

SWEEP 2023 BGP and 2021 Solicitation Data Analysis

Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel

11-13-2025

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Need for Data Analysis?

- Since the 2023 Block Grant Program (BGP) was a pilot, it is helpful to compare the BGP to our previous direct-to-producer solicitation styles.
- These data can inform CDFA if the BGP format helps CDFA meet its goals and if there are any inefficiencies or improvements needed for future rounds of funding.

Important context for understanding the comparisons in this presentation:

- 2021 direct-to-producer was the only first-come first-serve solicitation, 2023 BGP was competitive.
- 2021 was statewide for on-farm projects. The BGP was also statewide but selected organizations had defined coverage.

2023 BGP vs 2021 Solicitation Quick Facts

	2023 Block Grant Pilot Program	2021 Direct to Producer Solicitation
On-Farm Projects Awarded	253	283
Total Amount Awarded for On-Farm Projects	\$35,803,984	\$42,859,988
SDFR Projects	102	74
Total SDFR Funds	\$14,137,583	\$10,764,604
% of total Funds going to SDFR Projects	40%	25%
Avg On-farm Project Cost	\$140,721	\$150,639

2023 BGP vs 2021 Solicitation Water Savings

	2023 Block Grant Pilot Program	Direct to Producer Solicitation
Total Project Acreage	25,109	34,597
Average Funds Per Acre	\$1,418	\$1,239
Total Estimated Annual Water Savings (Acre-feet)	14,185	29,602
Average Estimated Annual Water Savings (Acre-feet) per Project	56	105

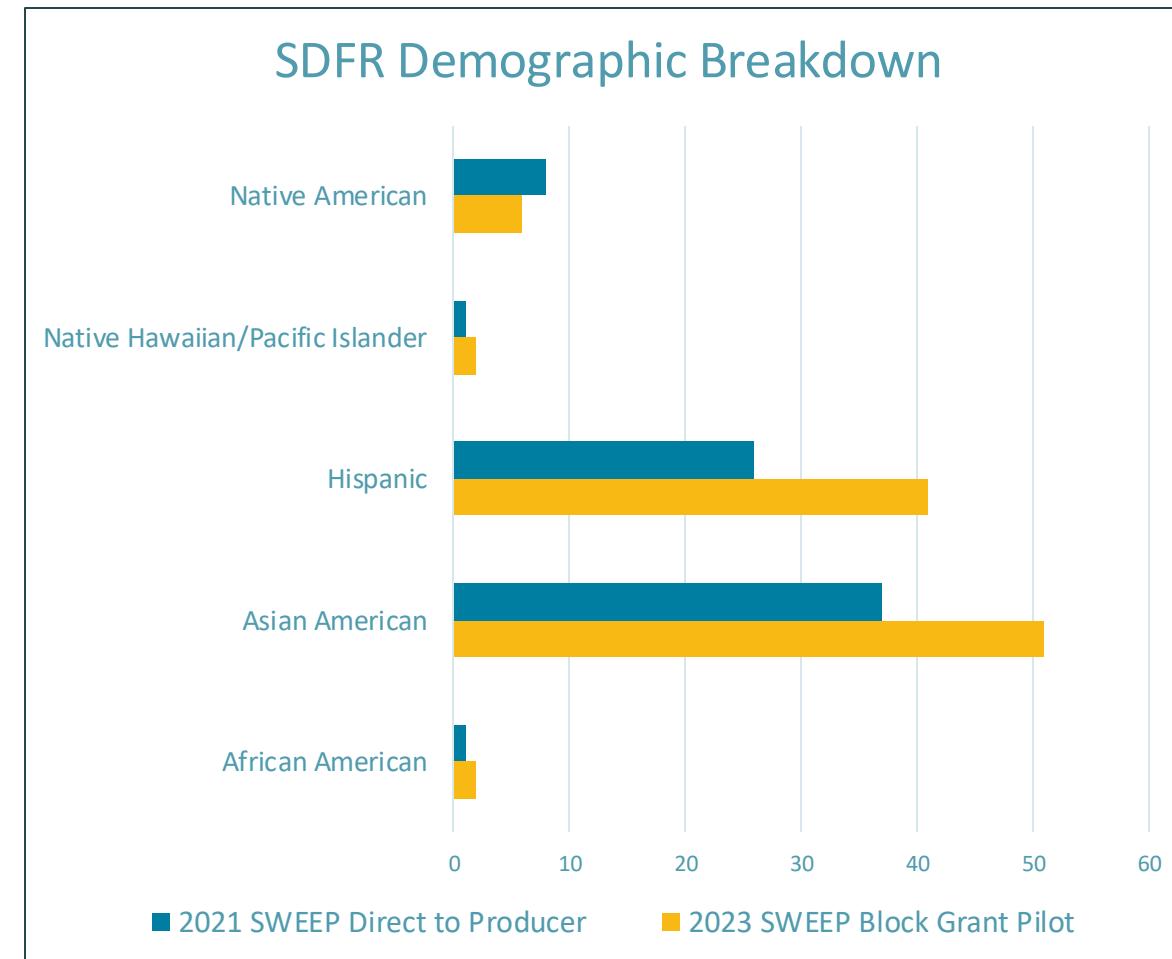
2023 BGP vs 2021 Solicitation GHG Emissions Reductions From Pumping

	2023 Block Grant Pilot Program	2021 Direct to Producer Solicitation
	9,134	13,304
	36	47
	0.36	0.38

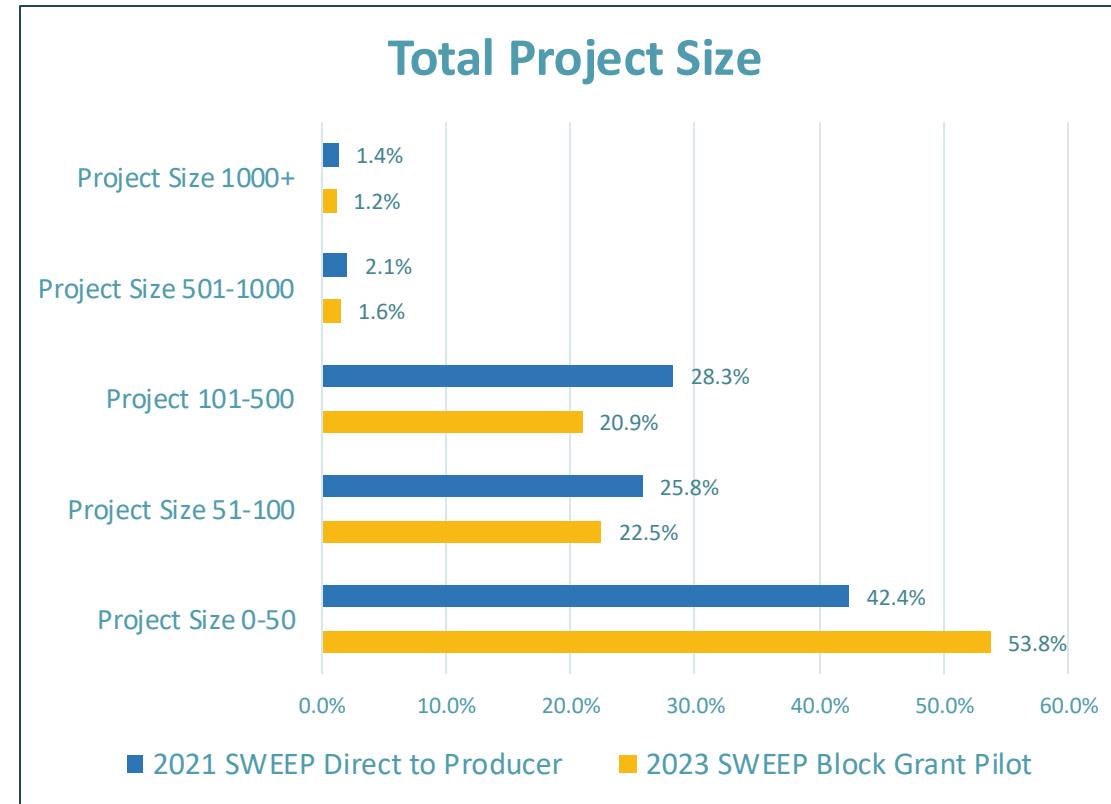
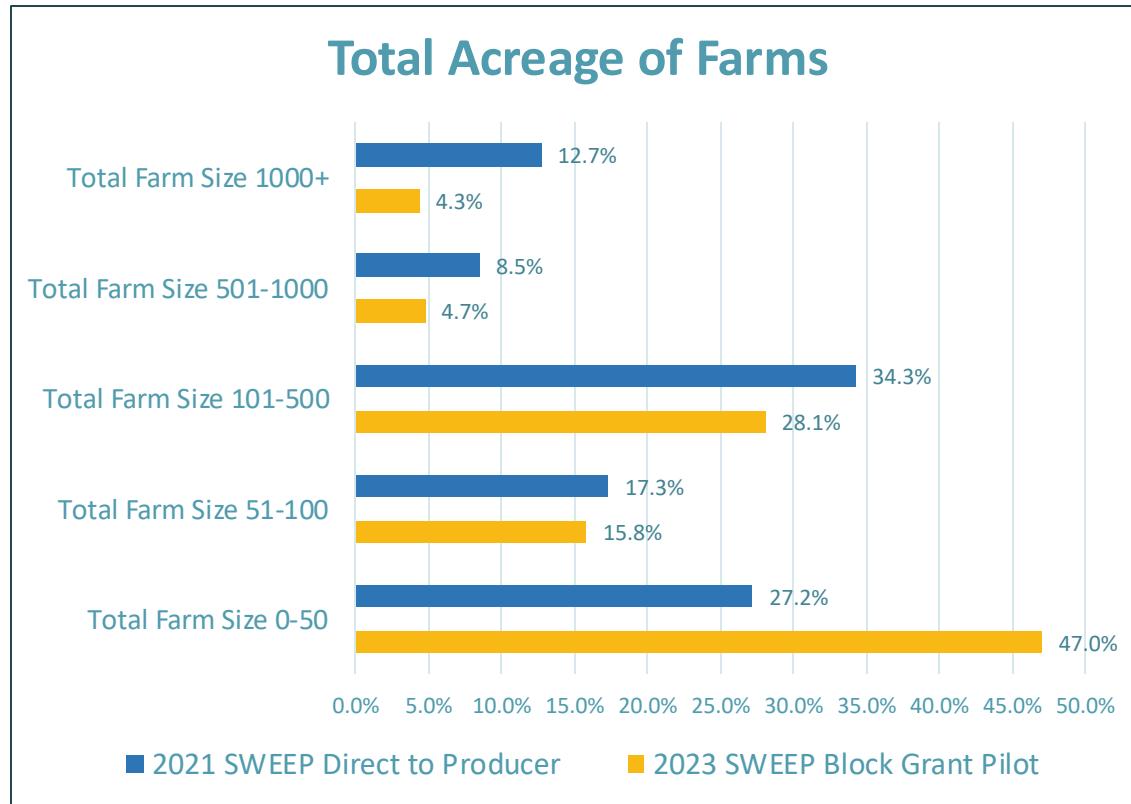
During the sweep block grant program, SWEEP was able to offer a methodology to estimate GHG reduction benefits related to irrigation method and associated soil nitrous oxide emission reductions. 79 on-farm projects opted to use the beta tool and were able to estimate an additional GHG reduction benefits of 4,000 MTCO2e per year.

2023 BGP vs 2021 Solicitation SDFR Analysis

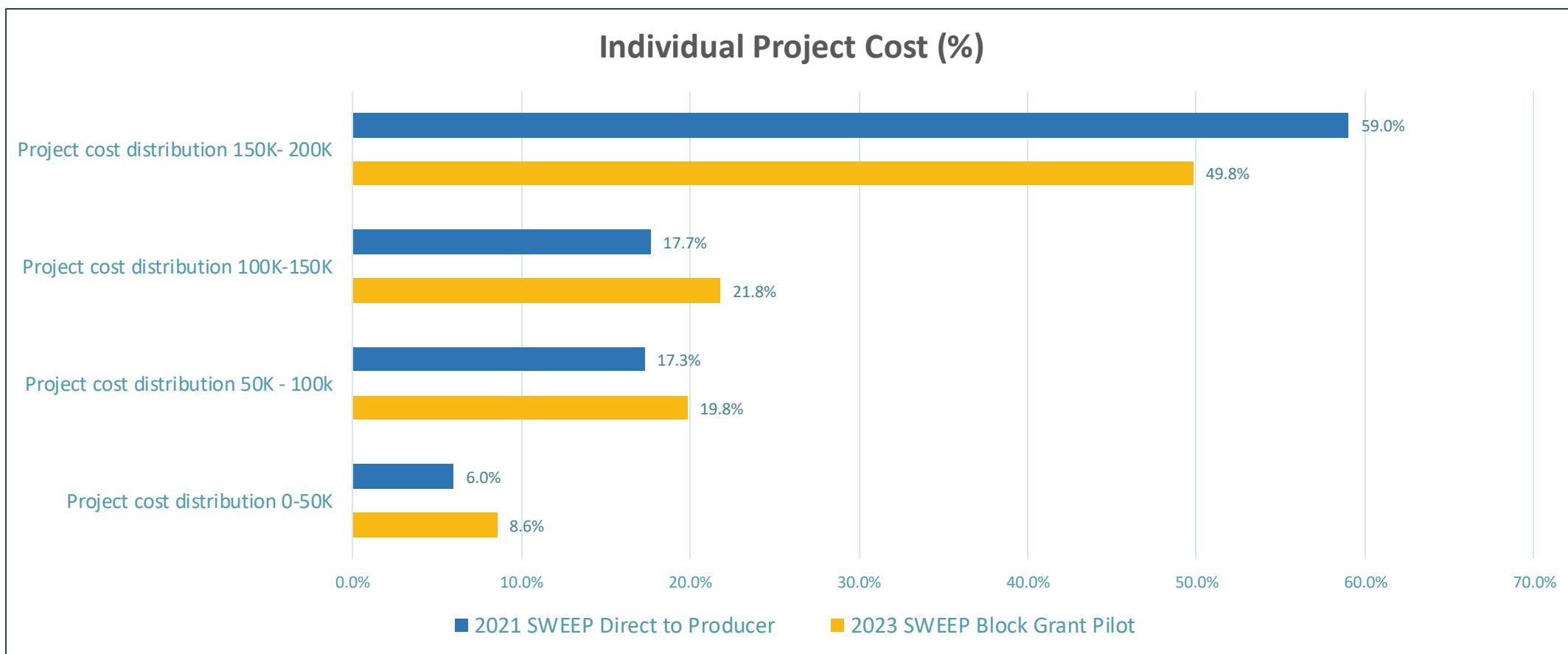
	2023 Block Grant Pilot Program	2021 Direct to Producer Solicitation
Number of SDFR Projects	102	74
% of total Funds going to SDFR Projects	40%	25%
Total Amount Awarded to SDFRs	\$14.1 million	\$10.7 million



2023 BGP vs 2021 Solicitation Farm Size

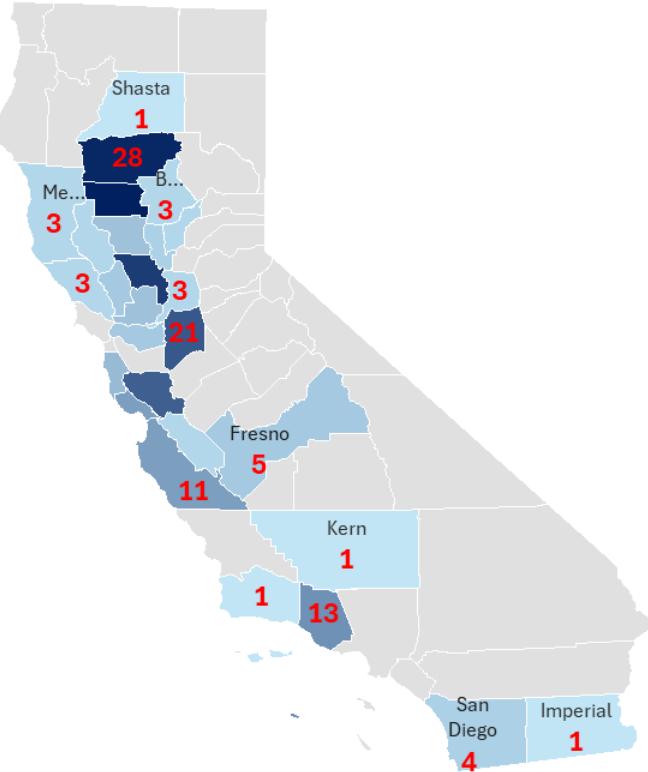


Cost of a Project

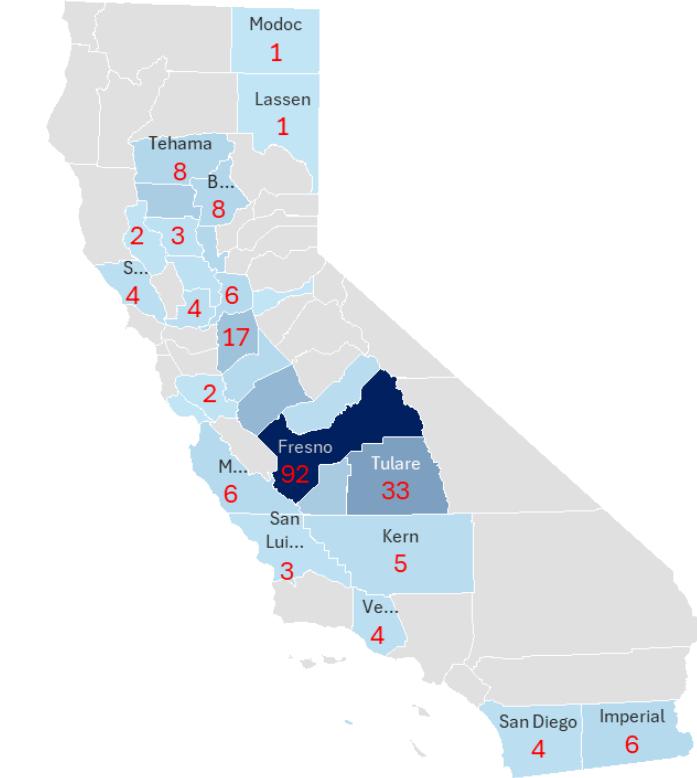


Solicitation Geographic Distribution

2023 BGP Project Distribution



2021 Direct to Producer Project Distribution



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Findings

- **Support for SDFRs** – a larger percent of the total funds went SDFR projects in the BGP (40%), compared to the 2021 direct to farmer solicitation (25%).
- **Farm size** – the 2021 solicitation funded more large farms than smaller farms compared to the BGP. Both BGP and 2021 solicitation had the largest number of growers requesting awards in the cost group of 150-200k, although BGP on-farm projects have a lower average cost.
- **GHG reductions** – The 2021 solicitation had a greater total ghg emissions reductions related to pumping, greater average total ghg emissions reductions, as well as greater ghg emissions reductions per acre.
- The BGP is the first round that nitrous oxide (N_2O) emissions reductions have been estimated, using the new SWEEP tool.

Findings

- **Water savings** – the 2021 solicitation showed greater estimated total annual water savings, average water savings per project, and water savings per acre.
- **Geographic distribution** – BGP had a concentration of BGRs in northern California with a lack of coverage in the San Joaquin Valley and other areas of California, leaving many growers in the San Joaquin Valley unserved.



Future Funding Notes

- Geographic coverage should be considered when awarding BGRs to ensure better distribution of funding for grant beneficiaries; primarily in regions where there are high concentrations of growers.
- Regions of California have very diverse resource (water and energy) challenges. OARS anticipates that applicants to future block grant programs will have compelling statements of need that might be equally diverse.
- Through the block grant pilot, funding is reaching more SDFRs than in the 2021 DTP solicitation. Moving forward OARS expects serving SDFRs to be a strong focus – it's called for in the Climate Bond language. Block grant applicants should develop applications that have strong strategies for outreach and TA to SDFRs.



A large, semi-transparent rectangular box covers the center of the image, containing the text "Thank you!" and "Questions?". The background is an aerial photograph of a vast agricultural landscape. It features numerous fields of different colors (brown, green, yellow) separated by roads and irrigation canals. A large, winding blue body of water, possibly a river or a large irrigation canal, cuts through the fields. The horizon is visible in the distance under a clear sky.

Thank you!

Questions?