



2016 State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) Technical Assistance Workshops

California Department of Food and Agriculture and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture

Reporting Period June 4, 2016 –September 30, 2016

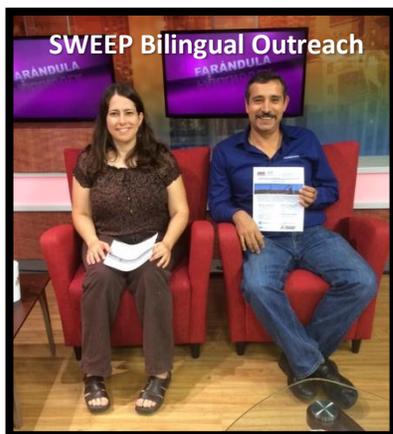
In partnership, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) developed a cooperative agreement for \$50,000 to achieve the mutual objective of gaining water efficiencies, conservation and wise use of land. The funding provided direct technical assistance for State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) applicants. Technical assistance workshops provide hands-on application support and are critical to the success of SWEEP program which utilizes NRCS conservation practices and technical tools for the implementation of efficient irrigation systems to save water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



Pictured: Felipe Perez, CSUF providing technical SWEEP application assistance to a grower.

The funding was used in support of 11 technical assistance projects. These technical assistance projects promote a voluntary approach to strengthen and increase private landowner's access to programs for conservation and enhancement of water air plant and animal resources. Through the technical assistance projects, farmers and ranchers were given help needed to complete the required calculations to estimate GHG emission reductions, calculate water savings and describe the work to be done including conservation practices as part of their SWEEP application.

Award recipients consisted of California academic research institutions, California Resource Conservation Districts, and non-profit organizations. Award recipients met several requirements including:



Pictured: Ruth Dahlquist-Willard, UCCE and Felipe Perez, CSUF providing SWEEP outreach on Spanish language TV station Univision.

- Host SWEEP Technical Assistance Workshop(s)
- Ensure interested applicants receive a comprehensive review of SWEEP application materials
- Provide an irrigation systems expert to growers to answer technical questions and assist in submission of SWEEP applications
- Focus on providing workshops to disadvantaged communities
- Offer bilingual outreach and assistance
- Provide computers and internet access to growers to complete SWEEP applications



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Award recipients held SWEEP technical assistance workshops during the SWEEP application period (June 20 – August 5, 2016). A **total of 23 SWEEP technical assistance workshops were held statewide with 209 potential SWEEP applicants** in attendance. Of the 23 workshops held, 19 were held in a disadvantaged community that is disproportionately burdened by and vulnerable to pollution sources. In addition to English, each recipient provided bilingual outreach and technical assistance in one of the following languages: Spanish, Hmong, and Punjabi.

Award recipients also made on-demand technical services available to interested applicants, which provided applicants with work space and computer access for the duration of the SWEEP application period, as well as, the availability of an irrigation expert to provide additional technical assistance for applicants. Award recipients answered phone calls, held office visits, followed-up with workshop attendees, and even made field site visits to help interested applicants with their SWEEP applications. A total of **156 potential SWEEP applicants were provided additional outreach outside of the workshops.**



Pictured: Hmong language workshop participants

A complete summary of the award recipients and the workshops each held is provided in the table below. The assistance that was provided through the workshops and subsequent technical assistance was crucial to the success of SWEEP and provided accessibility to farming operations that otherwise may not have the resources or technical expertise to complete required calculations and submit an application.

Summary of SWEEP Technical Assistance

Award Recipients	Number of Workshops Held	Workshop Attendees	Additional Technical Assistance	Bilingual Outreach
Butte County Resource Conservation District	2 - Gridley, Oroville	11	26	Spanish
Earth First Construction	2 - Santa Maria, Goleta	20	n/a	Spanish
Imperial Valley Water (IVH2O)	1 - El Centro	33	13	Spanish
Office of Community and Economic Development (via California State University, Fresno Foundation)	1 - Orange Cove	6	4	Spanish
Sacramento County Farm Bureau	3 - Elk Grove (2), Hood	33	32	Spanish
Sierra Resource Conservation District	1 - Biola	18	2	Punjabi, Hmong
University of California Cooperative Extension, Fresno County	4 - Fresno (2), Selma, Orange Cove	38	22	Spanish, Hmong



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Award Recipients	Number of Workshops Held	Workshop Attendees	Additional Technical Assistance	Bilingual Outreach
Resource Conservation District of Monterey County	2 - King City, Salinas	8	22	Spanish
Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz	2 - Watsonville, Morgan Hill	21	9	Spanish
Resource Conservation District of Tehama County	3 - Corning, Red Bluff (2)	13	22	Spanish
Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District	2 - Riverside, San Jacinto	8	4	Spanish
<i>Total</i>	23	209	156	