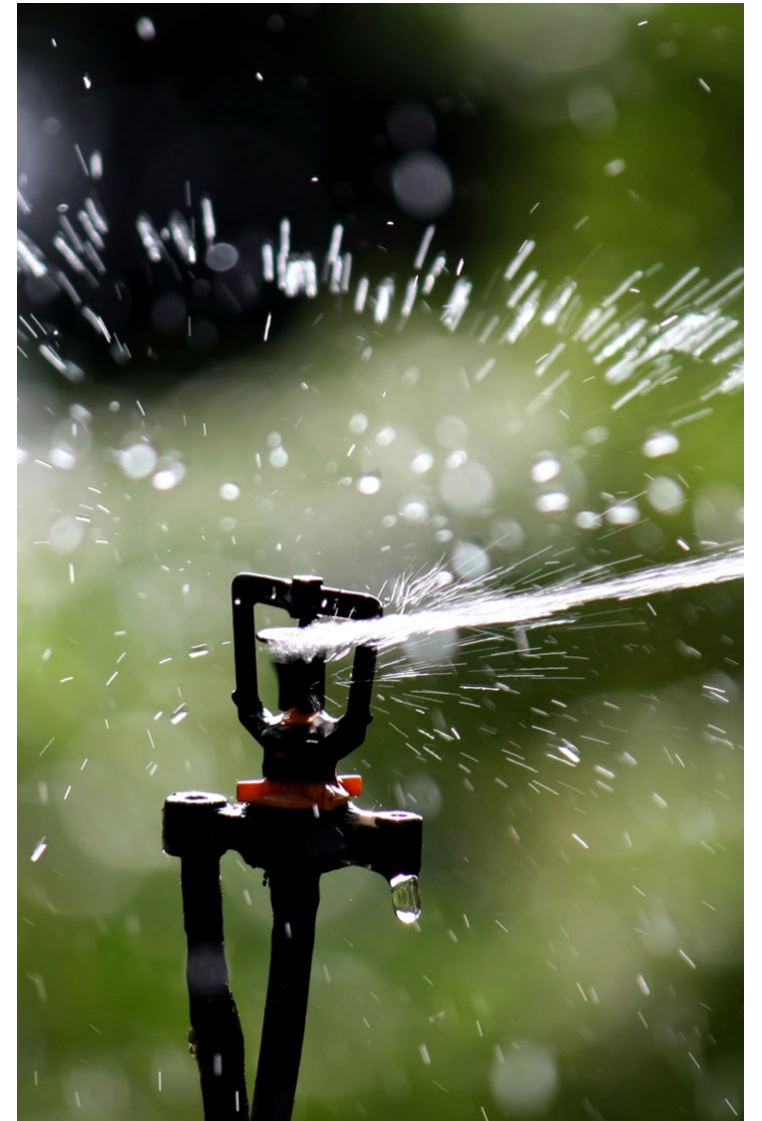


# Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA) Grant Program

Environmental Farming Act, Science Advisory Panel

February 9, 2023



# Summary of Funding Opportunity

## 2022-2023 Appropriation

\$15 million allocated for water efficiency and nutrient management technical assistance

Proposed:

- 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

# Planned Updates from Previous Solicitation

- Additional clarity added to the scoring criteria regarding commitment to expending 25% of funding to benefit Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers
  - Reference to the Farm Equity Report was added to provide context
  - Partial points may be offered to applicants that are not able to meet the 25% target; they will provide justification and an estimate
- The application questionnaire will provide more opportunity for applicants to discuss their current activities related to water efficiency technical assistance and make the case for ongoing support through WETA.
- The new Amplifund portal will have a different format for the budget

# Accepting Public Comment

## Welcoming Comments on Draft Request for Grant Applications

- What types of water use efficiency technical assistance would be of benefit in different regions of California?
- What additional support could technical assistance provide and how can current support be enhanced in various areas throughout the state?
- What role can technical assistance providers play in supporting groundwater recharge opportunities or increasing farmer knowledge of recharge?

Review the Draft Request for Grant Applications at:

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/technical/weta.html>

Comments due by 5 pm on February 20, 2023, to

[cdfa.oefi@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:cdfa.oefi@cdfa.ca.gov)

# Program Timeline

Program Activity	Tentative Dates
Receive Public Comment and Integrate in Request for Grant Applications	February – March 2023
Receive Applications	Spring 2023
Announce Awards	Summer 2023
Grant Term Begins	Fall 2023
WETA Awardees Provide Technical Assistance	3 years beginning Fall of 2023