

California Department of Food and Agriculture
2016 State Water Efficiency Enhancement Program (SWEEP) Round I
Frequently Asked Questions
December 16, 2015

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. When are SWEEP Applications due?
Applications must be submitted through the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Financial Application Assistance Submittal Tool (FAAST) by Friday, January 8, 2016 at 5 pm PST. Late applications cannot be accepted.
2. What is the maximum duration for any proposed project?
The maximum project duration is 12 months. Projects can have a duration of less than 12 months, but cannot exceed this timeframe. Project activities cannot be conducted before April 1, 2016 or after April 30, 2017. Therefore, all projects must be completed and installed by April 30, 2017.
3. Is the maximum grant award \$200,000 per agriculture operation or per application?
The maximum grant award is \$200,000 per agricultural operation, which is determined by the operation's legal business name and associated tax identification number.
4. Can organizations submit a single application on behalf of a group of agriculture operations?
No, organizations cannot submit a single application on behalf of a group of agricultural operations. An agricultural operation can only submit one application using their operation's legal business name and associated tax identification number.
5. Can an agriculture operation submit more than one application?
No, agricultural operations can only submit one application using a unique tax identification number. An agricultural operation is determined by the separate and distinct legal business name and associated tax identification number provided in an application.
6. Can an organization apply on behalf of the agriculture operation?
Yes, organizations may submit an application on behalf of the agricultural operation. However, the application must include the agricultural operation's legal business name and tax identification number. If awarded, the grant agreement will be between the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the agricultural operation.
7. Do applicants need a DUNS number to submit a SWEEP application?
No, applicants do not need a DUNS number to submit a SWEEP application.
8. When the agriculture operation is leasing land, does the land owner need to apply on behalf of the agriculture operation?
No, the agricultural operation can submit an application. It is the responsibility of the agricultural operation to comply with the terms of their lease agreement. CDFA encourages all applicants to notify the land owner of the proposed project. If awarded, CDFA will enter into a grant agreement with the agricultural operation.

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9. Can funds be used to make improvements to distribution systems outside the boundaries of the property impacted by the proposed project (i.e. irrigation district pump)?

No, the project must be implemented on-farm at the agricultural operation. An agricultural operation is defined as “row, vineyard, field and tree crops, commercial nurseries, nursery stock production and greenhouse operations” as outlined on page 1 of the Request for Grant Applications.

10. What is the definition of “expanding” an agriculture operation?

Expanding an agricultural operation is defined as converting additional or new acreage that has not previously been farmed to farmland, which is not eligible for SWEEP.

11. **Revised December 16, 2015.** Can applicants use additional **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**, **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** Conservation Practice Standards that are not listed in Appendix D of the Application Guidelines?

Yes, applicants may use additional USDA, NRCS Conservation Practice Standards as long as those practices result in both water savings and GHG reductions. If applicants use Conservation Practice Standards not listed in Appendix D, then a detailed explanation of those practices and unit costs must be provided in the application.

12. Is the information provided in the SWEEP application available to the public?

Information provided in the SWEEP application may be subject to a Public Records Act (PRA) request. Under the PRA, CDFA must make available public records upon request by the public. However, certain personal identifying information is generally exempt from disclosure.

NOTE: *CDFA is required to make basic information regarding all applicants available on the SWEEP public webpage. This information will include the agricultural organization’s business name, description of the proposed project, location, amount of funding requested, and disadvantaged community status.*

New questions: December 16, 2016

13. Will CDFA extend the deadline to submit SWEEP grant applications?

No, CDFA will not extend the deadline to submit SWEEP grant applications. Applications must be submitted by January 8, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. PST to be considered for funding. Late submissions will not be accepted.

14. If an agricultural operation received a 2015 SWEEP grant award, can the operation submit a 2016 SWEEP application using the same tax identification number?

Yes. Agricultural operations that received a 2015 SWEEP grant award can apply using the same tax identification number.

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15. If agriculture operations share a pump station, can each operating entity submit an application using separate and unique tax identification numbers to share costs of the flow meter and associated pump monitoring items between those applications?

Yes. If agricultural operations share equipment (i.e., pump station), those operations may submit separate applications with unique tax identification numbers to share costs between applications. In addition, agricultural operations sharing equipment must explain in detail their circumstances in the application and clearly identify shared project costs in the Budget Worksheet.

NOTE: *If an agricultural operation sharing equipment is not selected for an award of funds, the operations selected for an award must cover the additional equipment costs not funded under SWEET.*

16. If two agriculture operations share an irrigation system, can one application be submitted on behalf of both agriculture operations?

Yes. Agricultural operations sharing an irrigation system can submit one application for a proposed project. However, only one agricultural operation can be listed as the applicant in the FAAST system. If awarded funding, the agricultural operation designated as the applicant will enter into a grant agreement with CDFA and be responsible for project implementation.

17. Can alternative greenhouse gas (GHG) calculation tools/methodology aside from the Air Resources Board (ARB) – approved GHG quantification methodology be used to calculate GHG reductions from proposed project?

No. For purposes of the SWEET, applicants are required to use the Air Resources Board (ARB) – approved GHG quantification methodology to calculate GHG emission reductions from a proposed project. This methodology utilizes a GHG Calculator Tool developed by CDFA to assist applicants in estimating GHG emission reductions from changes in on-farm energy use. The GHG Calculator Tool is available on the SWEET website under “Additional Links.”

18. Can applicants calculate GHG emission reductions from reduced water use using the GHG Calculator Tool?

Yes, water savings from irrigation improvements and scheduling that result in reduced pumping and energy use can be calculated using the GHG Calculator Tool. Applicants must input baseline on-farm fuel and/or energy use and projected energy use into the GHG Calculator Tool to calculate estimated GHG emission reductions. (See question #58 for instructions on completing the GHG Calculator Tool.)

19. If an application is submitted prior to the deadline, will CDFA advise concerning omissions or errors on applications?

No. In order to maintain the integrity of the competitive process, CDFA cannot advise applicants regarding omission or errors on applications.

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20. Can field preparation and installation of irrigation systems begin prior to being selected for an award?
No. Project implementation, including field preparation and irrigation system installation, cannot begin until the grant agreement is executed. In addition, grant funds must be expended during the grant term (April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017) to receive reimbursement for project costs.
21. Can agriculture operations move equipment (e.g., tensiometers) to other parcels after project implementation?
No, agricultural operations cannot move equipment to other parcels after project implementation. Agricultural operations are required to maintain and collect water and energy use documentation on the parcel where the SWEEP project installed for three years following implementation.
22. If a proposed project includes solar array installation on an adjacent property, can an applicant apply a portion of that solar array to the irrigation pumping reducing GHG emissions and request SWEEP funding for that portion of the solar system cost under Net Energy Meter Aggregation?
Yes, applicants can apply for a portion of a solar array directly powering an irrigation pump reducing GHG emissions. Applicants can also request SWEEP funding to cover a portion of the solar array providing power to the irrigation pump.
23. Can an agriculture operation submit one application for a proposed project that includes two parcels in different areas? Is there a limit to the number of parcels that can be included/impacted by one application?
Agricultural operations may submit one application for a proposed project that includes all parcels directly impacted by the proposed project, including the parcels in different areas. There is no limit to the number of parcels that can be included in one application. Agricultural operations may submit one application that includes multiple parcels.
24. Is onsite measurement of Evapotranspiration (ET) considered an allowable method of water measurement in lieu of a flow meter?
No. Under Program Requirements in the Request for Grant Applications on page 3 states that proposed projects must include flow meters or demonstrate actual water use will be measured with existing flow meters. Therefore, projects must include a flow meters as a required method of water measurement.

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ELIGIBILITY

25. Are recipients who were awarded previous 2015 SWEEP funding eligible to apply for 2016 SWEEP?

Yes, recipients awarded previous SWEEP funding are eligible, as long as the new application is not directly affecting the same Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs). Agricultural operations awarded a previously funded 2015 SWEEP project are encouraged to apply for a new project with different parcel(s).

26. The Request for Grant Applications states, "SWEEP funding cannot be combined with USDA, NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)." Can applicants apply to both SWEEP and EQIP, and if awarded EQIP funding, withdraw their SWEEP application?

Yes, applicants may apply to both programs. However, if awarded EQIP funding, applicants would not be eligible to receive SWEEP funding.

27. Are water supplier entities eligible for SWEEP funding?

No, water suppliers are not eligible for SWEEP funding. An agricultural operation is defined as "row, vineyard, field and tree crops, commercial nurseries, nursery stock production and greenhouse operations" as outlined on page 1 of the Request for Grant Applications.

28. If elements of an irrigation system are already installed, is an application for reimbursement of that system eligible?

No. Funding can only be used to implement projects after a grant agreement is executed between CDFA and an agricultural operation. Grant funds cannot be expended before April 1, 2016 or after March 31, 2017. In addition, Funding cannot be utilized as reimbursement for a previous installation or to cover maintenance and operation costs of any existing system.

29. Is converting one crop to a lower water-use crop an eligible project?

SWEEP funding cannot be used for the new planting, but funding from SWEEP can be used for irrigation components that will irrigate the new crop.

30. Is lining or preparing an existing pond to capture water eligible for funding?

Yes. Lining or preparing an existing pond to capture water is eligible for funding as long as water savings and greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions can be calculated using the approved Air Resources Board (ARB) approved quantification methodology (Refer to page 3 of the Request for Grant Applications for detail information on the ARB-approved quantification methodology.)

31. **Revised December 16, 2015.** Are sand media filters eligible for funding, if the applicant can demonstrate efficiency improvements?

Sand media filters may be eligible for SWEEP funding. Applicants **should** explain the need for the filters in their application under the "Proposed Water Use System". The applicant must also calculate water savings and GHG emission reductions **of the project as a whole** in order to be eligible for funding.

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

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32. Are products that are not irrigation-related (i.e. sprayers, wind machines, etc.) that reduce water use and GHG emissions eligible for funding?
No, SWEEP funds cannot be used for products that are not irrigation-related. SWEEP can only fund elements of a project that are directly related to irrigation on farms.

New questions: December 16, 2015

33. Are research-oriented projects aiming to improve water efficiency and GHG reductions eligible for funding?
No, proposed projects that test new technology or perform research are not eligible for funding. Applications must demonstrate a proposed project will achieve GHG reductions and water to be eligible for funding.
34. If an agriculture operation received a previous SWEEP grant award, can those operations apply for 2016 SWEEP funding?
Yes, agricultural operations that received a 2014 or 2015 SWEEP grant award may apply for 2016 funding excluding parcels (i.e., Assessor's Parcel Number(s)) funded in a 2015 SWEEP grant award.
35. Are recipients who were awarded previous **2014** SWEEP funding eligible to apply for 2016 SWEEP on the same parcels?
Yes, recipients awarded previous 2014 SWEEP funding are eligible, as long as the required supporting documentation for actual, on-farm water use and GHG emissions during the prior (2015) growing season is attached to their application.
36. If an agriculture operation intends to change crops during the course of a proposed project, is the project eligible for funding?
Yes. Agricultural operations intending to change crops as part of a proposed project is eligible for funding. However, the agricultural operation must demonstrate in the application the proposed project will result in GHG reductions and water savings to be considered for funding.
37. If the applicant's land is currently irrigated without any on-farm energy sources (e.g., water is delivered to the farm from surface water supplies and distributed to the crop by gravity), is the project eligible for funding?
Applicants must be able to estimate GHG reductions due to on-farm energy use reductions or energy conversions. Therefore, if a farm is not using an on-farm energy source, the project is not eligible for SWEEP funding.
38. If agriculture operations have received USDA, NRCS EQIP funding in the past, are those operations eligible for SWEEP funding?
Yes, applicants that received EQIP financial assistance for projects on their farm in the past are eligible for SWEEP funding as long as the funding requested is not combined with EQIP financial assistance to complete a 2016 SWEEP project.

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FAAST QUESTIONS

39. Does the “Applicant Information” requested in FAAST, need to be the agriculture operation’s information?

Yes, the “Applicant Information” must include information specific to the agricultural operation, such as the legal business name, unique tax identification number, and contact information. If awarded, CDFA will need this information to enter into a grant agreement with that agricultural operation.

40. In the project budget tab in FAAST, what is the difference between funds requested, local cost match, and total budget?

Funds requested is the amount of 2016 SWEEP funding requested from CDFA and must not exceed \$200,000. Local cost match is the amount of matching funds and in-kind contributions committed to your project. Total budget is the sum of funds requested and local cost match.

41. Who should be listed as the Project Director or Project Manager in the “Project Management” tab?

The agricultural operation’s primary contacts for the project must be listed as the Project Director and the Project Manager in the “Project Management” tab. The Project Director is the agricultural operation representative that will serve as a lead for the project. The Project Manager is the agricultural operation representative that will serve as the day-to-day contact for the project. Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide two different contacts for the Project Director and Project Manager as this is the only contact information CDFA will have for applications.

42. Who should be listed as Cooperating entities?

Cooperating entities are organizations an applicant will be working with to plan and/or implement the proposed project, including irrigation companies, Resource Conservation Districts (RCD), or individuals/companies who provide matching funds or in-kind Contributions.

43. What attachments are required to be submitted with the application?

Applications must include the following five required attachments: (1) Project Design; (2) Budget Worksheet; (3) Baseline water use supporting documentation; (4) Baseline GHG emissions supporting documentation; and (5) Completed GHG Calculator Tool.

44. Section III question 6 (b) requests applicants indicate estimated GHG emission reductions (tonnes of CO₂e/year/acre). If the value of the estimated GHG emission reduction is less than “1”, how do applicants provide that value in FAAST?

For questions in FAAST requesting to provide a numerical value for calculations, such as projected water savings and GHG emission reductions, applicants may indicate a value less than “1” by indicating a “0” followed by a decimal point (.), and then the digits that fall behind the decimal point.

Example: Indicate “0.082” tonnes of CO₂e/year/acre or “0.002” tonnes of CO₂e/year/acre.

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45. **Revised December 16, 2015.** Should applicants attach the actual contractor estimates with the project design in FFAST?
Contractor estimates are not required with the project design. Applicants may also provide the actual contractor estimates used to complete the Budget Worksheet under “Labor” budget category. However, applicants are required to download, complete and attach the Budget Worksheet in FFAST question #17. Refer to Appendix B of the Request for Grant Applications for a preview of the Budget Worksheet.
46. Can a bid from an irrigation company be attached in lieu of the budget worksheet?
No, the Budget Worksheet is a required attachment. Applicants must download, complete and attach the Budget Worksheet in FFAST. Refer to question #17 in FFAST and Appendix B of the Request for Grant Applications.

New question: December 16, 2015

47. Under Section II: Property Location, the application requests “acreage that will be impacted by the project” and the “total farm size in acres.” What is the difference between the requested farm acreage?
The “acreage that will be impacted by the project” is the acreage that will benefit from the proposed project. The “total farm size in acres” refers to the total acreage of the entire agricultural operation’s farm.

PROJECT TYPES

48. **Revised December 16, 2015.** Does a project need to result in water savings and GHG emission reductions?
Yes, projects must result in water savings **and** GHG emissions reductions to be considered for funding. Applicants are encouraged to incorporate several project types listed in the Request for Grant Applications in order for a proposed project to achieve both water savings and GHG emissions reductions. Refer to page 2 of the Request for Grant Applications for the list of project types.
49. Is there a minimum threshold for water savings and GHG reductions?
No, there is not a minimum threshold for water savings and GHG emissions reductions as long as water savings can be calculated and GHG reductions can be quantified using the ARB approved methodology. Refer to page 3 of the Request for Grant Applications for detailed information regarding the ARB quantification methodology.
50. Is converting an irrigation pump from fossil fuel to electricity the only consideration for GHG reduction calculations?
No, a project does not have to include conversion to electric pumps or renewable energy. Projects can include other elements that will result in GHG emission reductions such as improved pump efficiency or reduced pumping. Refer to Appendix C of the Request for Grant Applications for additional guidance on reducing GHG emissions.

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51. If telemetry components will be incorporated as part of a proposed project, can both water and GHG reductions be calculated from installing this project type?
Telemetry components are eligible for funding as a part of a project that reduces water use and GHG emissions. For example, projects that utilize in-field sensors may incorporate telemetry to enable real-time data gathering from the field. This information can assist the agricultural operation in irrigation water management, potentially reducing the amount of water applied to the field. If this results in reduced water pumping, then GHG reductions can also be estimated due to the reduced energy needed to irrigate.
52. Are applicants required to incorporate one project type from the Water Conservation Priorities and one project type from Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Priorities?
In order to be eligible, applicant's proposed project must demonstrate water savings and GHG emission reductions. GHG reductions must be calculated using the ARB approved GHG quantification methodology. (Refer to page 3 of the Request for Grant Applications for detailed information regarding the ARB GHG quantification methodology.)
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WATER AND ENERGY USE DOCUMENTATION

53. What supporting documentation is required for on-farm water use?
Applicants are required to attach actual, on-farm water use records to support baseline water use calculations provide in their application. Allowable baseline water use supporting documentation include water bills, flow meter readings, pump efficiency tests, or other on-farm water records. In addition, applicants will be required to explain in their application how the on-farm water use documentation attached supports the baseline water use value calculated.
54. Can applicants attach the USDA, NRCS Field Office Technical Guide – Irrigation Water Savings Calculator as on-farm water use supporting documentation?
Yes, applicants may attach the USDA, NRCS Field Office Technical Guide – Irrigation Water Savings Calculator as on-farm water use supporting documentation. However, applicants that have actual, on-farm water documentation (e.g., water bills, flow meter readings, pump efficiency tests, or other on-farm water records) should submit those documents to support their water calculations provided in their application.
55. What is the time period applicants should use to determine water savings calculations?
Applicants should compare the previous growing season to the next year growing season after project implementation to determine their estimated water savings.
56. What supporting documentation is required for GHG emissions reductions?
Applicants are required to attach actual, on-farm energy use records covering a period of six months of the peak irrigation and growing season. Allowable baseline GHG supporting documentation include utility bills, fuel receipts, and field operational logs (e.g., tractor passes). Applicants must explain in their application how the on-farm energy use documentation attached supports the baseline GHG value calculated.

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57. **Revised December 16, 2015.** Is the GHG Calculator allowable supporting documentation for baseline GHG emissions?

No, the GHG Calculator Tool does not provide evidence of actual on-farm energy use. The GHG Calculator Tool is the ARB approved GHG calculation tool to assist applicants in estimating a proposed projects GHG emission reductions.

In addition to actual, on-farm energy supporting documentation, applicants are required to complete and attach a copy of the GHG Calculator Tool to their application.

58. How do applicants complete the GHG Calculator Tool?

Applicants will need to gather documentation that provides evidence of irrigation system's energy use over the previous growing season. This is the baseline GHG emission supporting documentation that will also be provided as an attachment to the application. From this information, the applicant can complete the column labeled "Current Fuel Usage/Year". In order to complete the column labeled "Estimated Fuel Use After Project Installation/Year", applicants will need to estimate how much fuel will be used following the project installation. This is an estimate, but should be based on the project design and the expected benefits. The project designer should be able to provide guidance regarding the estimated energy benefits of the project. Applicants will be asked to explain the inputs to the calculator within the SWEEP application.

59. For baseline water use and GHG emissions supporting documentation, should applicants submit 12 months of data from the previous growing season?

Yes. If applicants have the past 12 months of data available, it is beneficial to attach all documents relating to the previous growing season. At minimum, applicants must submit at least **six months** of supporting documentation relating to the previous growing season.

New questions: December 16, 2015

60. If an agriculture operation is changing crops, how should the operation account for this conversion using the USDA, NRCS Irrigation Water Savings Calculator?

If an agricultural operation is using the USDA, NRCS Irrigation Water Savings Calculator for baseline water use documentation, the operation must complete the calculator tool twice to account for the "current on-farm practice" and the "proposed on-farm practice." First, the calculator must be completed according the "current on-farm practice" to obtain the baseline water use. Next, the calculator must be completed according to the "proposed on-farm practice" to obtain the projected water use of the proposed water use system. Finally, both copies of the completed USDA, NRCS Irrigation Water Savings Calculator must be attached to the application.

61. The Request for Grant Applications states that applicants must provide supporting documentation from the prior growing season. Does the "prior growing season" refer to the 2015 growing season?

Yes, applicants must provide supporting documentation for actual, on-farm water use and GHG emissions during the 2015 growing season.

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62. If land was fallowed due to water shortage, crop rotation, etc., can applicants attach documentation from last growing season (e.g., 2014) as supporting documentation?
[No. Applicants are required to provide supporting documentation from the 2015 growing season to calculate baseline water use and GHG emissions.](#)
63. If an applicant provides additional data and accredited studies relating to GHG and water in California, will the Technical Reviewers evaluate these documents?
[The Technical Reviewers may evaluate additional supporting documentation attached to applications as necessary, including data and accredited studies. CDFA encourages applicants to highlight or direct the Technical Reviewers to the relevant portions of the data and accredited studies in their application.](#)
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PROJECT DESIGN

64. Is there a specific format required for the project design?
[No, there is not a specific format required for the project design. However, in general, a project design should include a schematic detailing the irrigation distribution system layout \(e.g., pipelines, valves, filter stations, distribution uniformity values\), including agronomic information \(e.g., water application rate, crop water demand\). Refer to page 5 of the Request for Grant Applications for additional information regarding the project design.](#)

New question: December 16, 2015

65. If an irrigation system is designed to USDA, NRCS standards, does all of the accompanying documentation listed in the NRCS standards (i.e., maintenance plan, inspection plan, etc.) need to be submitted with the application?
[No, applicants are not required to submit accompanying documentation listed in the NRCS standards. However, applicants may attach additional documentation to support their irrigation system design.](#)
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BUDGET WORKSHEET

66. Does CDFA adjust project budgets, or are the amounts granted at the requested value?
[CDFA reserves the right to offer an award amount less than the amount requested.](#)
67. Where can applicants download the Budget Worksheet?
[A link to the Budget Worksheet \(attachment\) is located in the Questionnaire tab under question #17 "Budget Worksheet" in FAAST.](#)
68. Can applicants request funds for project management for organizations, such as irrigation companies or RCDs?
[No, funds must be utilized by the agricultural operation for project implementation cost only.](#)

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69. Can agriculture operations request funds for the cost of the project design?
No, funding can only be requested and utilized for project implementation. The agricultural operation is responsible for any costs associated with the project design.
70. Are service charges, such as a company providing soil moisture information on a monthly or annual basis, allowable expenses under SWEEP?
No, service and maintenance costs are not allowable expenses.
71. If a project's costs exceed the USDA, NRCS payment schedules provided in Appendix D of the Request for Grant Applications, are the excess costs matching funds to the project?
CDFA will rely on the expertise of third-party technical reviewers to determine if the cost estimates provided by the applicant are within the NRCS payment schedules or are considered reasonable.
- New questions: December 16, 2015*
72. Can SWEEP funding be used for water savings on-farm not related to the irrigation system (e.g., frost protection, dairy parlor flushing, etc.)?
No, SWEEP funding cannot be used for project costs not related to the irrigation or water distribution systems. SWEEP funding must be specifically directed towards crop irrigation projects that conserve water and reduce GHG emissions from irrigation. (See page 7 of the Request for Grant Applications for a list of unallowable costs).
73. How do applicants determine if project costs are considered reasonable?
Applicants may use the USDA, NRCS payment schedules as a guide to determine reasonableness of project costs. However, applicants may also obtain quotes from irrigation companies to evaluate rates in the marketplace for project components. (See Appendix D of the Request for Grant Applications for the USDA, NRCS payment schedules.)
74. If a proposed project includes crop conversion, can applicants request funds to cover that conversion?
No, grant funds cannot cover the cost of crop conversion. SWEEP funding must be used for project costs directly related to the irrigation or water distribution system.
75. If a proposed project will convert a diesel pump to electric, is the cost for Pacific Gas & Electric (PG & E) to provide power to the electric pump be included in the a grant request?
Yes, the cost for PG & E to provide power to the electric pump is an allowable cost to include in the grant request.

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ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

76. **Revised December 16, 2015.** How do applicants identify the census tract numbers(s) for each Assessor's Parcel Number impacted by a project?
Applicants **can** identify the census tract number(s) of their project by using the Census Tract Finder online tool at: <http://maps.gis.ca.gov/cdfa/tractfinder.html>.

***Note:** Disadvantaged communities are defined by the California Environmental Protection Agency as census tracts with CalEnviroScreen scores in the top 25 percentiles (76-100%). Refer to the CalEnviroScreen 2.0 tool at <http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/ces2.html> for more information.*

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77. How do applicants determine if their project site is located in a disadvantaged community?
Applicants must use the [CalEnviroScreen 2.0 Results map](#), which is a tool to assist applicants in identifying if a project site is located within a disadvantaged community. Once applicants locate and select their project site on the map, CalEnviroScreen will provide specific data, including the census tract and the CalEnviroScreen percentile score.

The CalEnviroScreen Score determines if project sites are located in a disadvantaged community. Project sites with a CalEnviroScreen percentile score between 76 – 100% are considered a disadvantaged community. A direct link to the CalEnviroScreen 2.0 Results map is available on the SWEEP website under "Additional Links."

78. If a project site is not located in a disadvantaged community, are applicants required to answer all questions related to disadvantaged community status?
No. If a project site is not located within a disadvantaged community, applicants are not required to select the disadvantaged community project criteria following FFAST question #3 (i.e., project criteria 2a – 2b and 3a – 3d).

All applicants are required to identify the census tract ID number for each Assessor's Parcel Number impacted by a proposed project in FFAST question #3 whether or not their project is within a disadvantaged community.

79. Can an irrigation company attend an irrigation training course on behalf of agriculture operations?
No, a representative from the agricultural operation (e.g., operation manager and/or irrigator) must attend the training course during the grant term.

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80. Is training on the irrigation system provided by an irrigation company considered an allowable irrigation training course?

No, agricultural operations must participate in an irrigation training relevant to agricultural water conservation and irrigation management. Applicants must select a training course relevant to their proposed project and needs of their operation. A list of irrigation training resources for agricultural operation to consider is available on the SWEEP website under "Additional Links."

81. What is the definition of resource conserving crop rotation listed under the Soil Management Practices?

For the purpose of this program, CDFA will adopt the following definition of "resource conserving crop rotation" from USDA NRCS: A crop rotation that 1) includes at least one resource conserving crop, 2) reduces erosion, 3) improves soil fertility and tilth, 4) interrupts pests cycles; and 5) in applicable areas, reduced depletion of soil moisture or otherwise reduces the need for irrigation. (CCR99) [USDA NRCS CCR99](#).

MATCHING FUNDS

82. Are matching funds required?

No, matching funds are not required. However, CDFA strongly encourages applicants to provide matching funds as additional consideration will be given to those project during the review process.

83. **Revised: December 16, 2015.** Can applicants use funds received from other incentive programs as matching funds?

Yes, funds received from other incentive programs can be used as matching funds **as long as there are not duplicating efforts**. Applicants must indicate in the budget worksheet the amount of the incentive that will be contributed to the project. However, SWEEP funding cannot be combined with USDA, NRCS EQIP financial assistance.

84. What information should an applicant include in the matching funds written documentation?

Matching funds documentation, often written as a letter, should confirm the contribution source, type and amount of the contribution, as well as include activities that will be conducted in support of the project. Account statements or other financial documents relating to the matching contributions are not required.

85. If elements of an irrigation system are installed before the implementation period of the proposed project can those costs be considered matching funds?

No, elements of an irrigation system installed before the implementation period of the proposed project are not considered matching funds.

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86. Can costs for installing new groundwater wells or increasing well depth be considered as matching funds?

No, costs for installing new groundwater wells or increasing well depth cannot be used as matching funds.

New questions: December 16, 2015

87. If an applicant pays a deposit for their proposed project to secure installation within the grant term (April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017), can the deposit be considered matching funds?

Yes, the deposit for a proposed project to secure installation within the SWEEP grant term is considered allowable matching funds. However, the proposed project **cannot** commence, including labor associated with installation, until the grant agreement is executed.

88. Are annual or monthly services charges considered matching funds?

Yes, annual or monthly services charges can be used as matching funds.