

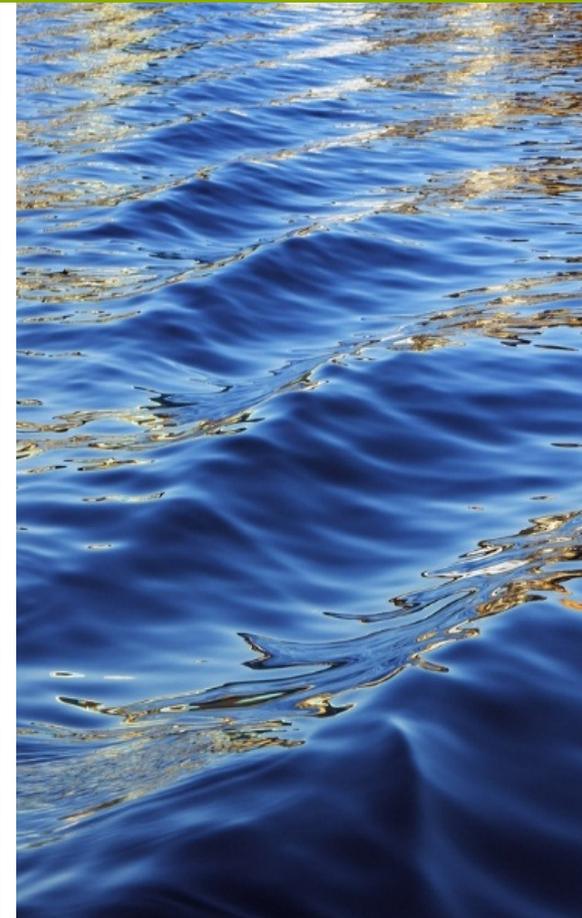
STATE WATER EFFICIENCY AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM **Second Solicitation**

Summary of
Application
Guidelines

October 2014



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE



WORKSHOP AGENDA

1. State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) Requirements for Round 2
2. SWEEP Application Process for Round 2
3. Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST) Demonstration

Questions will be addressed following each presentation.

PROGRAM PURPOSE & FUNDING

PURPOSE:

To provide financial incentives for California agricultural operations to invest in water irrigation treatment and/or distribution systems that reduce water and energy use and increase water and energy efficiencies.

FUNDING:

- Emergency Drought Legislation (Senate Bill 103) – \$10M
- Project Grant Amounts – Maximum grant award is \$150,000
- Project Duration – December 2014 – June 30, 2015

ELIGIBILITY

- Installation must be on a California agricultural operation.
 - An agricultural operation is defined as a row, vineyard, field and tree crops, commercial nurseries, nursery stock production and greenhouse operation.
- The project **must** reduce water use **AND** GHG emissions. Applications that do not provide information on reducing water consumption **AND** GHG emissions will be ineligible for funding.

TIMELINE

APPLICATION TIMELINE	
September 29, 2014	Invitation to submit Grant Applications
October 6- 16, 2014	Application Workshops and Webinar
November 10, 2014 5:00 pm PST	Grant Applications Due
November 2014	Grant Application Technical Review Process
December 2014	Announce and Award Funds

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- One application may be submitted by an agricultural operation with a unique tax ID number.
- Funds cannot be used to expand existing agricultural operations.
- Projects are expected to be used and maintained for 10 years or according to the USDA NRCS Practice Lifespan Table found at:
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1076947.pdf
- SWEEP funding cannot be combined with USDA, NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) financial assistance.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (CONT.)

- When applicable, total project costs cannot exceed the cost provided in the USDA, NRCS payment schedule (See Appendix D of your Application Guidelines).

Example: For a micro-irrigation system in an orchard or vineyard greater than 10 acres in size, the payment schedule indicates a cost of \$638.96 per acre. That is the maximum amount that the program will contribute to the project.

Practice_ Code	Cost_Share_ Program	Practice_Name	Component	Unit_Type	Unit_Cost
441	EQIP	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	Orchard-vineyard, >10ac	Ac	638.96

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (CONT.)

- If awarded, the grant recipient must agree to a verification component.
 - CDFA will coordinate with the Resource Conservation Districts (RCD) to verify proper completion of the project, and to gather quantitative data on water efficiencies gained and reduction of GHG emissions achieved. The verifier will have a checklist of items to confirm including:
 - ✓Was the system installed properly (as indicated in the design)?
 - ✓Does it function as designed?
 - ✓Calculate GHG reductions and water savings

ONLINE APPLICATION

- To streamline and expedite the application process, CDFA partnered with the State Water Resource Control Board
- Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST)

<https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov>

APPLICATION ATTACHMENTS

Applicants are **required** to submit three attachments:

- **PROJECT DESIGN**
- **BUDGET WORKSHEET**
- **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR WATER AND GREENHOUSE GAS CALCULATIONS**

PROJECT DESIGN

Project Design must include:

- An explanation of how water efficiencies and GHG reductions will be achieved.
- If the project includes new infrastructure, such as new irrigation piping, pumps, or sensors, then a **detailed schematic** must be provided and include locations of that infrastructure on the field. When projects involve improvements to existing infrastructure, the project design must include a schematic showing where the improvements will be made to existing infrastructure.

PROJECT DESIGN

- Design plans must include pertinent **agronomic information**, such as the crop and the water distribution uniformity value of the irrigation system.
- When irrigation systems are being installed or improved, a **global distribution uniformity (DU) of at least 0.92** should be specified in the design plan. If the design plan calls for the use of evapotranspiration (ET) based irrigation scheduling, the agricultural operator must be able to show that water deliveries can be made on a consistent basis to accommodate that scheduling.

PROJECT DESIGN

- For projects that do not include water distribution or irrigation equipment, a narrative describing the project and providing agronomic information must be submitted with the grant application as the design plan.

BUDGET WORKSHEET

All budget items must reflect **only** costs incurred during the implementation phase of the proposed project, and should demonstrate that they are reasonable and adequate for the proposed work.

The budget worksheet (an excel file) will be downloaded by applicants from the FAAST system. It will then be completed by the applicant and uploaded as an attachment to the application.

**PLEASE VERIFY THAT YOU HAVE ATTACHED THE
CORRECT FILES**

Budget Worksheet

Complete the budget worksheet to show the breakdown of cost for the proposed project. Matching funds are strongly recommended, but not required. *Matching funds can include cash and/or in-kind contributions. The equation to calculate the percentage of matching funds is as follows: total match/total project cost = percentage match. Cash contributions are the amount of funds that will be contributed by the applicant to this project. In-kind contributions include contributions by the applicant in the form of supplies, equipment, and contractor/consultant (labor) involved with the installation of the project. In-kind contributions must be indicated here in monetary value.

Supplies- Itemize all supplies. Supplies are anything with an acquisition cost under \$5,000 per unit. Rows may be added.	Grant Request (in \$)	*Cash Match (in \$) if applicable	*In-kind Contribution (in \$) if applicable
Subtotal (Supplies)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment- Itemize all equipment. Equipment is an article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and a purchase cost which equals or exceeds \$5,000 per unit (purchased or cost for rental). Rows may be added.			
Subtotal (Equipment)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contractor/Consultant- Compensation for individual contractual fees should be reasonable and consistent with fees in the marketplace for similar services (See NRCS schedules in Appendix D which include labor costs).			
Cost per Hour (including benefits)			
Number of Hours			
Subtotal (Contractor/Consultant)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR WATER AND GHG CALCULATIONS

- Applicants must use actual on-farm water and energy usage information to calculate their baseline water use and GHG emissions.
- Some examples of supporting documents include flow meter readings, utility bills, and fuel invoices. Other types of documentation are also acceptable as long as the document indicates ACTUAL water or energy use on the agricultural operation.
- These documents must be listed in the application and submitted as attachments (excel, word, pdf) in FFAST.

MATCHING FUNDS DOCUMENTATION

If contributing funds to the project applicants are encouraged to attach:

- **MATCHING FUNDS DOCUMENTATION**

To ensure that the cash component of matching funds has been secured, attach written documentation to support the project (if needed). The documentation should confirm the contribution source, type, and amount of the contribution.

REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA

CDFA's intent is to fund projects that can produce the highest degree of water savings **AND** GHG reductions.

Two Levels of Review:

1. Administrative – Internal
2. Technical – External

During the technical review process, applications will be prioritized for funding based on 8 criteria. Projects **DO NOT** need to address all criteria to be eligible, but will rank higher if more criteria are incorporated.

CRITERIA FOR RANKING APPLICATIONS

1. Largest water savings (ac-inches/year/acre) AND largest greenhouse gas reductions (Tonnes of CO₂e/year/acre).
2. Use of soil moisture sensors (NRCS Practice Standard 449) with electronic data output and flow meters, or electronic weather station linked to irrigation controller, for growers to ensure efficient irrigation scheduling (must specify with a new or existing system); new systems get higher ranking.

CRITERIA FOR RANKING APPLICATIONS

3. Use of evapotranspiration (ET) based irrigation scheduling, such as the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS), and flow meters on existing or proposed projects to optimize water efficiency for crops.
4. Reduction of GHGs from water pumping. For example, the conversion of a fossil fuel pump to solar, wind or electric. NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 372 may apply.
5. Use of micro-irrigation or drip systems to replace flood or furrow irrigation. Must follow NRCS Conservation Practice Standards 441 or 442.

CRITERIA FOR RANKING APPLICATIONS

6. Use of low pressure irrigation systems to reduce pumping and energy use.
7. Use of Variable Frequency Drives to reduce energy use and match pump flow to load requirements. Recommend following NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 533.
8. The use of any other management practice(s) that will result in water savings and GHG reductions.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

In addition to the eight criteria, three additional factors will be considered during the review process:

1. Environmental and social co-benefits

Benefits could include, among others, facilitation of nutrient management, improved air quality and improved water quality.

2. Benefits to a disadvantaged community

A “Disadvantaged Community” is defined as a community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide average (See Appendix A of the guidelines).

3. Matching Funds – 50% matching funds is encouraged

Applicants choosing to use matching funds are encouraged to submit written documentation describing the source of matching funds with the grant application.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

CDFA does not have the resources to assist with project designs, but **strongly** encourages all interested in applying to seek assistance from available resources. See Page 4 of the guidelines.

- Resource Conservation Districts
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Districts
- Utilities

Online Water and GHG Tools

- USDA NRCS has an online water use tool, the Irrigation Water Savings Calculator, that will consider irrigation type, crop type and regional considerations. See Appendix C for more specifics on how to access and use the calculator.
- CDFA developed a GHG calculator for fuel and electricity savings. Access the calculator on the SWEEP webpage.
- Additional GHG tools are listed in Appendix C.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR PROJECT IS AWARDED FUNDING?

1. Notification of Award
2. Enter into a Grant Agreement with CDFA
3. Implement the Project by June 30, 2015
4. Project Verification
5. Final Invoicing (Reimbursement) by

WORKFORCE TRAINING FUNDING FOR FARMERS

- State grant program with \$2M available for training related to the drought.
- Financial support to offset the cost of training for:
 - irrigation technologies and equipment
 - water conservation
 - other water related training
- Up to \$26 per trainee, per training hour
- Contact: Peter Cooper or Robert Meyer at the California Employment Training Panel at (916) 327-5261 or drought@etp.ca.gov or go to www.etp.ca.gov



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QUESTIONS?

Refer to CDFA's State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program website. It will have copies of these presentations, the application guidelines, and a set of Frequently Asked Questions

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/SWEEP>

General questions may also be submitted to
grants@cdfa.ca.gov