California Department of Food and Agriculture 2021 StateWater Efficiency Enhancement Program Pilot for the Southern Desert Region (SWEEP Pilot) Frequently Asked Questions

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 theoperation'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 identificationnumber. 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. When the agriculture operation is leasing land, does the landowner need to apply on behalf ofthe 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.

5. The Request for Grant Applications states, "SWEEP funding cannot be combined with UnitedStates 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.

6. Is there a minimum threshold for water savings?
No, there is not a minimum threshold for water savings as longas water savings

can be estimated using the SWEEP Irrigation Water Saving Assessment Tool, they may qualify to receive funding.

7. If a project's costs exceed the USDA NRCS payment schedule provided in Appendix C of the Request for Grant Applications, does the excess amount need to be placed under matchingfunds?
No, applicants may request funding for the project components in excess of USDA NRCS payment rates. CDFA will rely on the expertise of the technical reviewers to determine if the cost estimatesprovided by the applicant are considered reasonable. These costs will be considered during technical review and may contribute to the scoring of the project.

8. Where can applicants find information regarding the 2021 SWEEP Pilot Technical AssistanceWorkshops?
The SWEEP website currently has a list of the Technical Assistance Providers. Applicants may view the list of Technical Assistance Providers on the SWEEP webpage for more information.

9. 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, descriptionof the proposed project, location, amount of funding requested, and amount of matching funds committed.

10. Is on-site measurement of Evapotranspiration (ET) considered an allowable method of watermeasurement 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 measuredwith existing flow meters. Therefore, projects must include flow meters as a required methodof water measurement.

11. For SWEEP priority funding, are women considered Socially Disadvantaged Farmers andRanchers (SDFRs)?
The Farmer Equity Act of 2017 identifies the following as socially disadvantaged groups: AfricanAmericans; Native Indians; Alaskan Natives; Hispanics; Asian Americans; and Native Hawaiiansand Pacific Islanders.

ELIGIBILITY AND ALLOWABLE COSTS

1. If an agriculture operation received a previous SWEEP grant award, can

those operationsapply for 2021 SWEEP Pilot funding?
Yes, agricultural operations that received a previous SWEEP grant award may apply for 2021 Pilot funding

2. If the applicant's land is currently irrigated without any on-farm energy sources (e.g., water isdelivered to the farm from surface water supplies and distributed to the crop by gravity), is the project eligible for funding?
Yes, as long as the project does not result in an increase in on-farm GHG production or that the resulting increase is offset by the use of renewable energy.

3. If preparation or elements of an irrigation system are already completed or installed, is anapplication 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 the project state date. 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 theproject eligible for funding?
Yes. Agricultural operations converting crops during the course of a proposed project are eligible.Agricultural operations must demonstrate in the application the proposed project will result in water savings to be considered for funding. Note that SWEEP grant fundscannot 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. If an applicant has not been awarded a SWEEP grant but already has drip, may they receivefunding for soil moisture or plant health monitoring? Yes. Projects may reduce water use with irrigation monitoring technologies.

6. Are cannabis farmers eligible for SWEEP funds?
For the purposes of this program, an agricultural operation is defined as row, vineyard, field andtree crops, commercial nurseries, nursery stock production, and greenhouse operations producing food crops or flowers as defined in Food and Agricultural Code section 77911.
Medicinal and recreational cannabis are excluded.

7. Is a project to harvest rainwater eligible?
A rainwater harvesting tank project may be eligible if the applicant can demonstrate that the project will also save water. Applicants will also need to show that water use (of groundwater or surface water) will be reducedby installing the tank..

8. Is a project that improves the efficiency of a diesel pump eligible for funding or does theSWEEP 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 pumpand 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.

9. 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 anincome cap to determine eligibility.

10. Will SWEEP Pilot 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)? Yes, a project that converts the irrigation system is eligible for funding. However, projects cannot result in an increase in GHG emissions coming from a new pumping system and an increase in energy use would need to be offset.

11. Can SWEEP funds be used to pay for an electric utility interconnect when converting to anelectric engine and/or installing solar?
Yes, an electric interconnection fee is an allowable cost for a SWEEP project.

12. May an applicant apply to SWEEP for land leveling to improve irrigation distributionuniformity when a field is flood irrigated?
The SWEEP Irrigation Water Savings Assessment Tool allows an applicant to estimate a watersavings benefit from land-leveling when flood irrigation is used. Therefore, an applicant may apply for funding for this practice.

13. 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 using the SWEEP calculator.University research institutions are not eligible for SWEEP funding.

14. Are water treatment strategies (e.g., gypsum, sulfuric acid) to reduce runoff and improvewater 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 ofthe project.

15. Are agricultural operations that lease farmland eligible to apply?
Yes. If awarded, it is the responsibility of the recipient agricultural operation to be compliant withthe terms of their lease agreement and terms of the SWEEP grant agreement.

16. 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 gold courses are not considered an agricultural operation under this code.

17. Can an applicant apply for funding for a renewable energy installation if the system will haveother 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 recordsto substantiate that irrigation pumps are major contributors to the energy demand.

APPLICATION PLATFORM QUESTIONS

1. Does the "Applicant Information" indicated in the application need to be the agriculturaloperation'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 agriculturaloperation.

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

3. Is an applicant able to save an application as a draft even if all the required questions are notcompleted?
Yes, an applicant may save their application at any time after the application is initiated. To savethe application, scroll to the bottom of the application questions and click "Save Draft".

4. When using the SWEEP Irrigation Savings Assessment Tool, if the applicant's current cropisnot 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 thechosen represented crop in the application questionnaire.

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 estimatebaseline 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. What supporting documentation is needed to establish baseline energy use?
Pilot project applicants may apply if there is no baseline energy records. However, applicants are required to attach actual, on-farm energy use records (e.g., utility bills, actual fuelreceipts and/or field operational logs) covering at least twelve months of peak pump usefor the prior irrigation and growing season if there is baseline energy use.

3. If an applicant rotates crops on an annual basis or has multiple crops, what should beincluded within the required water savings calculator tool?
Applicants may choose one principal crop that most represents the project.

4. If an applicant is multi-cropping on the same parcel, should they enter the sum of water useon 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 WaterSavings Assessment Tools.

5. Do flow meters have to be internet enabled (i.e., capable of reporting via computer) or is ananalog meter acceptable?
The flow meter does not have to be digitally connected. It can be an analog meter.

6. 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.

7. How can an applicant determine the level of Irrigation Water Management when completingthe SWEEP Irrigation Water Savings Assessment Tool?
The SWEEP Irrigation Water Savings Assessment tool includes an instructions

tab. This tabdescribes 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 toidentify soil type, baseline, township, and range.

8. Can an applicant include more than one APN in a SWEEP application with different pumpsoperating on the APNs?
Yes, applicants may request funding for more than one APN and more than one pump but should only submit one application.

9. 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 convertto 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, microsprinklers, and subsurface drip to all be in the drip category.

10. How does stormwater capture factor into water savings?
The irrigation water savings assessment tool does not account for stormwater capture and useand 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 inirrigation system or irrigation water management level.

11. 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 ofthe application questionnaire.

12. Can an applicant who has recently purchased land use energy records from a previouslandowner?
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 mustinclude 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 agricultureoperation is responsible for any costs associated with the project design.

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 onthe 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 Requestfor 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.) thatare 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 unallowablecosts.

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 requiredattachment 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, dothose 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.

MATCHING FUNDS

1. Are matching funds required?
No, matching funds are not required.

2. If elements of an irrigation system are installed before the implementation period of theproposed project can those costs be considered matching funds?
No, elements of an irrigation system installed before the implementation period of the proposedproject are not considered matching funds.

3. 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 asit is expended during the allowable grant duration . However, applicants cannot receive funding from both SWEEP and NRCS EQIP for the samecomponents on the same APN.

4. Where can applicants find information about previously funded SWEEP projects, includingthe amount of Matching Funds projects have contributed?
Applicants may find information about previously funded SWEEP projects on theSWEEP website.

5. If the project costs more than the grant award amount, can the recipient finance theremaining balance?
Any cost above the amount awarded will need to be covered by the Recipient. Please list onlythe allowable costs on the budget for reimbursements, and any unallowable costs should be listed in the "Matching" category.

6. Is there a minimum amount required for matching funds?
There is no minimum requirement for matching funds. Matching funds are encouraged, but notrequired.