

Current Funding Opportunities Update - Fall 2022

FEDERAL:

NRCS: EQIP

Natural Resources Conservation District's Environmental Quality Incentives Program FY2023 is open, with an application deadline of December 9, 2022 for all fund pools. This year's initiatives are for air quality, organics, High Tunnels (hoop houses), On-Farm Energy (audits and improvements), Landscape Conservation, and Salinity Management in the Colorado Basin. These initiatives often have larger fund pools, and an increased chance to be awarded. California NRCS has \$97 million for FY23 and plans to obligate around \$60 million in the first batches (with the 12/9 deadline.) Ranking and award for general EQIP is projected to begin March 2023, so projects will likely not be able to start until late April or early May.

NRCS: CSP

The Natural Resources Conservation District's Conservation Stewardship Program is a program designed to reward producers for continuing to implement conservation practices on their farm. Payments are made on an annual basis for the land enrolled and the resource concerns addressed. This is a five-year contract, and all land must be enrolled. NRCS is looking to increase their California enrollment and would like interested parties to apply prior to the December 9 deadline.

FSA: Other Programs

Farm Service Agency has many programs open now with deadlines approaching:

- December 9 – Dairy Margin Coverage Program deadline
- December 15 - Citrus certification deadline
- December 1 - Wheat Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program deadline
- January 15 - New Alfalfa certification deadline
- January 30 - Livestock Forage Program Deadline

USDA: REAP

United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Energy for America Program. Renewable Energy FY 2023 application deadline is March 31, 2023. Funding is for renewable energy projects such as solar, wind, hydropower amongst others, as well as energy efficiency improvements. This is a grant/loan combo, with a 75% cost share component.

Limitations: agricultural producers with at least 50 percent of their gross income coming from agricultural operations or small businesses in eligible rural areas (populations of 50,000 residents or less); requires DUNS number.

STATE:

CDFA: SWEEP

California Department of Food & Agriculture's State Water Efficiently & Enhancement Program. The 2023 CDFA SWEEP budget has \$110 million allotted for the program. CDFA recently had its \$2 million desert pilot close and took public comment on a pilot for a \$50 million block grant to be distributed to non-profits, RCDs, and Irrigation Districts on their behalf. No draft RGA (Request for Grant Application,) has been made available for the pilot at this time, or a normal SWEEP round. We are still estimating a \$50+ million SWEEP round following the same rules as last round but are now projecting a mid-December opening date.

CDFA: HSP

California Department of Food & Agriculture's Healthy Soils Program. The 2023 CDFA SWEEP budget has \$85 million allotted for the program. CDFA took public comment on a pilot for a \$40 million block grant to be distributed to non-profits, RCDs, and Irrigation Districts on their behalf. No draft RGA has been made available for the pilot at this time, or a normal SWEEP round. We are still estimating a \$40+ million HSP round following the same rules as last round but are now projecting a mid-December opening date. Contract limitation: \$100,000 per tax ID. Project focus: implementation of agricultural management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs, and improve soil health such as mulching, compost application, and cover crops.

CDFA: AMMP

California Department of Food & Agriculture's Alternative Manure Management Program. The FY 2023 Budget has \$20 Million set aside for AMMP, and additionally splits \$48 million with DDRDP. IAS anticipates an additional \$12-15 million from that portion of the budget. Projected project application window is in February or March of 2023.

CDFA: DDRDP

California Department of Food & Agriculture's Dairy Digester Research & Development Program. The FY 2023 Budget splits \$48 million with AMMP. IAS anticipates an additional \$32 million to be allocated to DDRDP. Projected project application window is in February or March of 2023.

AIR DISTRICT: SJVAPCD

ALTERNATIVE TO AG BURN:

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Alternative to Ag Burn is currently accepting applications for \$178.2 Million for whole orchard recycling. Incentives range from \$300 to \$1,300 per acre for chipping and exporting or reincorporating orchards and vineyards. Short application period, 1-2 months, with reimbursement within 45 days of post chipping inspection.

TRACTOR REPLACEMENT:

Currently accepting applications. \$450 - \$905/HP not to exceed 60% of eligible costs. Tier 0, Tier 1, and Tier 2 engines are eligible.

ZERO-EMISSION AG UTILITY TERRAIN VEHICLE (UTV): Currently accepting applications.

AG PUMP REPLACEMENT: Currently accepting applications. Diesel to Diesel, Diesel/NG to Electric, and Diesel/NG to Electric with Line Extension. \$90-\$140/HP not to exceed 85% of eligible costs. Existing engines must be certified to a Tier 3 level (Tier 1 and 2 eligible on case-by-case basis).

ELECTRIFIED DAIRY FEED MIXING PROGRAM: Currently accepting applications.

LOW-DUST NUT HARVESTER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM:

Currently accepting applications. Up to 50% of eligible costs with a \$150,000 limit per unit.

OTHER:

PG&E VFD rebate: Ag Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) rebates of \$40/hp for new and existing well and booster pumps.