

**ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING ACT SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL (EFA SAP)
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

April 14, 2022

9 AM to 4 PM

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Main Auditorium
1220 N Street,
Sacramento, CA 95814

REMOTE ACCESS

Registration

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_suGE2XxMQlic0qKgMPaVTg

Webinar ID- 837 6086 3741

Presentation materials will be posted at the following link prior to the meeting:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oe/efasap/meetings_presentations.html

| Topic | Presenter | Action Level |
|--|---|--|
| 1. EFA SAP and CDFA Introductions | Chair Dlott | Informational Item |
| 2. Minutes from Previous Meeting | Chair Dlott | Action Item Requires EFA SAP Approval |
| 3. Commendation Declaration honoring Dr. Amrith Gunasekara | Chair Dlott | Action Item Requires EFA SAP Approval |
| 4. Modelling of greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture to inform the Natural Working Lands and the AB 32 Scoping Plan | Alex Yiu Staff Air Pollution Specialist California Air Resources Board (CARB) | Informational Item |
| Recently, CARB developed and presented at a public meeting several modeled agriculture carbon sequestration scenarios for the Natural Working Lands action plan and the AB 32 Scoping Plan. This agenda item will allow for CARB to present on the modeling work and how it will be used in their reports and action plans. The modeling work include nitrous oxides from fertilizers. | | |
| 5. Invited panel to discuss previous greenhouse gas emissions data from agricultural systems | Martin Burger, CDFA Sat Darshan Singh Khalsa, UC Davis | Informational Item |

The meeting complies with Bagley Keene requirements and the Governors Executive Orders on Covid-19 which allows for remote participation and voting by EFA SAP members at public meetings. Questions regarding this public meeting can be directed to Amrith Gunasekara, PhD, at (916) 654-0433 or CDFA.OEFl@cdfa.ca.gov More information at: <http://cdfa.ca.gov/Meetings.html> and http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/EnvironmentalStewardship/Meetings_Presentations.html

Renee Pinel, WPHA
CARB

EFA SAP will engage on a dialog on previous greenhouse gas research, including current gaps in research, past research results and potential solutions to reducing greenhouse gases from agricultural systems including nitrous oxide emissions.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 6. Topics for future EFA SAP discussion | Chair Dlott | Discussion Item |
| Chair Dlott and the members of the EFA SAP will provide input on any future topics for discussion in the EFA SAP and also facilitate public comments on topics that should be discussed over the next year. | | |
| 7. Pollinator Habitat Program (PHP) | Patricia Bohls, CDFA PHP | Informational Item |
| An update on the PHP will be provided by the CDFA OEFI team including discussion of the recently released Draft Request for Applications for public comment. | | |
| 8. Healthy Soils Program (HSP) | Nina Bingham, CDFA HSP | Informational Item |
| An update on the HSP will be provided by the CDFA OEFI team including sharing data on the recently closed Request for Applications for \$67.5 million. For the HSP incentives program, CDFA received 1328 applications requesting \$90.52 million in requests. Information on the demonstration projects solicitation will also be presented. | | |
| 9. State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) | Steph Jamis, CDFA SWEEP | Informational Item |
| An update on the SWEEP will be provided by the CDFA OEFI team including sharing data on the recently closed Request for Applications for \$43 million. For the SWEEP incentives program, CDFA received 568 applications requesting \$83 million in requests. | | |
| 10. Other updates | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP) Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Program (WETA) SWEEP Pilot for the Southern Desert Technical Assistance for Climate Smart Agriculture International Collaborations on Climate Smart Agriculture | CDFA OEFI | Informational Item |
| Updates and recent events on the following topics will be shared with the EFA SAP members and the general public | | |
| 11. Public Comment | Chair Dlott | Informational Item |
| 12. Next Meeting – July 14, 2022 | Chair Dlott | Informational Item |

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EFA SAP MEMBERSHIP

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/efasap/>

Jeff Dlott, PhD, Landscan, Member and Chairperson

Vicky Dawley, Tehama RCD, Member and Vice Chairperson

Don Cameron, Terranova Ranch, Member

Judith Redmond, Full Belly Farm, Member

Leonard Diggs, Pie Ranch, Member

Keali'i Bright, California Department of Conservation, Member

Amanda Hansen, California Natural Resources Agency, Member

Scott Couch, State Water Resources Control Board, CalEPA, Member

Michelle Buffington, PhD, California Air Resources Board, CalEPA, Member

Greg Norris, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services, Subject Matter Expert

Doug Parker, PhD, Subject Matter Expert

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AGENDA ITEM 1

AGENDA ITEM 2

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING ACT SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL**

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Remotely Hosted to Accommodate Covid-19 Safety Measures

**January 13, 2022
9 AM to 4 PM
Remote Access**

MEETING MINUTES

Panel Member in Attendance

Jeff Dlott, LandScan (Member and Chairperson, In Attendance)
Vicky Dawley, Tehama RCD (Member and Vice Chairperson, In Attendance)
Michelle Buffington, Ph.D., CalEPA, California Air Resources Board (Member)
Scott Couch, CalEPA, State Water Resources Control Board, (Member, In Attendance)
Don Cameron, Terranova Ranch (Member, In Attendance)
Leonard Diggs, Pie Ranch (Member, In Attendance)
Keali'i Bright, California Department of Conservation (Member, In Attendance)
Amanda Hansen, California Natural Resources Agency (Member, In Attendance)
Judith Redmond, Full Belly Farm (Member, In Attendance)
Greg Norris, USDA NRCS (Subject Matter Expert, In Attendance)
Doug Parker, Ph.D., UC ANR (Subject Matter Expert, In Attendance)

State Agency Staff and Presenters

Amrith Gunasekara, PhD. CDFA
Steph Jamis, CDFA
Scott Weeks, CDFA
Carolyn Cook, CDFA
Nina Bingham, PhD. CDFA
Elizabeth Hessom, CDFA

AGENDA ITEM 1 – EFA SAP and CDFA Introductions

The public meeting of the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel was called to order at 9:06 am by Chair Dlott. Members in attendance are listed above and a quorum was established. The Panel members introduced themselves. Chair Dlott introduced the new CDFA Deputy Secretary for Climate at CDFA, Virginia Jameson, who provided opening remarks. Chair Dlott introduced the new CDFA rural economic advisor Mr. Habibullah Asadullah who also provided opening remarks.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Minutes from Previous Meeting

The Panel reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting, held in October 2021. Member Cameron introduced a motion to approve the minutes. Member Couch seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Updates to the Ecosystem Services Definition

Dr. Gunasekara from CDFA provided an update on this item, clarifying that it is not an action item for this meeting. Dr. Gunasekara explained how literature review was conducted on these terms, and he has been working with Member Diggs on the new definitions. Dr. Gunasekara proposed to bring the new proposed definitions for approval to the next meeting. Public comments can also be

taken during the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) Updates

Ms. Steph Jamis from CDFA presented on this informational item. She provided an update on the program solicitation cycle for 2021. Additionally, she discussed the technical assistance resources that have been utilized so far during the solicitation cycle. Presenting on the farm size distributions in current and past solicitations, the distributions show a larger amount large farms being funded. Ms. Jamis also presented on the 2021 priority group statistics for submitted and awarded projects and that SWEEP is on track for meeting their funding goals. As of January 10, 2022, 393 applications have been submitted with approximately \$59 million in requested funds. For funds being held for sub-surface drip for dairy effluent projects, \$2 million was set aside, and CDFA is receiving applications.

Member Cameron had a question on the reasons for the project extensions, and Ms. Jamis indicated that timing, and equipment availability may be more of the cause for extensions versus grantees experiencing pricing issues. Member Couch questioned what level of assistance TA providers can give to farmers/ranchers. Ms. Jamis indicated that the assistance depends on what the growers need. For some, they will receive assistance in the application process, however other growers might need less direct assistance and need more guidance. Expert Parker agreed that the level of help varies, particularly for SDFRs. He also indicated that translation assistance is provided. Member Couch inquired where they could learn more about the funded projects and Ms. Jamis directed the member to the SWEEP webpage that lists this information.

Member Diggs questioned if SWEEP staff has heard comments on how the first come first serve application process has affected first time farmers and ranchers applicants. Ms. Jamis indicated that SWEEP staff have been hearing that the pump test and records requests can be burdensome, and if applicants don't have those ready, they are sometimes encouraged to apply to the next cycle of funding. Chair Dlott asked about the reapplication rate, and Ms. Jamis stated that it is likely most applicants are reapplying if they are disqualified unless they don't have a pump test or the required records. Ms. Carolyn Cook also clarified that several applications are still going through the application review process. Chair Dlott also asked how the weekly office hours have been with technical service providers. Ms. Jamis indicated that this has been going well with a significant amount of attendance. Member Redmond commented on the farm size distribution graph, questioning if the funded projects distribution related to the farm size distribution. Ms. Jamis indicated that this is something that SWEEP staff could look into. Chair Dlott seconded this comment and suggested that smaller farms may need to be targeted for outreach and capacity building. Dr. Gunasekara commented that during SWEEP development, it was open to all farm sizes. The question is, does the SWEEP program want to carve out specific money allocations for smaller farms. Dr. Gunasekara emphasized that CDFA does not have a definition of farm size and highlighted that SDFRs usually are smaller farms. Member Cameron commented that the economic input is what usually determines "farm size", so the overall income should be considered more than acreage. The state board hopes to provide guidance on this in the future. Member Dawley commented that the technical assistance programs, like WETA, are emphasizing smaller farms, and wondering if this will have an impact on the other programs. Expert Parker commented that the technical assistance programs do end up helping smaller farms more. He requested to view the data in the presentation again, indicating that the way the data is presented graphically might not be fully showing how many small farms are funded.

Chair Dlott indicated he is looking forward to hearing from the state board with input on farm size definitions. Chair Dlott then opened the topic for public comment.

Public member Taylor Roschen with the California Farm Bureau Federation commented that she appreciated the discussion on small farms and encouraged outreach to the farm community on how they define themselves.

Chair Dlott applauded OEFI on the transparency of funding with the website postings of information.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – SWEEP Pilot Project

Dr. Gunasekara provided a brief introduction to the SWEEP Pilot Project. Mr. Scott Weeks from CDFA presented on the SWEEP Pilot Project for the Southern Desert Region and water savings focused projects. Mr. Weeks defined the southern desert region as Imperial, Riverside counties east of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto mountains and indicated that CDFA has dedicated \$2 million for funding these water-savings focused projects. These projects only need to demonstrate water savings through an assessment tool and must not result in an increase in GHG emissions after the project. Mr. Weeks outlined the water-savings project program specific requirements and ways that the water-savings project program requirements may be met by applicants. Mr. Weeks provided a comparison of traditional SWEEP grants and the SWEEP Pilot Program; the main differences indicated were that the Pilot Program does not require GHG emissions reductions, does not require a pump test, but that 100% of the project is required to do three years of post-project reporting with no increase in GHGs. Mr. Weeks indicated that the next steps included posting the Request for Grant Applications (RGA) for public comment to help shape the framework to result in water savings without an increase in GHG emissions.

Member Redmond is excited for the program and considered it a great response to previous comments. Member Cameron and Chair Dlott echoed this comment and expressed hope that the project will help get SWEEP funding support to the proposed area.

Dr. Gunasekara opened public comment for this agenda item.

Public Member Brian Schobe of CalCAN expressed gratitude to CDFA for responding to Coachella and Imperial Valley farmers requests. He would like to know the timing for the draft RGA and public comment period opening.

Public Member Taylor Roschen of the California Farm Bureau Federation echoed Mr. Schobe's comment of support for CDFA's actions on this item.

Chair Dlott inquired about the public comment regarding timing of the draft RGA. Dr. Gunasekara indicated that the draft RGA should be released within the next 30-60 days, and within 3-4 months CDFA intends to start the award process. Dr. Gunasekara also indicated that CDFA will be giving regular updates regarding this process.

Member Dawley inquired if the program is only possible because the General Fund is being used to fund this program and GHG emissions reductions are not required for this funding source. Member Dawley inquired as to what will happen to the project if the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is used instead of the General Fund. Dr. Gunasekara answered that results from the Pilot Program will hopefully provide information on GHG savings or at least no GHG increases from these Pilot Projects, which could then be translated to program requirements which meet GGRF standards.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Program (WETA) Updates

Dr. Gunasekara introduced this agenda item and indicated that \$5 million dollars has been allocated for this program from the Budget Act of 2021, Water and Drought Resilience Package. Scott Weeks from CDFA presented an overview on the program, which is currently open and accepting

applications. The maximum award is \$500,000 and it is a 3-year grant term. The program has 3 main objectives: 1. On-farm, one-on-one technical assistance to evaluate irrigation system efficiency, 2. Coordinate or provide pump efficiency testing, and 3. Provide training regarding water and nutrient management practice and technology. Mr. Weeks indicated that the application is competitive and outlined the application timeline and requirements. Mr. Weeks introduced the website for this program and highlighted the location of program resources on the website. Mr. Weeks also provided an update on the status of the solicitation and indicated concern that no applications had yet to be submitted; 13 applications have been initiated as of 12/23/2021. Mr. Weeks requested questions on this program.

Expert Parker inquired about the initiated applications and suggested if it is possible to contact applicants to assess their intent to submit or if an extension is required. Mr. Weeks appreciated the comment and indicated that many of the initiated applications are only partially completed at this time.

Dr. Gunasekara opened the discussion for public comment. No public comments were made.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – Technical Assistance Program Updates

Dr. Gunasekara gave a brief introduction to this agenda item. Ms. Carolyn Cook reminded the public and panel that the TAPs program provides assistance to CDFA's AMMP, HSP, SWEEP programs. The TAPs program held a proactive solicitation for SWEEP and HSP in February 2021. 36 organizations were awarded (21 RCDs, 10 non-profits, and 5 university partners) - 21 for SWEEP, and 32 for HSP. Technical assistance information is shared primarily on the TAPs webpage, listed on the OEFI website. Technical assistance resources are also listed on SWEEP, HSP, and AMMP respective webpages. TAPs workshops are listed as well on the webpages. Ms. Cook reported that the TAPs program received funding for AMMP in this fiscal year. Three applications were received and selected for award for TAPs in AMMP.

Member Redmond brought up an issue that she raised in October, stemming from public letters that reported frustrations from growers that could not receive funding, reporting excessive bureaucracy, changes in application rules, and emails not being answered in a timely manner. Many TAPs are working with smaller scale farmers which may not have adequate resources for applications. Member Redmond emphasized that TAPs are the strongest allies for small farmers applying to these programs. Member Redmond recommended that there should be a meeting between TAPs and CDFA staff to determine what the issues are and how they can be amended. Ms. Cook responded that there is an annual meeting between TAPs and CDFA staff. Ms. Cook also mentioned that there are a lot of positive experiences between staff and TAPs, particularly with CDFA staff hosting office hours.

Member Diggs recommended that TAPs sit down with staff and talk through strategies for assisting growers. Ms. Cook mentioned that CDFA doesn't usually receive negative feedback about growers not receiving funding that adequately reflects the efforts of their project. Office hours were initiated to promote communication between CDFA staff and TAPs.

Member Dawley asked if there is a communication problem regarding the disqualification process and how CDFA communicates disqualifications with applicants and TAPs. Dr. Gunasekara clarified that when applications get disqualified, applicants are able to request an appeal, which includes an official rejection letter. This process takes some time but is important for treating all applicants equally and fairly, removing any potential biases.

Member Redmond mentioned that TAPs may be the best resource that CDFA has for reaching out

to applicants. CDFA staff need to communicate that with TAPs to improve communication with farmers. Member Redmond posed the question how the methods of communication can be tweaked. Dr. Gunasekara clarified that CDFA staff does already communicate with TAPs to keep them informed. From a legal perspective, farmers are informed as the primary person, and the TAPs person may also be informed, as well, as the secondary contact. CDFA staff are not excluding TAPs from discussions.

Member Dawley provided an example from an applicant that was rejected, that mentioned they were rejected for not providing three quotes for project components, where those quotes were not a requirement. Ms. Cook responded that the SWEEP team spends a lot of time on administrative review. She mentioned that the project may have scored poorly and that that project would not have been disqualified during administrative review for not providing quotes (unless it was a solar quote, which is required).

Chair Dlott reiterated that there is unhappiness between TAPs and CDFA. The annual meeting would be an appropriate time to bring up any concerns and asked if there was a tentative date yet. Ms. Cook responded that there is no date for that annual meeting yet, and that it would be best to wait until HSP and SWEEP solicitations have ended. Member Dlott mentioned also that there are many concerns about payments and indirect rates for TAPs. It is important to communicate that with TAPs that these concerns should be brought up to the panel and not CDFA staff, because CDFA staff can't respond to that. He also indicated that there are concerns over the programmatic updates and with CDFA staff over communication issues. Chair Dlott recommended a more systematic and programmatic approach to the upcoming meeting, parsing out issues between programmatic concerns and staff communication issues. Chair Dlott recommended putting out a survey for TAPs. Ms. Cook responded that we welcome feedback and that a survey has been used in the past and would continue to be used if helpful.

Member Diggs reiterated that the survey would be helpful in receiving feedback from TAPs and then creating recommendations.

Expert Parker mentioned there should be a way to differentiate issues with the program itself and issues between TAPs and CDFA staff. Expert Parker mentioned that communication between CDFA staff and TAPs has improved greatly and that office hours are helpful.

Member Dawley agreed that feedback should be divided between program issues and CDFA staff/TAPs issues. Member Dawley also mentioned that there have been a lot of success stories from growers. She gave an example of a grower who received funding and was very appreciative of the help received. Ms. Cook thanked member Dawley for the comment.

Chair Dlott asked if CDFA used a survey before. Ms. Cook responded that CDFA did indeed use a survey to receive feedback from TAPs, resulting in several Zoom meetings where CDFA staff and TAPs reviewed the feedback and held discussions. Dr. Gunasekara also clarified that CDFA staff continue to pay attention to TAPs concerns

Dr. Gunasekara opened the discussion for public comment:

Dan Noble recommended CDFA determine key reported indicators for HSP, and that overall, he is happy with the program.

Adria Arko, a program manager for San Mateo RCD, said that CDFA has made many improvements in working with TAPs, in terms of the office hours and application changes. They are looking forward

to a dialogue with CDFA staff in the annual meeting.

Member Redmond asked about next steps or making a motion for recommending CDFA staff produce and share a survey to explore communication and grant application processes between CDFA staff and TAPs to be brought up in the annual meeting and then report back to science advisory panel members. Motion seconded by Member Diggs. Motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – Healthy Soils Program Updates

Dr. Gunasekara gave a brief introduction to this agenda item, presented by Ms. Elizabeth Hessom and Dr. Nina Bingham of the HSP. Ms. Hessom provided an update on the solicitation and the historic HSP overview. The solicitation window began November 1, 2021, and tentatively will close February 25, 2022. As of January 6, 2022, \$59 million requested from 836 applications – where \$14 million were requested by SDFRs (237 applicants) and \$1.4 million requested from projects that would benefit priority populations (23 applications). Also \$16 million have been awarded to 230 applications. Funding comes from CCI funding this fiscal year, as well as General Funds. HSP broke down application submissions and award rates weekly in a graph. Linear projections estimated that 100% of available funds requested would be reached by January 20, 2022. Maximum funding possible is \$67.5 million. Ms. Hessom indicated that there is a gap between when an application is received and when it may be potentially awarded due to administrative and technical review. Ms. Hessom shared the farm size distribution in the current solicitation and previous solicitations. USDA defines farm size by agricultural revenue, and CDFA does not have a definition for farm size because CDFA does not collect these data, and uses farm size by acreage. Ms. Hessom mentioned that there have been 2 application workshops provided in which 137 attendees participated. Another workshop will be hosted on 1/20/2022. A “how to” video was also posted.

Dr. Nina Bingham gave an update on the current solicitation. Dr. Bingham reminded panel members and the public that there are Type A applications and Type B applications for the HSP demonstration projects. Twelve applications were submitted, and there were 2 application workshops provided. Dr. Bingham shared a graph showing historic HSP funding by farm size. Farm size distribution was displayed by % of total active and completed projects. Dr. Bingham provided a summary of historic HSP program statistics for the incentives projects. 604 projects have been funded in the last 3 rounds (2017-2020). Total greenhouse gas reductions have totaled 109,089 MTCO₂e. As of November 1, 2021, there are 481 active projects, 73 completed projects, and 50 cancelled projects (due to selling the farm, not being able to complete the work, and COVID-19 issues). Dr. Bingham also provided a summary of historic HSP program statistics for the demonstration projects. 71 projects were funded between 2017-2020. Total Greenhouse Gas reductions totaled 3,900 MTCO₂e. 54 projects are still active, 5 projects are closed out and considered completed, 7 projects are closed out, but considered incomplete, and 5 projects were cancelled.

Member Diggs asked about the incentives programs and the diversity of the practices being used. Member Diggs finds that there are a limited number of practices for the demonstration programs. He asked, what is the goal of the demonstration projects. Ms. Hessom mentioned that a significant amount of funding goes to composting and cover cropping. Many practices are listed under the “other” category. Dr. Bingham explained that the functioning purpose of the demonstration projects is to determine what practices result in GHG benefits. Dr. Gunasekara made a clarifying comment, reminding members that there are 2 type of demo projects: Type A and Type B.

Chair Dlott and Dr. Gunasekara opened the discussion to the public.

Dan Noble mentioned it would be great to have the graphs included in the packet. Mr. Noble asked if HSP measures Scope 1 or Scope 1-3 for GHG emissions. Ms. Hessom mentioned that the graphs are posted on the HSP incentives webpage. Chair Dlott clarified that HSP uses Comet-Planner to

quantify GHG benefits and that Scopes 1-3 aren't used.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – Pollinator Habitat Program

Chair Dlott called the meeting back to order. Dr. Gunasekara introduced the next informational item, presented by Ms. Carolyn Cook. Ms. Cook introduced the presentation on the Pollinator Habitat Program and Funding. The Budget Act of 2021 included \$15 million for the Pollinator Habitat Program, for prioritizing “the planning of native habitats for the benefit of native biodiversity”, totals \$15 million in the next two years. The program hopes to adopt elements of the Healthy Soils Program (specifically payment rates of HSP and using Comet-Planner to quantify the climate benefits of potential projects) and reviewing NRCS Conservation Practice Standards that indicate wildlife habitat/pollinator benefit as a “purpose”. Some of the funded practices would include cover cropping, conservation cover, field borders, hedgerow planting, riparian forest buffers or herbaceous cover. Of the 324 HSP projects from the 2020 cycle, 129 were identified as having pollinator benefits, which included 165 practices total. Merced, Yolo, and Tulare Counties had the greatest number of these projects. Cover cropping seemed to be the most popular pollinator practice.

The program could be formatted using two options: a direct to farmers and ranchers (where growers partner with TAPs), or a block grant (where organizations like RCDs and non-profits are awarded and administer multiple projects with farmers and ranchers). The block grant route could result in a built-in TAPs component. The next steps include a release for draft Request for Grant Applications for public comment and then to hire a Biodiversity Coordinator (senior environmental scientist, specialist).

Member Cameron asked if Ms. Cook could clarify how block grant funding would work. Ms. Cook responded that the program would award grants to organizations that have the expertise to work with farmers and ranchers. Member Cameron asked if the organization would be the TAP. Ms. Cook responded saying yes, that the organization would likely be the TAP for the farmers and growers, administering assistance to them. Ms. Cook mentioned there are a lot of things to consider in terms of prioritizations and targeting populations for funding.

Member Dawley commented that if this program does block grant funding, then CDFA may lose an element of control. Member Dawley mentioned that she is finding it difficult in her own work to not provide funding directly from her organization to farmers and growers. She reiterated that the organizations would have the administrative ability to distribute funding.

Member Couch agreed with Member Dawley and mentioned that CDFA staff have done a good job in adapting requirements and creating new programs. The survey with the TAPs would provide ideas about which of the two funding options between block grant funding and direct funding would be best.

Chair Dlott asked about the timing of the program. Dr. Gunasekara that it would have a similar timeline to the SWEEP Pilot Program. Ms. Cook mentioned that CDFA is open to receiving feedback on which funding type the program takes on.

Member Cameron shared some concern for doing the block grant method; that the organizations administering the program should hold the same standards that CDFA would.

Member Couch shared his experience with block grants, saying that there is less oversight but improved efficiency. Member Couch mentioned that there could be more potential for fraud or misuse.

Chair Dlott asked if this program format would be similar to the CDFA specialty crop block grant

program. Ms. Cook responded saying that she would be looking to that program for some guidance. Chair Dlott also mentioned that there are some other pollinator programs in existence and that CDFA may want to look to those for guidance.

Chair Dlott and Dr. Gunasekara opened the discussion to public comment.

Katie Little shared her support for the direct to farmer funding to promote quicker access and quicker implementation of these projects, stating that we are currently in a biodiversity crisis.

AGENDA ITEM 10 – Conservation Agricultural Planning Grant Program (CAPGP) Updates

Ms. Carolyn Cook from CDFA presented on this informational item. She provided background on the program, and the summary of public comments received during the second public comment period. She indicated that CDFA will incorporate at least 9 of the comments received. The key updates to the program include, allowing culturally relevant traditional foods to be included in the project design, allowing GSA to be added as eligible entities, clarifying that the Organic Systems Plan is eligible under CAP 138 and a stand-alone organic transition plan, and that the program will include the inclusion of Fish and Wildlife plans. Next steps for the program include CDFA reviewing the most recent EQIP payment rates as they are related to the Carbon Farm Plan. This is for Conservation Planning Activity (CSA) 199, and Carbon Sequestration and GHG Mitigation Assessment (CEMA) 218.

Chair Dlott commented on appreciating the comments in the EFA-SAP binder, and then moved to agenda item 11.

AGENDA ITEM 11 – Public Comment

Public Member Kellyx Nelson Executive Director of San Mateo County RCD commented on the Conservation Planning Grant program. They thanked CDFA for the opportunity and are very interested in working with CDFA to achieve strategic and effective investments. They are interested in developing direct and indirect costs for grants and how these two may be implemented to deliver essential services. They encouraged future summits and conversations on this matter to make the best of these grants between CDFA and the stakeholders.

Public Member Torri Estrada wanted to address agenda item number 10, the planning grant program. They have been engaged in development of the program and appreciates CDFA staff efforts. They raised the concern on the proposed payment rates, stating that they do not cover the full cost of planning. They are concerned about how many applications would be submitted if funding is insufficient and would not be able as a program to meet the growing demand of climate smart agriculture plans. They also suggested to the Panel to consider the data that has been shared with CDFA on costs and reconsider current payment strategies, as well as having a discussion on where funds are coming from for farmer and growers that would use cost share as an option.

Chair Dlott thanked the committee for their attendance and input in the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 12 – Next Meeting

Dr. Gunasekara indicated that the next meeting would be April 14, 2022.

Chair Dlott introduced the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Member Couch and seconded by Member Hansen. Panel members unanimously voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amrith Gunasekara, Ph.D.

Liaison to the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel

AGENDA ITEM 3

AGENDA ITEM 4

AGENDA ITEM 5

AGENDA ITEM 6

AGENDA ITEM 7



Pollinator Habitat Program

CDFA OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING & INNOVATION

PROPOSED PROGRAM FRAMEWORK FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Environmental Farming Act, Science
Advisory Panel – April 2022

Patricia Bohls, M.S.
Senior Environmental Scientist, Specialist



Funding Appropriation



SB 170, Skinner. Budget Act of 2021.

Chapter 240. SEC. 170. Item 8570-102-0001. (1). 7.

"Of the amount appropriated in this item, \$15,000,000 shall be available for the Pollinator Habitat Program. The department shall prioritize the planning of native habitats for the benefit of native biodiversity and the use of locally appropriate native plant seed mixes when feasible."

- \$15 M available in 2021-2022
- \$15 M available in 2022-2023

Elements of the Healthy Soils Program



Adopt payment rates of HSP



Review NRCS Conservation Practice Standards that indicate wildlife habitat/pollinator benefit as a “Purpose” and have implementation guidelines that are specific for pollinators



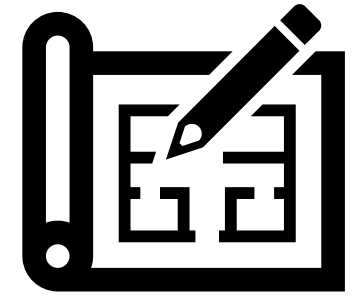
Comet-Planner can be used to quantify the climate benefits of a project

Award Term and Maximum Grant

- Three Year Grant Term
- Maximum Award of \$1 Million
 - Of this, \$180,000 for direct and indirect costs borne by awardee
 - The reminder will be flat payment for practice implementation
- Reimbursement-Based Payments



Eligibility



- Resource Conservation Districts
- University of California, California State Universities, California Community Colleges
- Non-Profits
 - Including, Land Trusts with the conservation of agricultural lands as their mission or amongst their stated purpose
- Federally and California-Recognized Native American Indian Tribes

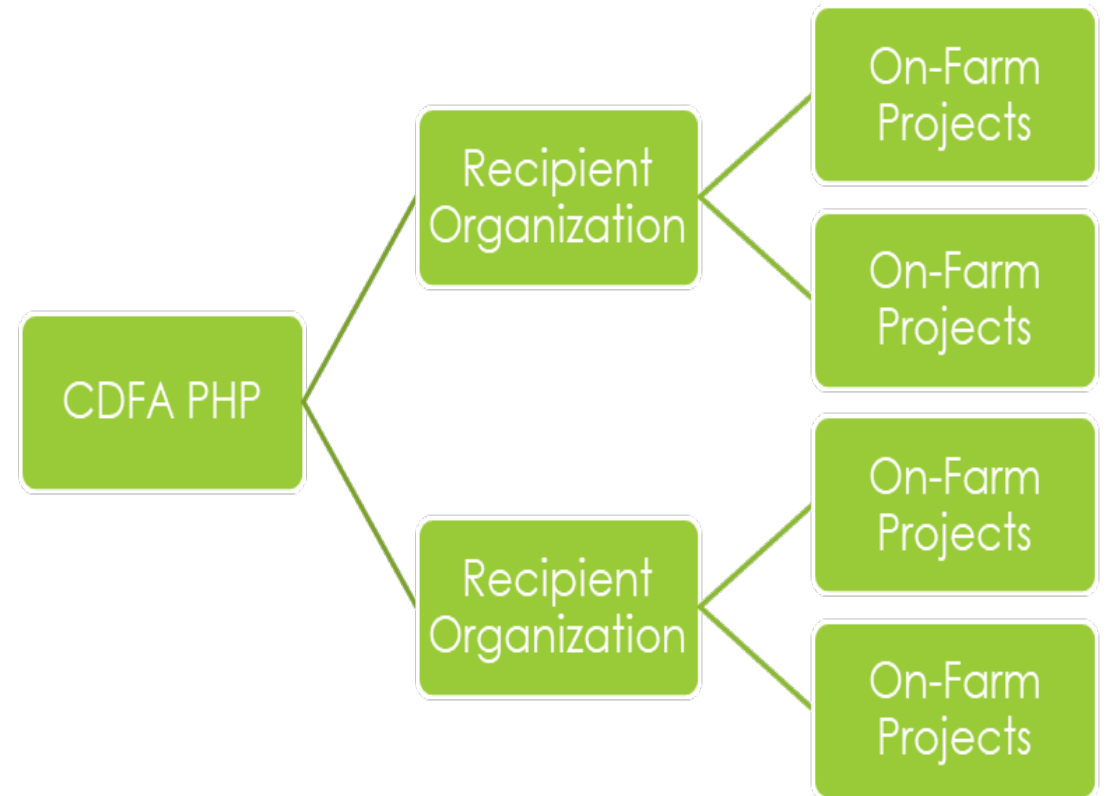
Agricultural commodity groups are encouraged to apply in partnership with the above eligible entities.

Must have demonstrated expertise and experience in habitat restoration on agricultural lands or implementation of conservation management practices that support pollinators.

Must be located in California with a physical business mailing address in California.

Program Structure

- Trusted Connections
- Outreach and Technical Assistance
- Implementation on Agricultural Lands



Identification of On-Farm Projects and Agricultural Partners

On-farm projects must be located on a California agricultural operation.

- For the purpose of this program, an agricultural operation is defined as row, vineyard, field and tree crops, commercial nurseries, nursery stock production, and livestock and livestock product operations.
- University and research farms, and city community gardens are not eligible on-farm project sites.

Agricultural Systems/Land Use Types

- Annual Cropland
- Orchard/Vineyard
- Grazing Land
- Annual Cropland Removed from Production in the last 24 months or Orchard/Vineyard Removed in the last 36 months





Management Practices Proposed for Inclusion

- Conservation Cover ([CPS 327](#))
- Field Border ([CPS 386](#))
- Hedgerow Planting ([CPS 422](#))
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover ([CPS 390](#))
- Silvopasture ([CPS 381](#))
- Wildlife Habitat Planting ([CPS 420](#))

Practices have been proposed that have a “Purpose” or “Resource Concern” that includes provision of habitat for pollinators or increases/enhances biodiversity **and** have implementation guidelines specific for pollinators

Competitive Review Process

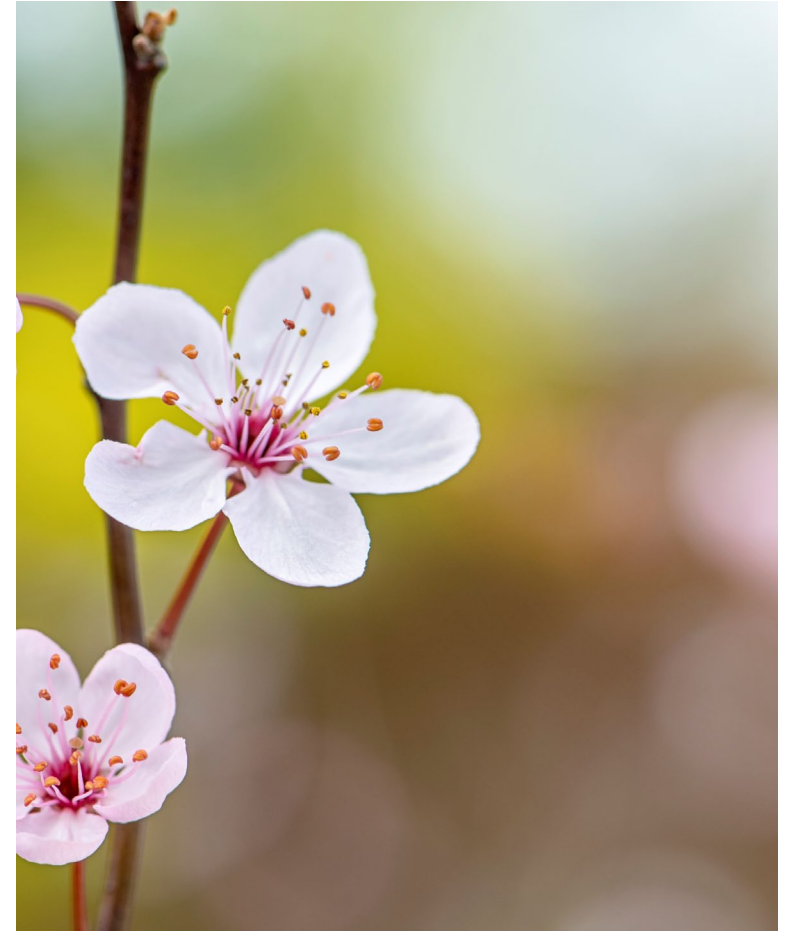
| Scoring Criteria | Maximum Points |
|---|----------------|
| Qualifications of Applicant | 10 |
| Strategic Partnerships | 5 |
| Workplan Merit and Feasibility | 15 |
| Budget | 10 |
| Commitment to Expending 25% of Funding to Support Pollinator Habitat with SDFR Partners | 10 |
| Total | 50 |

Next Steps

- Released a Draft Request for Grant Applications for Public Comment on March 17, 2022
 - Public comments due April 18, 2022 by 5 pm
 - Send to cdfa.oefi@cdfa.ca.gov
- Incorporate updates based upon public comment
- Create Application Submission Portal

Please sign up for email notifications at:

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/subscriptions/MailChimp-signup.html>





Questions and Comment



AGENDA ITEM 8



Healthy Soils Program

CDFA OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING & INNOVATION

**Environmental Farming Act
Science Advisory Panel Meeting**

April 14, 2022

Sacramento, CA

Nina Bingham, Ph.D.

Outline

- 2021-2022 Solicitation Overview
 - Incentives Program
 - Demonstration Projects
- Next Steps

Solicitation Overview – Incentives

- Outreach to applicants during solicitation
 - 3 virtual application workshops provided
 - 11/18/21, 12/16/21, 1/20/22
 - 178 total attendees
- Application "How to" video with 1,667 views

Solicitation Overview – Incentives

- 56 attendees at TAP Training Workshop in October 2021
- TAP Office Hours
 - November 3, 2021 – February 23, 2022
 - Zoom meeting 1x per week
 - 18 "Office Hours" hosted
 - Total number of Attendees: 112

Solicitation Overview – Incentives

Solicitation window: November 1, 2021 - February 25, 2022

| Category | Number | Funds |
|--|-------------|-------------------------|
| Total Applications | 1328 | \$90,524,501.64 |
| SDFR Applications | 346 (26.1%) | \$20,734,958.78 (22.9%) |
| Awarded Total (on-going, as of 3/18/22) | 694 | \$48,085,097.86 |

Solicitation Overview – Incentives

| Week # | Period | Applications | Week # | Period | Applications |
|--------|-----------------|--------------|--------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 | Nov 1- Nov 5 | 65 | 10 | Dec 30 - Jan 6 | 174 |
| 2 | Nov 6 - Nov 11 | 60 | 11 | Jan 7 - Jan 13 | 164 |
| 3 | Nov 12 - Nov 18 | 120 | 12 | Jan 14 - Jan 20 | 101 |
| 4 | Nov 19 - Nov 25 | 114 | 13 | Jan 21 - Jan 28 | 69 |
| 5 | Nov 26 - Dec 2 | 119 | 14 | Jan 29 - Feb 4 | 21 |
| 6 | Dec 3 - Dec 9 | 85 | 15 | Feb 4 - Feb 10 | 97 |
| 7 | Dec 10 - Dec 16 | 102 | 16 | Feb 11 - Feb 17 | 80 |
| 8 | Dec 17 - Dec 22 | 137 | 17 | Feb 18 - Feb 24 | 168 |
| 9 | Dec 23 - Dec 29 | 112 | 17 | Feb 25 | 117 |

Solicitation Overview – Incentives

| Category | Number* |
|--|--------------|
| Total Matching Funds (\$) | 1,868,027.29 |
| Average Funds Requested per Application (\$) | 68,166.04 |
| Total GHG (MT CO ₂ e) | 339,311.56 |
| Average GHG per Application (MT CO ₂ e) | 255.51 |
| Total Acreage (Acres) | 114,035.71 |
| Average Acreage per Application (Acres) | 87.32 |

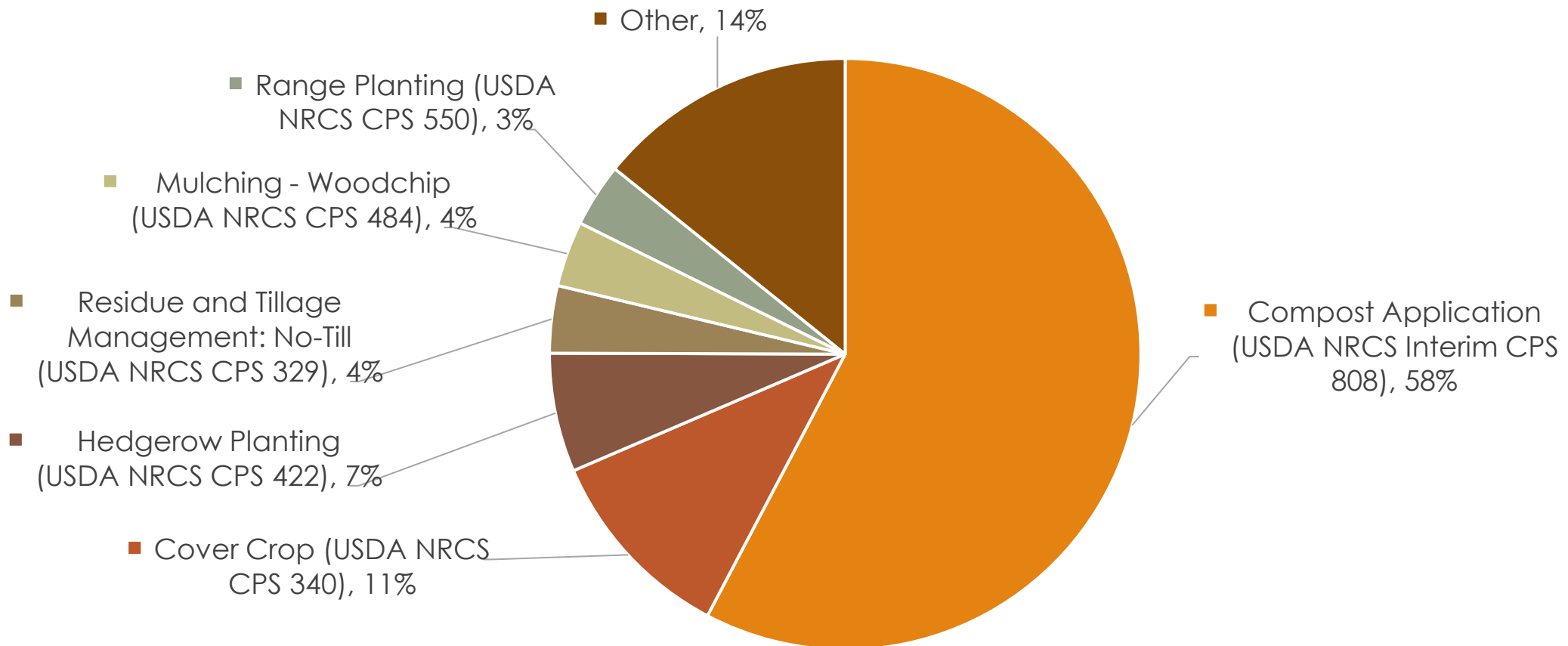
*Numbers as collected from application portal; not verified

Solicitation Overview – Incentives

| Technical Assistance | Applications (#,%) | Funds Requested (\$, %) |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| HSP Technical Assistance Provider | 417 (31.4%) | \$24,194,140.70 (26.7%) |
| UCCE Climate Smart Agriculture Community Education Specialist | 158 (11.9%) | \$11,785,717.70 (13.0%) |
| Others | 111 (8.4%) | \$8,240,539.40 (9.1%) |
| No Assistance | 642 (48.3%) | \$46,304,103.90 (51.2%) |
| Total | 1,328 | \$90,524,501.60 |

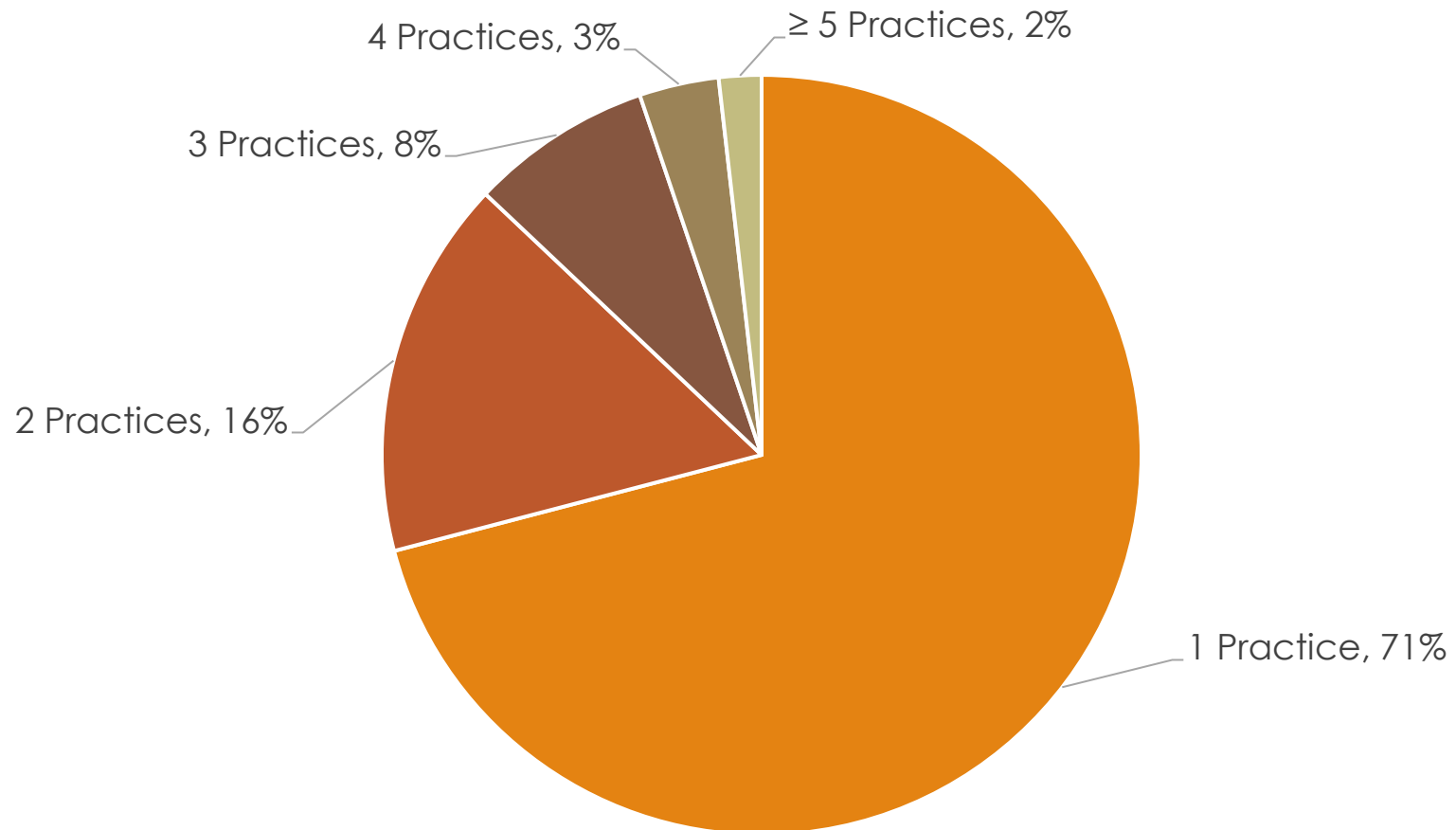
Solicitation Overview – Incentives

2021 Solicitation: Common Practices Proposed

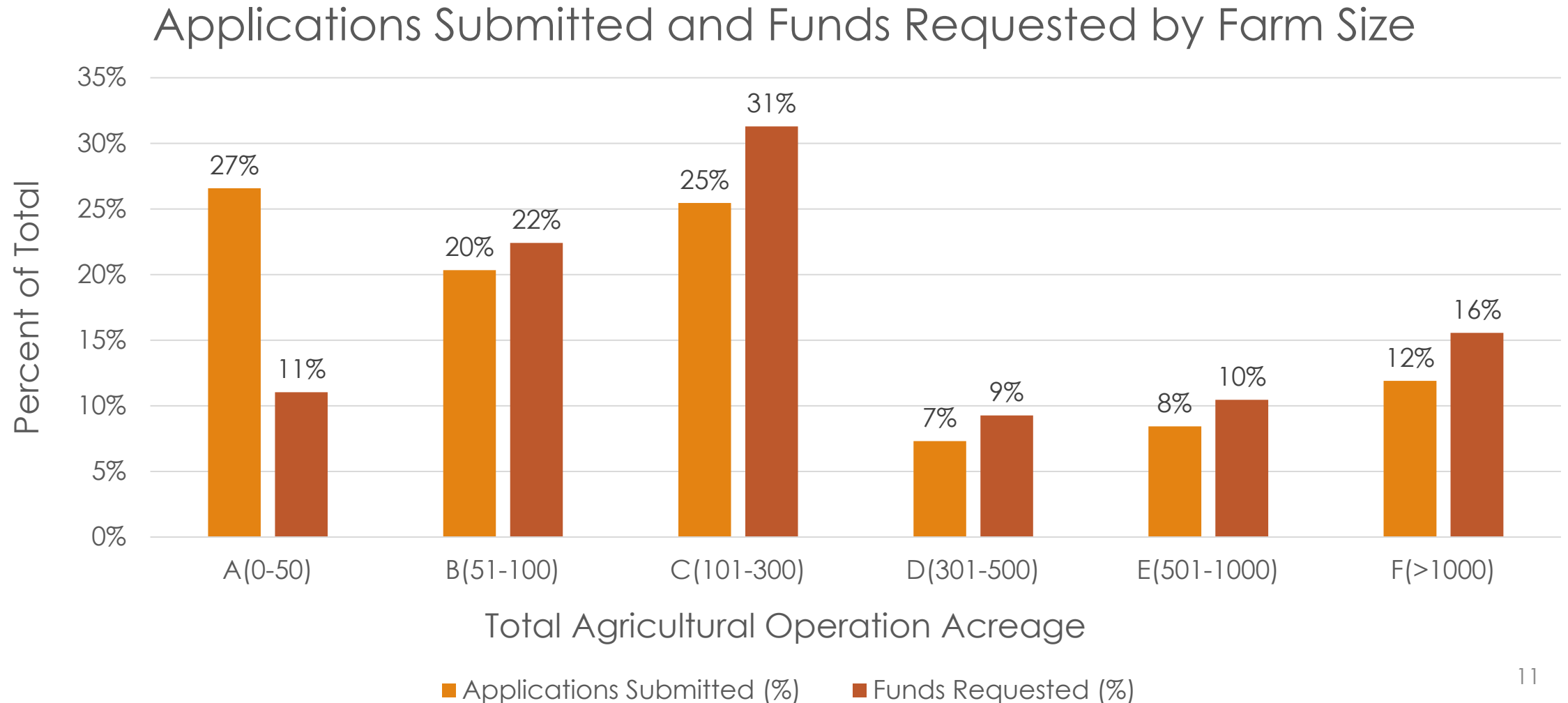


Solicitation Overview – Incentives

2021 Solicitation: Number of Practices per Project



Solicitation Overview – Incentives



Solicitation Overview – Demonstrations

- Solicitation window: November 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021
- 12 applications submitted
 - 7 Type A applications - \$1,564,414.12 Requested
 - 5 Type B applications - \$457,411.98 Requested
- Total \$2,021,826.10 Requested
- 2 Disqualified as they did not meet program requirements
- 2 Application assistance workshops provided
 - 26 attendees
- Technical review complete
 - Finalizing reviewer notes and recommendations

Next Steps for HSP Programs

| Activity | Timeline* |
|---|--------------------|
| Demonstration Award Announcement | April 2022 |
| Technical Review of Incentives Applications | Now – May 2022 |
| Executing Grant Agreements | Now – July 2022 |
| 2021 Grant Agreement Start Date | August 2022 |
| Anticipated Future Funding (85 million) | July 2022 |
| Anticipated Next Solicitation | Fall – Winter 2022 |

*Subject to change

Thank you! Questions?



Contact us:

CDFA.HSP_Tech@cdfa.ca.gov

Healthy Soils Program Staff

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Environmental Scientist

AGENDA ITEM 9



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



**State Water Efficiency
and Enhancement Program**

CDFA OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING & INNOVATION

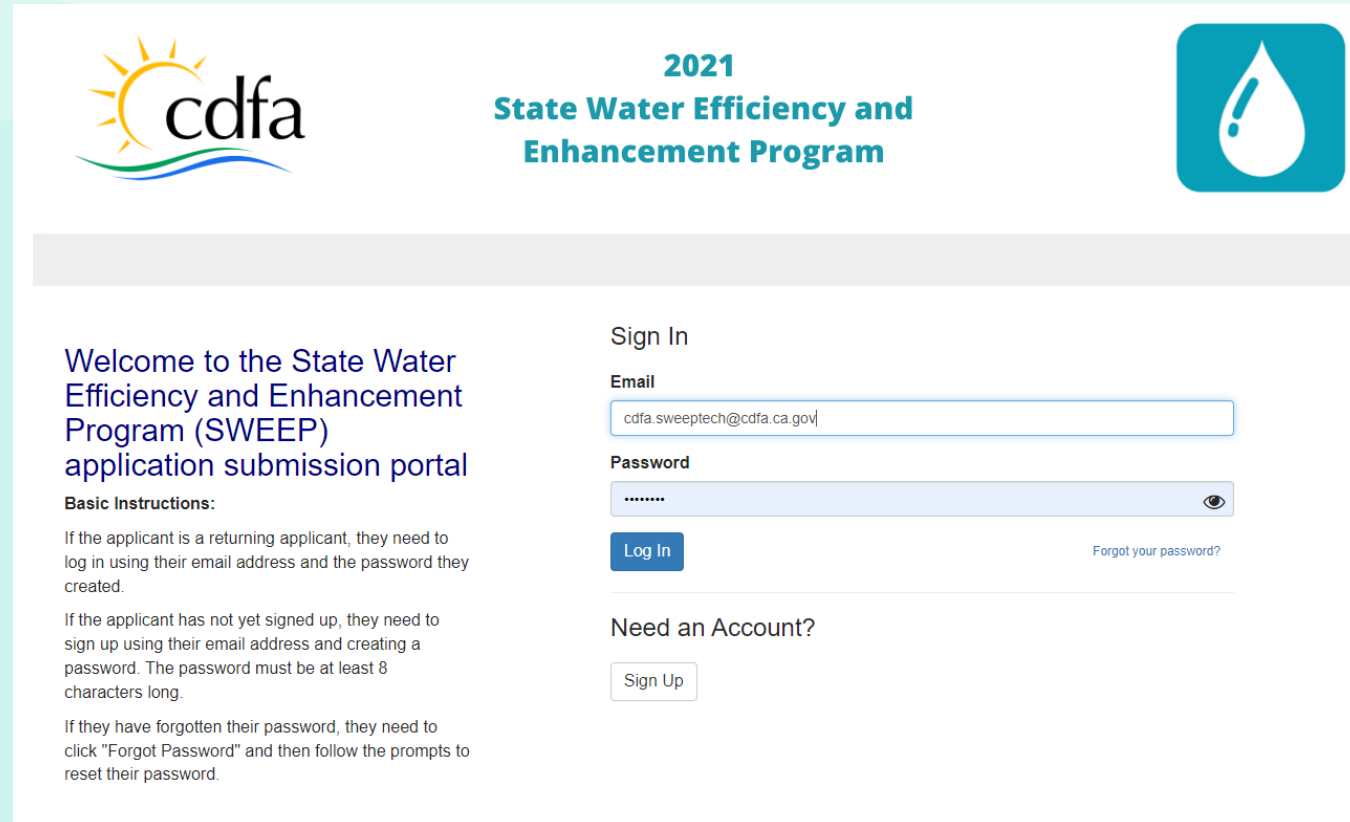
State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Solicitation Update

**Environmental Farming Act, Science
Advisory Panel
April 14, 2022**

2021 SWEEP Funding

Recap of Solicitation

- Budget Act of 2021 appropriated \$50 M from General Fund
- \$43 million available for SWEEP awards
- Application Period: October 19, 2021- January 18, 2022
- First-come, first-served process
- Minimum score of 30 out of 50 to be funded
- 25% of funding reserved for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and projects that provide benefit to AB 1550 Priority Populations
- \$2 M available for projects that utilize sub-surface irrigation to apply dairy manure effluent



The screenshot displays the login and registration interface for the 2021 SWEEP program. At the top left is the Cdfa logo, and at the top right is a blue square icon with a white water drop and exclamation mark. The header text reads "2021 State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program". Below this, the page is divided into two main sections. The left section, titled "Welcome to the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) application submission portal", includes "Basic Instructions" for returning applicants, new users, and those who forgot their password. The right section, titled "Sign In", contains input fields for "Email" (with the address cdfa.sweeptech@cdfa.ca.gov) and "Password", a "Log In" button, and a "Forgot your password?" link. Below the sign-in section is a "Need an Account?" section with a "Sign Up" button.

2021 State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program

Welcome to the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) application submission portal

Basic Instructions:

If the applicant is a returning applicant, they need to log in using their email address and the password they created.

If the applicant has not yet signed up, they need to sign up using their email address and creating a password. The password must be at least 8 characters long.

If they have forgotten their password, they need to click "Forgot Password" and then follow the prompts to reset their password.

Sign In

Email

cdfa.sweeptech@cdfa.ca.gov

Password

.....

Log In

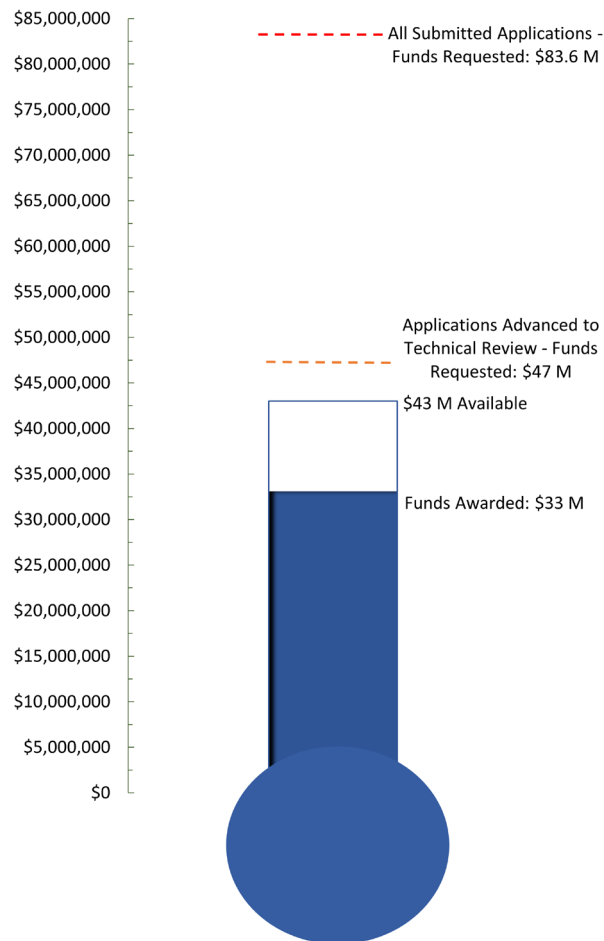
[Forgot your password?](#)

Need an Account?

Sign Up

Application Period Overview

2021 **Awarded and Requested** Funds as of January 19, 2022



Request Summary

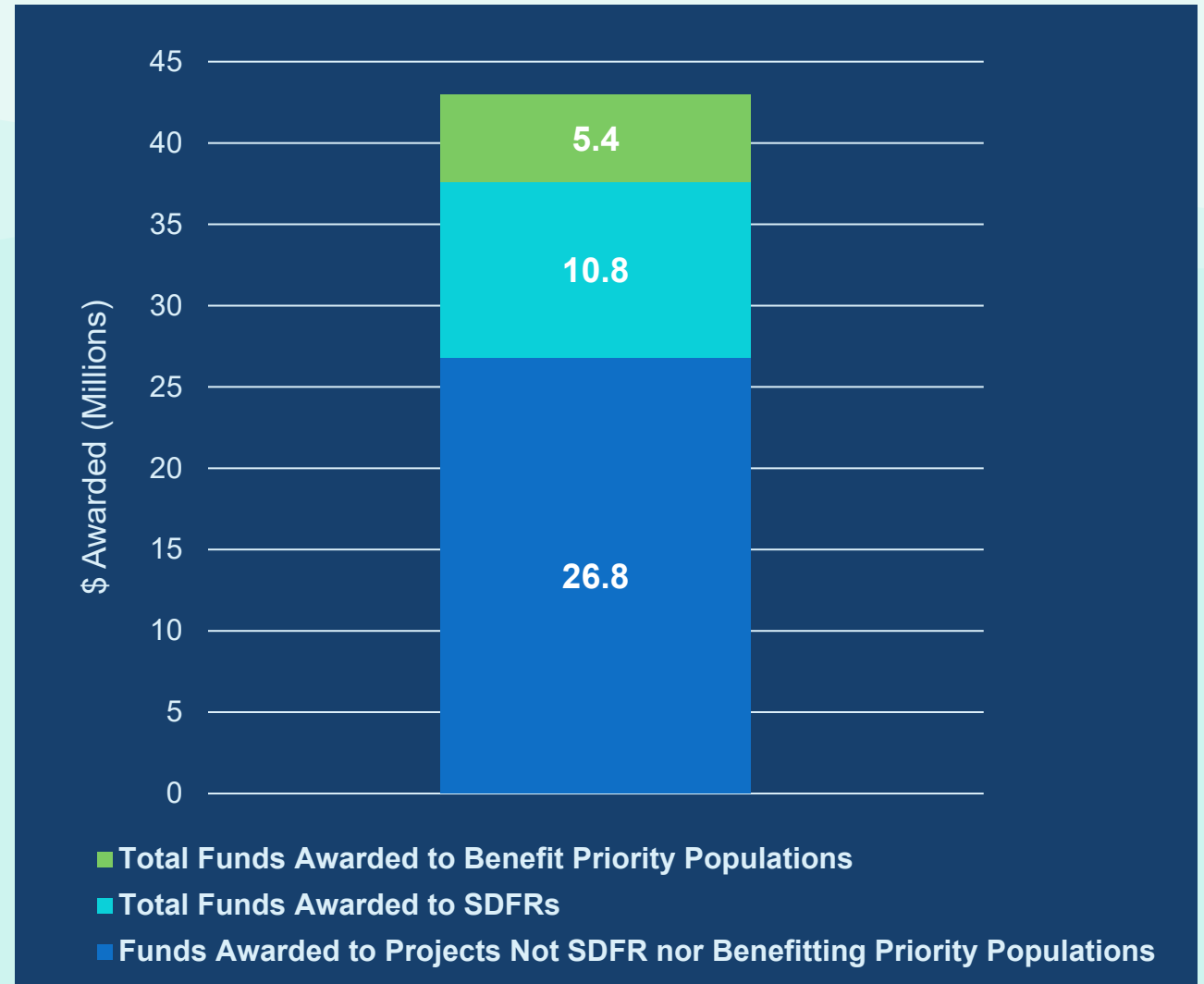
- 562 applications received
- \$83.7 million requested
- Over \$10 M requested in the last week of the application period

Award Summary

- 283 projects awarded
- \$43 million awarded
- Average award: \$151,969
- Smallest award: \$11,417
- \$20.4 million in matching funds
- Of the \$2M reserved for subsurface application of dairy effluent: 4 projects awarded, requesting a total of \$798,871.10

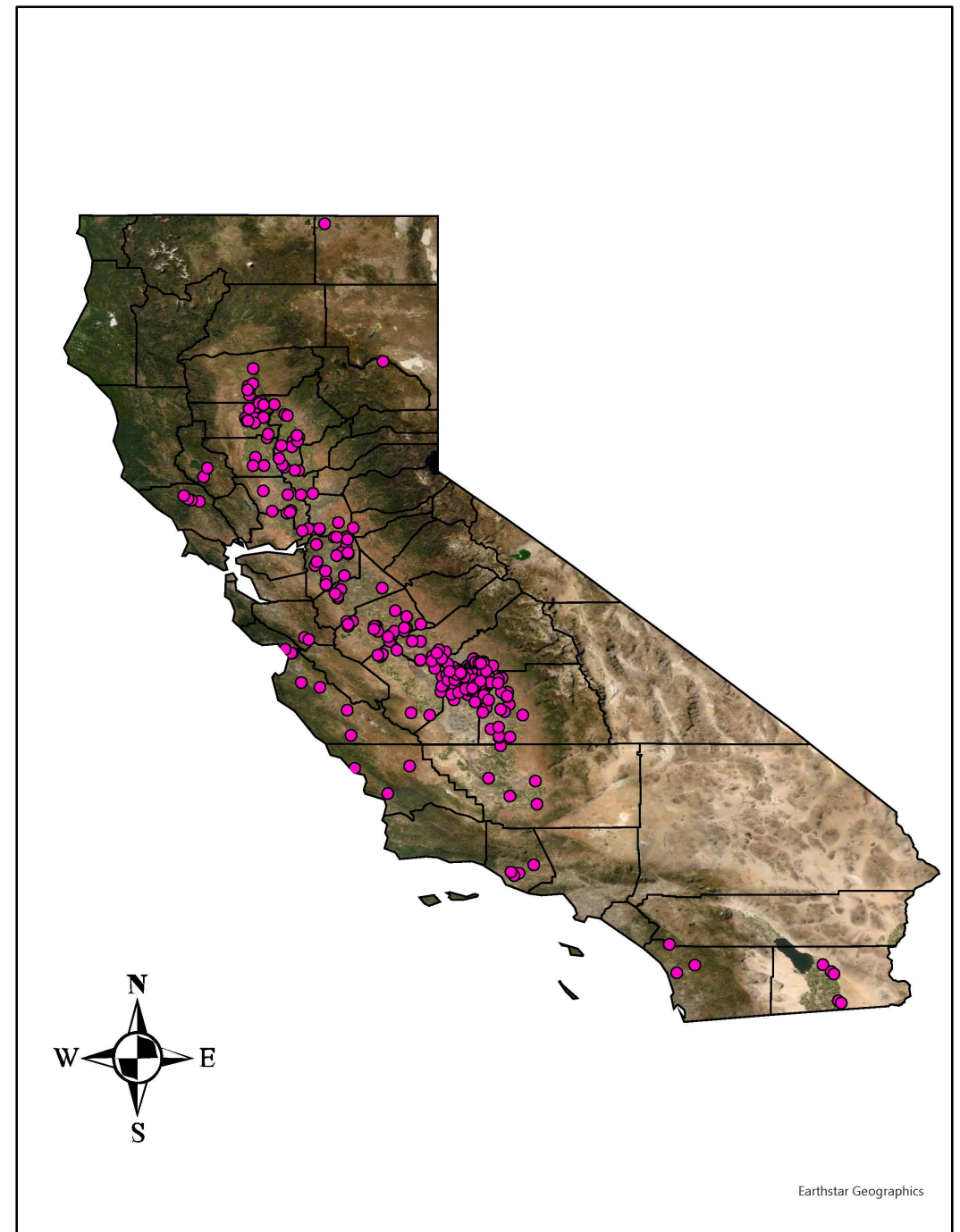
Awarded Projects – Priority Groups

- 74 projects belong to SDFR; \$10.8 M
- 30 projects providing benefits to AB 1550 priority populations; \$5.4 M



2021 SWEEP Project Distribution

| Region | Number of Projects |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Northern California | 62 |
| Central California | 208 |
| Southern California | 13 |



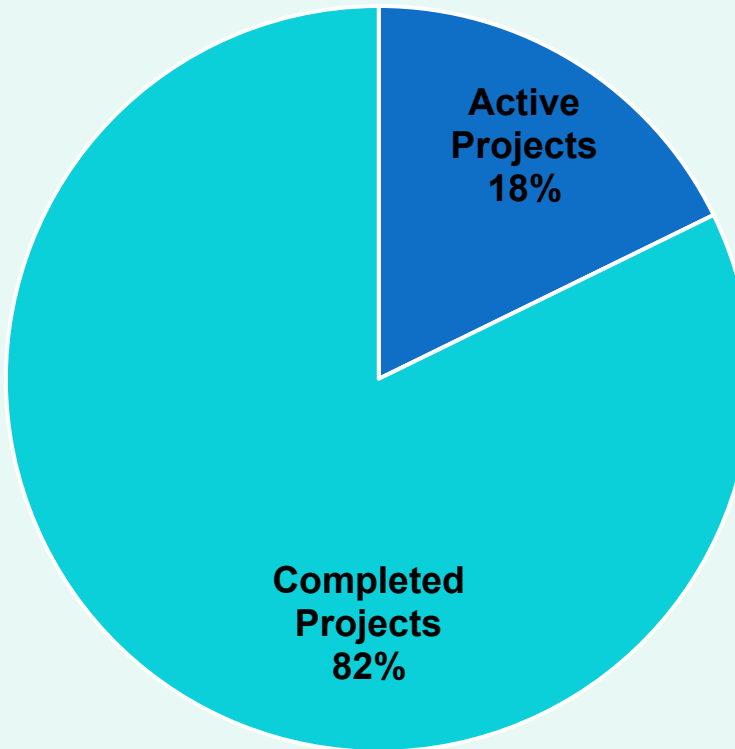
Estimated Outcomes

| Metric | Estimated Impact |
|---|------------------|
| Yearly GHG Reductions (MTCO ₂ e) | 13,304 |
| Total GHG reductions (MTOCO ₂ e/10 years life of practice) | 133,040 |
| Total yearly water savings (ac ft) | 29,602 |
| Total water savings (ac ft/10 years life of practice) | 296,020 |
| Total acres impacted | 34,597 |



Project Status for 2018 and 2019 Rounds

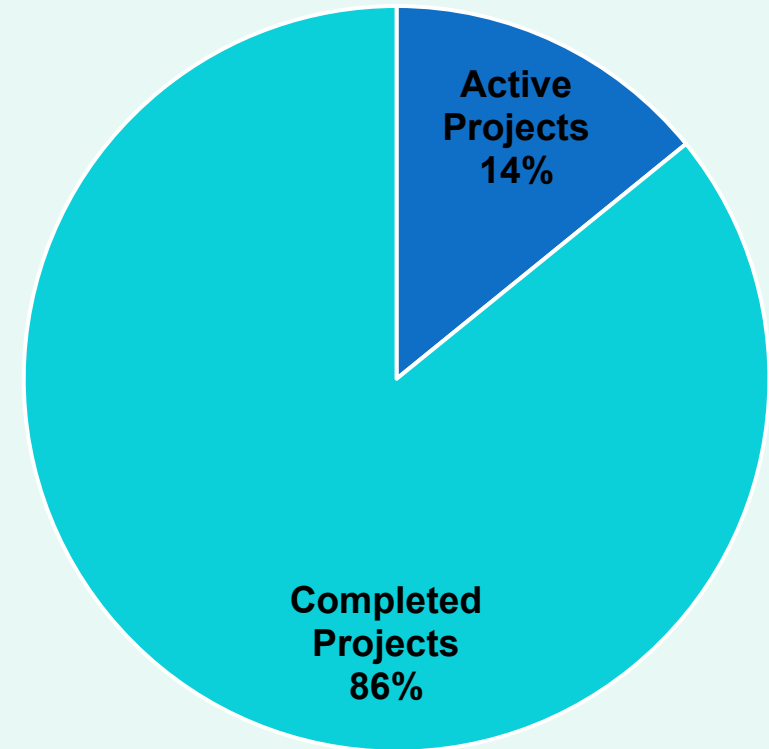
SWEEP 2018



SWEEP Round 2018

- 19 projects still active
 - 11 have requested an extension
 - 3 are in the process of being verified
- 88 projects completed
- 108 total projects

SWEEP 2019



SWEEP Round 2019

- 15 projects still active
 - 5 are in the process of being verified
- 91 projects completed
- 120 total projects

Questions?

For more information:

www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep

Email: Cdfa.sweeptech@cdfa.ca.gov



AGENDA ITEM 10

California Department of Food and Agriculture | Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation

Alternative Manure Management Program

Update to the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel

April 14, 2022



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE



**Alternative Manure
Management Program**

CDFA OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING & INNOVATION

About the Program

What is AMMP? Competitive grant program administered by CDFA to provide financial assistance to CA dairy and livestock operators for implementation of non-digester manure management practices that result in methane emission reductions.

Eligible Practices: 1. Pasture-based management; 2. Alternative manure treatment and storage; 3. Solid separation or 4. Flush-to-scrape conversion in conjunction with treatment and/or drying

Funding and Duration: up to \$750,000 per project; 2-year term

Since 2017: •114 incentive and 2 demonstration projects
•\$68.3 million •1.1 MMTCO₂e over 5 years (around 220,000/year)

2022 Solicitation: •\$32 million for livestock methane reduction
•Accepting grant applications March 10 – May 9, 2022 •Technical Assistance available



Learn more about the AMMP



Webpage:

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/AMMP/>



Program and Project Level Data:

- https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/AMMP/docs/AMMP_Program_Level_Data.pdf
- https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/AMMP/docs/AMMP_Project_Level_Data.pdf



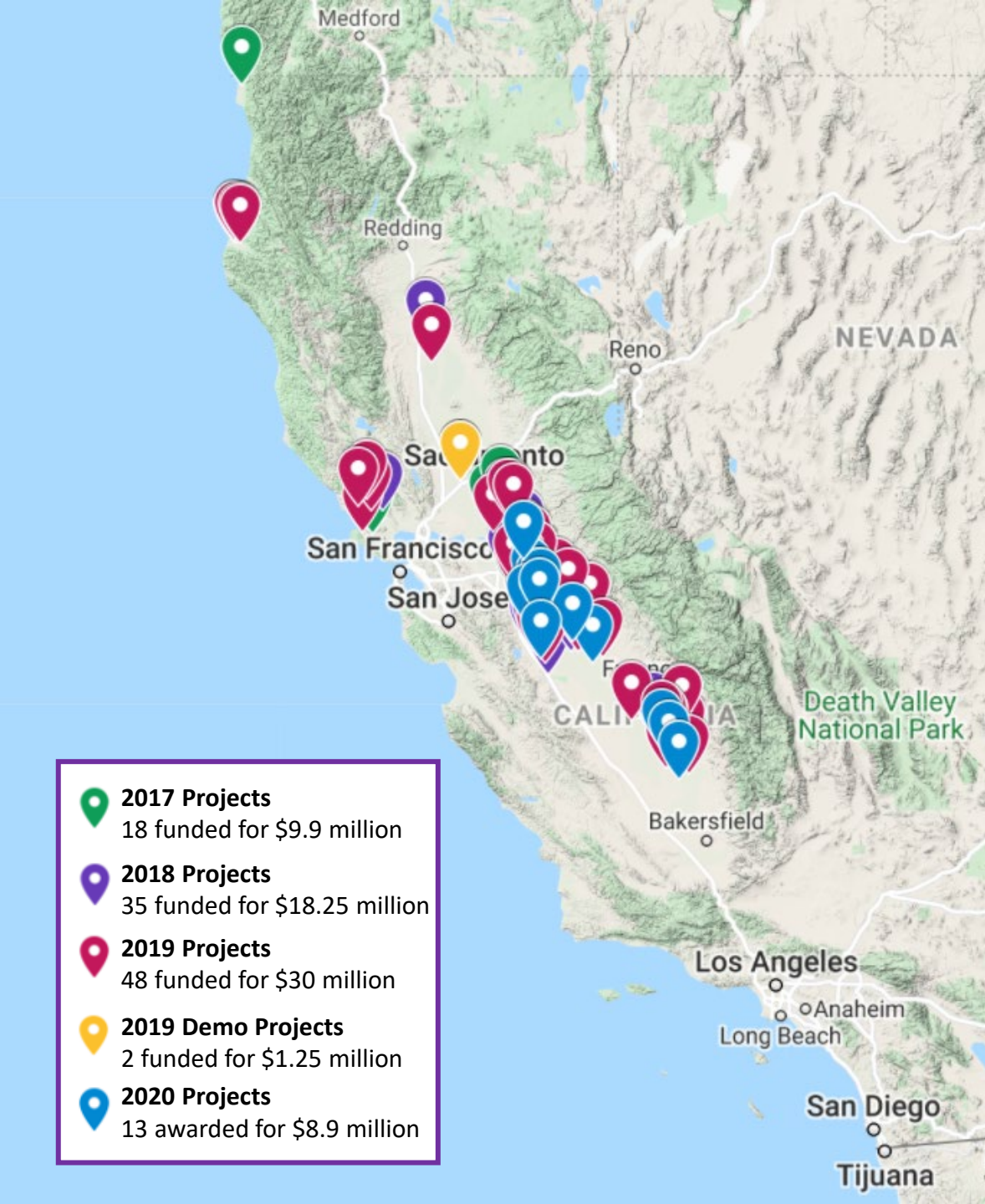





One-Pager/Flyer:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/ammp/docs/AMMP_flyer_2022.pdf



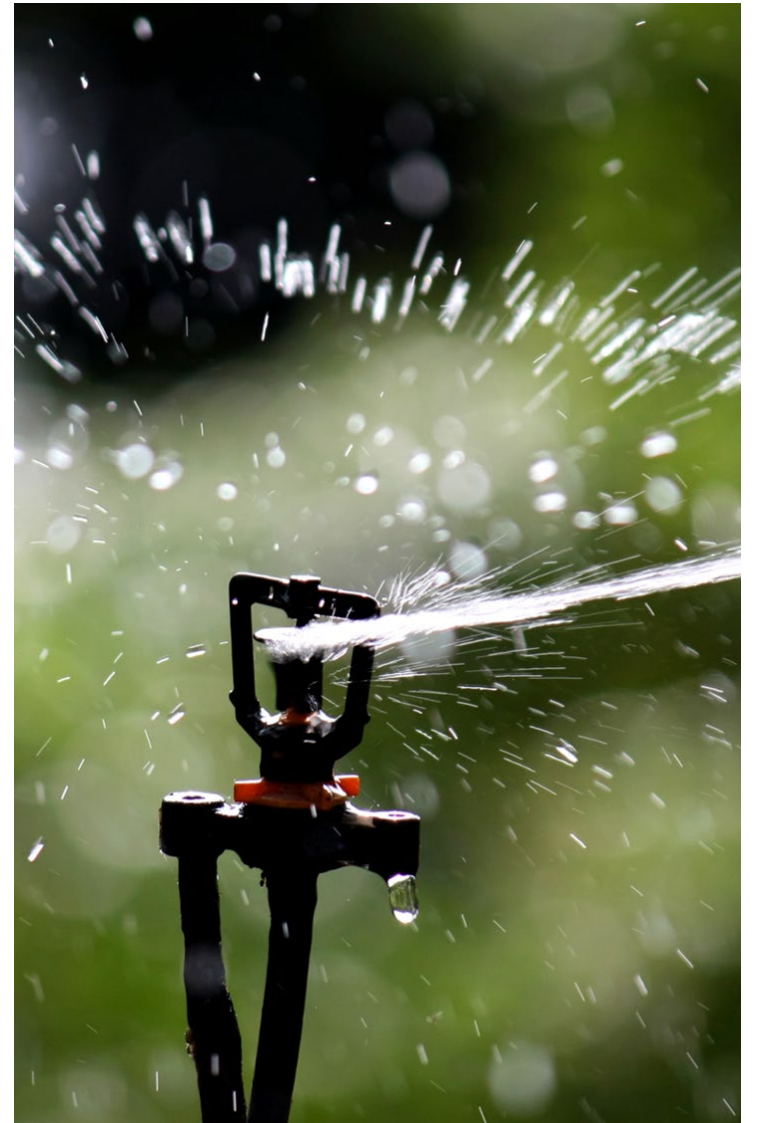
Email notifications:

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/subscriptions/MailChimp-signup.html>

- 
-  **2017 Projects**
18 funded for \$9.9 million
 -  **2018 Projects**
35 funded for \$18.25 million
 -  **2019 Projects**
48 funded for \$30 million
 -  **2019 Demo Projects**
2 funded for \$1.25 million
 -  **2020 Projects**
13 awarded for \$8.9 million

Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA) Grant Program

Update on Solicitation



Recap of Funding Opportunity

Budget Act of 2021 Water and Drought Resilience Package

One-time funding of \$5 million allocated for water efficiency and nutrient management technical assistance

- Maximum award of \$500,000
- Three-year grant term



Eligible Organizations

Must be located in California with a physical California business address

- Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)
- University of California, California State Universities, California Community Colleges
- Non-profit organizations
- Federally- and California-recognized Native American Indian Tribes



Three Program Objectives

- 1. On-farm, one-on-one technical assistance to evaluate irrigation system efficiency (aka mobile irrigation lab) and provide diagnostics, report and recommendations to growers**
 - Distribution uniformity testing
 - Irrigation water management system audits
 - Nutrient management
- 2. Coordinate or Provide Pump Efficiency Testing**
 - Purchase on behalf of growers
 - Perform pump tests
- 3. Provide Training regarding Water and Nutrient Management Practices and Technology**
 - In-person trainings or webinars in English and other languages
 - Recorded (on-demand) training programs in non-English languages
 - Provision of certificate of completion encouraged whenever possible

Program Framework & Timeline

- Competitive Grant Application
- Custom Workplan - include any or all the 3 Program Objectives
- Itemized Budget

| Activity | Tentative Dates* |
|--|---|
| Application Period Begins | November 22, 2021 |
| | January 19, 2022 – <i>extended to Feb 3</i> |
| Review Period | January 20, 2022- February 2022 |
| Grant Term Begins | June 30, 2022 |
| WETA Awardees Provide Technical Assistance | June 30, 2022 – June 30, 2025 |

*Subject to change

Solicitation Outcomes

- CDFA had 20 WETA applications submitted
 - Requesting \$9.3 million (approx. 180% oversubscribed)
- 11 projects selected for funding
 - \$5 million
- A list of awarded projects can be found on the WETA website:
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/technical/weta.html>

Next Steps

- CDFA staff will prepare grant agreements
- Project will last three years and expected to begin June 30, 2022



Questions



SWEEP Pilot Program for Southern Desert Region

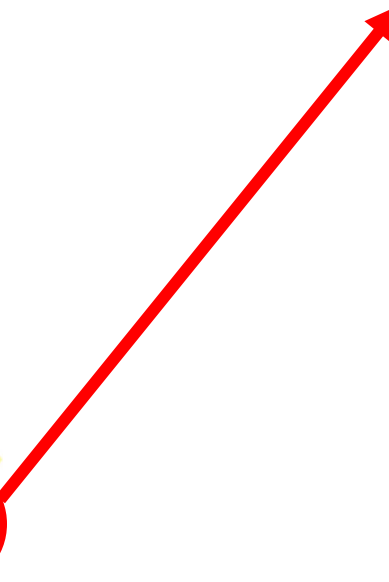
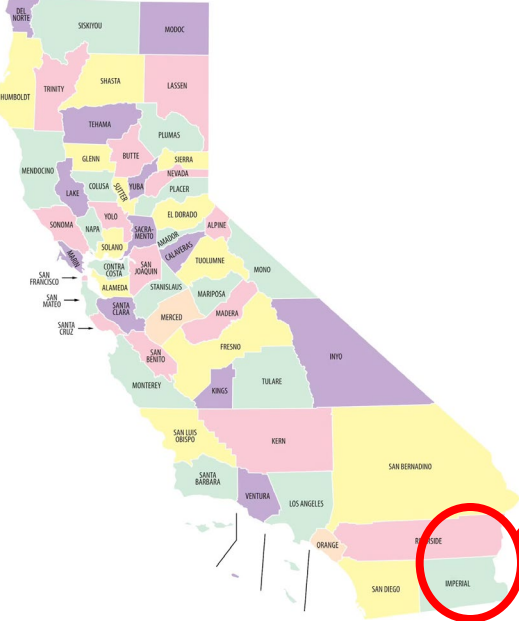
Water Savings Focused Projects and Public
Comments

Science Advisory Panel

4-14-2021



The southern desert region is proposed to be defined as Imperial county and Riverside Counties east of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains



CDFA's Requirements for Pilot Program

- CDFA will dedicate \$2 million dollars for funding to be awarded through a water-savings focused pilot program in the southern desert region.
- These projects will only need to demonstrate water savings through the SWEEP water savings assessment tool.
- Projects will not be required to provide a GHG calculator or a pump test but must not result in an increase in GHG production post-project.
- Projects will be required to provide baseline energy records, if applicable.
- All awarded projects will provide any energy records from the project site for three years after implementation.
- Individual projects have a maximum award amount of \$200,000.
 - CDFA can anticipate 10-12 projects.

Public Comment Period

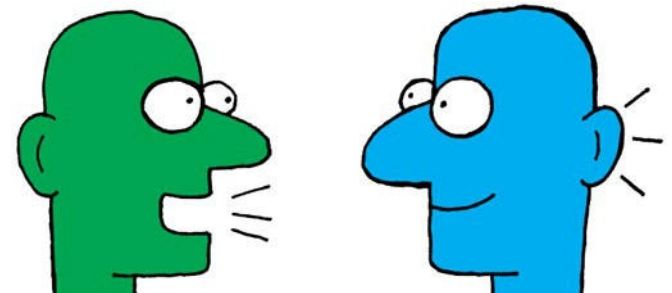
CDFA closed a 30-day public comment period on the draft Request for Grant Applications on March 18, 2022, at 5 PM

6 comments received – high level summary of comments

- Extend application period
- Include additional water savings strategies
- Consider different GHG emissions sources and strategies to reduce GHG
- Support projects at the irrigation district level

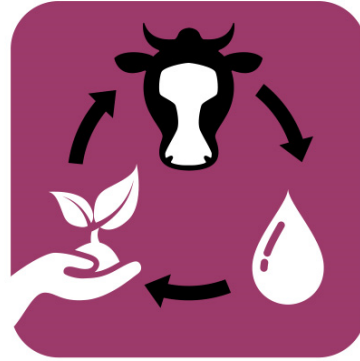
All comments received can be found on the SWEEP webpage:

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/>



Next Steps

1. Finalize RGA and incorporate applicable public comments
2. Create application portal
3. Coordinate with Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs)
4. Release solicitation
5. Conduct CDFA SWEEP Pilot workshop(s)



Technical Assistance Program for Climate Smart Agriculture

CDFA OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING & INNOVATION

Climate Smart Agriculture Technical Assistance

Update to the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel

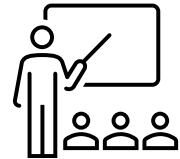
April 14, 2022

HSP and SWEEP Assistance

- 36 agreements to support SWEEP and/or HSP
- October 1, 2021 – October 1, 2024
- 1st quarter reports were due February 28, 2022, for reporting period 10/1/21-12/31/21



860 individuals assisted
206 Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers



47 workshops



322 applications submitted

Technical Assistance Resources

Interested applicants can utilize the technical assistance resources listed below to develop and submit an application for the AMMP.

- Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs) – CDFA has funded organizations around the state to provide free one-on-one assistance to dairy and livestock operators interested in applying for the AMMP.
- UC ANR Climate Smart Agriculture Community Education Specialists – CDFA has partnered with the University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources to offer Climate Smart Agriculture technical assistance to applicants of the AMMP.
- Technical Assistance Workshops – TAPs and Community Education Specialists may host in-person and remote workshops during the application period.



AMMP Technical Assistance

AMMP currently accepting applications

3 TA organizations

Technical assistance resources posted on AMMP webpage:

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/AMMP/>

For More
Information

CDFA's Climate Smart Agriculture Technical Assistance Grant Program

www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/technical/index.html

