



## 2017 State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) Technical Assistance Workshops Final Narrative

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

**Reporting Period February, 2017 –May, 2017**

In partnership, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) developed a cooperative agreement for \$25,000 to achieve the mutual objective of gaining water efficiencies, conservation and wise use of land. CDFA received additional \$25,000 in funding from the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) toward this effort. 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: Ismael Herrera from CSUF providing technical SWEEP application assistance to growers*

The 2017 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:



*Picture: Imperial WD providing a Technical Assistance Workshop in Spanish located in El Centro*

- 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 if possible
- Provide computers and internet access to growers to complete SWEEP applications

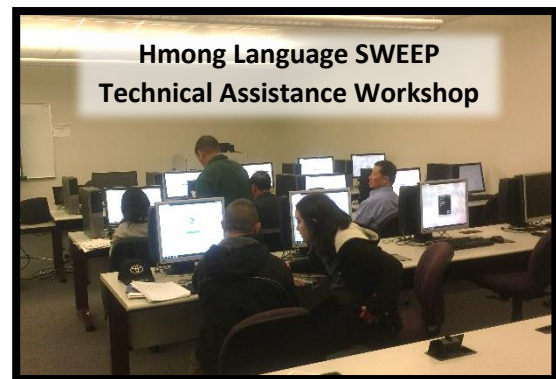


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Award recipients held SWEEP technical assistance workshops during the SWEEP application period (February 13- March 20 2017). A **total of 23 SWEEP technical assistance workshops were held statewide with 157 potential SWEEP applicants** in attendance. Of the 23 workshops held, 11 were held in a disadvantaged communities that is disproportionately burdened by and vulnerable to pollution sources. In addition to English, many recipients provided bilingual outreach and technical assistance in one of the following languages: Spanish and Hmong.

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 **172 potential SWEEP applicants were provided additional outreach outside of the workshops**.

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.



*Pictured: Hmong language workshop participants*

### Summary of SWEEP Technical Assistance

Award Recipients	Number of Workshops Held	Workshop Attendees	Additional Technical Assistance	Bilingual Outreach
Butte County Resource Conservation District	4 - Oroville(2), Gridley, Chico	32	84	N/A
Northwest C\A Resource Conservation and Development Council	3 - Willow Creek(2), Hayfork	7	1	N/A
Resource Conservation District of Tehama County	3 - Red Bluff(2), Corning	13	11	Spanish
Cachuma Resource Conservation District	2 - Santa Barbara, Santa Maria	21	17	Spanish



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Ventura County Resource Conservation District	2 - Somis, Oxnard	19	12	Spanish
Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County	2 - Watsonville, Morgan Hill	10	5	Spanish
University of California Cooperative Extension, Fresno County	1 - Fresno	12	15	Hmong
Resource Conservation District of Monterey County	2 - Salinas	4	10	Spanish
Office of Community and Economic Development: CSU Fresno	1 - Orange Cove	9	2	Spanish
Imperial Valley Water (IVH2O)	2 - El Centro	21	2	Spanish
Mission Resource Conservation District	2 - Valley Center, Fallbrook	9	13	N/A
<i>Total</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>172</b>	