Proposed Block Grant Program

POTENTIAL FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM (HSP) AND STATE WATER EFFICIENCY AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (SWEEP)
Potential Benefits

- Enable greater administrative efficiencies and overcome resource constraints for CDFA
- Block grant structure incorporates direct stakeholder feedback
- Address farmer equity in program access with greater flexibility and enhanced local technical assistance
- Regional support networks for farmers and ranchers
- Capacity building through supporting local partnerships
Potential Program Structure

CDFA

Block Grant Recipient

Block Grant Recipient

Farmer

Rancher

Agricultural Operation
Potential Applicant Organizations

- California-based non-profits organizations
- RCDs
- Irrigation Districts
- GSAs
- Air Pollution control districts
- Universities and ag colleges
- Land Trusts
- Tribes
- Partnerships - Community education specialists, agricultural cooperatives

Potential On-Farm Grant Beneficiaries

- Farmers and ranchers including ag operations associated with Tribes, non-profits, urban farms, community gardens
Potential Requirements

- Technical Assistance Required
- Controls for Conflicts of Interest
- No charges for services
- Every block grant awardee commit to at least 25% of support to SDFRs
- Prioritize and track projects that benefit AB 1550 Priority Populations
Potential Evaluation Criteria

- Qualifications
- Partnership
- Merit and Feasibility of Workplan
- Statement of Need
- Budget
Potential Reporting Requirements

Ongoing communication, as on-farm projects are enrolled

- On-farm summary for projects entering program, GHG calc (and water savings), project design and letter of commitment from growers

Block grantee reports on:

- TA metrics and expenditures
- Admin activities
- On-farm project close outs

Final Report

- Total Practice Metrics
- Total Equity Metrics
Potential Reporting Requirements

Block Grant Recipients will:

• Submit invoices at least quarterly, no more than monthly
• Receive advance payments with justification
• After advance is liquidated another advance can be requested
Next Steps

1. Today’s Discussion
2. Initiate Listening Sessions
3. Prepare Draft Request for Grant Applications
4. Public Comment Period
5. Review of Feedback