

DRAFT

## California Department of Food and Agriculture's State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program

The State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) is a California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) program that provides financial assistance for the implementation of on-farm irrigation systems that reduce greenhouse gases and save water throughout the State. SWEEP funding comes from the State's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, raised from cap-and-trade allowance revenue, as well as Propositions 1 and 68. Since its launch in 2014, SWEEP has invested \$123 million in 1,130 agricultural irrigation projects across California. CDFA estimates the SWEEP program saves 144,000 acre-feet of water (enough to fill more than 72,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools) each year while also annually reducing greenhouse gas emissions by more than 93,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (the equivalent of removing 20,000 cars from the road). In 2023,

### TRADITIONAL SWEEP GRANT PROGRAM

In 2023, there will be \$30 million available to California farmers and ranchers through the traditional SWEEP program, but the future of SWEEP beyond 2023 is uncertain; currently, there is no money proposed for a 2024 SWEEP program. Through SWEEP, agricultural operations can receive up to \$200,000 each and have 24 months to complete their projects. Eligible projects include (but are not limited to):

- Weather, soil, or plant-based sensors for irrigation scheduling
- Micro-irrigation or drip systems
- Conversion of fossil fuel pumps to solar, wind, electric, or natural gas
- Improved energy efficiency (e.g., retrofitting or replacing pumps)
- Low pressure irrigation systems
- Variable frequency drives to reduce energy use and match pump flow to load requirements
- Reduced pumping (e.g., improved irrigation scheduling)
- Other management practices that save water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., soil management practices such as cover cropping and compost addition that increase water-holding capacity)

The 2023 SWEEP Grant application has not yet been released (it's expected to become available in the fall), but the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District encourages landowners now to start gathering the following to be ready:

- A pump efficiency test;
- The last 12 months of energy records; and
- Quotes from vendors for the costs of the proposed project components and installation.

When the SWEEP application becomes available, application assistance will be accessible through the UC Cooperative Extension Program at:  
<https://ciwr.ucanr.edu/Programs/ClimateSmartAg/TechnicalAssistanceProviders/>

### SWEEP BLOCK GRANT PILOT PROGRAM

In addition to the traditional SWEEP grant described above, CDFA is conducting a SWEEP Block Grant Pilot Program in 2023, which will offer a total of \$40 million to California farmers, ranchers, and agricultural operations for on-farm projects that will work conserve water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Block Grant is different from the traditional SWEEP grant in that funding will be made available to local and regional government agencies and groundwater sustainability agencies, each of which can apply for \$2 million to \$5 million. Once awarded, these agencies will develop their own solicitation processes and invite project applications for up to \$200,000 from interested growers. After selecting eligible growers for funding, the agencies will disburse awarded funds to operations for their on-farm projects, which could include ventures like those eligible for the traditional SWEEP program.

In May 2023, the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD) Board of Directors approved applying for the SWEEP Block Grant Pilot Program in partnership with the Stockton East Water Conservation District (SEWD). This partnership increases competitiveness and streamlines administration of the grant. Announcement of awardees is expected by September 2023. If awarded, the NSJWCD/SEWD partnership will solicit project applications from farms and operations within the boundaries of the two jurisdictions. Stay tuned for updates on this program.

More information about both SWEEP Programs can be found at:  
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/>