEP grant funds ***cannot*** be used to:
  - Expand existing agriculture operations
  - Install new groundwater wells or increase well depth
  - Test new technology or perform research
- If awarded, Recipients are expected to use and maintain their system for a minimum of 10 years, to the extent feasible, or according to the USDA, NRCS Practice Lifespan Table.

Technical Assistance

CDFA strongly encourages applicants to obtain assistance from a professional irrigation specialists to develop applications.

- Technical assistance resources to consider:
  - Local Resource Conservation Districts
    www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/RCD/Pages/CaliforniaRCDs.aspx
  - USDA, NRCS Technical Service Providers
    http://techreg.sc.egov.usda.gov/CustLocateTSP.aspx

How to Apply

- Partnership with State Water Resources Control Board to host web-based application submission process
- Online application form: FAAST
- User account needed

Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST):
https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov

Required Attachments

1. Project Design
2. Budget Worksheet
3. Baseline Water Use Documentation
4. Baseline GHG Emission Documentation
5. Completed GHG Calculator Tool

Required Attachments

1. Project Design

- Project designs should:
  - Identify the crop(s) and water distribution uniformity value of the irrigation system.
  - Include flow meters or demonstrate actual water use will be measured with existing flow meters.
  - Include a detailed schematic and locations of the where that infrastructure will be installed on the field.
  - Include a schematic illustrating where the improvements will be made to the existing infrastructure.
  - Show water deliveries can be made on a consistent basis to accommodate that scheduling.

Projects not installing equipment must submit a narrative describing project, including agronomic information.

Required Attachments

2. Budget Worksheet

- Itemize all allowable costs related to project.
- Must be consistent with project design.
- Use the USDA, NRCS Payment schedules as a guide, to the extent feasible, to determine reasonable costs.

See Appendix D in the Request for Grant Applications for the USDA, NRCS Payment Schedules

Required Attachments

2. Budget Worksheet

2016 SWEEP Round I Budget Worksheet

Instructions: Provide a clear and detailed accounting of project costs necessary to complete the proposed project. Project costs must be itemized into budget categories, including supplies, equipment, and labor. The items listed in these categories will be the total SWEEP grant funds requested for the proposed project. The total grant request amount may not exceed $200,000. *Matching funds can include cash and/or in-kind contributions. Cash contributions are the amount of funds that will be contributed by the applicant to this project. In-kind contributions include contributions by the applicant in the form of supplies, equipment, and labor involved with project installation. For matching funds, provide a brief description of the types of costs, including the quantity, activity, or service needed to complete the project. As needed, add rows to the table below.

Applicant/Agriculture Operation:									
PIN:									
Total Grant Request:	$0								
SUPPLIES: *Items with an acquisition cost under $5,000 per unit and a useful life of less than one year.*	$0	**EQUIPMENT:** *An article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property having a useful life more than one year, and a purchase cost which equals or exceeds $5,000 per unit.*	$0	**LABOR:** *Costs for labor to install the project components.*		$0	***MATCHING FUNDS:** Project costs not borne by the funding source, including cash and/or in-kind contributions.*	$0	$0
Supply Item	**Cost**	**Equipment Item**	**Cost**	**Cost/hour**	**Hours**	**Subtotal**	**Description**	**Cash**	**In-kind**
						$0			
						$0			
						$0			
						$0			
						$0			
						$0			
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						$0			
						$0			

Required Attachments

2. Budget Worksheet

- Allowable costs include:
  - Supplies:

    Supplies are items with an acquisition cost under $5,000 per item/unit and have a useful life of less than one year.

  - Equipment:

    Equipment is an article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property and has a useful life of more than one year, and a purchase cost which equals or exceeds $5,000 per item/unit.

  - Labor:

    Costs for labor to install the project components should be reasonable and consistent with rates in the marketplace for the same or similar services.

Required Attachments

2. Budget Worksheet

- Unallowable costs, include, but are not limited to:
  - Project design costs
  - Costs associated with technical assistance
  - Post-project service charges and maintenance costs associated with the irrigation system
  - Non-labor costs (e.g., management) and fees associated with project oversight
  - Supplies and equipment costs not related to irrigation or water distribution systems
  - Costs associated with drilling of new or expanding groundwater wells
  - Irrigation training courses

Required Attachments

3. Baseline Water Use Documentation

- Actual baseline water value provided in an application must be supported by documentation (i.e., on-farm water use records).
- Must be from the prior growing season.

Allowable Baseline Water Documentation				
Water Bills	Flow Meter Readings	Pump Efficiency Tests	Other On-farm Water Records	USDA NRCS Irrigation Water Savings Calculator

Required Attachments

4. Baseline GHG Emission Documentation

- Actual baseline GHG emission value provided in an application must be supported by documentation (i.e., on-farm energy use records).
- Must cover ***six months*** from the prior peak irrigation and growing season.

Allowable Baseline GHG Support		
Utility Bills	Fuel Receipts	Field Operational Logs

Required Attachments

5. GHG Calculator Tool

- Must follow the ARB-approved GHG quantification methodology, which includes a GHG Calculator Tool to estimate GHG emission reductions from changes in fuel use.
- Application must include:
  - A completed copy of the GHG Calculator Tool
  - An explanation of inputs used in the calculator

GHG Calculator Tool:
https://apps1.cdfa.ca.gov/emissioncalculator/

Additional Considerations

- Degree of GHG emission reductions and water savings
- Disadvantaged Community Status
- Irrigation Training
- Location within a Critical Over-draft Groundwater Basin
- Soil Management Practices
- New SWEEP Recipients

Additional Considerations

1. Disadvantaged Community Benefits

- Identify the following to determine if the project benefits a disadvantaged community:
  1. Project census tract number(s) using the Census Tract Finder Tool online: http://maps.gis.ca.gov/cdfa/tractfinder.html
  2. Project criteria applicable to the project
  3. Approach taken to identify the community need

See page 8 & 9 of the Request for Grant Applications for disadvantaged community criteria.

Additional Considerations

2. Irrigation Training

- If Agriculture Operation representative has attended or will commit to attend an irrigation training course.
  - If attended irrigation training course, attach evidence (i.e., certificate of completion) confirming attendance.
  - If commits to attend an irrigation training course, identify the irrigation training course.

Additional Considerations

3. Critically Over-drafted Groundwater Basin

- Use the online site-map to identify if a project falls within a critically over-drafted groundwater basin:

  Draft State-wide map of critically over-drafted groundwater basins

- If a project reduces groundwater pumping within a critically over-drafted water basin, identify the basin number in the application.

Additional Considerations

4. Soil Management Practices

- Integrate one or more of the following soil management practices:
  - Covering cropping
  - Mulching
  - Compost application
  - Resource conserving crop rotation

Practices that result in increased on-farm energy or water use are not eligible.

Matching Funds

- Matching funds will also receive additional consideration during review process.
- Include cash and/or in-kind contributions.
- 50 percent match of total project costs encouraged.
- Submit written documentation describing source of matching funds with application.

Review Process

- Two Levels of Review:
  1. Administrative – Internal
  2. Technical – External

Applications that fail to demonstrate a project will result in GHG reductions and water savings cannot be funded.

Ground for Disqualification

- Applications from individuals or organizations not meeting the definition of an agricultural operation.
- Applications not identifying a unique Tax ID
- Applications that include APNs previously funded in a 2015 SWEEP project
- Incomplete applications, including applications with one or more unanswered question and/or missing, blank, unreadable, corrupt, or otherwise unusable attachments.
- Applications for more than the maximum award amount.
- Applications not meeting supporting documentation requirements.

Assistance and Questions

- CDFA will post Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to address general questions.
- Email questions to: grants@cdfa.ca.gov
- FAQs will be posted on the SWEEP website: www.cdfa.ca.go/go/SWEEP
- To ensure fair competition, CDFA will not answer questions outside of the FAQ process.

Award Process

- Upon Grant Agreement execution, begin project implementation
- Pre-project consultation
- Post-project verification
- Reimbursements

Post-Project Completion Requirements

- Must maintain project documentation, including energy and water records, for 3 years after project completion.
- CDFA will assist in quantifying GHG emission reductions and water savings during this period.
- Purpose is to document long-term success of SWEEP awarded projects.

Questions