

CAUTION : [External Email] - This email originated from outside of our CDFA organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is expected and is

safe. Doc says this is due 20Feb, email says 9Feb. Here are our comments on the new WETA.

Questions/comments for CDFA:

1. Are applicants funded under the last (2021/2022) WETA program eligible to apply to this program?
2. The reporting requirements do not mention reporting DU evaluations to ITRC. None have been submitted by currently funded entities.
3. Are female farmers and ranchers eligible as SDFRs or only female farmers and ranchers of color? If it is only female farmers and ranchers of color, is there a reason they are separated from the other groups?
4. The RGA states on page 10 that CDFA will recommend the highest scoring applications for an award of grant funds. Who will select the applications that are funded?

Thanks, Stuart

Stuart W. Styles, D.E., P.E., D.WRE
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Date Received	Submitter	Affiliation	Summary of Comment	CDFA Response
2/14/2023	Stuart Styles	California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) San Luis Obispo	<p>The commenter asked the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are applicants funded under the last (2021/2022) WETA program eligible to apply to this program? 2. The reporting requirements do not mention reporting DU evaluations to ITRC. None have been submitted by currently funded entities. 3. Are female farmers and ranchers eligible as SDFRs or only female farmers and ranchers of color? If it is only female farmers and ranchers of color, is there a reason they are separated from the other groups? 4. The RGA states on page 10 that CDFA will recommend the highest scoring applications for an award of grant funds. Who will select the applications that are funded? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, past awardees will be eligible for funding. Applicants will need to describe how their proposal for the most recent solicitation will build upon or enhance their previous project. Additionally, there will be no weighted priority for first time applicants. 2. Page 15 of the RGA encourages WETA awardees to share their distribution uniformity (DU) results with ITRC, but does not require it. 3. Female farmers and ranchers of color are considered socially disadvantaged. For more information and context please see CDFA's Farm Equity Report. 4. CDFA staff within the OEFI and scientific staff at other state agencies may participate in the technical review process to determine the highest scoring applications for awarding grant funding. The RGA will be updated to reflect that technical review will be completed by staff with CDFA's Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation and scientific staff within other CDFA Divisions and partner agencies. The highest scoring applications are recommended for funding to CDFA's Secretary of Agriculture for final selection, after funding recommendations are provided by the technical review team.