

**California Department of Food and Agriculture  
2016 State Water Efficiency Enhancement Program (SWEEP) Round II  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**New questions: July 25, 2016**

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**WATER AND ENERGY USE DOCUMENTATION**

1. Does the pump efficiency test need to be certified?  
No, pump efficiency tests do not need to be certified. Refer to [FAQ 16](#) of the Frequently Asked Questions document dated June 20, 2016 for more information on pump efficiency requirements.
2. Is a pump efficiency test required even if changes to the pump(s) are not a part of the project?  
Applicants must determine pump efficiency for all the pumps (including booster pumps) that service the irrigation system in order to complete the required ARB GHG emissions calculator. Refer to [FAQ 16](#) of the Frequently Ask Questions document dated June 20, 2016 for more information on pump efficiency supporting documentation requirements.
3. If an applicant has multiple pumps that are similar in size and age, can an average of the pump efficiency tests be used for inputs needed in the ARB GHG emissions calculator workbook?  
No. Applicants must determine the actual pump efficiency for all pumps, and enter specific pump information for each individual pump into the ARB GHG emissions calculator.
4. For pump information provided in the ARB GHG emissions calculator, are applicants required to also reference the APNs for those pump locations in the application?  
Yes. Since pump information must be provided in the ARB GHG emissions calculator, APNs associated with those pumps must be referenced in the FAAST application question 3(a). However, applicants should **not** include the acreage associated with these APNs in the FAAST application question 3(e).
5. If more “input” tabs are needed to enter pump information for multiple pumps into the ARB GHG emissions calculator workbook, what should applicants do?  
The ARB GHG emissions calculator allows up to five inputs (five pumps). If more “input” tabs are needed, then applicants must complete another ARB GHG emissions calculator workbook, and submit all completed workbooks with their application.  
  
Note that applicants should **not** copy an “input” tab to create more tabs on the ARB GHG emissions calculator workbook.
6. What timeframe should applicants indicate as the “Life of Project (yrs)” in Row 18 of the “input” tabs in the ARB GHG emissions calculator?  
Applicants should indicate 10 years as the “Life of Project” for each input tab completed in the ARB GHG emissions calculator. Refer to page 3 of the [Request for Grant Applications](#) for more information on program requirements.

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7. When completing the ARB GHG emissions calculator for multiple pumps, which tabs should applicants include information on the estimated water savings for the project?  
If a project involves multiple pumps, applicants must complete an “input” tab for each pump in the ARB GHG emissions calculator. The estimated water savings should be included on each “input” tab in order to apply those water savings across the project.
8. When using a surface reservoir as the project water source, what pumping depth should applicants report in the ARB GHG emissions calculator?  
For projects that pump water from a surface reservoir, applicants should report the pumping depth as zero (0).
9. Does the CDFA have a default value for internal combustion motor efficiency?  
CDFA does not have a standard value for internal combustion engine motor efficiency. It is up to each applicant to determine what values should be used that best fits their project.
10. ARB GHG emissions calculator requires an input of pump fuel or electricity use in Row 15 of the “input” tab. What timeframe should applicants use to determine the energy consumption for this input?  
The “definitions” tab of the ARB GHG emissions calculator defines this input as, “Amount of fuel or electricity used to run the existing system in a growing season.” Applicants must submit baseline energy records that correspond to the pump fuel or electricity input indicated in this cell of the calculator. Refer to page 6 of the [Request for Grant Applications](#) for detailed information regarding supporting baseline energy use documentation requirements.
11. Can GHG emissions reductions be calculated based on the reduction of tractor passes?  
No, the ARB GHG emission calculator does not include reductions associated with reduced tractor passes. All GHG emission reductions must be quantifiable using the ARB GHG emission calculator.
12. If a specific method for measuring water use is not listed in the NRCS Irrigation Water Savings calculator, are applicants still required to use the NRCS Irrigation Water Savings calculator?  
All applicants must use the NRCS Irrigation Water Savings calculator. If a specific method is not listed in the NRCS Irrigation Water Savings calculator, applicants should use the most relevant reference in regards to the methods used to measure water use and explain any circumstances or variances in the FFAST application question 11c.

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**ELIGIBILITY**

13. Are non-profit organizations growing fruits and vegetables for the community, operating garden based educational programs, selling produce, etc. considered agriculture operations as defined in the Request for Grant Applications? If yes, are non-profit organizations eligible to receive funding?  
Yes, a non-profit organization involved in the production of “a row, vineyard, field and tree crop”, is eligible to receive funding.
14. Since the ARB GHG emissions calculator does not include propane as an option for fuel type, is a project converting to propane eligible?  
Yes, a project converting to propane from a higher GHG emitting energy source may be eligible if water savings are also achieved. When completing the ARB GHG emissions calculator, applicants should select natural gas for the fuel type.
15. Is a project converting groundwater use to recycled water use eligible?  
A project converting groundwater use to recycled water use may be eligible for funding as long as water savings can be calculated and quantified. If the project demonstrates the applicant is simply switching water supplies, the project is not eligible for funding.
16. Is a project to harvest rain water eligible?  
A rain water harvesting tank project may be eligible if the applicant can demonstrate that the project will reduce GHG emissions **and** save water from on-farm irrigation pumps. Applicants will also need to show that irrigation pumping (of groundwater or surface water) will be reduced by installing the tank. Refer to page 3 of the [Request for Grant Applications](#) for more details on program requirements.
17. Is a cattle ranch operation eligible if the pasture is irrigated?  
A cattle ranch operation may be eligible if the cattle ranch is irrigating a crop (the crop is the pasture) as long as SWEEP funds are used for the irrigation system.
18. Are costs associated with an annual lease/service fee for plant based systems (pressure bombs) that cover the use of equipment and service eligible for SWEEP funding?  
An annual lease or service fee for soil, weather, or plant sensors is an allowable cost only for the duration of the grant term. An agricultural operation must demonstrate the practice will continue for the expected project life of 10 years.

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**GENERAL QUESTIONS**

19. Can an agriculture operation submit one application for a proposed project that includes two parcels in different areas? Is there a limit to the number of parcels that can be included/impacted by one application?

Agricultural operations may submit one application for a proposed project that includes all parcels directly impacted by the proposed project, including the parcels in different areas. There is no limit to the number of parcels that can be included in one application.