2026 Healthy Soils Program Block Grant Award Decision Summary

Program Overview

The Healthy Soils Program (HSP) stems from the California Healthy Soils Initiative, a collaboration of state agencies and departments that convened in 2015 to promote healthy soils on California's farmlands and ranchlands. In 2025, CDFA finalized a definition for regenerative agriculture that recognizes building soil health as a key outcome. The department defines regenerative agriculture as an integrated approach to farming and ranching rooted in principles of soil health, biodiversity, and ecosystem resilience, while maintaining or improving productivity. Since 2017, HSP has provided incentives to farmers and ranchers for a suite of on-farm practices known to promote carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas reductions.



Funding

In November 2024, California voters approved Proposition 4, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (the Climate Bond) to address the challenges facing California due to current and future climate impacts. The Climate Bond authorizes $65 million for grants that promote practices on farms and ranches that improve soil health or accelerate atmospheric carbon removal or soil carbon sequestration. Of that funding, OARS will award approximately $48 million through this 2026 Healthy Soils Program Block Grant, with other funds committed to an HSP Tribal solicitation, technical assistance and program administration.

Award Factors

As described in the Grant Application Guidelines – Request for Grant Applications, the technical review committee and OARS considered several portfolio balancing factors in addition to the review committee scoring process, to determine the final funding recommendations. Portfolio balancing factors included:

1. Service area covered

2. Farming systems
3. Practice types
4. Applicant organizations' capacity
5. Resource-based or ecological needs

The funding decisions below are subject to approval of the Bond Accountability Team. OARS will update this posting when awards are finalized.

Applicant	Ranking by Technical Review Committee Score	Portfolio Balancing Consideration from Technical Review Committee and Program Staff	Service Area (Counties)	Funds Requested	Grant Decision
Placer Resource Conservation District	1		Alpine; Amador; Calaveras; El Dorado; Mariposa; Nevada; Placer; Sacramento; Sierra; Tuolumne	$3,999,972	Awarded
Siskiyou Jobs Council	2		Shasta; Siskiyou; Trinity	$4,000,000	Awarded
Glenn County Resource Conservation District	3		Colusa; Glenn; Lake; Sutter; Yuba	$4,000,000	Awarded
Inland Empire Resource Conservation District	3		Riverside; San Bernardino; San Diego	$3,999,999	Awarded
Ventura County Resource Conservation District	3		Kern; San Luis Obispo; Santa Barbara; Ventura	$4,000,000	Awarded
County of San Diego	6		San Diego	$3,999,997	Awarded
Yolo County Resource Conservation District	7		Alameda; Contra Costa; Sacramento; Santa Clara; Solano; Yolo	$4,000,000	Awarded

Applicant	Ranking by Technical Review Committee Score	Portfolio Balancing Consideration from Technical Review Committee and Program Staff	Service Area (Counties)	Funds Requested	Grant Decision
Sierra Resource Conservation District	8		Fresno; Madera	$3,996,351	Awarded
Humboldt County Resource Conservation District	9		Del Norte; Humboldt; Lake; Marin; Mendocino; Napa; Siskiyou; Sonoma; Trinity	$3,999,999	Awarded
Fibershed	10		Alameda; Butte; Contra Costa; Fresno; Kings; Lake; Lassen; Madera; Marin; Mendocino; Merced; Modoc; Napa; Nevada; San Mateo; Shasta; Sierra; Siskiyou; Solano; Sonoma; Sutter; Tehama; Trinity; Tulare; Yolo; Yuba	$3,999,999	Awarded

Applicant	Ranking by Technical Review Committee Score	Portfolio Balancing Consideration from Technical Review Committee and Program Staff	Service Area (Counties)	Funds Requested	Grant Decision
California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance	11		Alameda; Amador; Butte; Calaveras; Colusa; Contra Costa; El Dorado; Fresno; Glenn; Humboldt; Kern; Kings; Lake; Lassen; Los Angeles; Madera; Marin; Mariposa; Mendocino; Merced; Monterey; Napa; Nevada; Orange; Placer; Riverside; Sacramento; San Benito; San Bernardino; San Diego; San Joaquin; San Luis Obispo; San Mateo; Santa Barbara; Santa Clara; Santa Cruz; Shasta; Siskiyou; Solano; Sonoma; Stanislaus; Sutter; Tehama; Trinity; Tulare; Tuolumne; Ventura; Yolo; Yuba	$4,000,000	Awarded
Amador Resource Conservation District	12	Service Area: Project Serves the same Service Area as a Higher Ranking Project	Alpine; Amador; Calaveras; El Dorado; Mariposa; Nevada; Placer; Sacramento; Sierra; Tuolumne	$3,999,984	Not Awarded
American Farmland Trust	13	Service Area: Project would improve coverage of the San Joaquin Valley counties.	Fresno; Madera; Merced; Stanislaus; Tulare	$4,000,000	Awarded

Applicant	Ranking by Technical Review Committee Score	Portfolio Balancing Consideration from Technical Review Committee and Program Staff	Service Area (Counties)	Funds Requested	Grant Decision
Punjabi American Growers Group	13		Colusa; Fresno; Madera; Sutter; Tulare; Yolo; Yuba	$3,999,994	Not Awarded
California Land Stewardship Institute	15		Alameda; Contra Costa; El Dorado; Lake; Mendocino; Napa; Placer; Sacramento; San Joaquin; Solano; Sonoma; Yolo	$4,000,000	Not Awarded
University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources	16		Fresno; Madera; Riverside; Sacramento; San Benito; San Bernardino; Santa Clara; Santa Cruz; Solano; Yolo	$4,000,000	Not Awarded
California Bountiful Foundation	17		Fresno; Imperial; Kern; Kings; Riverside; Tulare	$3,990,436	Not Awarded
Point Blue Conservation Science	18		Fresno; Imperial; Kern; Kings; Los Angeles; Madera; Mariposa; Merced; Orange; Riverside; San Bernardino; San Diego; San Joaquin; Stanislaus; Tulare; Tuolumne	$3,999,999	Not Awarded
CCOF Foundation	19		Fresno; Kern; Kings; Madera; Merced; San Joaquin; Stanislaus; Tulare	$3,998,308	Not Awarded
East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District	20		Madera; Stanislaus	$3,486,023	Not Awarded
Excelsior/Kings River Resource Conservation District	20		Fresno; Kings; Tulare	$3,999,744	Not Awarded

Applicant	Ranking by Technical Review Committee Score	Portfolio Balancing Consideration from Technical Review Committee and Program Staff	Service Area (Counties)	Funds Requested	Grant Decision
People, Food and Land Foundation	22		Fresno; Kern; Kings; Madera; Merced; Nevada; Riverside; San Bernardino; San Diego; San Joaquin; Stanislaus; Tulare	$3,806,823	Not Awarded
Tule Basin Land and Water Conservation Trust	23		Tulare	$3,999,992	Not Awarded
Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau for Ag Education	24		Nevada; Placer; Sutter; Yuba	$3,997,380	Not Awarded
Resource Conservation District of Tehama County	25		Butte; Plumas; Shasta; Tehama	$4,000,000	Not Awarded
Wild Farm Alliance	26		Butte; Monterey; Napa; San Benito; San Joaquin; Santa Cruz; Sonoma	$2,999,979	Not Awarded
Planet Bee Foundation	27		Alameda; Contra Costa; Marin; Nevada; San Francisco; San Joaquin; San Mateo; Santa Clara; Santa Cruz; Stanislaus	$2,000,000	Not Awarded
Seeds for Success Agricultural Education Foundation	28		Riverside	$3,998,066	Not Awarded