



## INNOVATIVE AG SERVICES

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# CDFA SWEEP Update

## What is SWEEP?

The State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) is a Program through The Office of Environmental Farming & Innovation of California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

## Current SWEEP Pilot in desert:

There has been some confusion about the SWEEP Pilot round that is currently open. This is a pilot project for producers in the desert portion of Riverside and Imperial counties only. It is a competitive grant application (not first come first serve) that has a \$2,000,000 fund pool and closes November 8. If you believe you have a project that may qualify in that region and would like assistance, please let me know.

## CDFA HSP/SWEEP Listening session:

CDFA is hosting a listening session to take feedback on a pilot to add (or convert) the SWEEP program to a block grant format on October 10. I am concerned by this development for two reasons: first, the use of block grants could potentially reduce the funds available for implementing “farm level” projects, as typically block grant administration costs are allowed. This would mean that each block grant recipient could spend a portion of the grant on administration, reducing the efficiency when compared to a single entity (CDFA) managing the grant. The second concern is that this potentially could lead to favoritism or exclusion by the managing entities, depending on who is awarded the block grants. CDFA has always tried to maintain a level playing field outside of their statutory requirements, and the block grant structure could allow greater influence by special interests. I am preparing a brief and talking points for distribution so you can review and choose to lend your opinion.

To register for the webinar please use this link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ze7qhvv0Tgq5ABquDWrFnA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ze7qhvv0Tgq5ABquDWrFnA)

## CDFA 2022 SWEEP funding and predictions:

CDFA SWEEP has up to \$110 million for the program this year, \$50 m from 2021 SB 170 budget rider, and \$60 million taken from “surplus” discretionary funds to avoid the Gann limit. I believe that several things could happen: the first is that they have a large “traditional” SWEEP program with \$75-\$80 million in funding, combined with a \$30-\$40 million block grant style distribution. The second will be 2 rounds of general SWEEP, one opening in November (after the current pilot closes), and then one in late spring. I would assume they will mirror last year’s program, and remain first come, first serve. Lastly, it is possible that they have a single round this year and use the remaining budget for a 2023/24 fiscal year.

In all these scenarios, I still would recommend that you prepare to have everything ready for your applications in mid to late October. The fact that they haven’t released a draft for public comment at this point makes me nervous that they won’t this cycle and roll over the rule set from the 2021 program.

If you have any questions,  
please contact me directly:



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