

2017 HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM (HSP) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS
SECOND SOLICITATION
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Q&A)
MARCH 30, 2018

1. Q. Are the materials from the application workshop and webinar presentations available online?
A. The presentation materials are available on the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) HSP Demonstration Project webpage at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/2017SecondSolicitationDocs/HSPDemoProjectsWorkshop.pdf>
2. Q. Where can applicants access the Budget Worksheet template listed on the Cover Sheet under Application Checklist as a required attachment?
A. The Budget Worksheet is incorrectly listed on the Cover Sheet for Demonstration Projects. The Budget Narrative which is incorporated on the Application Template is the only required budget for HSP Demonstration Projects.
3. Q. Can HSP funds be used to develop Carbon Farm Plans?
A. No, HSP funds may not be used to develop Carbon Farm Plans.
4. Q. Are demonstration projects score based on *per dollar* GHG Emission reductions or total reductions?
A. Demonstration projects are scored based on scoring criteria as listed in the [RGA page 13 10.2 Evaluation Criteria](#).
5. Q. Should applicants indicate total acreage of farm or acres impacted by project?
A. Both. For questions that request information of the agricultural operation, total acreage must be provided. For questions specific to the proposed project, include the total number of project acres, i.e., acres where eligible agricultural management practices will be implemented using grant funds.
6. Q. Is there a minimum size requirement for T and C fields (and their replicates) within the project?
A. There is no minimum size requirement for fields T and C. However, they (and their replicates) should be similar in size. Additionally, T and C fields should have same cropping and management histories and similar soil conditions as much as possible, with the only different being the newly implemented HSP-funded practice(s). Field size must be large enough to allow field operations.
7. Q. Can the applicant use the same control field for two different treatment fields?
A. If two treatment fields, each include a new eligible management practice, the same control with no implementation of new practice (i.e., with current practices) can serve for both.
8. Q. For rangeland projects, must compost be applied all 3 years to the same field? Does this apply to projects that intend to implement Cropland to Herbaceous Cover or Establishment of Woody Cover practices?
A. Yes. All practices proposed within an HSP-funded project must be implemented on the same field for the entire duration of the project, i.e., May 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020. For example, compost must be applied and/or cover crops be planted on the same field(s) for the three consecutive years; field rotation is not eligible for funding through the HSP. For those practices that involve a one-time activity, such as planting a permanent herbaceous or woody cover (i.e., tree planting), the practice can be implemented in the first year and must be maintained for at least three years of the project.
9. Q. Must all outreach presentations for demonstration sites take place on site, or could indoor presentations serve as "field day" to help reach outreach target?
A. CDFA recommends demonstrations be held at the actual project site. However, CDFA recognizes the importance of off-site presentations to augment the outreach efforts conducted under the HSP Demonstration Projects.

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10. Q. Are soil organic matter results analyzed by labs not listed in the CDFA-recommended list of labs allowed?
A. Awardees may get their soil samples analyzed by other labs. However, they must ensure that the specific methods used for analysis are documents and provided along with soil organic data, and the methodology is same as the one utilized by any of the CDFA-recommended labs.
11. Q. Can an eligible entity collaborate with a for-profit entity on a demonstration project?
A. Eligible entities may collaborate with a for-profit entity as long as the applicant is an eligible entity. Eligible entities include not-for-profit entities, University Cooperative Extensions, Federal and University Experiment Stations, Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs), Federal and California Recognized Native American Indian Tribes
12. Q. Where on the application template should non-profits indicate their organization type?
A. Non-profits should enter their organization type directly below the drop-down menu.
13. Q. Can projects include a mixed cover crop with 50% legumes and 50% non-legumes? For example, if the project was 20 acres with a 50/50 mix, should applicants enter in comet planner 10 acres of non-legume cover crop and 10 acres of legume cover crop and combine the reports?
A. Projects may include a mixed cover crop; however, in this example, applicants must select 20 acres of legume cover crop in the COMET-Planner for Greenhouse Gas Emission reduction benefits estimation. Applicants should not combine 10 acres legume and 10 acres of non-legume.
14. Q. Can grazing land be converted to no-till eligible?
A. Grazing land covered to no-till may be eligible if grazing land has been tilled in the past three years and now converted to no-till.
15. Q. Does each implemented Eligible Agricultural Management Practice require a Treatment and Control, or is it a minimum of one? E.g. if implementing the two practices of 1) compost on grasslands and 2) hedgerows, can hedgerows not include a Control?
A. Applicants should have at least one control, e.g., a field without compost application that locates right beside the field where compost implementation will be implemented. In this case, applicants may not need a control for hedgerow plantings.
16. Q. Can applicants use two treatments on a demo plot, for example, compost and cover crop?
A. Yes, applicants may have multiple practices on the same field.
17. Q. The cost-share requirement says that documentation is required to cover year 3 costs of implementation of the practices. Does this mean the cost of implementing the practices, or also of the monitoring and data collection work?
A. All costs incurred in Project Year 3, including implementation and/or maintenance of practices, data collection, and outreach activities must be covered by cost-share.
18. Q. Is San Diego included in the list of fire-affected counties that may receive additional consideration during the HSP Second Solicitation Review Process?
A. Yes, San Diego county is included among the counties in which a state of emergency was declared in 2017 or 2018 due to wildfires under Governor Edmond G. Brown, Jr.'s executive orders B-41-17, B-45-17, B-46-18 and B-47-18. Projects located on APNs in this county may receive additional consideration.