

Update on Recent OEFI Climate Smart Agriculture Solicitations

Environmental Farming Act, Science Advisory Panel

December 2022



Outcomes of Recent CSA Solicitations

Fall 2022



Conservation Agriculture Planning Grants Program (CAPGP)

- \$15 M available
- \$250,000 maximum award
- Applications accepted from July 29 – October 23, 2022
- 112 applications submitted
- \$14.8 M in requested funds
- Award announcement expected in January 2023





Pollinator Habitat Program (PHP)

- \$14.5 M available
- \$2 M maximum request
- Applications accepted August 31, 2022–November 23, 2022
- 14 applications submitted
- \$20 M in requested funds
- Anticipate award announcement in January 2023

State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program – Southern Desert Pilot

- \$2 M available
- \$200,000 maximum award
- Application Period: September 13 – November 8, 2022
- 51 applications submitted
- \$7.3 M in requested funds
- Award announcement expected in January 2023

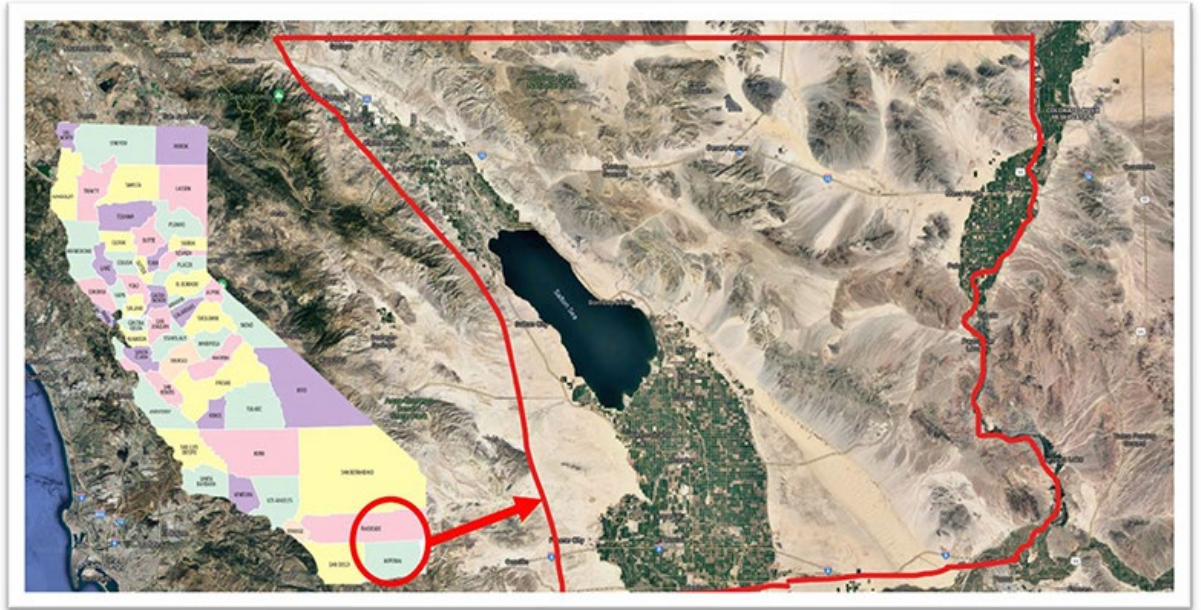


Figure 1. The area outlined consists of both Riverside and Imperial counties and is east of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains.



Upcoming Public Comment Opportunities

Public Input Opportunities



SWEEP and HSP Block Grant Pilot –
accepting public comment on Draft RGAs
through December 15, 2022

SWEEP Block Grant: www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep

HSP Block Grant:
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/>

Workshop held November 29, 2022 to answer
questions on draft RGAs



Climate Smart Agriculture Technical
Assistance to Support HSP & SWEEP –
accepting public comment soon on a draft
RGA.

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



Water Efficiency Technical Assistance
(WETA) - \$15 M was appropriated. A draft
RGA will be posted soon for public
comment.

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

Organic Transition Pilot – New*

- One-time General Fund:

“... \$5,000,000 shall be available for the Organic Transition Pilot Program which shall provide incentives, including, but not limited to, grants, technical assistance, and educational materials and outreach, to farmers and ranchers, with at least a 50 percent priority to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (as defined by the [USDA]), who want to transition land to organic certification. No more than 5 percent of this amount may be used to support the development, administration and oversight of the Organic Transition Pilot Program.”

Expected Timeline for Activities and Spending:

- Draft RGA for public comment: early spring of 2023
- Final RGA: Mid 2023
- Anticipated Maximum Project Term: 3 years

Upcoming USDA Organic Transition Activities

- \$75 M: Increased Direct Farmer Assistance, through increased technical service provider (TSP) work with transitioning farmers, and funding for existing relevant NRCS practices.
- \$100 M: Partnership Program: with organizations that will connect transitioning farmers with mentors, building paid mentoring networks to share practical insights and advice.
- \$25M: Subsidies and application assistance for crop insurance in organics
- Up to \$100 M: Improving Organic Supply Chain Security: focus on key organic markets where the need for domestic supply is high, or where additional processing and distribution capacity is needed for more robust organic supply chains and to allow transitioning growers to enter.

Supported UC ANR Organic Agriculture Institute Activities

The State Organics Program and the Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation Support TA for Organic Transition

Project Objectives

- Provide Technical Assistance to Growers Transitioning to Certified Organic Agriculture
- Facilitate New Information Networks for Organic Growers
- Create New Outreach and Training Opportunities for Organic Growers
- Develop Economic Analysis of Organic Production and Markets
- Identify Opportunities for Organic to Contribute to Climate Smart Agriculture



Considerations for DRAFT RGA

- Organic Systems Plans (OSP) are funded through Conservation Agriculture Planning Grants Program (CAPGP)
- Some organic systems practices are funded through the Healthy Soils Program (HSP)
- Opportunities being explored for support through this funding include:
 - Implementation of OSP
 - Offset of risk/forgone income
 - Business planning and technical assistance
 - Equipment (need to investigate if allowable)
 - Pre-certification period practices or Post-certification practices (3 yr)





Questions and Comments