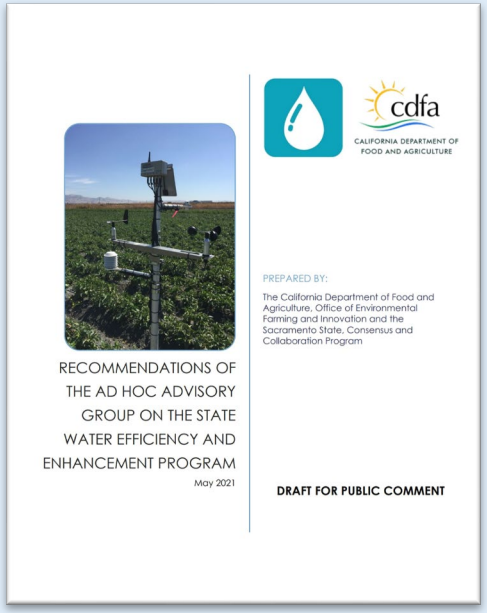
2022 SWEEP Southern Desert Region Funding Selection

Science Advisory Panel 2/9/2023

EFA SAP Ad Hoc Advisory Group

- In May of 2020, stakeholders requested CDFA form an advisory group to further evaluate SWEEP. The requested proposed convening experts to develop recommendations on possible updates and adjustments to SWEEP. In late 2020 The EFA SAP formed an Ad Hoc Advisory Group (AAG)
- The AAG met three times in early 2021. With forty-one (41) members, including farmers and ranchers, University of California extensionists, irrigation industry representatives and vendors, technical assistance providers, water agency representatives, and advocates, the AAG generated forty-eight (48) recommendations aimed at strengthening SWEEP.
- One of the recommendations that received the most support was for CDFA to set aside specific funding for “water-focused” projects
- There have also been stakeholders voicing their concern about SWEEP not being suitable for most farmers in Coachella and Imperial Valleys due to the prevalent use of non-pressurized flood irrigation



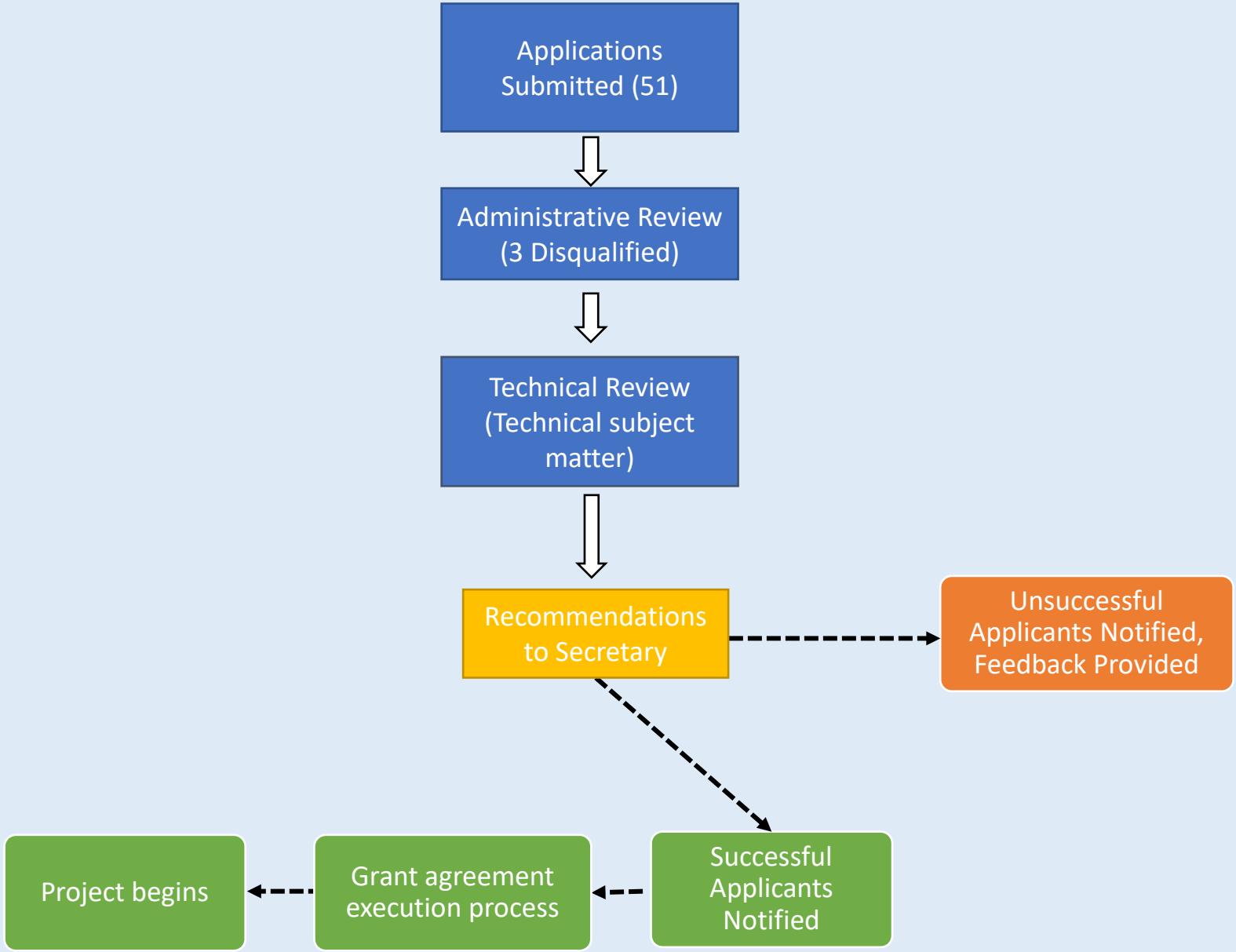
Appropriation – Budget Act of 2021, SB 170

- SWEEP funding is authorized by Budget Act of 2021 for **$50M**
- CDFA set aside **$2M** for a pilot project in the southern desert region.
- These funds are to invest in irrigations systems that save water and **do not increase** GHG emissions

The southern desert region is defined as are of Imperial County and Riverside County east of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains

Solicitation and Review Process

Event	Time Frame
Application Period (Amplifund)	September 13– November 8, 2022
Administrative and Technical Review	November – Decemeber 2022
Award Announcement	February 2023
Grant Agreement Execution	February – May 2023
Project Term	May 2023 – November 2024



- **Administrative Review:** Technical staff review each project for its completeness and ensure the needed material was submitted in the application so that a technical review can be accomplished.

- **Technical Reviewers:** Subject matter experts in irrigation system efficiency and design from the California university systems. We used a limited number of reviewers for this pilot with 6 reviewers recruited. All reviewers are paid.

Scoring Breakdown

Technical Review Scoring Guidance

CRITERIA	MAX POINTS
MERIT AND FEASIBILITY • Project design clearly identifies the following items: project location (APN and fields where project is to be installed), proposed irrigation system layout, pump locations and any fertigation and filtration stations, location of solar system, sensor locations, water sources, groundwater wells and pump discharge, crops and acreage per crop. • The estimated project completion date is compatible with the grant duration of 18 months. • The project has merits in terms of water efficiency, energy use efficiency and economic return for the farm and the State. • The project demonstrates a deliberative and holistic effort by the applicant to improve farm water efficiency without increase in GHG emissions from irrigation pumping. • The project has long-term viability. • The project improves farm resilience to drought and aligns with water conservation and water resiliency policy. • The project replaces or reduces diesel fuel consumption.	16
WATER SAVINGS • The applicant estimated projected water savings accurately using SWEEP water savings assessment tool and provided sufficient explanation for calculations and/or supporting documentation. • Water savings strategies are clear from the baseline scenario to the projected savings. • The proposed project will result in measurement of water use from all water sources on the impacted acreage. • The proposed project can achieve real and notable per acre water savings and maintain the water benefits over 10 years.	12
ASSURANCE OF NO GHG INCREASE • The project provides sufficient information to explain how the project will not result in any GHG increase after the project has been installed. The energy use strategies are clear in the project design and application and will not result in an increase in on-farm GHG production associated with pumping. • The proposed project will not result in GHG increases from the baseline or over the project life of 10 years.	12
BUDGET • The project budget worksheet provides sufficient detail on the project components. • If relevant, the project includes the appropriate number of flow meters and irrigation water management (IWM) equipment to meet the project IWM goals. • Labor costs are reasonable and do not exceed 25 percent of the total budget. • The budget does not include unnecessary or duplicative items. • Quotes are required for solar systems, but not for all project components. If quotes are provided, they are reasonable and reflective of the budget.	10
Total Points Available	**50**

Reviewers confirm or recalculate the benefits of the project

Note: During the selection process, proposed projects are first sorted by their reviewer score and then by their projected water savings per acre.

Application Breakdown

Applications

- 48 projects went to technical review and were complete projects
- Requesting $7.6M with $5.5M in matching funds
- Many types of crops including alfalfa, citrus, wheat, lettuce, table grapes, dates, and grasses covering over 13,000 acres

Technical Assistance Breakdown

- Worked with the UCCE in the area to provide Technical Assistance as well as the UC Community Educations Specialists

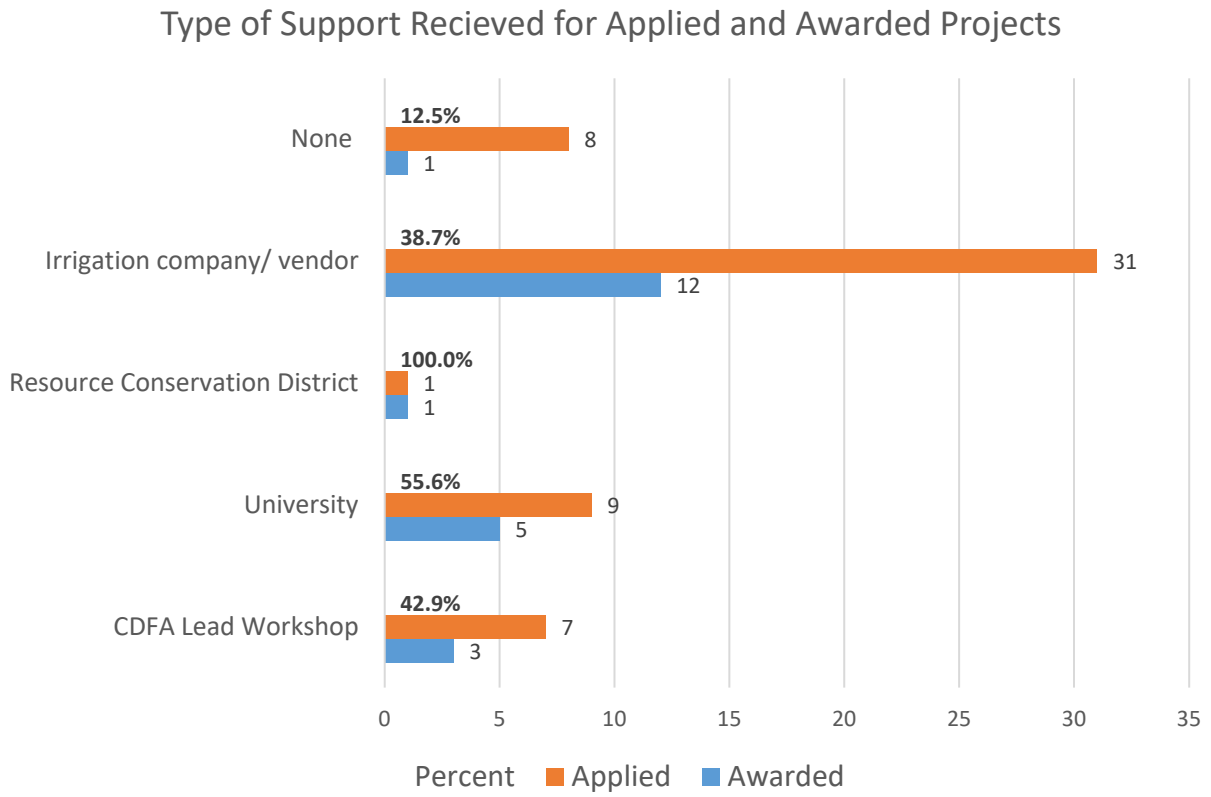
Funding Amount

- CDFA has carved out **$2M** specifically for the purpose of funding the southern desert pilot, we also have approximately **$700,000** from SWEEP projects that declined funding. These funds come from the same funding source.
- CDFA has decided to expand the available funds to the region to be **$2.7M**
- 280% oversubscribed

Awarded Project Breakdown

Awards

- 17 projects selected for an award
- Requesting $2.7M with $4.3M in matching funds (2 projects have more than $1.5 M in match)
- 11 in Imperial County
- 6 in Riverside County
- Approx. 3,300 acres impacted
  - Smallest project is 8.5 acres
  - Largest project is 890 acres
- Approx. 4,800 acre-feet of water savings per year



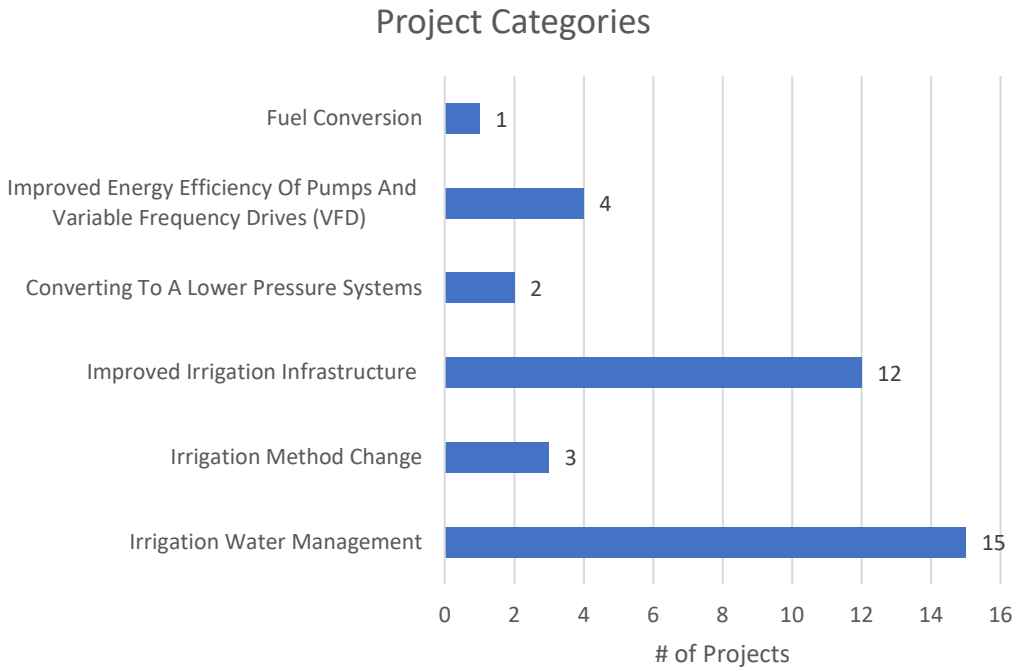
Project Breakdown

Awards Continued

- Approx. 30% of projects ID as SDFR
- 53% of projects that are still flood
- Project crop types include alfalfa, citrus, grass, carrot, corn, dates, and potatoes

What is next?

- Pre-Project Consultation
- Payee data record
- Grant execution
- Post Project Outcome



Questions?

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