

**Comments Received on the CDFA SWEEP Program
Comment Period : October 26, 2018 - November 9, 2018**

Category	Summary of Comment Received	CDFA Response
1. Advance Payments	Offer Advance Payments, to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers: Provide 100% upfront advanced payments, Limit increased paperwork, Allow labor costs (personnel costs) to be eligible for advanced payments.	Clarification from the Proposition 68 guidance agency allows CDFA to offer 25% advance payments if an advance is deemed necessary for the timely initiation of the project. This is incorporated into the final 2018 SWEEP Request for Grant Applications.
2. Eligibility	Clarify if a project may be eligible if the applicant has received an award on the same parcel in the past if the proposed project is for new equipment.	CDFA has limited SWEEP awards to one time for a unique parcel number for several reasons: 1. All projects must have baseline data to support estimated water and GHG reductions. In situations where a parcel has received a SWEEP award recently the applicant may not have ample supporting documentation to establish baseline water and energy use, 2. CDFA tries to reach new awardees, 3. SWEEP projects have an expected life of 10 years. CDFA recommends that previous awardees consider funding opportunities offered by other state, utility, and federal agencies.
	Clarify eligibility for living trusts (revocable and irrevocable). Can co-owners submit more than one application as long as the projects are on different parcels?	Only one application may be submitted per unique tax identification number. This tax ID number may be for an organization or for an individual over the age of 18 years.
3. Technical Assistance	The rigorous application for SWEEP is difficult for a small farm to complete. A small farm can not afford a grant writer to assist in the application process.	CDFA is working with technical assistance providers throughout the state to provide free application assistance to farmers and ranchers who are interested in applying to SWEEP.
4. Application Process	More transparency is requested in the review process.	CDFA has modified the review process for the 2018 SWEEP solicitation. A scoring matrix is provided to show the weight of each scoring category towards the final score of the project. Additionally, CDFA will include a breakdown of the scoring guidance in the final request for applications. CDFA is working with technical assistance providers throughout the state to provide free application assistance to farmers and ranchers who are interested in applying to SWEEP.
5. Project Life	Incorporate language that would allow farmers that do not own land or have access to long term leases to still be able to benefit from SWEEP's support. This would facilitate the use of mobile technologies such as microsprinklers on parcels where a long term lease is not held.	CDFA requires applicants to indicate all parcels and acreage that may be impacted by a project in order to effectively estimate the per acre benefits (water and ghg reductions) of a project. The per acre water and ghg savings are integral to the final funding recommendations in that projects are sorted for funding based on score, and then level of water savings and level of GHG reductions. Technologies that move from parcel to parcel can not be tracked in this way and can not be tracked during post project monitoring. CDFA does allow for farms to receive funding on leased land, but requires that the farmer be in compliance with their lease and have a reasonable expectation of a 10 year project life.