

## Frequently Asked Questions About the 2021 CDFA State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP)

VALERIE PEREZ, Community Education Specialist, Climate Smart Agriculture Program, UC Cooperative Extension, Santa Cruz County; PAULINA HERNANDEZ, Community Education Specialist, Small Farms & Specialty Crops, UC Cooperative Extension, Santa Clara, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties; and APARNA GAZULA, Farm Advisor, Small Farms & Specialty Crops, UC Cooperative Extension, Santa Clara, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties.

### 1. What is CDFA's SWEEP grant?

CDFA's SWEEP provides grant funding to California agricultural operations to incentivize activities that reduce on-farm water use and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from irrigation and water pumping systems.

### 2. What is the maximum amount of funds I can apply for?

The maximum grant amount is \$200,000 per agricultural operation. However, there is a limit to the total amount of funds an agricultural operation can receive from SWEEP altogether which is \$600,000.

### 3. How long will I have to complete my project?

The grant period is for two years or 24 months, and you can complete the project within this duration.

### 4. What are some examples of practices that the SWEEP grant will fund?

Some examples of practices are replacing pumps, using soil moisture or plant sensors, and converting to a more water efficient irrigation method.

### 5. What are some examples of practices that the SWEEP grant will NOT fund?

CDFA's SWEEP unallowable costs are project design, technical assistance, any labor provided by the applicant or the applicant's employees, drilling new or expanding groundwater wells, irrigation training courses, and pump efficiency tests.

### 6. Who can apply to CDFA's SWEEP grants?

California ranchers, farmers and state/federally recognized Native American tribes are eligible to apply. The irrigation project must be located on a California agricultural operation and

cannot build upon previously funded SWEEP projects directly affecting the same Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs).

### **7. Where do I submit my application for funding?**

You can apply on CDFA's State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program page at the following website: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/>

### **8. What information should I gather if I am interested in applying to this program?**

In order to apply, you will need a pump test for all pumps affected by the proposed SWEEP project, 12 consecutive months of utility bills (e.g. PG&E) and quotes from vendors for the prices of project components you plan to implement (e.g. price quotes for a pump you plan to replace).

### **9. Can I apply even if I lease my land?**

Yes, even if you lease the land, you can still apply for State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program. A landowner agreement letter, is NOT required.

### **10. Am I eligible for SWEEP if I share an APN?**

An APN cannot be awarded a SWEEP award more than once. In the case of a shared APN, the interested party should consult with their neighbor(s) within the APN and see if their neighbors(s) are interested in upgrading their irrigation system which can then result into 1 combined SWEEP application.

### **11. Am I eligible for SWEEP if I am a non-profit organization?**

You are NOT eligible for SWEEP if you are an agricultural operation located in an urban area that is owned by a local government and is operated by a city entity. However, you are eligible if you are a non-profit organization such as an urban farm as long as you are NOT owned by a local government. SWEEP's Request for Grant Application states the following, "Academic university research institutions and state governmental organizations are NOT eligible for funding."

### **12. How does CDFA verify my project?**

CDFA or a contracted third party will visit the project site and inspect the completed project. The verifier will also take photographs to document project completion.

### **13. How do I get paid?**

CDFA's SWEEP is a reimbursement grant program, meaning you will have to provide the upfront costs to purchase the equipment and CDFA will reimburse you after receiving and approving quarterly invoicing documents.