



Healthy Soils Program

CDFA OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING & INNOVATION

Environmental Farming Act
Science Advisory Panel Meeting
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Sacramento, CA

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Outline

- RePlan Tool Demonstration
- Updates to Incentives Program



RePlan Tool Demonstration

- RePlan Tool is main platform HSP uses for project design.
- Based on feedback and to streamline the process, changes include:
 - Comet Planner Tool incorporated for calculation of GHG reductions benefits.
 - Estimated grant funding and implementation work plan are built in for individual practices and payment scenario
 - Ability to remove non-field elements in project maps and APN overlap
- Objectives for changes:
 - Reduced instances for discrepancies/copy & pasting errors
 - Streamline grant agreement preparation process with pdf output
 - Simplified application removes need for technical review process.



RePlan Tool Demonstration

- <https://replan-tool.org/cdfa/>



RePlan: Regional Conservation and Development Planning Tool



Healthy Soils – Incentives Program Updates

Proposed Changes – Program Requirements

- Grant award amount
 - **New:** Grant award amount to increase from \$100,000 to \$200,000
Increasing implementation support through the increase in funds.
- Leasing Land
 - **New:** Allowing applicants to apply even if leased land for project has lease term shorter than project term. If the lease term is shorter than the project term, lessees should provide a written statement from landowner that lease renewal will be discussed in good faith. CDFA will provide a Landowner Agreement Template.

Based on feedback from the previous solicitation, expanding eligibility so lease terms are allowed to be shorter than the project term.



Healthy Soils – Incentives Program Updates Continued

Proposed Changes – Applicant Eligibility

- Previous grant recipient eligibility
 - **New:** Clarifying that previous HSP Grant Recipients are not eligible to implement the same practice on the same field/APN funded previously. A new landowner may be eligible to implement the same practice on the same field/APN previously funded to the old landowner, however, an Attestation must be submitted at time of application.

Clarifying this eligibility from previous RGA's. HSP's primary goal is to incentivize California farmers and ranchers to implement HSP practices on new APNs/field that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs, improve soil health, and provide co-benefits.



Healthy Soils – Incentives Program Updates Continued

Proposed Changes – Practice Eligibility

- Woodchip mulching
 - **New:** Woodchip mulching has been changed from an annually implemented practice to a one-time implemented practice.

Based on feedback from grantees and TAPs, HSP consulted with CARB and NRCS on the calculation of GHG reduction benefits for this change.

- Whole Orchard Recycling (WOR)
 - **New:** The following Whole Orchard Recycling requirement has been removed: “Following woodchip incorporation, land must be fallowed or replanted with trees within 3 years.” This update will allow for flexibility in cropping system post WOR.

Grant Recipients may switch to a different agricultural system after implementing this practice. Information supporting this change previously presented to EFA-SAP on 10/20/2022.



Healthy Soils – Incentives Program Updates Continued

Proposed Changes – Application and Review Process

- Conservation plans
 - *New:* Conservation Plans will no longer be included as an optional part of the application. The removal of these plans will reduce CDFA application review time, and conservation plans were not required for the HSP project design.
- Application review
 - *New:* Removing technical review step and scoring change from numerical to "Pass"/"Fail" to streamline application review process. This frees up funds previously used to compensate technical reviewers and shortens time from application submission to award selection.
- Selection schedule
 - New:* The selection of applications for awards will be once at the end of the first month of the solicitation and then once every two weeks until all funding is allocated.

This schedule will assist with the proposed prioritization review (next slide).



EFA-SAP Input Solicited

- Application review
 - *Proposed:* Based on feedback, this order of review and awarding will help address some critiques of the "first-come-first-serve" (FCFS) solicitation process. Applications are proposed to be grouped every 2 weeks (after the first month), then reviewed and awarded in the following order:
 - **1) Application benefits SDFRs and/or Priority Populations;**
 - This prioritization was done during the last solicitation to meet 25% allocation goal to these groups. Only these applications will be reviewed and notified during the first month of the solicitation.
 - **2) Application is from a first-time applicant;**
 - Previous critiques that the FCFS process benefits applicants already familiar with the application process. This may involve using attestation language in the application.
 - **3) Application proposes multiple practices;**
 - Previous critiques that the FCFS process encourages simplified applications in order to be reviewed faster. This review prioritization would hopefully increase the amount of these types of applications.
 - **4) All other remaining applications.**



Healthy Soils – Incentives Program Timeline

Proposed Timeline

Activity	Timeline (subject to change)
Solicitation opens	November 2023
Solicitation closes	February 2024



Thank you! Questions?



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