2026 State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) Block Grant Award Decision Summary

Program Overview

California first developed the SWEEP in 2014 in response to severe drought. SWEEP promotes the use of water and energy efficient irrigation systems to conserve water and to reduce greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions associated with irrigation, helping farms become more resilient to California's highly variable water supply. Through the program producers receive financial and technical assistance to implement a custom project including improvements to the irrigation and energy components of their farm.

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 $40 million to promote on-farm water use efficiency with a focus on multiple-benefit projects that improve resilience to climate change and save water on California agricultural operations. Of that funding, OARS will award approximately $33 million through this 2026 SWEEP Block Grant, with other funds committed to 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 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
Glenn County Resource Conservation District	1		Colusa; Glenn; Lake; Sutter; Yuba	$4,000,000.00	Awarded
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD)	2		Del Norte; Lake; Madera; Mendocino; Merced; Napa; Sacramento; San Benito; Sonoma; Stanislaus	$3,999,621.67	Awarded
East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency	3		Merced; Stanislaus	$3,372,203.71	Awarded
Basin Irrigation and Drainage Authority	4		Colusa; Sutter	$2,974,051.13	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
University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources	5		Fresno; Madera; Riverside; San Benito; San Bernardino; Santa Clara; Santa Cruz	$4,000,000.00	Awarded
Ventura County Resource Conservation District	6		Kern; San Luis Obispo; Santa Barbara; Ventura	$3,999,999.29	Awarded
American Farmland Trust	7		Fresno; Madera; Merced; Stanislaus; Tulare	$3,999,999.90	Awarded
Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County	8		Riverside; San Bernardino; San Diego	$4,000,000.00	Awarded
Sierra Resource Conservation District	9		Fresno; Madera; Tulare	$3,999,996.04	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
Tuscan Water District	10		Butte; Sutter; Yuba	$3,999,965.37	Not Awarded
Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District	10	Service Area: This project would serve counties not covered by others.	Plumas; Sierra	$3,999,876.26	Not Awarded
Punjabi American Growers Group	12	Service Area: This project would serve counties not covered by others.	Butte; Colusa; Fresno; Kern; Kings; Madera; Monterey; San Joaquin; Santa Cruz; Stanislaus; Sutter; Tulare; Yolo; Yuba	$3,999,999.80	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
Inyo-Mono Resource Conservation District (RCD)	13	Service Area: This project would serve counties not covered by others; Applicant organizations' capacity: The review committee identified an opportunity to build organizational capacity; Resource-based or ecological needs: The review committee identified this proposal as supporting unique resource-based or ecological needs.	Inyo; Mono	$2,498,414.16	Awarded
Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County	14		Monterey; San Benito; San Mateo; Santa Cruz	$3,998,431.13	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
California Land Stewardship Institute	15		Alameda; Contra Costa; El Dorado; Lake; Mendocino; Napa; Placer; Sacramento; San Joaquin; Solano; Sonoma; Yolo	$3,999,999.99	Not Awarded
Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District	15		Amador; Calaveras; El Dorado; Mariposa; Nevada; Placer; Sacramento; Tuolumne	$3,999,969.63	Not Awarded
California Bountiful Foundation	17		San Joaquin; Stanislaus	$3,999,385.07	Not Awarded
Rancho California Water District	18		Riverside; San Diego; Santa Cruz	$3,000,000.00	Not Awarded
Asian Business Institute and Resource Center	19	Applicant organizations' capacity: The review committee identified the opportunity to build organizational capacity.	Fresno; Kern; Kings; Madera; Merced; Tulare	$3,500,000.00	Not Awarded