

California Department of Food and Agriculture 2021 State Water Efficiency Enhancement Program (SWEEP)

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated December 16, 2021



General Questions

1. Is the maximum grant award \$200,000 per agriculture operation or per application?

The maximum grant award is \$200,000 per agricultural operation, which is determined by the operation's legal business name and associated tax identification number.

2. Can an agricultural operation submit more than one application?

No, agricultural operations can only submit one application using a unique tax identification number. An agricultural operation is determined by its distinct legal business name and associated tax identification number provided in an application.

3. Can an organization apply on behalf of the agriculture operation?

Yes, organizations may submit an application on behalf of the agricultural operation. However, the application must include the agricultural operation's legal business name and tax identification number. If awarded, the grant agreement will be between CDFA and the agricultural operation.

4. What is the maximum duration for any proposed project?

The maximum project duration is twenty-four months. Projects can have a duration of less than twenty-four months but cannot exceed this timeframe. Project activities cannot be conducted before June 30, 2022 or after June 30, 2024.

5. Do applicants need a DUNS number to submit a SWEEP application?

No, applicants do not need a DUNS number to submit a SWEEP application.

6. When the agriculture operation is leasing land, does the landowner need to apply on behalf of the agriculture operation?

No, the agricultural operation can submit an application. It is the responsibility of the agricultural operation to comply with the terms of their lease agreement. CDFA encourages all applicants to notify the landowner of the proposed project. If awarded, CDFA will enter into a grant agreement with the agricultural operation.

7. The Request for Grant Applications state, "SWEEP funding cannot be combined with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)." Can applicants apply to both SWEEP and EQIP, and if awarded EQIP funding, withdraw their SWEEP application?

Yes, applicants may apply to both programs. However, if awarded EQIP funding, applicants would not be eligible to receive SWEEP funding on the same parcels for the same equipment. Applicants may indicate components funded by EQIP as matching funds.

8. Is there a minimum threshold for water savings **and** greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions?

No, there is not a minimum threshold for water savings and GHG emissions reductions as long as water savings can be estimated using the SWEEP Irrigation Water Saving Assessment Tool

and GHG reductions can be quantified using the Air Resource Board (ARB) quantification methodology.

9. If a project's costs exceeds the USDA NRCS payment schedule provided in Appendix C of the Request for Grant Applications, does the excess amount need to be placed under matching funds?

CDFA will rely on the expertise of the technical reviewers to determine if the cost estimates provided by the applicant are considered reasonable.

10. Where can applicants find information regarding the 2021 SWEEP Technical Assistance Workshops?

The SWEEP website currently has a list of all the Technical Assistance Providers & Workshops. Applicants may view the list of Technical Assistance Providers on the SWEEP webpage for more information in the "Resources" section.

11. May applicants view examples of past projects funded by SWEEP?

A list of previously funded projects can be found on the SWEEP website in the "Resources" section, under "Past Solicitations".

12. Is the information provided by applicants in the SWEEP application available to the public?

Information provided in the SWEEP application may be subject to a Public Records Act (PRA) request. Under the PRA, CDFA must make available public records upon request by the public. However, certain personal identifying information is generally exempt from disclosure. Note: CDFA will post basic information regarding all applicants available on the SWEEP public webpage. This information will include the agricultural organization's business name, description of the proposed project, location, amount of funding requested, and amount of matching funds committed.

13. Is onsite measurement of Evapotranspiration (ET) considered an allowable method of water measurement in lieu of a flow meter?

No. Under Program Requirements in the Request for Grant Applications it states that proposed projects must include flow meters or demonstrate actual water use that is measured with existing flow meters. Therefore, projects must include a flow meters as a required method of water measurement.

14. For SWEEP priority funding, are women considered Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (SDFRs)?

The Farmer Equity Act of 2017 identifies the following as socially disadvantaged groups: African Americans; Native Indians; Alaskan Natives; Hispanics; Asian Americans; and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. CDFA will reserve 25% of the funding to these groups and projects that benefit Priority Populations. At this time, women are not included in the list of those receiving priority funding for SWEEP.

15. Can a potential applicant apply to both CDFA's State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) and CDFA's Healthy Soils Program (HSP) on the same APN(s)?

Yes.

ELIGIBILITY AND ALLOWABLE COSTS

1. If an agriculture operation received a previous SWEEP grant award, can those operations apply for 2021 SWEEP funding?

Yes, agricultural operations that received a previous SWEEP grant award may apply for 2021 funding excluding those parcels (i.e., Assessor's Parcel Number(s)) funded in a previous SWEEP grant award, which includes 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 SWEEP Rounds.

2. If the applicant's land is currently irrigated without any on-farm energy sources (e.g., water is delivered to the farm from surface water supplies and distributed to the crop by gravity), is the project eligible for funding?

Applicants must be able to estimate GHG reductions due to on-farm energy use reductions or energy conversions related to water pumping. Therefore, if a farm is not using an on-farm energy source for water pumping, the project is not eligible for SWEEP funding.

3. If preparation or elements of an irrigation system are already completed or installed, is an application for reimbursement of that system eligible?

No. Funding can only be used to implement projects after a grant agreement is executed between CDFA and an agricultural operation. Grant funds cannot be expended before June 30, 2022 or after June 30, 2024. In addition, Funding cannot be utilized as reimbursement for a previous installation or to cover maintenance and operation costs of any existing system.

4. If an agricultural operation will convert crops during the course of a proposed project, is the project eligible for funding?

Yes. Agricultural operations converting crops during the course of a proposed project is eligible. Agricultural operations must demonstrate in the application the proposed project will result in GHG reductions and water savings to be considered for funding. Note that SWEEP grant funds cannot cover the cost of crop conversion. SWEEP grant funding must be used for allowable project costs directly related to the irrigation or water distribution system.

5. Do projects awarded through SWEEP need to be both the installation of a drip system and switching from, for example, diesel to electric? Or may a SWEEP project only involve switching from diesel to an electric pump?

Converting from a fossil fuel pump to an electric pump would likely reduce GHG emissions but would not on its own result in water savings. A water savings element would also need to be incorporated in the project (for example, the use of irrigation scheduling tools could result in water savings). SWEEP projects must reduce GHG emissions and save water.

6. If an applicant has not been awarded a SWEEP grant but already has drip, may they receive funding for soil moisture or plant health monitoring if still capable of proving GHG reduction?

Yes. Projects must both reduce GHG emissions and water use.

7. Is it allowable to apply for projects impacting APNs on which old trees were recently removed and where new trees are intended to be planted? (The funding would be requested for irrigation management system.)

Yes, if the APN was not a part of a previously funded SWEEP project, then the applicant may request funding for a new irrigation system. The applicant must submit baseline energy documentation from the prior growing season and use those records to complete the SWEEP GHG Calculator Tool. SWEEP funding cannot be used for purchasing new trees.

8. Are farms that do not use on-farm pumps eligible for funding?

The SWEEP GHG quantification methodology is focused on the GHG reductions that can be achieved by on-farm reductions in fuel use or fuel conversion. Consequently, farms that do not use on-farm pumps are not eligible to receive funding. If a farm receives district water but also uses some on-farm pumping (for example, a booster pump), the farm could be eligible for funding by making changes to the on-farm pump or reducing pumping.

9. Can an applicant apply for a project occurring on an APN that was funded by a previous round of SWEEP? If an applicant did not receive funding in a previous round, is that APN still eligible for funding?

An APN that received funding in a previous SWEEP round, which includes rounds in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 may not re-apply for funds on the same APN. An APN is still eligible for funding if the applicant applied in a previous funding cycle but did not receive funds for that APN.

10. Are cannabis farmers eligible for SWEEP funds?

For the purposes of this program, an agricultural operation is defined as row, vineyard, field and tree crops, commercial nurseries, nursery stock production, and greenhouse operations producing food crops or flowers as defined in Food and Agricultural Code section 77911. Medical and recreational cannabis is excluded.

11. If a project impacting a certain APN received SWEEP funding in the past, but the APN is now under new ownership, may the same APN receive 2021 SWEEP funding?

No. Applications cannot build upon any previously funded SWEEP projects directly affecting the same APN. However, applicants are encouraged to apply for a new project with different APN(s).

12. Could a previously funded SWEEP project be expanded to deliver water to new fields with a separate APN and tax id number?

If the project is implemented on a new APN it would be eligible for 2021 SWEEP funding. All projects must save water and reduce GHG emissions.

13. Is a project to harvest rainwater eligible?

A rainwater 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. However, use of stormwater/recycled water is no longer listed as an additional consideration (1 point) in the 2021 SWEEP funding cycle.

14. Is a project that improves the efficiency of a diesel pump eligible for funding or does the SWEEP program require that an applicant convert to an electric pump?

Improving the pump efficiency of a diesel pump, either through a pump retrofit or by replacing the pump with a more efficient pump, can reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from the pump and could be funded through SWEEP. Additionally, other fuel conversions are also eligible, for example the conversion of a diesel pump to a propane-fueled engine. The applicant will need to use the SWEEP GHG calculator tool to estimate the benefits of the retrofit, pump replacement or fuel conversion.

15. Does the SWEEP program have an income cap to determine applicant eligibility?

CDFA does not collect income information from SWEEP applicants. SWEEP does not have an income cap to determine eligibility.

16. Will SWEEP fund the conversion from flood irrigation to either solid set or micro irrigation system without any on-farm pumping (e.g., crops are irrigated by gravity fed surface irrigation)?
An agricultural operation without an on-farm pump may not be able to demonstrate GHG reductions with the SWEEP GHG calculator tool and therefore would not be able to receive SWEEP funding.

17. Can SWEEP funds be used to pay for an electric utility interconnect when converting to an electric engine and/or solar?

Yes, an electric interconnection fee is an allowable cost for a SWEEP project.

18. May an applicant apply to SWEEP for land leveling to improve irrigation distribution uniformity when a field is flood irrigated?

The SWEEP Irrigation Water Savings Assessment Tool allows an applicant to estimate a water savings benefit from land-leveling when flood irrigation is used. Therefore, an applicant may apply for funding for this practice.

19. Are school gardens and community gardens considered eligible 'agricultural operations'?

The SWEEP program does consider K-12 school districts eligible for funding along with community gardens. These types of applicants are subject to all program requirements and must be able to demonstrate water savings and GHG reductions using the SWEEP calculators. University research institutions are not eligible for SWEEP funding.

20. Can SWEEP funds be used to switch from a groundwater well pump to a surface water pump, provided that reliable surface water is available?

Yes, SWEEP funding may be used to facilitate the use of surface water. An applicant would input the pump efficiency test from the existing ground water well and fill out the related information in the "pre" column of the SWEEP GHG calculator. The new proposed surface water pump information will go in the "post" column of the calculator.

21. Are water treatment strategies (e.g., gypsum, sulfuric acid) to reduce runoff and improve water infiltration allowable costs?

Yes, CDFA allows for a water treatment system to be funded through a SWEEP grant if the applicant demonstrates that those components are necessary for successful implementation of the project.

22. Can a city apply to the SWEEP grant? Are operations within the city using recycled water eligible?

The SWEEP Request for Applications outlines the types of individuals and organizations that are eligible for SWEEP funding. "California farmers, ranchers and Federal and California Recognized Native American Indian Tribes are eligible to apply. The irrigation project must be on a California agricultural operation.

Agricultural operations within a city are eligible to apply for SWEEP although they will need to demonstrate that their proposed project will reduce water use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from irrigation pumping with the SWEEP calculator tools.

23. Are agricultural operations that lease farmland eligible to apply?

Yes. If awarded, it is the responsibility of the recipient agricultural operation to be compliant with the terms of their lease agreement and terms of the SWEEP grant agreement.

24. Can GHG emission reductions that are not related to on-farm irrigation pumping be considered in a SWEEP application?

The scope of the SWEEP GHG quantification methodology is limited to emissions due to on-farm irrigation pumping. Benefits from carbon sequestration and GHG emission reductions from tractors are examples of GHG emission reductions that are not included in SWEEP. Agricultural operations may be interested in other programs that are available that address these. Here are a few programs to consider: CDFA's Healthy Soils Program, California Air Resources Board's (CARB's) FARMER program, and CARB's Carl Moyer program.

25. Can a non-agricultural operation, such as a park or golf course, apply for a SWEEP grant?

No, the project needs to be located on an agricultural operation as defined by the Food and Agricultural Code 77911. Parks and golf courses are not considered an agricultural operation under this code.

26. Can an applicant apply for funding for a renewable energy installation if the system will have other uses applied to it than the irrigation pumps?

Yes, an applicant may receive funding for a renewable energy installation with other uses (e.g., residential) as long as irrigation pumping is included in the energy use that is offset or provided energy by the renewable energy installation. Applicants will provide baseline energy use records to substantiate that irrigation pumps are major contributors to the energy demand.

APPLICATION PLATFORM QUESTIONS

1. Does the "Applicant Information" requested in the application need to be the agricultural operation's information?

Yes, the "Applicant Information" must include information specific to the agricultural operation, such as the legal business name, unique tax identification number, and contact information. If awarded, CDFA will need this information to enter into a grant agreement with that agricultural operation.

2. In the project budget tab in the application, what is the difference between funds requested, local cost match, and total budget?

Funds requested is the amount of 2021 SWEEP funding requested from CDFA and must not exceed \$200,000. Local cost match is the amount of matching funds and in-kind contributions committed to the project. Total budget is the sum of funds requested and local cost match.

3. May applicants enter the latitude and longitude of their APN to answer the "Address or Nearest Cross Streets" section in the application?

Yes, applicants may enter as much information as needed into the text box provided to clarify the location of the APN(s) impacted by the proposed SWEEP project.

4. What attachments are required to be submitted with the application in the application?

A list of required attachments is in Appendix A of the 2021 SWEEP Request for Grant Applications. Optional attachments include Matching Funds documentation, Certificate of Completion for Irrigation training, and all Other Supplemental Documents.

5. What types of organizations are eligible to submit an application on behalf of an agricultural operation?

Only agriculture operations are eligible to be the applicant organization. The agricultural operation listed in the application is the entity to which CDFA will extend a Grant Agreement if the project is selected for an award. Ineligible applicant organizations include academic research institutions and governmental organizations.

6. Is an applicant able to save an application as a draft even if all the required questions are not completed?

Yes, an applicant may save their application at any time after the application is initiated. To save the application, scroll to the bottom of the application questions and click "Save Draft".

7. Is there a specific naming convention required for application attachments?

Yes, there is a specific naming convention for attached files. The naming convention is listed below each of the upload fields in the application portal. It consists of the seven-digit application ID number, found when creating an application, followed by the name of the file. For example, "1234567-2021-SWEEP-Budgetworksheet".

8. When using the SWEEP Irrigation Savings Assessment Tool, if the applicant's current crop not listed in the drop-down menu what crop should the applicant select?

If the current crop is not listed, the applicant should select the crop that is most similar to the present crop in terms of water use. The applicant is encouraged to provide a justification of the chosen represented crop in the application questionnaire.

9. If a project is resubmitted after being disqualified, in what order will that resubmission be reviewed?

Applications that are resubmitted after disqualification will be reviewed in the order in which they are received after resubmission.

WATER AND ENERGY USE DOCUMENTATION

1. What supporting documentation is required for on-farm water use?

Applicants are required to complete and attach the SWEEP Irrigation Water Savings Assessment Tool. Applicants must complete the "inputs" tab of this calculator to estimate baseline water use and projected water savings after project installation. The SWEEP Irrigation Water Savings Assessment Tool is available on the SWEEP website <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/> under "Application Materials".

2. Can applicants use and attach other on-farm water use records to calculate baseline water use and projected water savings?

No, applicants are required to use the SWEEP Irrigation Water Savings to estimate the pre-project baseline water use and estimate the potential savings from the project. For directions on how to complete the SWEEP Irrigation Water Savings Assessment Tool, refer to the "Instructions" tab included within the tool.

3. What supporting documentation is required to establish baseline GHG emissions?

Applicants are required to attach actual, on-farm energy use records (e.g., utility bills, actual fuel receipts, and/or field operational logs) covering at least twelve months of peak pump energy use for the prior irrigation and growing season. Refer to the ARB GHG Calculator Quantification Methodology for more information on the supporting documents that are required for GHG calculations.

4. The Request for Grant Applications states that applicants must provide on-farm energy use supporting documentation from the prior growing season. Does the “prior growing season” refer to the 2020 growing season?

Yes, applicants must provide supporting documentation for actual, on-farm GHG emissions during the 2020 or 2021 growing seasons. Twelve consecutive months of supporting energy use documentation must be provided.

5. Can an applicant use an average of water use or energy use over several years to address crop rotation?

The water use value should correspond with the principal crop selected to estimate water savings in the SWEEP Irrigation Water Savings Assessment Tool. The energy use value may be averaged over several years. The most representative value should be used for the SWEEP GHG emission calculator and documentation must be submitted to substantiate the values used in accordance with the ARB quantification methodology.

6. Are applicants required to use a pump efficiency test to complete the SWEEP GHG Calculator Tool? If yes, how recent must the pump test be?

The applicant must determine pump efficiency in order to complete the SWEEP GHG Calculator Tool. If this data is available through means other than a pump test, such as manufacturer’s guarantee or a third-party irrigation system auditing procedure, the applicant must substantiate the information used to complete the calculator with documentation. The pump test should be representative of current operations. The pump test may be from previous growing seasons (no earlier than 2019) provided no modifications have been made to the pump subsequent to testing the equipment.

7. Is a pump efficiency test required even if changes to the pump(s) are not a part of the project?

Yes, applicants must determine pump efficiency for all the pumps (including booster pumps) that service the irrigation system in order to complete the required SWEEP GHG Calculator Tool.

8. If an applicant rotates crops on an annual basis or has multiple crops, what should be included within the required calculator tools?

Applicants may choose one principal crop that most represents the project.

9. If an applicant is multi-cropping on the same parcel, should they enter the sum of water use on all crops?

Applicants may enter their principal crop water use on the SWEEP Irrigation Water Savings Assessment Tool or find the average water use by computing multiple SWEEP Irrigation Water Savings Assessment Tools.

10. Within the SWEEP GHG Calculator Tool under pump fuel or electricity use, should applicants include the sum of the kilowatt hours and/or gallons over the year?

Yes, applicants should include the sum of the year.

11. Do applicants complete the SWEEP GHG Calculator Tool per APN or per pump?

The “input” tabs on the SWEEP GHG Calculator Tool are to be completed per pump.

12. How do applicants complete the SWEEP GHG Calculator Tool if they are not changing or replacing pumps?

Applicants should complete the pre-project information and carry over the same information for post-project. GHG can still be reported/achieved using the SWEEP Irrigation Water Savings Assessment Tool information.

13. How would an applicant complete the SWEEP GHG Calculator Tool if replacing two old pumps with one new pump?

On input tab 1, enter data about one of the old pumps and the proposed new pump. On input tab 2, enter data about the other old pump only and provide zeros in the data regarding the new pump and 100% Overall Pump Efficiency.

14. If an applicant has more than five pumps, how should they complete the SWEEP GHG Calculator Tool?

The SWEEP GHG Calculator Tool allows up to five "inputs" (five pumps). If more input tabs are needed, then applicants must complete and attach another SWEEP GHG Calculator Tool to their application. Note: Applicants should not copy an input tab to create more than five tabs on one SWEEP GHG Calculator Tool. When estimating your annual GHG Emission Reductions you will need to add both calculators' results.

15. If a well pump has recently been installed, are pump efficiency tests still required?

Yes, pump efficiency tests are required for all applications. If it is a new pump, the manufacturer likely has efficiency data you may use. Another option could be to consult a local irrigation company to conduct a pump efficiency test of the new pump.

16. For new pumps (i.e., pumps to be installed as part of a SWEEP project), will applicants need to submit pump efficiency tests?

For new pumps (pumps to be installed as part of the SWEEP project), applicants may include manufacturer pump specifications as opposed to a pump efficiency test.

17. The SWEEP GHG Calculator Tool requires an input for acreage. Should applicants include total acreage farmed or total acreage impacted by the proposed SWEEP project?

Applicants should include the total acreage impacted by the proposed project.

18. On the SWEEP Irrigation Water Savings Assessment Tool, is there space to enter in multiple crops affected by the proposed project?

For double cropping, multiple crops, or crops grown in rotation select one principal crop and run the SWEEP Irrigation Water Savings Assessment Tool only once.

19. Do flow meters have to be internet enabled (i.e., capable of reporting via computer) or is an analog meter acceptable?

The flow meter does not have to be digitally connected. It can be an analog meter.

20. Is a flow meter required as part of a SWEEP project?

Yes, a flow meter is required to measure water usage. Flow meters are allowable costs.

21. Is motor efficiency included in the quantification methodology?

Motor efficiency is not included in the quantification methodology (available at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc-quantification>). Instead, overall pumping efficiency (OPE) will be reported as an input on the tool.

22. Can system pressure be reported as total dynamic head?

System pressure may be reported as total dynamic head. Please note that applicants should not have to report this so long as information is provided for the cells labeled with red text in the SWEEP GHG Calculator Tool.

23. How should discharge pressure at the gauge be reported?

Discharge pressure at the gauge should be reported in pounds per square inch (psi), if available. If it is reported as "discharge height," convert this number from feet to psi.

24. What is friction loss based on?

Friction loss is based on the function of the pump. If the pump is used to extract groundwater from a well, it is a well pump and applicants would use 10. If the pump is used to pressurize surface water (or otherwise increase the pressure of the water in a system), it is a booster pump and applicants would use 5.

25. Is switching from electric to solar power automatically a reduction in GHG emissions?

Switching from electric power to solar power could lead to a reduction of GHG emissions. It is up to the applicant to show a reduction of GHG emissions in their GHG calculator.

26. What should an applicant do if the calculator tools do not do an adequate job representing the reduction in GHG emissions and water use?

Applicants should complete the calculator tools to the best of their abilities, and then explain their expected and other information used to determine water savings and GHG emissions in the appropriate box in the application.

27. How can an applicant determine the level of Irrigation Water Management when completing the SWEEP Irrigation Water Savings Assessment Tool?

The SWEEP Irrigation Water Savings Assessment tool includes an instructions tab. This tab describes how to complete the tool and provides information that may help the applicant complete the tool including definitions of the Irrigation Water Management levels and links to identify soil type, baseline, township, and range.

28. Can an applicant include more than one APN in a SWEEP application with different pumps operating on the APNs?

Yes, applicants may request funding for more than one APN and more than one pump but should only submit one application. Each pump that will be impacted by the proposed SWEEP project must be included on a separate tab on the SWEEP GHG Calculator Tool. Pump tests will need to be provided for each pump impacted by the proposed project.

29. On the SWEEP GHG Calculator tool, does the pumping depth refer to the Standing depth or Drawdown depth?

The SWEEP GHG Calculator tool includes a definitions tab which defines the Pumping Depth as the depth of groundwater. The applicant should use the fall depth, if available.

30. If a pump services multiple locations, but the applicant is only applying for irrigation improvements on one of the APN's/locations, how would one fill out the Irrigation Water Savings Assessment Tool and the GHG Calculator Tool?

To complete the SWEEP Irrigation Water Savings Assessment Tool and SWEEP GHG Calculator tool, use the acreage of the area impacted by the project. Provide support and clarification within the application.

31. The Irrigation Water Savings Assessment Tool does not have micro sprinklers or subsurface drip as a selectable option. What should an applicant do if they wish to convert to one of these methods?

The Irrigation Water Savings Assessment Tool estimates the water savings when converting to a different type of irrigation method. The calculator tool considers drip, micro sprinklers, and subsurface drip to all be in the drip category.

32. How does stormwater capture factor into water savings?

The irrigation water savings assessment tool does not account for stormwater capture and use and does not estimate any water conservation from these measures. The irrigation water savings assessment tool only estimates a potential reduction in applied water from a change in irrigation system or irrigation water management level.

33. How do water savings and GHG emissions reductions factor into the funding of the proposals?

The Request for Grant Applications describes how CDFA will select projects for funding. Technical reviewers evaluate and score applications based on several criteria including the estimated levels of water savings and GHG emissions reductions (per acre). During technical review, the estimated water savings and estimated GHG reductions are each worth 12 points out of 50. Following project scoring, applications are sorted for funding based on score, level of water savings and then level of GHG emissions reductions.

34. If the applicant is using an electric pump that is on the same meter as other electrical appliances, is it required that the applicant isolate the electricity usage for the pump in order to use the electricity use value in the GHG calculator?

No, it is not required that the applicant isolate the electricity usage of the irrigation pump. An explanation of other energy uses of the meter should be included in the energy use narrative of the application questionnaire.

34. Can an applicant who has recently purchased land use energy records from a previous landowner?

Yes, energy records must be consecutive, inclusive, and from the prior growing season.

PROJECT DESIGN

1. Is there a specific format required for the project design?

No, there is not a specific format required for the project design. However, a project design must include a schematic detailing the irrigation distribution system layout (e.g., pipelines, valves, filter stations, distribution uniformity values), including agronomic information (e.g., water application rate, crop water demand). Refer to the Request for Grant Applications for additional information regarding the project design.

2. Can agriculture operations request funds for the cost of the project design?

No, funding can only be requested and utilized for project implementation. The agriculture operation is responsible for any costs associated with the project design.

3. Would an applicant attach the printed results from the GHG Calculator Tool or should the Excel workbook be attached?

The entire Excel workbook should be attached, along with the GHG Calculator Tool results.

BUDGET WORKSHEET

1. Where can applicants download the Budget Worksheet? A link to the Budget Worksheet (attachment) can be accessed from the Request for Grant Applications and is also located on the CDFA SWEEP website <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/> under “Application Materials”.

2. Can a bid from an irrigation company be attached in lieu of the budget worksheet?
No, the Budget Worksheet is a required attachment. Applicants must download, complete and attach the Budget Worksheet in. The budget worksheet can be downloaded from the Request for Grant Applications or by accessing CDFA’s SWEEP website www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/sweep under “Application Materials”.

3. Are products (e.g., sprayers, wind machines, frost protection, dairy parlor flushing, etc.) that are not related to the irrigation system allowable cost?
No, SWEEP funds cannot be used for products that are not irrigation-related. SWEEP funding must be specifically directed toward crop irrigation projects that conserve water and reduce GHG emissions from irrigation. Refer the Request for Grant Applications for a list of unallowable costs.

4. Should vendor quotes be included as attachments?
If the quotes are relevant as supporting documentation for the costs listed in the Budget Worksheet, vendor quotes may be attached in the application. However, they are not a required attachment and vendor quotes will not be accepted in lieu of submitting the required Budget Worksheet. Solar quotes must be attached and include the total size of the proposed solar system.

5. If a contractor provides an estimate with costs for Supplies and Equipment within Labor, do those costs need to be broken down per item and listed within the appropriate budget categories?
Yes, only costs for labor should be included within the Labor category of the Budget Worksheet. The 2021 SWEEP Budget Worksheet combines both supplies and equipment in the same category.

6. How can applicants account for potential price changes in the budget due to labor shortages, the COVID pandemic, and raw material shortages?
SWEEP asks applicants to itemize their budgets as best they can, and if there are changes to the costs of items by the time the project term begins, line-item shifts or budget change requests may be prepared as a means to adjust the budget accordingly. However, applicants will need to keep in mind that CDFA cannot increase the SWEEP award.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Can an irrigation company attend an irrigation training course on behalf of agriculture operations?
No, a representative from the agricultural operation (e.g., operation manager and/or irrigator) must attend the training course during the grant term.

2. Is training on the irrigation system provided by an irrigation company considered an allowable irrigation training course?

No, agricultural operations must participate in an irrigation training relevant to agricultural water conservation and irrigation management. Applicants must select a training course relevant to their proposed project and needs of their operation. A list of irrigation training resources for agricultural operation to consider is available on the CDFA SWEEP website <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/> under "Resources".

3. If an applicant submitted a proposal that was not funded in the past, is that applicant still considered a "New SWEEP Recipient" as mentioned under the "Additional Considerations" section of the 2021 SWEEP Request for Grant Applications?

Yes, applicants who have not received funding in the past would be considered a "New SWEEP Recipient."

4. Does the irrigation training have to occur during the allowable grant period?

No, if the organization has received irrigation training in the last two years that is relevant to the current SWEEP project, that can be used to meet the additional considerations for irrigation training. Please include the Certificate of Completion in the application attachment when submitting your application.

5. What additional considerations will be evaluated when selecting projects for an award?

A list of additional consideration can be found in the 2021 SWEEP Request for Grant Applications.

6. Can costs incurred before or after the allowable grant duration be considered Matching Funds?

Matching Funds must be expended as part of the project during the allowable grant duration. Pre-award and post-award costs cannot be considered Matching Funds.

7. How many years will SWEEP cover software subscription costs?

Only allowable subscription costs incurred during the allowable grant duration of 24 months may be listed in the Budget Worksheet.

8. To receive additional consideration for soil management practices, do the soil management practices need to be implemented on the same fields as the proposed SWEEP project?

Yes, to receive additional consideration for soil management practices, those practices must occur on the same APN(s) as the proposed SWEEP project.

9. If an applicant is already using one of the four listed soil management practices listed under the additional considerations, do they need to start applying a new soil practice at the start of the project or can they maintain the practice that they are already doing?

If the applicant is already using one of the four listed soil management practices, it will count as one point during review of their application. If awarded, they must commit to maintaining the practice for the project term.

MATCHING FUNDS

1. Are matching funds required?

No, matching funds are not required. However, CDFA strongly encourages applicants to provide matching funds.

2. What information should an applicant include in the matching funds written documentation?

Matching funds documentation, often written as a letter, should confirm the contribution source, type and amount of the contribution, as well as include activities that will be conducted in support of the project. Account statements or other financial documents relating to the matching contributions are not required.

3. If elements of an irrigation system are installed before the implementation period of the proposed project can those costs be considered matching funds?

No, elements of an irrigation system installed before the implementation period of the proposed project are not considered matching funds.

4. Can funding from another State or Federal grant program be considered match?

Yes, funding from another State or Federal grant program can be considered match as long as it is expended during the allowable grant duration (June 30, 2022 through June 30, 2024). However, applicants cannot receive funding from both SWEEP and NRCS EQIP for the same components on the same APN.

5. Where can applicants find information about previously funded SWEEP projects, including the amount of Matching Funds projects have contributed?

Applicants may find information about previously funded SWEEP projects on the SWEEP website.

6. If the project costs more than the grant award amount, can the recipient finance the remaining balance?

Any cost above the amount awarded will need to be covered by the Recipient. Please list only the allowable costs on the budget for reimbursements, and any unallowable costs should be listed in the "Matching" category.

7. Is there a minimum amount required for matching funds?

There is no minimum requirement for matching funds. Matching funds are encouraged, but not required.