California Department of Food and Agriculture Water Efficiency Techncial Assistance Program - Summary of Applications Selected for Award						
Lead Applicant	**Cooperating Organization Name**	**Project Title**	**Project Summary**	**Service Area**	**Contact Information**	**Award**
Center for Irrigation Technology at Fresno State	CSU Fresno Foundation	Agriculture Water Efficiency and Pumping Assistance Program for the San Joaquin Valley	The purpose of the project is to develop a Water Efficiency Technical Assistance program to provide two key services. The first of these services will be to educate growers and their staff on the newest and best management practices in relation to water and irrigation (Program Objective 3). This training will be conducted in-person and hands-on when possible or through virtual webinars with live demonstrations. The CIT team will emphasize reaching out to socially-disadvantaged farmers and hard-to-reach audiences such as the Spanish-speaking and Hmong communities. Secondly, the team plans to expand the Advanced Pumping Efficiency Program (APEP) managed by the Center for Irrigation Technology at Fresno State (Program Objective 2). The current program assists growers in getting on average 1,500 pumps tests per year. With additional funding from CDFA, the program will increase this by another 500 tests . The pump testing and technical assistance will support farmers in identifying inefficient pumps, scheduling pump testing, and provide feedback for pump efficiency improvements.	The team will focus on the eight (8) counties (Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare) within the San Joaquin Valley providing virtual and when possible, in-person, hands-on training.	Kaomine Vang: (559) 278-8657 kaominev@csufresno.edu	$460,415.80
Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES)	East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District	Develop a Simplified Micro Irrigation System Distribution Uniformity (DU) Test, Evaluation and Financial Performance Report and Train Irrigation Specialists and Growers to Implement the Approach in Central Valley Irrigated Crops	This project would create software called Simplified Irrigation System Distribution Uniformity Testing Procedure and Financial Performance Report that is based on established industry programs and protocols. This report would include a streamlined, standardized reporting format that lists system performance metrics, identifies performance problems, and estimates grower expenditures per acre to improve system performance within a desired Return on Investment period. Once the simplified tool is completed in six months, irrigation technicians will perform beta testing by evaluating irrigation systems in Stanislaus and San Joaquin County orchards and vineyards. The final project report would include a free business model with the goal of irrigation companies, technical service providers and irrigation consultants in the Central Valley or Central Coast offering new grower services including irrigation system evaluations and a cost/benefit analysis of recommended repairs and upgrades. Trainings would also be held in the project area for irrigation consultants, crop advisors and others interested in using the free simplified tool.	The geographic area for the initial project is irrigated cropland in Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties.	Parry Klassen: (559) 288-8125 klassenparry@gmail.com	$500,000.00
East Merced Resource Conservation District	East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District	San Joaquin Watershed Collaborative for Water Conservation and Efficiency	The East Merced RCD will be partnering with the Madera/Chowchilla and East Stanislaus RCDs to create a Mobile Irrigation Lab program providing local landowners and farmers access to irrigation support to optimize efficiency on their farms. This program will have a considerable impact in the Merced, Madera, and Stanislaus Counties due to the critically overdraft sub basins in the San Joaquin Valley. The three RCDs will work together to bring partner organizations and landowners together in a Watershed Collaborative to address irrigation, nutrient, and groundwater data in pre and post irrigation season through grower forums to discuss best management practices and on-farm solutions for groundwater conservation. Irrigation Evaluations will result in full reports provided to farmers on Distribution Uniformity, Soil Properties, Equipment Specifications, Irrigation Scheduling and Recommendations based on the Cal Poly ITRC spreadsheet and materials. Through partnerships and matching funds the RCD team will be able to connect farmers to conservation programs and funding to implement system improvements.	Three of the seven San Joaquin Valley counties will be served by this grant, Merced, Stanislaus and Madera County.	Ursula Stock: 906 361-4339 manager@eastmercedrcd.org	$496,828.50

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Regents of the University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources	California State University, Fresno	On-Farm Irrigation and Pump Efficiency Training for Small- Scale Farms in Fresno and Tulare Counties	This project forms a collaboration between the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Small Farms and Specialty Crops extension program and the California State University, Fresno's Center for Irrigation Technolgy (CIT) to deliver individual technical assistance, pump efficency testing, and water use efficiency training to small-scale, socially disadvantaged farmers in Fresno and Tulare Counties. Objectives include 1) on-farm irrigation system and water management evaluation; 2) provision of pump efficiency Testing; and 3) irrigation training. Technical assistance and training will be delivered through on-farm visits, on-farm workshops, and hands-on field demonstrations. These activities will assist a community of farmers that are particularly vulnerable to decreased groundwater levels to reduce groundwater use, save money on energy bills, and increase their resilience to drought and potential management actions to be implemented under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). -	This technical assistance project will serve Fresno and Tulare Counties. Small-scale, socially disadvantaged farmers from neighboring counties such as Merced and Madera will also be invited to workshops and demonstrations.	Ruth Dahlquist-Willard: (530) 770-1305 rdwillard@ucanr.edu	$499,957.25
Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County	Upper San Luis Rey Resource Conservation District	Efficient Water Use through Evaluation and Education: Irrigation and Pump Assistance for San Diego Growers	San Diego fruit and vegetable producers are at the forefront of irrigation and energy efficiency in the State, having already broadly adopted drip irrigation and solar energy due to water scarcity and high rates. To support the efficient use and further adoption of these systems, Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Greater San Diego County (RCDGSDC) will partner with Upper San Luis Rey RCD (USLR) and University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) to provide irrigation evaluations, pump testing and accessible education for San Diego growers over an area of more than 3,200 square miles, with an emphasis on disadvantaged producers and Spanish-speakers. Building on existing irrigation maintenance expertise from managing its own farm and community gardens, and training with Mission RCD and NRCS, the RCDGSDC Technical Lead will hire and train a new staff member to operate a Mobile Irrigation Lab, offering irrigation evaluations to an average of 40 producers per year. To address a regional shortage of pump testing providers, RCDGSDC will use grant funds to connect growers to qualified testing companies, and cover the costs of testing for disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. In a continuing partnership with UCCE, the RCDGSDC outreach team will prepare two workshops each year, using in-field and webinar formats to generate on-demand materials for irrigation training. This expansion in service will make San Diego Growers more resilient to ongoing drought conditions while cutting production costs.	As the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County, our district spans 2,886 square miles (mi2) from the Bonsall community in the north to the United States- Mexico border in the south, the Pacific Ocean in the west, and the Imperial County line in the east. In addition, we have assisted producers in the 402 mi2 Upper San Luis Rey (SLR) River Watershed through a Memorandum of Understanding with the RCD of SLR and are working with them to develop a similar MOU for this grant period.	Anna Baldridge: (619) 562-0096 anna.baldridge@rcdsandiego.org	$408,932.64
Resource Conservation District of Monterey County	The Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association	Assisting small-scale Latinx farmers with on-farm water efficiency in Monterey County and the Central Coast region	This project will assist small-scale Spanish-speaking Latinx farmers in Monterey County and surrounding areas with improving on-farm water efficiency. First, we will provide on-farm one-on-one technical assistance to evaluate irrigation system efficiency and provide diagnostics, reports, and recommendations to a total of 30+ unique farmers (Objective 1). In the interest of providing multi-year assistance to individual farmers, this will involve assisting at least 20 farmers in Year 1, assisting these same 20+ farmers plus an additional 5+ farmers in Year 2, and assisting these same 25+ farmers plus an additional 5+ farmers in Year 3. Second, we will coordinate pump efficiency testing for at least 7 farmers annually for a total of 21+ unique farmers served throughout the project period (Objective 2). Third, we will provide training regarding water use efficiency and nutrient management practices through a combination of in-person workshops and on-demand webinars reaching an estimated minimum of 350 farmers (Objective 3). Activities will build on our ongoing partnership with the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA) in Salinas, CA, an organic farm incubator and educational hub that primarily serves beginning small-scale Spanish-speaking Latinx farmers. This approach prioritizes assistance for a community of farmers who are underserved in our region and will support their ongoing success as they graduate from the ALBA incubator and move on to manage lands in other parts of the region. Additionally, we partner with the RCD of Santa Cruz County (RCDSCC), with which we often collaborate to continue to serve ALBA alumni and other small-scale Latinx farmers who have moved across county lines. Finally, we collaborate with the UC Santa Cruz Center for Agroecology (CfA) to develop on-demand webinars in both Spanish and English, which will complement our in-person workshop activities and make workshop content more widely accessible.	We will primarily serve farmers within Monterey County; however, given that small-scale Latinx farmers in our area often move across county lines to access farmland, we will work closely with neighboring RCDs to ensure that farmers moving across county lines receive the support that they need. Our on-demand webinars will target these areas as well, but we expect that materials will be used beyond our geographic region due to the nationwide influence of the UC Santa Cruz Center for Agroecology (CfA).	Paul Robins: (831) 975-7757 paul.robins@rcdmonterey.org	$498,824.62

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Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County	1. University of California Cooperative Extension, Ag and Natural Resources Dept. (UCCE) and 2. Monterey County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD)	Irrigation and Nutrient Management Assistance in the Pajaro Valley and Surrounding Areas	This project will leverage the experience and success of the existing Pajaro Valley Irrigation Efficiency Program to provide technical and outreach assistance to the SDFR communities in the Pajaro Valley. These agriculture-based communities are entirely dependent on a critically over-drafted groundwater basin, experiencing seawater and nitrate contamination. The project team has demonstrated success to work with project collaborators and advance toward basin-wide water conservation goals. The proposed project will expand the scope, services and overall impact of this important program.	The technical assistance proposed in this project targets the agricultural communities in the Pajaro Valley, spanning the lower Pajaro River Watershed, located in southern Santa Cruz County and northern Monterey County. The on-demand outreach and training tools developed through this project will target growers and irrigators in the Pajaro Valley, and through cooperation with Monterey County RCD and collaborators, will also target agricultural communities throughout the Counties of Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito and other parts of the central coast.	Sacha Lozano: 831 464-2950 ex 11 slozano@rcdsanatcruz.org	$499,787.87
UCCE Imperial County		Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Program In Southern California	This project aims to provide technical assistance in Irrigation and Nutrient Management Training for farmers and ranchers in Imperial, Riverside, and San Diego Counties. UCCE Imperial County as the lead organization will partner with UCCE offices in Riverside and San Diego Counties, the local RCDs, and the farm bureaus in Southern California to expand the assistance to a larger base of farmers and ranchers in the region. Different outreach strategies will be used to provide training workshops regarding water use efficiency and nutrient management including in-person, live remote, on-demand workshops/webinars, and individual training and demonstration. All large-medium-small scale farmer/ranchers, and SDFRs will be targeted in this program. A group of UCCE academies with years of research and training experience, and expertise in irrigation and nutrient management, irrigation systems, water quality, and soil management will implement the training program over a three-year period.	Imperial, Riverside, and San Diego Counties	Aliasghar Montazar: 442-265-7707 amontazar@ucanr.edu	$239,460.00
University of California, Davis		Irrigation and nutrient management training for California's nursery and greenhouse industry	Water efficiency and technical assistance funding will allow University of California Nursery and Floriculture Alliance to provide water and nutrient best management training for socially disadvantaged farmers working in California's nursery and greenhouse operations. UCNFA will provide training regarding water use efficiency and nutrient management practices and technology to a historically underserved population of nursery and greenhouse staff. We intend to provide and record hands-on workshops to Spanish- speaking nursery and greenhouse staff; the recordings will be made available at no-cost to anyone via the UCNFA YouTube channel.	According to the California Agricultural Statistics Report for 2019-2020, the top five counties producing nursery stock in California are San Diego, Stanislaus, Riverside, Ventura, and Siskiyou, in that order. Other prominent areas include Santa Cruz, Sacramento, Orange, and Los Angeles Counties. We will not limit ourselves to the above counties but will serve the entire state of California. We will provide training wherever there is a need for and desire by nursery and greenhouse growers to improve their understanding of irrigation and nutrient management in container-plant production.	Bruno Pitton: 559-355-1079 bjpitton@ucdavis.edu	$499,935.85

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Ventura County Resource Conservation District	Southern California Edison	Agricultural Resource Conservation and Technical Assistance in Ventura County	The goal of this project is to enhance the efficiency of water, fertilizer, and energy use on Ventura County farms. To achieve this, the Ventura County Resource Conservation District (VCRCD) will work with partners to coordinate and provide farmers 1) irrigation system evaluations; 2) fertilizer budget recommendations; 3) agricultural irrigation pump tests; and 4) technical tools and training. VCRCD will also conduct outreach to demonstrate the on- farm benefits these approaches provide.	The primary region served by VCRCD through this water efficiency project will be the western portion of Ventura County. This is simply due to the logistics of serving the entirety of Ventura County given that VCRCD is headquartered in west county. However, VCRCD will work with organizations in the eastern portion of Ventura County to identify growers in that area and provide them irrigation evaluations and access to technical trainings. Furthermore, to the extent possible, VCRCD will work with the Cachuma RCD to provide services to SDFRs in Santa Barbara County, should Cachuma RCD not receive funding through the WETA program.	Jamie Whiteford: 805 764-5132 jamiewhiteford.vcrcd@gmail.com	$396,049.00
Yolo County Resource Conservation District	Sutter County Resource Conservation District	Sutter-Yolo Mobile Irrigation Lab	Yolo County Resource Conservation District (YCRCD) is partnering with Sutter County RCD (SCRCD) to request grant funds to provide agricultural irrigation conservation services for growers in Yolo, Sutter, Yuba and Colusa counties. This Sutter-Yolo Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) will build on a longstanding joint effort with the RCD of Tehama County (RCDTC) by funding a new MIL Manager position out of the YCRCD office and staff time for a Sutter RCD Project Manager to expand pump and irrigation evaluation services to many more growers in the four-county area and provide multilingual technical assistance to serve socially-disadvantaged farmers.	The primary project area serviced by the proposed MIL incorporates Colusa, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba Counties in the Southern Sacramento Valley, which includes 5,621 farms that cover more than 739,679 acres of irrigated land (USDA Census of Agriculture, 2017 State and County Profiles - CA).	Heather Nichols: 530 661-1688 nichols@yolorcd.org	$499,808.40