

White Wolf Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Directors

Agenda March 1, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Virtual Remote Meeting
Meeting ID: 892 2419 8390
Access code: 369642

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89224198390?pwd=Wml5bFBZcnpGeTRrK2E1N0dsMEE3QT09&from=addon>

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Discuss and Consider Adoption of Resolution to Allow Remote Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to AB 361 for Next 30 Days**
- 3. Recognition of Guests**
- 4. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 6, 2021 and the Special Board Meeting of January 25, 2022**
- 5. Report by Board Secretary (Angelica)**
 - a. Financial Accounting
- 6. Updates on Actions Discussed or Authorized on December 6, 2021 (EKI)**
 - a. Water Year (WY) 2021 Annual Report
 - b. Overview of Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation Tasks
- 7. Discuss and Consider Approval of EKI Task Order #9 – WY 2022 GSP Implementation Support**
- 8. Correspondence**
 - a. Upload of White Wolf GSP to California Department of Water Resources
- 9. Public Comment**

At this time, the public may address the Board on any item not appearing on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Comments will be limited to three minutes.

10. Consider and provide direction on future agenda items

11. Adjourn

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Angelica Martin (661) 663-4262.

WHITE WOLF GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

RESOLUTION 2022-02

**RESOLUTION INITIALLY AUTHORIZING REMOTE
TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS UNDER AB361**

WHEREAS, meetings of the Board of Directors (“Board”) of White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“Agency”) and its committees are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the Agency’s legislative bodies conduct their business;

WHEREAS, Government Code section 54953(e), as amended by Assembly Bill 361 (2021) (“AB361”), signed by the Governor on September 16, 2021, provides for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Agency wishes to invoke the provisions of AB361 to authorize teleconference meetings subject to the modified standard of Government Code section 54953(e);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

Section 1. Findings. The Board hereby finds as follows:

- (a) As required by Government Code section 54953(e)(1), a proclaimed state of emergency exists under the California Emergency Services Act, as declared by the Governor on March 4, 2020.
- (b) State or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.

Section 2. Procedures for Teleconference Meetings. The Agency and its committees shall hold teleconference meetings pursuant to the requirements of Government Code section 54953(e).

Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

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Section 4. Renewal. Pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e)(3), the Agency will reconsider the state of emergency every 30 days.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Agency on March 1, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

ATTEST:

Secretary of the Board

**White Wolf Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District Headquarters
12109 Highway 166, Mettler, CA 93313**

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Date of Meeting: Monday, December 6, 2021

Location: Remote and in person

Meeting Commenced at 1:04 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Tito Martinez, George Cappello, Jeff Giumarra, Jeff Mettler, Allen Lyda, and Jon Reiter

ALTERNATES: None

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

PUBLIC AND STAFF: Refer to sign in sheet signed by members of the public. Matt Owens from DWR, Tim Gobler from Trinitas, Robbin Smith from Wonderful Citrus, and Anona Dutton, Susan Xie, Jagbir Dhaliwal, from EKI joined via teleconference. Legal counsel, Alan Doud, was present.

The meeting was initiated by Legal Counsel, Alan Doud, who provided a brief explanation of Resolution 2021-01; Initially Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings Under AB361. After a brief discussion, and on motion by Director Jeff Mettler, seconded by Director Lyda, the resolution was unanimously approved. The motion was carried upon roll call vote for approval.

The draft meeting minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 7, 2021 were presented by Ms. Martin. On motion by Director Lyda and seconded by Director Mettler, the minutes were unanimously approved. The motion was carried upon roll call vote for approval.

Ms. Martin presented the financial report. There were no questions. On motion by Director Lyda, and seconded by Director Reiter, the financials were unanimously approved. The motion was carried upon roll call vote for approval.

At this point Director Cappello joined the meeting.

Anona Dutton gave a presentation starting with comments received on the Draft GSP. Only one comment letter was received from a coalition of NGO's. She presented a table that showed in detail the comment and the response proposed by EKI. Most comments did not require any major revisions to the GSP. Director Reiter wanted to make sure the Ad Hoc Technical Committee was okay with the changes proposed by EKI. Sheridan Nicholas confirmed the Committee agreed. The Board was comfortable with the recommended changes to the GSP. She also presented an overview of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) GSP reviews. Based on the content of those review letters EKI recommended a revision to the current Undesirable Result definition to take out the qualifier of non-drought years. Anona explained that DWR will be reviewing the submitted GSP and not any revisions that come after that. Matt Owens from DWR said he believes DWR will look at any revisions that need to happen mid-review. After further consideration, the confirmation of direction from the Board was to make the revision before submitting. Mrs. Dutton continued to talk about the Prop 68 round 2 funding opportunities, explaining that the time line for applications had been pushed back but on the good side, the allocation of money amount had increased. In late 2022 there will be an opportunity to put together and submit a proposal for projects needed to support the GSP. Following that, she talked about the

next steps and brought up the need to hold a public hearing prior to the Board adopting the final GSP. Preferably before January 31st . She explained that after submitting the final GSP to DWR, the preparation for the first annual report, due April 1st, needs to follow.

Task order No. 8 was presented to the Board for approval. It is to prepare water year (WY) 2021 Annual report and WY 2022 GSP Implementation Support. After a brief discussion, and on motion by Director Lyda, seconded by Director Mettler, the task was unanimously approved by the Board. The motion was carried upon roll call vote approval.

In order to schedule the Public Hearing and Special Board Meeting to approve the GSP, Ms. Martin proposed she send an email with optional dates and times in order to facilitate the schedule. The Board approved to do it that way.

There was Correspondence to report. Ms. Martin mentioned the comment letter received by the coalition of NGO's.

There were no public comments.

The Board went into closed session at 1:55 p.m.

There was nothing to report from closed session.

After a motion from Director Lyda, and seconded by Director Mettler, the Regular Board meeting of the White Wolf GSA was adjourned at 2.03 p.m.

Angelica Martin, Secretary, White Wolf Subbasin GSA

Approved by: White Wolf Subbasin GSA Board of Directors Dated: March 1, 2022

**White Wolf Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District Headquarters
12109 Highway 166, Mettler, CA 93313**

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Place of Meeting: REMOTE

Meeting Commenced at 1:06 p.m

DIRECTORS PRESENT (Roll-Call): Allen Lyda, George Cappello, Jon Reiter (via phone), Tito Martinez, Jeff Giumarra, Jeff Mettler.

ALTERNATES: N/A

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

PUBLIC AND STAFF: There was a recognition of those attending. Susan Xie, Jagbir, and Anona from EKI, Tom Suggs, Sheridan Nicholas, and Eric McDaris from WRMWSD, Micah Clark, and Jeevan Muhlar from AEWSD, Robbin Smith from Wonderful Citrus, Matt Brady from South Valley Farms, Josh Polich from Anthony Vineyards, and Tim Gobler from Trinitas. Legal Counsel, Alan Doud, was also present.

Resolution 2022-01 was presented; Initially Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings Under AB361. On motion by Director Lyda, seconded by Director Giumarra, Resolution 2022-01 was unanimously approved. The motion was carried upon roll call vote for approval.

To open the Public Hearing, Anona Dutton began her presentation with background of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). She continued to provide an explanation of the basin's management structure and its sustainable goal. She then gave an overview of the WWGSA's Groundwater Sustainable Plan (GSP). The presentation ended with a look at the next steps. Once her presentation was done, President Martinez opened the time for public comments and/or questions. Hearing none, he inquired a couple of more times and asked the public to take advantage of this time to make any comments or ask any questions related to the topics just presented. There were no public comments or questions.

Ms. Dutton addressed the Board of Directors and recommended approval of the GSP. After a brief discussion, and on motion by Director Reiter, seconded by Director Lyda, the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the WWGSA was unanimously approved. The motion was carried by roll call vote.

There was no closed session.

After a motion from Director Mettler, and seconded by Director Reiter, the Regular Board meeting of the White Wolf GSA was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Angelica Martin, Secretary, White Wolf Subbasin GSA

Approved by: White Wolf Subbasin GSA Board of Directors

Dated: March 1, 2022



White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
 Tejon-Castac Water District
 Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District
 Kern County

AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Date: 24 February 2022

To: Board of Directors, White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)

From: Angelica Martin, Secretary, White Wolf GSA

Item: 5a. Financial Accounting

SUMMARY

Amount Owed to TCWD for Costs Incurred during Fourth Quarter 2021

Cost Category		AEWSD	WRMWSD
Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 Grants for GSP Development	Grant Cost Share	\$0.19	\$0.22
	Not Grant Reimbursable	\$0.76	\$0.74
Other GSP Related Task Orders		\$5,365.88	\$5,365.88
Total		\$5,366.83	\$5,366.84

DISCUSSION

Tejon-Castac Water District (TCWD) entered into an amended Grant Agreement with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), requiring separate financial accounting between the Proposition 1 funds, which require a 50% local cost share, and the Proposition 68 funds, which require a 25% local cost share.

The above table summarizes payments due to TCWD from Arvin Edison Water Storage District (AEWSD) and Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District (WRMWSD) for Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 tasks for Fourth Quarter 2021. As a reminder, Table 1 presents a full reconciliation of all GSP development costs through the Fourth Quarter 2021, which are split equally between the three districts.

Furthermore, the Board of Directors approved EKI Environment and Water, Inc. (EKI) Task Order #6 for As Needed Technical Support Related to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Compliance

and EKI Task Order #8 for Preparation of the White Wolf Subbasin Water Year (WY) 2021 Annual Report. These are shown as additional line items above, as costs are not covered under the Grant Agreement. Table 2 presents a reconciliation of these additional costs, which are split equally between the three districts.

Attached: Table 1. Updated Accounting of GSP Development Efforts in the White Wolf Basin through Fourth Quarter 2021

Table 2. Updated Accounting of Other GSP Related Efforts in the White Wolf Basin through Fourth Quarter 2021

Table 1
Updated Accounting of GSP Development Efforts in the White Wolf Basin through Fourth Quarter 2021 ⁽¹⁾
 Tejon-Castac Water District

Reconciliation Period	Technical Consultant Cost		Grant Cost Share Amount ⁽²⁾						Grant Reimbursable Amount		Not Grant Reimbursable Amount ⁽³⁾					
			TCWD ⁽⁴⁾		AEWSD		WRMWS D		DWR		TCWD ⁽⁴⁾		AEWSD		WRMWS D	
	Prop 1	Prop 68	Prop 1	Prop 68	Prop 1	Prop 68	Prop 1	Prop 68	Prop 1	Prop 68	Prop 1	Prop 68	Prop 1	Prop 68	Prop 1	Prop 68
1 January 2015 to 30 June 2017	\$156,790	--	\$53,474	--	\$48,710	--	\$49,014	--	\$0	--	\$5,016	--	\$576	--	\$0	--
1 July 2017 to 20 April 2018	\$118,979	--	\$25,149	--	\$6,402	--	\$53,350	--	\$0	--	\$31,915	--	\$260	--	\$1,903	--
2nd Quarter 2018	\$65,016	--	\$43,095	--	\$10,867	--	\$10,867	--	\$0	--	\$62	--	\$62	--	\$62	--
3rd Quarter 2018	\$128,749	--	\$85,266	--	\$21,317	--	\$21,317	--	\$0	--	\$849	--	--	--	--	--
4th Quarter 2018	\$114,297	--	\$59,992	--	\$19,044	--	\$19,044	--	\$16,184	--	\$32	--	--	--	--	--
1st Quarter 2019	\$32,744	--	-\$88,812	--	\$71,826	--	\$24,574	--	\$24,828	--	-\$24,185	--	\$12,790	--	\$11,723	--
2nd Quarter 2019	\$23,657	--	\$3,927	--	\$3,925	--	\$3,925	--	\$9,494	--	\$795	--	\$795	--	\$795	--
3rd Quarter 2019	\$31,264	--	\$4,992	--	\$0	--	\$0	--	\$8,087	--	\$18,185	--	\$0	--	\$0	--
4th Quarter 2019	\$14,837	--	-\$1,300	--	\$3,696	--	\$3,696	--	\$8,333	--	-\$13,046	--	\$6,729	--	\$6,729	--
1st Quarter 2020	\$24,842	--	\$639	--	--	--	--	--	\$22,836	--	\$1,367	--	--	--	--	--
2nd Quarter 2020	\$33,511	\$49,293	-\$424	\$15,953	\$212	\$15,953	\$212	\$15,953	\$33,511	\$0	\$148	\$478	-\$74	\$478	-\$74	\$478
3rd Quarter 2020	\$41,063	\$51,955	\$0	\$17,319	\$0	\$17,318	\$0	\$17,318	\$41,063	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4th Quarter 2020	\$17,057	\$136,354	\$0	\$10,301	\$0	\$10,303	\$0	\$10,303	\$17,057	\$105,062	\$0	\$129	--	\$128	--	\$128
1st Quarter 2021	\$70,733	\$170,769	\$0	\$10,289	\$0	\$10,289	\$0	\$10,289	\$70,733	\$135,704	\$0	\$1,398	--	\$1,400	--	\$1,400
2nd Quarter 2021	\$115,927	\$97,805	\$0	\$1,646	\$0	\$1,646	\$0	\$1,646	\$115,927	\$92,466	\$0	\$133	\$0	\$134	\$0	\$134
3rd Quarter 2021	\$133,915	\$139,487	\$0	\$1,492	\$0	\$1,491	\$0	\$1,491	\$133,345	\$130,480	\$191	\$1,513	\$189	\$1,510	\$189	\$1,510
4th Quarter 2021	\$42,907	\$27,718	\$0	\$0	--	--	--	--	\$42,907	\$27,718	\$0	\$0	--	--	--	--
Total Cost to Date	\$1,166,286	\$673,381	\$186,000	\$57,000	\$185,999	\$57,000	\$185,999	\$57,000	\$544,305	\$491,430	\$21,328	\$3,651	\$21,327	\$3,650	\$21,327	\$3,650
Amount Owed to TCWD	--	--	--	--	\$0.19	\$0.00	\$0.22	\$0.00	\$42,907	\$27,718	--	--	\$0.43	\$0.33	\$0.41	\$0.33
Total Amount Owed to TCWD	--	--	--	--	\$0.19	\$0.00	\$0.22	\$0.00	\$70,625	\$49,436	--	--	\$0.76	\$0.33	\$0.84	\$0.66

Abbreviations:

AEWSD = Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
 DWR = California Department of Water Resources
 GSP = Groundwater Sustainability Plan
 Prop = Proposition

SGMA = Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
 TCWD = Tejon-Castac Water District
 WRMWS D = Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District

Notes:

- (1) Fees incurred between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2021.
- (2) Excludes Grant Reimbursable amount to be paid by DWR. TCWD has paid the Grant Reimbursable costs and will be reimbursed by DWR directly.
- (3) Billed travel expenses, 4% communication fee, Proposition 1 Grant application preparation costs, and Proposition 68 Grant application preparation costs are not eligible for grant reimbursement nor cost share. AEWSD, TCWD, and WRMWS D participate in voluntary cost share for Not Grant Reimbursable costs.
- (4) TCWD costs incurred minus costs paid by AEWSD and WRMWS D after reconciliation.
- (5) Negative values reflect lags in timing of payment reconciliation.

Table 2

Updated Accounting of Other GSP Related Efforts in the White Wolf Basin through Fourth Quarter 2021 ⁽¹⁾

Tejon-Castac Water District

Reconciliation Period	Total Technical Consultant Cost	TCWD ⁽²⁾	AEWSD	WRMWSD
4th Quarter 2021				
As-Needed SGMA	\$5,503.42	\$5,503		
Water Year 2021 Annual Report	\$10,594.22	\$10,594		
Total Cost to Date	\$16,097.64	\$16,098	\$0	\$0
Amount Owed to TCWD	--	--	\$5,365.88	\$5,365.88

Abbreviations:

AEWSD = Arvin-Edison Water Storage District

GSP = Groundwater Sustainability Plan

SGMA = Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

TCWD = Tejon-Castac Water District

WRMWSD = Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District

Notes:

(1) Fees incurred between 1 December and 31 December 2021.

(2) TCWD costs incurred minus costs paid by AEWSD and WRMWSD after reconciliation.



White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
 Tejon-Castac Water District
 Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District
 Kern County

AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Date: 24 February 2022

To: Board of Directors, White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)

From: Angelica Martin, Secretary, White Wolf GSA

Item: 5a. Financial Accounting / LEGAL COSTS

SUMMARY

Amount Owed to TCWD for Costs Incurred during
 Fourth Quarter 2021

Cost Category	AEWSD	WRMWSD
Total Paid by TCWD		
\$1,926.63		
Total Due to TCWD	\$642.21	\$642.21

DISCUSSION

Tejon-Castac Water District (TCWD) has paid all legal costs for matters related to the White Wolf GSA. These charges are equally split in three parts between all three Districts.

The above table summarizes payments due to TCWD from Arvin Edison Water Storage District (AEWSD) and Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District (WRMWSD) for these legal expenses. These amounts will be included as a separate item on the invoices sent to WRMWSD and AEWSD for Fourth Quarter 2021 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development charges.



White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
Tejon-Castac Water District
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District
Kern County

AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Date: 25 February 2022

To: Board of Directors, White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)

From: Angelica Martin, Secretary, White Wolf GSA

Item: 7. Discuss and consider approval of EKI Task Order #9 Water Year (WY) 2022 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation Support

SUMMARY

Recommendation: Approve EKI Environment and Water, Inc. (EKI)'s Task Order #9 WY 2022 GSP Implementation Support

Fiscal Impact: \$225,000 (\$75,000 per District)

BACKGROUND

The White Wolf GSA is required to conduct ongoing implementation once the GSP has been adopted and submitted. The GSP identifies the following key technical aspects of GSP implementation: 1) Monitoring, Data Collection, and Data Gap Filling, 2) Stakeholder Outreach and Coordination, and 3) Reporting. The White Wolf GSA is required by Title 23 California Code of Regulations (23-CCR) § 356.2 to submit an Annual Report to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) by April 1 of each year following the adoption of the GSP. The WY 2022 Annual Report will cover 1 October 2021 through 30 September 2022 and will need to be submitted by 1 April 2023.

The GSP identified 24 potential Projects and/or Management Actions (P/MAs) that GSA member Districts may want to pursue during GSP implementation in order to achieve sustainability in the Basin. The White Wolf GSA is eligible to apply to two grant solicitations – Round 2 of the Proposition 68 Implementation Grant and the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program Grant. Finally, as all P/MAs are hypothetical, certain as-needed support for P/MA planning is anticipated to be required.

DISCUSSION

As part of WY 2022 GSP implementation support, each GSA-member district will be required to collect and provide specific data. This Task Order will involve conducting WY 2022 GSP implementation support. Specific tasks will include:

- Data collection, compilation, and data gap filling efforts.
- Continued stakeholder engagement support including attendance at two GSA Board meetings, one stakeholder workshop, and routine website maintenance.
- Intra-basin coordination including coordination with the ad-hoc technical committee to facilitate data collection and management efforts.
- Inter-basin coordination with adjacent Kern County Subbasin GSAs, as needed.
- Preparation of the Water Year 2022 Annual Report, including groundwater flow model extension.
- Preparation of the Proposition 68 Implementation Grant Application.
- Preparation of the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program Grant Application.
- As-Needed P/MA Support to address P/MA planning.

We expect Proposition 68 Round 2 to be very competitive, as Round 1 received 15 applications, of which only six were funded. Therefore, EKI will review the application guidelines and instructions contained within PSP. EKI will then review the Basin's P/MAs in regard to eligibility and benefits outlined in the PSP, and work with the GSA and technical committee to rank each P/MA based on both criteria provided in the grant solicitation as well as additional specific criteria that the GSA and technical committee deem important for Basin implementation. Based on the outcome of this process, a subset of the P/MA(s) will be selected to include in the grant application. EKI will then coordinate with the technical committee develop the associated application attachments. Of the six successful applications in Round 1, grant awards were on the order of \$4 to \$5 million. As all P/MAs were in pre-planning or hypothetical stages, all costs the White Wolf GSA would be claiming would occur in the future, and therefore be eligible for grant reimbursement.

The California Department of Conservation has opened a solicitation for Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program Grant Application on 22 February 2022 with a very short solicitation period with applications due 1 April 2022. EKI will work closely with the GSA and technical committee to identify multiple candidate projects, demonstrate the GSA's ability to administer grants and successful projects, and demonstrate that the GSA has committed partnerships and collaboration with other agencies and entities with interests in the proposal area. The GSA will be required to provide supporting documentation, as requested by EKI. Additionally, the GSA will be required to obtain letters of commitments from project partners which outlines contributions to the proposed work. EKI will then develop the associated application attachments. Three to five grants up to \$10 million each will be awarded as block grants to regional or basin-scale organizations to develop and implement land repurposing programs.

Attached:

- EKI Task Order #9 - White Wolf Subbasin Water Year (WY) 2022 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation Support
- SGM Grant Program SGMA Implementation Proposal Solicitation Package
- California Department of Conservation Solicitation Notice and Application for Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program

25 February 2022

Angelica Martin
Secretary of the Board
Tejon-Castac Water District
5665 Santa Elena Drive
Arvin, CA 93203

Subject: Task Order #9 – White Wolf Subbasin Water Year (WY) 2022 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation Support
White Wolf Subbasin, Kern County
(EKI C2-042)

Dear Ms. Martin:

Tejon-Castac Water District (TCWD, District, or Client) has requested that EKI Environment and Water, Inc. (EKI) prepare a scope to support WY 2022 GSP implementation activities for the White Wolf Subbasin (Basin) following the submittal of the GSP.

BACKGROUND

The White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) is required to conduct ongoing implementation once the GSP has been adopted and submitted. The GSP was adopted on 25 January 2021 and identifies the following key technical aspects of GSP implementation all of which will occur to some degree during WY 2022: 1) Monitoring, Data Collection, and Data Gap Filling, 2) Stakeholder Outreach and Coordination, and 3) Reporting. As outlined in the GSP, each of these aspects have specific subtasks associated with them.

The White Wolf GSA is required by Title 23 California Code of Regulations (23-CCR) § 356.2 to submit an Annual Report to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) by April 1 of each year following the adoption of the GSP. The WY 2022 Annual Report will cover 1 October 2021 through 30 September 2022. Certain data and analysis are required to extend from 1 January 2015 through 20 September 2022.

Furthermore, the GSP identified 24 potential Projects and/or Management Actions (P/MAs) that GSA member Districts may want to pursue during GSP implementation in order to achieve sustainability in the Basin. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will open Round 2 of the Proposition 68 Implementation Grant solicitation during September 2022. Round 2 will be competitive with grant amounts between \$1 million to \$20 million per basin available for either planning activities (e.g.,

revisions/updates to GSP) or P/MAs implementation with a voluntary local cost share. DWR has already released the Guidelines,¹ Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP),² and templates³ for the grant application.

Additionally, the California Department of Conservation has opened a solicitation for Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program Grant Application on 22 February 2022. The Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program seeks to increase regional capacity to repurpose agricultural land to reduce reliance on groundwater while providing community health, economic wellbeing, water supply, habitat, and climate benefits. Grants up to \$10 million each will be awarded as block grants to regional or basin-scale organizations to develop and implement land repurposing programs. Block grant recipients will then award subgrants and contract to achieve the program deliverables.⁴ The application is due on 1 April 2022.

The White Wolf GSA is interested in applying for both Round 2 of the Proposition 68 Implementation Grant and the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program Grant.

Based on the above, EKI has prepared the scope of work outlined below for conducting WY 2022 GSP implementation support, including preparation of the WY 2022 Annual Report, preparation of the two Grant Applications on behalf of the White Wolf GSA, and provide as-needed P/MA support.

SCOPE OF WORK

Task 1 – WY 2022 GSP Implementation Support

Task 1 involves WY 2022 (through September 30, 2022) monitoring, data collection, data gap filling efforts, and stakeholder outreach and coordination, as outlined in the GSP implementation plan. This task includes two subtasks. Task 1 does not include preparation of the WY 2022 Annual Report, which is due to DWR on 1 April 2023.

Subtask 1.1 - Monitoring, Data Compilation, and Data Gap Filling

As part of Subtask 1.1, GSA member districts will be required to collect and provide specific data including, but not limited to, semi-annual water level measurements and/or data downloads from data loggers and annual water quality sampling data from the SGMA Monitoring Network. Additionally, the GSA will be required to upload groundwater elevation data from Representative Monitoring Wells (RMWs) to DWR's SGMA portal twice a year (seasonal high measurement to be submitted by July 1st and seasonal low measurement to be submitted by January 1st).

¹ https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Sustainable-Groundwater/Files/2021-SGMA-Imp-General-Funds/sgma-implementation_final-gl_dec2021.pdf

² https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Sustainable-Groundwater/Files/2021-SGMA-Imp-General-Funds/sgma-implementation_final-psp_dec2021.pdf

³ Templates available for download at: <https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Sustainable-Groundwater>

⁴ https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/Documents/grant/000_Land%20Repurposing%20Program%20Guidelines_FINAL_combined.pdf

Under Subtask 1.1, EKI will conduct the following technical work efforts:

- Data compilation, quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC), and Data Management System (DMS) updates for:
 - District-collected water level data collected from the Representative Monitoring Wells (RMW-WLs and RMW-ISWs) and supplemental monitoring sites (MW-WL and MW-ISW);
 - Downloaded water quality data from the public water system RMW-WQs from the State Water Board's Drinking Water Watch website;
 - District-collected water quality data collected from the supplemental monitoring wells (MW-WQ);
 - EKI-collected high-frequency water level data from transducer data loggers;
 - EKI-collected El Paso Creek streamflow data from the stream data logger; and
 - Downloaded streamflow from the supplemental stream gauges from California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) and Kern County, as available.
- Semi-annual upload of seasonal high and seasonal low water level data to DWR's SGMA portal by July 1st and January 1st respectively;
- Processing of other GSA member district-provided water use information, including surface water supply and delivery information and pumping;
- Processing of Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC)-METRIC or other Evapotranspiration (ET) data (e.g., from Open ET);
- Download and processing of public water system pumping data available from the State Water Board's Electronic Annual Report website;
- Conduct the following field work activities, assuming a maximum of three field visits:
 - Download high-frequency water level data from three transducers in the shallow RMW-ISWs and two transducers in the Principal Aquifer;
 - Install stream data logger in El Paso Creek; and
 - Coordination and subcontracting of land surveyor to survey (1) RMW-WWB-006 geographic location, ground surface elevation, and measuring point elevation and (2) ground surface elevation at the two supplemental land surface elevation checkpoint monitoring sites along the 850 Canal.
- Download, compilation, and processing of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Pulse data;
- Download and processing of land surface elevation data from 34 supplemental land surface elevation monitoring sites along the California Aqueduct from DWR, two supplemental Global Positioning System (GPS) subsidence monitoring stations from UNAVCO, and DWR-provided InSAR data; and
- Review and processing of Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) survey data collected by DWR, anticipated to become available during the Fourth Quarter 2022.

Subtask 1.2 - Stakeholder Outreach and Coordination

Subtask 1.2 involves facilitating stakeholder engagement and coordination efforts during WY 2022. Specifically, EKI will:

- Participate in two quarterly GSA Board meetings (June and September) and one stakeholder workshop;
- Conduct routine website maintenance for meeting noticing requirements;
- Facilitate data collection and intra-basin coordination efforts, including participation in up to six (6) ad-hoc technical committee meetings; and
- Participate in inter-basin coordination efforts with GSAs in the adjacent Kern County Subbasin on an as-needed basis.

Task 2 – WY 2022 Annual Report

Task 2 includes all necessary work to produce the Basin’s WY 2022 Annual Report, and has two subtasks. Data compilation is included in Task 1 and therefore not listed here as a subtask.

Subtask 2.1 - Groundwater Flow Model Extension

Subtask 2.1 involves extending and updating the WWGFM to run through September 2022. This involves updating all input files to include surface water delivery, pumping, ET, boundary conditions, and land use data between October 2021 and September 2022 compiled under Task 1, running the model, and post-processing results. The model results will be used to produce the change in groundwater storage maps and graphs required for the WY 2022 Annual Report.

Subtask 2.2 - Write and Submit Annual Report

Subtask 2.2 involves: (1) drafting the WY 2022 Annual Report using the previous Annual Report template, and (2) submitting the Annual Report to DWR. As part of annual reporting, the necessary graphics, tables, and descriptions required under 23-CCR § 356.2 will be produced. Where applicable and required, graphics will include information back to January 1, 2015. Furthermore, an assessment of WY 2022 water levels in comparison to the Sustainable Management Criteria will be conducted.

Task 3 – Proposition 68 Implementation Grant Application

Task 3 includes work efforts to prepare a Grant application for Round 2 of the Proposition 68 Implementation Grant on behalf of the White Wolf GSA. EKI will review the application guidelines and instructions contained within PSP. EKI will then review the Basin’s P/MAs in regard to eligibility and benefits outlined in the PSP, and work with the GSA and technical committee to rank each P/MA based on both criteria provided in the grant solicitation as well as additional specific criteria that the GSA and technical committee deem important for Basin implementation. Based on the outcome of this process, a subset of the P/MA(s) will be selected to include in the grant application. EKI will then coordinate with the technical committee develop the associated application attachments. The application will include, but is not limited to, the following elements:

- Authorizing documentation, in form of two resolutions, designating the authorized representative (TCWD) to submit the application and execute the grant agreement on behalf of the White Wolf GSA;
- Eligibility documentation using DWR's Eligibility Criteria Self-Certification Form;
- A workplan using DWR's template, which will outline the proposed project(s) description(s), project(s) benefits, technical need, scope of work, project deliverables, and project support. The GSA will be required to provide supporting documentation for the proposed project(s), as requested by EKI. Examples of such information includes, but is not limited to, confirmation of legal access rights and/or authority, detailed description of project(s) tasks, coordination documentation, anticipated project(s) costs, cost-share contributions, quotes and/or bids from similar work, and letters of stakeholder support;
- Budget tables using DWR's templates;
- Schedule, using DWR's template; and
- Documentation of Underrepresented Community status in the Basin, and a cost share reduction request, if eligible.

All materials will be compiled and submitted in draft form for White Wolf GSA review, and then submitted in final form to DWR using the GRanTS electronic submittal tool.

Task 4 - Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program Grant Application

Task 4 involves preparing a Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program Grant Application on behalf of the White Wolf GSA. EKI will work closely with the GSA and technical committee to identify multiple candidate projects, demonstrate the GSA's ability to administer grants and successful projects, and demonstrate that the GSA has committed partnerships and collaboration with other agencies and entities with interests in the proposal area. The GSA will be required to provide supporting documentation, as requested by EKI. Additionally, the GSA will be required to obtain letters of commitments from project partners which outlines contributions to the proposed work. EKI will then develop the associated application attachments. The application will include, but is not limited to, the following:

- GSA Eligibility and Capacity;
- Basin description;
- Proposal summary detailing the Scope of Work, which will include development of a Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan, project development and permitting, land repurposing project implementation, support of partners' capacity needs, outreach, education, and training, and monitoring;
- Community Engagement and Collaboration;
- Partnerships including letter of commitments;
- Policy and project expertise ;
- Budget Summary using the table template;
- Project Map(s); and

- Authorizing Resolution from the GSA, designating an authorized representative to submit the application, enter into a grant agreement, and execute the grant agreement on behalf of the White Wolf GSA.

All materials will be compiled and submitted in draft form for White Wolf GSA review, and then submitted in final form to DWR via email to mlrp@conservation.ca.gov by 1 April 2022.

Task 5 – As-Needed P/MA Support

The GSP identified 24 potential P/MAs that GSA member Districts may want to pursue during GSP implementation in order to achieve sustainability in the Basin. Task 5 includes as-needed, as-directed P/MA support to address P/MA planning and any potential policy related questions. The support could include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Develop modeling scenarios for specific P/MAs to quantify the benefits;
- Perform feasibility studies for specific P/MAs;
- Perform recharge basin siting assessment(s);
- Perform research on groundwater policies undertaken by other GSAs;
- Perform research and conduct study on potential impacts of P/MA implementation; and
- Perform research on relevant permitting requirements.

All work will be conducted on a time and materials basis in close coordination with the GSA and member Districts.

PERSONNEL

EKI's staff members who will lead this project include Anona Dutton, P.G., C.Hg. (Officer) and Christina Lucero, P.G. (Associate 2); grades in parentheses are for purposes of billing in accordance with the attached Schedule of Charges (see Attachment A). Other EKI staff members will be assigned to assist with the performance of the tasks as required to meet project commitments.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All work performed by EKI under this Task Order will be performed pursuant to the Terms and Conditions of our existing Agreement with Tejon-Castac Water District. EKI will review the application guidelines and instructions contained within PSP.

COMPENSATION

Inasmuch as the exact level of effort required to complete the above Scope of Work cannot be known precisely, EKI proposes to perform the work on a time and materials expense reimbursement basis in accordance with our current Schedule of Charges (Attachment A). The estimated budget for this scope of work is \$225,000 (see also Table 1) and we will inform you if the level of effort exceeds this anticipated

amount. The estimated budget does not include costs directly paid by the GSA member-Districts, such as laboratory sampling or analytical costs.

Table 1. Estimated Budget

TASK	Cost Estimate
Task 1 – WY 2022 GSP Implementation Support	\$75,000
Task 2 – WY 2022 Annual Report	\$35,000
Task 3 – Proposition 68 Implementation Grant Application	\$40,000
Task 4 – Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program Grant Application	\$25,000
Task 5 – As-Needed P/MA Support	\$50,000
TOTAL:	\$225,000

SCHEDULE

EKI is prepared to start work on the above Scope of Work immediately upon authorization to proceed. We anticipate that Task 1 will begin upon authorization and will continue through the end of WY 2022 (September 30, 2022). Task 2 will begin upon authorization and will continue through 1 April 2023. Task 3 will begin upon authorization and continue through the submission of the grant application; the solicitation opens September 2022. Task 4 will begin immediately upon authorization and continue through the submission of the grant application on 1 April 2022. Task 4 will also require a Special Board Meeting in late March in order for the GSA to adopt the required resolution. Task 5 will begin upon authorization and continue on an as-needed, as-directed basis. EKI will inform the GSA of any issues that arise that may affect the schedule for completion or impact the anticipated level of effort.

We are happy to discuss the proposed approach and anticipated level of effort for this task and subtasks in more detail with you and look forward to working with you on this important project. If this Task Order meets with your approval, please sign where noted below and return a fully executed copy to our office to confirm authorization to proceed. Please call if you have any questions or wish to discuss this proposal in greater detail.

Very truly yours,

EKI ENVIRONMENT & WATER, INC.



Anona L. Dutton, P.G., C.Hg.
Vice President / Principal-In-Charge

AUTHORIZATION
TEJON-CASTAC WATER DISTRICT (CLIENT)

By _____

Title _____

Date _____

Attachments

Attachment A. 2022 Schedule of Charges

Table 1 - Budget Estimate for Proposed Scope of Work

TASKS	EKI Labor										Expenses		TOTAL
	CAD/ GIS	G5 - Engineer-Scientist	G4 - Engineer-Scientist	G3 - Susan Xie	G2 - Nigel Chen	A2 - Christina Lucero	S2 - Jeffrey Shaw	SUP II - Christopher Heppner	OFC - Arona Dutton	TOTAL EKI Labor, including 4% Comm. Charge (1)	CAD/GIS Charge (per hour)	OTHER DIRECT COSTS (2)	(\$)
Task 1 - WY 2022 GSP Implementation Support													
Subtask 1.1 – Monitoring, Data Compilation, and Data Gap Filling													
Data compilation, quality assurance/quality control, Data Management													
System Updates, and upload to DWR	4		32	8		6			4	\$10,296	\$80		\$10,376
Processing of water use information	8			16		8				\$6,099	\$160		\$6,259
Field work activities, including land survey		72	72			4	8		2	\$26,930	\$0	\$5,279	\$32,208
Processing of GDE data				6		2			1	\$1,952	\$0		\$1,952
Processing of land surface elevation data	8	8				2			1	\$3,111	\$160		\$3,271
Processing of AEM survey data	4					6			2	\$2,627	\$80		\$2,707
Subtask 1.2 – Stakeholder Outreach and Coordination													
Up to six ad-hoc meetings				12		6			6	\$5,660	\$0		\$5,660
Two GSA Board meetings				4		4			4	\$3,004	\$0		\$3,004
One Stakeholder Workshop				6		3			3	\$2,830	\$0		\$2,830
Kern County Subbasin inter-basin coordination									6	\$1,916	\$0		\$1,916
Project Management						12			6	\$4,786	\$0		\$4,786
Subtotal	24	80	104	52	0	53	8	0	35	\$69,209	\$480	\$5,279	\$74,967
Task 2 - Water Year 2022 Annual Report													
Subtask 2.1 – Groundwater Flow Model Extension	8	12		10	32	24			4	\$18,581	\$160		\$18,741
Subtask 2.2 – Write and Submit Annual Report	4	12		24		16		4	8	\$14,510	\$80		\$14,590
Subtask 2.3 - Project Management						4			2	\$1,595	\$0		\$1,595
Subtotal	12	24	0	34	32	44	0	4	14	\$34,686	\$240	\$0	\$34,926
Task 3 - Proposition 68 Implementation Grant Application													
Subtask 3.1 – Prepare Proposition 68 Implementation Grant Application	1		24	60		60		10	22	\$40,047	\$20		\$40,067
Subtotal	1	0	24	60	0	60	0	10	22	\$40,047	\$20	\$0	\$40,067
Task 4 - Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program Grant Application													
Subtask 4.1 - Prepare Land Repurposing Grant Application				16	48	34		8	8	\$24,964	\$0		\$24,964
Subtotal	0	0	16	48	0	34	0	8	8	\$24,964	\$0	\$0	\$24,964
Task 5 - As-Needed Project/Management Action (P/MA) Support										\$50,000			
Subtotal	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
TOTAL:	37	104	144	194	32	191	8	22	79	\$218,906	\$740	\$5,279	\$224,925

Notes:
(1) A communications charge of 4% of labor costs covers e-mail access, web conferencing, cellphone calls, messaging and data access, file sharing, local and long distance telephone calls and conferences, facsimile transmittals, standard delivery U.S. postage, and incidental in-house copying.

- (2) "Other Direct Costs" includes direct expenses, as listed below, incurred in connection with the work and will be reimbursed at cost plus ten percent (10%) for items such as:
- a. Maps, photographs, reproductions, printing, equipment rental, and special supplies related to the work.
 - b. Consultants, soils engineers, surveyors, drillers, laboratories, and contractors.
 - c. Rented vehicles, local public transportation and taxis, travel and subsistence.
 - d. Special fees, insurance, permits, and licenses applicable to the work.
 - e. Outside computer processing, computation, and proprietary programs purchased for the work.

Attachment A

EKI Schedule of Charges, dated 1 January 2022

Proposal/Agreement Date: **25 February 2022**

EKI Proposal/Project # **C2-042**

SCHEDULE OF CHARGES FOR EKI ENVIRONMENT & WATER, INC.

1 January 2022

<u>Personnel Classification</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Officer and Chief Engineer-Scientist	307
Principal Engineer-Scientist	296
Supervising I, Engineer-Scientist	286
Supervising II, Engineer-Scientist	276
Senior I, Engineer-Scientist	265
Senior II, Engineer-Scientist	255
Associate I, Engineer-Scientist	244
Associate II, Engineer-Scientist	230
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 1	214
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 2	202
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 3	185
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 4	165
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 5	145
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 6	128
Technician	116
Senior GIS Analyst	150
CADD Operator / GIS Analyst	133
Senior Administrative Assistant	147
Administrative Assistant	115
Secretary	96

Direct Expenses

Reimbursement for direct expenses, as listed below, incurred in connection with the work will be at cost plus fifteen percent (15%) for items such as:

- a. Maps, photographs, reproductions, printing, equipment rental, and special supplies related to the work.
- b. Consultants, soils engineers, surveyors, drillers, laboratories, and contractors.
- c. Rented vehicles, local public transportation and taxis, travel and subsistence.
- d. Special fees, insurance, permits, and licenses applicable to the work.
- e. Outside computer processing, computation, and proprietary programs purchased for the work.

A Communication charge for e-mail access, web conferencing, cellphone calls, messaging and data access, file sharing, local and long distance telephone calls and conferences, facsimile transmittals, standard delivery U.S. postage, and incidental in-house copying will be charged at a rate of 4% of labor charges. Large volume copying of project documents, e.g., bound reports for distribution or project-specific reference files, will be charged as a project expense as described above.

Reimbursement for company-owned automobiles, except trucks and four-wheel drive vehicles, used in connection with the work will be at the rate of sixty cents (\$0.60) per mile. The rate for company-owned trucks and four-wheel drive vehicles will be seventy-five cents (\$0.75) per mile. There will be an additional charge of thirty dollars (\$30.00) per day for vehicles used for field work. Reimbursement for use of personal vehicles will be at the federally allowed rate plus fifteen percent (15%).

CADD Computer time will be charged at twenty dollars (\$20.00) per hour. In-house material and equipment charges will be in accordance with the current rate schedule or special quotation. Excise taxes, if any, will be added as a direct expense.

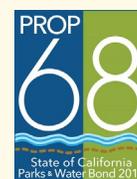
Rate for professional staff for legal proceedings or as expert witnesses will be at a rate of one and one-half times the Hourly Rates specified above.

The foregoing Schedule of Charges is incorporated into the Agreement for the Services of EKI Environment & Water, Inc. and may be updated annually.

Sustainable Groundwater
Management (SGM)
GRANT PROGRAM



SGM Grant Program SGMA Implementation Proposal Solicitation Package



*CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES
AGENCY'S
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
-
DIVISION OF REGIONAL ASSISTANCE*



December 2021

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FOREWORD

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is administering the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation funding solicitation using funds authorized by the California Budget Act of 2021 (Stats. 2021, ch. 240, § 80) and the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68). This document is the Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for activities/tasks related to SGMA implementation, which includes, but are not limited to:

- Revisions, updates, and/or modifications of a Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs);
- Revisions, updates, and/or modifications of an Alternative to a GSP (Alternative); and/or
- Capital improvement activities as listed within a GSP or Alternative to a GSP.

This document is not a standalone document and the applicant will need to refer to the 2021 SGM Grant Program 2021 Guidelines (2021 Guidelines) for additional information. **Potential applicants are highly encouraged to read the 2021 Guidelines, PSP, and Agreement template prior to deciding to submit an application.** The 2021 Guidelines and the Agreement template can be found at the following link: www.water.ca.gov/sgmgrants.

A glossary of terms used throughout this PSP are available in Appendix B (Definitions) of the 2021 Guidelines.

GRANT PROGRAM WEBSITE AND OTHER USEFUL LINKS

This document, as well as other pertinent information about the SGM Grant Program, can be found at the following link: www.water.ca.gov/sgmgrants.

Other useful links are identified below.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA):

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayexpandedbranch.xhtml?tocCode=WAT&division=6.&title=&part=2.74.&chapter=&article=

GSP Regulations:

[https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Browse/Home/California/CaliforniaCodeofRegulations?guid=I74F39D13C76F497DB40E93C75FC716AA&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=Default&contextD ata=\(sc.Default\)%20](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Browse/Home/California/CaliforniaCodeofRegulations?guid=I74F39D13C76F497DB40E93C75FC716AA&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=Default&contextD ata=(sc.Default)%20)

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Portal:

<https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/#intro>

Disadvantaged Community (DAC) and Economically Distressed Area (EDA) Mapping Tools:

<https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Mapping-Tools>

CalEnviroScreen 3.0:

<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>

DWR Grants Review and Tracking System (GRanTS) Application Tool:

<https://grants.water.ca.gov>

E-MAIL LIST

In addition to the website, DWR will distribute information via e-mail. If you are not already on the SGM Grant Program e-mail list, please use the following link to be added to the list:

<https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Sustainable-Groundwater> and click the "Subscribe" button on the right side of the webpage.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about this document, or other technical issues regarding SGM Grant Program, please contact DWR's Division of Regional Assistance at (916) 902-7131 or by e-mail at: SGWP@water.ca.gov.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS PROPOSAL SOLICITATION PACKAGE

COD	Critically Overdrafted (Basin)
DAC	Disadvantaged Community
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EnvDAC	Environmentally Disadvantaged Community
FAB	Financial Assistance Branch
FE-SWRP	Functionally Equivalent Stormwater Resource Plan
GB	Gigabyte
GIS	Geographic Information System
GRanTS	Grants Review and Tracking System
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
IRWM	Integrated Regional Water Management
MHI	Median Household Income
OEHHA	Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
PSP	Proposal Solicitation Package
SB	Senate Bill
SDAC	Severely Disadvantaged Community
SGM	Sustainable Groundwater Management
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SWRP	Stormwater Resource Plan
TA	Technical Assistance

I. INTRODUCTION

DWR is administering the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program SGMA Implementation grant solicitations using funds authorized by the California Budget Act of 2021 (Stats. 2021, ch. 240, § 80) (Budget Act of 2021) and Proposition 68 for projects that encourage sustainable management of groundwater resources that support SGMA and/or invest in groundwater recharge projects with surface water, stormwater, recycled water, and other conjunctive use projects. The Budget Act of 2021 can also provide funding for planning activities that support SGMA implementation. The funding will be divided into a minimum of two rounds of grant solicitations. Round 1 will be awarded in 2022 and Round 2 is projected to be awarded in Spring/Summer 2023. Any future grant solicitations will be identified at a later time and is dependent upon future appropriation. This PSP contains specific information regarding the process, eligibility, and required content for grant applications for the grant funds for the grant solicitations. DWR also issued the 2021 Guidelines that will be used to administer the grant solicitation and provide general information regarding program and eligibility requirements.

II. FUNDING

The Budget Act of 2021 appropriates a total of \$180 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/2022 to DWR for SGMA implementation. After administrative costs, \$171 million is available for grant awards. Of the \$171 million appropriated by the Budget Act of 2021, \$152 million shall be directed to projects that benefit Critically Overdrafted (COD) groundwater basins that support implementation of SGMA.

The Budget Act of 2021 also authorizes the Legislature to appropriate a total of \$60 million in FY 2022/2023 and \$60 million in FY 2023/2024 to DWR for SGMA implementation. After administrative costs, \$114 million will be available for grant awards that will be directed to projects that benefit medium and high priority groundwater basins (including COD basins) that support implementation of SGMA. Priority in future funding grant solicitations will be given to applicants in basins that have not previously been awarded SGMA Implementation funding.

Proposition 68 authorizes the Legislature to appropriate a total of \$120 million to DWR for drought and groundwater investments to achieve regional sustainability. After the administrative cost and previous funding awards, approximately \$71.5 million is available for drought and groundwater investments to achieve regional sustainability through investments in groundwater recharge with surface water, stormwater, recycled water, and other conjunctive use projects, and projects to prevent or clean up contamination of groundwater that serves as a source of drinking water (Public Resources Code § 80146(a)). Of the approximately \$71.5 million, a minimum of \$15 million is reserved for projects located within and solely supporting a Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC).

The \$114 million in future General Fund appropriations, the remaining \$17 million in FY 2021/2022 General Fund appropriation, and the remaining \$71.5 million in Proposition 68 grant funds will be combined together in a single funding round for the medium and high priority basins as outlined above. Any future appropriations will be added to this second funding solicitation. If all of the funds are not awarded, subsequent funding rounds will be conducted later using the same PSP and the 2021 Guidelines. A minimum of \$35 million in future appropriations from General Funds, or 30% (whichever is greater), must be used to address the needs, risks, and/or vulnerabilities in Underrepresented Communities identified by the SGM Grant Program Underrepresented Community Technical Assistance Program (TA Program). The Project or Component must be consistent with the findings and conclusions identified in the TA Program and be within a community identified by the TA Program heat maps. The maps can be found on the TA Program website: www.water.ca.gov/sgmgrants

DWR is reserving \$2 million of the General Funds for a technical assistance provider with a minimum of \$1 million out of the \$2 million for technical assistance. All work completed must address the needs, risks, and/or vulnerabilities of Underrepresented Communities as identified by the TA Program and must also be consistent with the TA Program. All work conducted must be reviewed and approved by DWR prior to commencing. Work should be equitably distributed throughout all regions of the State

and will use the TA Program Heat Maps. The technical assistance provider will be encouraged to conduct a minimum of one community meeting in each of the basins that includes a representative of all GSA(s) and/or responsible entity within the basin with community representatives to assist in building strong relationships between community leaders and the entities responsible for implementing SGMA. All findings/conclusions shall be reported to the local GSA(s) and/or responsible entity in a meeting that includes a representative from DWR. The goal of the TA Program is to foster strong working relationships and effective communications between the Underrepresented Communities and their local groundwater sustainability agency responsible for implementing SGMA so that those community's needs, risks, and/or vulnerabilities will be properly identified and addressed in the GSP(s) or Alternative(s) to a GSP.

TABLE A – FUNDING BREAKDOWN¹

	Total Appropriation (in Millions)	Total Funding Available ²	Round 1 – COD Basins (Current Solicitation)		Future Solicitations – min of 30% must be for URC's	
			General	Technical Assistance Agreement ³	General	SDAC*/URC
Prop 68	\$120	\$71.5	N/A	N/A	\$56.5	\$15*
2021 Budget Act – General	\$120	\$114	\$112	\$2	N/A	N/A
2021 Budget Act – SJV Projects	\$60	\$57	\$40	N/A	\$17	N/A
Projected FY 2022/23 Appropriation	\$60	\$57	N/A	N/A	\$39.5	\$17.5 (or 30% whichever is greater)
Projected FY 2023/24 Appropriation	\$60	\$57	N/A	N/A	\$39.5	\$17.5 (or 30% whichever is greater)

¹All amounts shown are in Millions of dollars and are approximate and subject to change depending on actual expenditures from previous funding awards.

²Amount available after deducting previous Prop 68 funding awards and 5% DWR administration costs.

³Agreement to a technical assistance provider for Technical Assistance to Underrepresented Communities.

A. COD Basin SGMA Implementation (Round 1)

SGM Grant Program have identified 21 groundwater basins that are listed as COD Basins, according to the most current DWR Bulletin 118. However, not all 21 COD Basins identified in the most current DWR Bulletin 118 meet the eligibility requirements listed in Section III. DWR anticipates 20 of the COD Basins will meet the eligibility requirements at the time of the Round 1 grant solicitation. If you represent a COD Basin and are unsure of your eligibility status, please contact the SGM Grant Program staff at sgwp@water.ca.gov.

DWR intends to make up to \$152 million available for projects in eligible COD basins for tasks and activities that help the basins reach sustainability, whereby the \$152 million will be split evenly to provide \$7.6 million per eligible COD basin. However, DWR must award a minimum of \$40 million of the \$57 million granted by the Budget Act of 2021 by September 15, 2022 to COD basins within the San Joaquin Valley (SJV) basin for tasks and activities that include:

- Geophysical investigation(s) of groundwater basins to identify recharge potential (e.g., Aerial Electromagnetic Surveys);
- Early implementation of existing regional flood management plans that incorporate groundwater recharge (e.g., basin recharge using floodwater); or
- Projects that would complement efforts of a local GSP, that provide for floodplain expansion to benefit groundwater recharge or habitat (e.g., basin recharge using peak flows from a river, creek, or stream).

The nine COD basins outside of the SJV basin will have \$7.6 million available to award based upon the submitted Spending Plan. That leaves \$43.6 million in General Funds for the 11 COD basins within the SJV basin. If DWR receives Spending Plans from these 11 basins that request \$40 million or more in SJV projects, then the 11 SJV COD basins will be eligible for the full \$7.6 million per SJV COD basin. If DWR receives Spending Plans from these 11 basins that request less than \$40 million in SJV projects, then DWR will evenly reduce the amount of funding available to each SJV COD basin according to the shortfall. For example, if DWR receives Spending Plans from the 11 basins requesting only \$28 million of the \$40 million for SJV projects, then the 11 basins within the SJV basin will be eligible for a maximum of \$6.5 million per basin. See calculation below:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Non-SJV COD Basins} - \$7.6\text{M per non-SJV COD Basin} \\ &\$7.6\text{M} \times 9 \text{ Basins} = \$68.4\text{M of the } \$112\text{M in Gen Fund} \\ &\text{SJV COD Basins:} \\ &(\$112\text{M} - \$68.4\text{M}) \div 11 = \$3.963\text{M} \end{aligned}$$

Assuming SJV COD basins apply for \$28M in SJV-type funds, the amount per SJV COD Basin equals:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Example:} \\ &(\$43.6\text{M} + \$28\text{M}) \div 11 = \$6.5\text{M per SJV COD Basin} \end{aligned}$$

TABLE B – FUNDING BREAKDOWN FOR ROUND 1 – COD BASINS¹

Basin Type	# of Basins	Total Funding Available	2021 Budget Act – General	2021 Budget Act – SJV Projects	Min Grant Award per basin	Max Grant Award per basin
SJV COD	11	\$83.6	\$43.6	\$40 ²	\$3.963	\$7.6
Non-SJV COD	9	\$68.4	\$68.4	\$0	\$7.6	\$7.6

¹All amounts shown are in Millions of dollars and must be awarded by September 2022 per the 2021 Budget Act.

²Actual amount is dependent on how much SJV COD basins request in their respective Spending Plan.

The Budget Act of 2021 requires all funding agencies to expedite execution of grant agreements in an effort to get the funding out to the eligible applicants as quickly as possible. However, the Budget Act of 2021 also requires funding for the SGMA Implementation to be awarded via a competitive grant process. DWR has determined that \$7.6 million is available per COD Basin and that each COD Basin will be required to conduct a self-evaluation of their project list using the scoring criteria outlined in Table 7 to determine which projects are the most competitive within the basin. These self-evaluations shall be submitted as backup documentation to a Spending Plan. Only one Spending Plan will be accepted per COD Basin and the applicant must meet the eligibility requirements listed within the PSP and the 2021 Guidelines.

A template for the Spending Plan and the scoring criteria will be emailed out to each GSA contact once the final 2021 Guidelines and PSP are released to the public. **The Spending Plan must be in the template that is provided. Any other format will not be reviewed and the funding for that COD Basin will be forfeit.** A workshop for the COD Basins only will be provided to review the scoring criteria and Spending Plan template. Each applicant should provide a Spending Plan for a minimum of \$10 million for the SGM Grant Program staff to review and rank. The COD Basin applicants **have until noon on February 18, 2022** to submit a Spending Plan to sgwp@water.ca.gov or will forfeit the allotted funding.

Once the Spending Plan is received by the SGM Grant Program staff, the applicant will be contacted to set up an appointment to review the Spending Plan, check the eligibility of the Project(s), and to develop a draft Agreement. The draft Agreement will be reviewed by the Office of General Counsel and the Financial Assistance Branch (FAB) Manager. The Manager of the SGM Grant Program will review their comments and finalize the Agreement to route for signature.

To expedite the Agreement process, it is highly recommended that the applicants within the COD Basins submit their Spending Plans well in advance of February 18, 2022, if possible. The SGM Grant Program staff will be reviewing the Spending Plans in the order in which they were received.

Any remaining available funds not awarded in the Round 1 grant solicitation will be available in future funding rounds.

B. Medium and High Priority Basin SGMA Implementation Funding (Round 2)

The remaining approximately \$17 million in Budget Act of 2021 funds (including any unawarded funds in Round 1), the remaining approximately \$71.5 million in Proposition 68 funds, and an estimated \$114 million in future General Funds will be combined for a competitive grant solicitation(s). If any additional funds are provided to the SGM Grant Program for awards between the posting of the final PSP to the Round 2 grant solicitation, an additional solicitation(s) will be held for additional grant awards. Applicants must be located within a COD basin, medium, or high priority basins. Priority will be given to applicants who have not previously received SGMA Implementation funding. Funds can be used for revisions, updates, and/or modifications to a GSP or Alternative to a GSP and for funding capital improvement projects outlined in those plans. Funding will be awarded in a competitive manner based upon the scoring criteria outlined in Table 7.

A minimum of \$35 million, or 30% (whichever is greater), of the General Funds must be used towards projects that serve Underrepresented Communities (URC); of that a minimum of 10% of the grant funds must be used for projects that serve Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDAC). In addition, a minimum of \$15 million of the Proposition 68 funds must be used towards Projects or Components that benefit an SDAC.

Any remaining funds not awarded in this grant solicitation will be available in future funding rounds.

Eligible project types and eligible tasks are described further in Section III.B.

At this time, the minimum and maximum grant award amounts for the Round 2 grant solicitation are:

Minimum Grant Amount – \$1 million per basin
Maximum Grant Amount – \$20 million per basin

This is subject to change based upon the future appropriations approved by the Legislature.

C. Eligible Costs and Payment

Eligible reimbursable costs are those that were: incurred by the Grantees after the date the 2021 Guidelines and PSP were approved, meet the conditions of the "Eligible Costs" as outlined in Section III., and defined as "reimbursable costs" in Appendix B of the 2021 Guidelines. DWR's standard method of payment is reimbursement in arrears. Funds are disbursed after DWR approves the submittal of the DWR invoice form and required backup documentation by the Grantee. Grantees shall invoice and report on a quarterly basis only, except for the technical assistance provider. Additionally, DWR reserves the right to withdraw awarded funds due to lack of responsiveness on the part of the Grantee in submitting invoices and reporting and associated deliverables.

The Concurrent Drawdown method, in which the Grantee can request reimbursement, will be the only payment method in this solicitation. See the 2021 Guidelines Appendix B for more information on reimbursement methods. Costs associated with the development or management of the GSA and costs associated with the development and submittal of a grant application are not eligible.

III. ELIGIBILITY

Applications for the Grant Solicitation(s) must meet all applicable eligibility criteria to be considered for grant funding as described in the 2021 Guidelines, Section III. Additional eligibility requirements are described below and identified in Question 5 in Table 3 – Grant Application Checklist, of this PSP. A comprehensive eligibility checklist is provided in Table 2 – SGM Grant Program SGMA Implementation Eligibility Checklist, as a reference for applicants.

A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for the SGMA Implementation are:

- GSAs;
- Member agencies of GSAs;
- An entity that represents a GSA(s) which can include public agencies, non-profit organizations, public utilities, federally recognized Indian Tribes, State Indian Tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission’s Tribal Consultation list, or mutual water companies; and
- Agencies with an Alternative to a GSP, including those within basins that adjudicated after January 1, 2015 or adjudications that have been filed but the court has not acted on the filing; and
- Entities that have adjudicated with or without a Watermaster or are in the process of adjudicating that do not have a GSP or Alternative to a GSP.

The Round 1 grant solicitation is limited to applicants who meet the criteria listed above and are located within eligible COD basins only.

The Round 2 grant solicitation is limited to the applicants who meet the criteria listed above and are located within medium and high priority basins, including COD basins.

Public utilities and mutual water companies must provide justification that the proposed project has a clear and definite public purpose and shall benefit the customers of the water system and not the investors. All applicants must comply with the eligibility criteria outlined in the 2021 Guidelines.

Entities representing a GSA(s) must have a letter of support from each GSA they represent. All applicants must have a GSP that has been submitted to DWR for review and deemed complete by DWR (posted to the SGMA Portal by DWR) or an Alternative to a GSP. An exemption to this requirement can be provided for those basins whose basin prioritization was changed by DWR and whose GSPs are not due to DWR until 2024/2025. Basins that are adjudicated prior to January 1, 2015 **are not** eligible to apply for or receive grant funding. Go to the SGMA website link provided in the Foreword for additional information on Bulletin 118, Basin Prioritization. If you are uncertain of the eligibility requirements, please contact the SGM Grant Program staff at sqwp@water.ca.gov.

Only one application will be accepted per basin. Applicants who apply on behalf of a GSA(s) are required to obtain and submit a letter of support from each GSA they represent.

Applicants are encouraged to work with the interested parties and other non-member agency(-ies) of the GSA(s) in their basin(s) (e.g., resource conservation districts, nonprofit organizations, Tribes, etc.) that have potential activities, tasks, and/or components that are complimentary to the overall grant application and proposed Project. These activities, tasks, and/or components should be included within the proposed application with the GSA, member agency(-ies) of a GSA, or Alternative to a GSP as the applicant and potential Grantee. The interested parties and/or non-member agency(-ies) would be listed as a cooperating entity. Project proponents would access grant funding through their relationship with the grant applicant, at DWR’s discretion. DWR strongly recommends working with all potential interested parties within the basin(s) to ensure successful implementation of the GSP or Alternative to a GSP.

The grant applicant is the agency submitting the application (e.g., GSA) on behalf of the basin(s). The grant applicant is also the same agency that would enter into an agreement with the state should the

application be successful. If there is more than one eligible agency within a basin, an eligible agency may be part of the proposals as a cooperating entity but must identify a single entity that will act as the grant applicant and submit a basin-wide application and receive the grant on behalf of the basin.

Any funds not awarded and still available to DWR to award, and any future funding provided to the SGM Grant Program, will use the 2021 Guidelines and this PSP in a future grant solicitation.

B. Eligible Project Types

Eligible project types for the SGM Grant Program SGMA Implementation – Planning and Projects must be consistent with the purpose of the Budget Act of 2021 and Proposition 68, which include:

- Activities and/or tasks that consist of the development of groundwater recharge projects with surface water, stormwater, recycled water, and other conjunctive use projects;
- Projects that prevent or clean up contamination of groundwater that serve as a source of drinking water (Public Resources Code § 80146(a));
- Projects and programs that support water supply reliability, water conservation, and water use efficiency and water banking, exchange, and reclamation;
- Geophysical investigation(s) of groundwater basins to identify recharge potential; early implementation of existing regional flood management plans that incorporate groundwater recharge; or projects that would complement efforts of a local GSP, that provide for floodplain expansion to benefit groundwater recharge or habitat; and
- Revisions, updates, and/or modifications to a GSP or Alternative to a GSP. The Project or Component must fill known data gaps and address comments received from DWR after its review of a submitted GSP or Alternative to a GSP, if received. If the applicant has not received comments from DWR on their GSP or Alternative to a GSP, the Project or Component must be consistent with SGMA regulations and GSP requirements.

Eligible projects include those activities associated with the planning and implementation of a GSP or Alternative to a GSP and must also be consistent with the goals within the GSP or Alternative to a GSP.

Projects that are in basins determined to be probationary under SGMA by the State Water Board at or after the time of application submittal **are** eligible for this grant program to allow for those applicants to continue working towards sustainability. The project area and service area must be within the most current DWR Bulletin 118 basin that are designated by DWR as medium or high priority basins, including COD basins, by the latest SGMA Basin Prioritization.

The use of the term “project” refers to the activities and/or tasks related to the planning or implementation of a GSP or Alternative to a GSP and can include multiple components and/or tasks. A proposal, or project for purposes of this PSP, refers to all the supporting documentation submitted that details the actions that are proposed for the funding. The application will describe a single proposal/project; however, each application may contain multiple components and tasks that collectively makeup a single proposal/project. See the 2021 Guidelines, Appendix B for further definitions of components and project.

Examples of eligible project activities, tasks, and/or components can include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Filling data gaps in a GSP(s) or Alternative to a GSP
- Project development activities (e.g., feasibility studies, design, permits, environmental documents)
- Long-term planning studies
- Technical and planning assistance for Underrepresented Communities
- Interested party outreach and engagement
- Vulnerability or risk assessments
- Technical assistance for Underrepresented Communities
- Engagement and outreach to Underrepresented Communities
- Evaluation of groundwater management needs

- Impact studies on domestic and de minimis groundwater well users
- Annual reporting for GSPs and Alternative to a GSP
- Identifying and proper destruction of abandoned wells
- Identifying of recharge location(s)
- Soil carbon enhancement and Healthy Soil Initiative activities
- Native Yield studies
- Coordination activities with adjacent GSA(s)
- Instrumentation for monitoring wells (e.g., pressure transducers)
- Pilot or demonstration projects meeting the purpose of SB-170 and Proposition 68
- Installation of meters on groundwater production and agricultural wells
- Installation of monitoring well(s)
- Connection of communities to a municipal water supply (except laterals on private land)
- Groundwater recharge projects with surface water, stormwater, recycled water, and other conjunctive use projects
- Groundwater contaminant remediation or prevention projects for groundwater that serves as a source of drinking water
- Construction, rehabilitation, or expansion of conveyance facilities for groundwater recharge projects
- Wastewater treatment and water recycling facility upgrades for groundwater recharge project sources
- Stormwater and runoff capture projects that support groundwater recharge
- Groundwater recharge facility expansion
- Seawater barrier injection wells
- Groundwater recharge projects that address groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs)
- Projects and programs that support water supply reliability, water conservation, water use efficiency and water banking, exchange, and reclamation
- Planning, design, and environmental documentation only as a task of a Project or Component of an overall project (not a standalone task).

Please email the SGM Grant Program staff at sgwp@water.ca.gov if you are not sure about a Project, component, or activity that you may be applying for funding. The SGM Grant Program staff will make appointments with you to review your project(s) in relationship to the eligible activities/tasks and competitiveness of the application as a whole.

Examples of ineligible project activities, tasks, and/or components can include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Gifts of public funds to a private person or entity (e.g., gift certificates and other incentives to attend public meetings, complete surveys, etc.)
- Purchasing of low-flow and/or high-density appliances
- Water markets and trading programs
- Purchases of water supplies
- Rebate programs
- Travel expenses, except mileage to the project location from a pre-approved starting location
- Food and drink
- Per diem expenses
- Federal and state taxes
- Tuition
- Overhead/Indirect/Markup – for Grantees, consultants/contractors, or their subs.

NOTE: Water Code section 10562(b)(7) requires that all projects that include stormwater and dry weather runoff capture be listed in a SWRP or Functionally Equivalent SWRP (FE-SWRP) and the SWRP or FE-SWRP must be incorporated into an adopted Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWM) for the region the project is located. The State Water Board defines stormwater as “the temporary surface water runoff and drainage generated by immediately preceding storms” and defines stormwater and dry weather runoff capture as “to intercept, store, manage, and use stormwater and dry weather runoff, thereby reducing the volume of runoff exiting a site”. All proposals using stormwater runoff, dry weather runoff, and potential peak flows should review Water Code section

10562 and the State Water Board's SWRP Guidelines. Applicants should consult their legal counsel regarding this topic.

IV. SOLICITATION PROCESS AND SCHEDULE

The solicitation period is listed in the table below. These dates are estimated and are subject to change. Any change or update to the schedule will be posted on the SGM Grant Program website. Updates may also be sent through email announcements. To be placed on the SGM Grant Program email contact list, please use the link listed in the Foreword.

TABLE 1 – SCHEDULE FOR SGM GRANT PROGRAM SGMA IMPLEMENTATION GRANT SOLICITATION

Milestone or Activity	Tentative Date¹
SGMA Implementation - Round 1 Schedule	
Final 2021 Guidelines & PSP posted to public	December 17, 2021
COD Basin – Round 1 Grant Solicitation Opens	December 20, 2021
Application Workshop	January 5, 2021
Round 1 Grant Solicitation Closes	February 18, 2022 ²
Final Awards	March/April 2022
Execute Agreements	May 2022
Initial TA Program Ends – Release of Needs, Risks, and/or Vulnerabilities in Underrepresented Communities to public	July/August 2022
SGMA Implementation - Round 2 Schedule	
Medium & High Priority - Round 2 Grant Solicitations Opens	September 2022
Public Review of Draft Funding List	April/May 2023
Final Awards	June 2023
Execute Agreements	July/August 2023

¹ Dates are subject to change and will be determined based on number of comments received for the draft document, number of applications received, amount of funds requested, and number of grant awards given. Dates for the TA Program is dependent upon the ability to have public meetings due to COVID-19 mandates by State and/or County.

² Applicants are encouraged to submit their Round 1 Spending Plan prior to February 18, 2022 deadline, if possible.

An applicant workshop will be conducted to address questions and to provide general assistance to potential applicants preparing grant applications. Details of the workshop will be provided via the SGM website and email distribution list. In addition to the informational workshop, applicants are encouraged to seek assistance from DWR staff in understanding SGM Grant Program requirements and completing grant applications. Questions can be submitted via the contact information provided in the Foreword on Page 2.

V. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

This section provides instructions for preparing and applying and consists of two subsections: A. What to Submit and B. How to Submit. It is important that applicants follow the Application Instructions to ensure that their application will address all the required elements. Applicants are reminded that once the application has been submitted to DWR, any privacy rights as well as other confidentiality protections afforded by law with respect to the application package, will be waived. Prior to beginning the application, applicants should verify that they meet the Eligibility Criteria outlined in the 2021 Guidelines, Section III.C. and in Table 2 below.

TABLE 2 – SGM GRANT PROGRAM SGMA IMPLEMENTATION ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

Criteria Type	Eligibility Criteria	Place to Provide Information	Criteria Met (Yes, No, or NA¹)
Applicant Eligibility	Is the applicant eligible?	Self-Certification Form	
	Agricultural Water Management Compliance Link: https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency (2015 and/or 2020 AWMPs are applicable).	Self-Certification Form	
	California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Compliance Link: https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Groundwater-Elevation-Monitoring--CASGEM . Basin Prioritization information can be found at: https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Prioritization	Self-Certification Form	
	Climate Change Compliance	Self-Certification Form	
	Consistency with the Delta Plan	Self-Certification Form	
	Groundwater Management Compliance, SGMA Compliance	Self-Certification Form	
	Open and Transparent Water Data	Self-Certification Form	
	Public Utilities and Mutual Water Companies Compliance	Self-Certification Form	
	SWRP Compliance SB 985 Link: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/swrp/	Self-Certification Form	
	Surface Water Diverter Compliance	Self-Certification Form	
	Sustainable Water Use and Demand Reduction Compliance	Self-Certification Form	
	Urban Water Management Compliance Link: https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/Urban-Water-Use-Efficiency/Urban-Water-Management-Plans . (2015 and/or 2020 UWMPs are applicable).	Self-Certification Form	
	Water Metering Compliance	Self-Certification Form	
Proposal Eligibility	Only one application per basin OR Applicant is acting as the sole GSA over multiple basins	NA	
	Does the proposal include design, construction, operation, mitigation, or maintenance of Delta conveyance facilities?	GRanTS Application	
	Does the proposal include acquisition of water except for projects that will provide fisheries or ecosystem benefits or improvements that are greater than required current applicable environmental mitigation measures or compliance obligations?	GRanTS Application	
	Does the proposal include any share of the costs of remediation recovered from parties responsible for the contamination of a groundwater storage aquifer?	GRanTS Application	
Project Type Eligibility	Is the project eligible?	NA	

¹ NA = not applicable

A. What to Submit

Applicants must submit a complete SGM Grant Program Application during the open filing phase as shown in Table 1 – Schedule for SGM Grant Program SGMA Implementation – Planning and Projects Grant Solicitation.

B. How to Submit

1. Round 1

Applicants should submit a Spending Plan to SGWP@water.ca.gov by February 18, 2022, to obtain funding. The Spending Plan should be completed using the template provided by the assigned DWR Grant Manager. Any Spending Plans outside of the template format will not be reviewed or awarded any funding. The Spending Plan should have copies of the completed scoring criteria as outlined in Table 7 for each project proposed for funding for the basin. Below are the steps an applicant must take to apply for the Round 1 grant solicitation funds.

1. Depending on the COD Basin, the applicants should develop a project review committee that are responsible for completing a self-evaluation for a project using the scoring criteria outlined in Table 7. The project review committee should include a representative for each entity within a GSA, a representative from each GSA within the basin if there are multiple GSAs, a representative from each entity within an, and/or another method where all interested parties have an equal vote.
2. The project review committee can either develop one consensus scoring self-evaluation for each project; complete an independent scoring criterion and then use the average as the final score; have one entity that is not related to the project to conduct an independent review of another entities project and have that one score as the final; or another un-biased review process predetermined by the review committee. The scoring criteria Excel table will be provided by the assigned DWR Grant Manager. This scoring criteria should be used as it is and cannot be edited in any way. Any applications who have edited the scoring criteria will be thrown out and not awarded any grant funds.
3. Once the final score(s) is obtained for each project, the projects should be ranked based upon the scoring criteria and listed highest to lowest.
4. If the project review committee determine that a lower scoring project(s) should be higher on the ranking list due to available funding, accessibility to the site, already completed environmental/permitting/design, then the project review committee must be responsible for fully documenting and justifying why a lower scoring project was included within the Spending Plan versus a higher scoring project.
5. The applicant must provide an adopted resolution that has been adopted by the applicant's governing body designating an authorized representative to submit the application and execute an agreement with the State of California for the SGMA Implementation grant application. Please see Pages 19 – 20 for the example resolution language and additional instructions.
6. Complete the Eligibility Self-Evaluation form located on the SGM Grant Program website at www.water.ca.gov and submit the Eligibility Self-Evaluation form with the Spending Plan. Please see Page 20 for additional instructions. Table 2 below is an example of the eligibility questions included within the Eligibility Self-Evaluation form.
7. Prepare the Spending Plan and include the scoring criteria sheet(s) per recommended project, review notes, and other justification, along with the resolution(s) and Eligibility Self-Evaluation form, and submit the plan to SGWP@water.ca.gov **prior to noon on February 18, 2022**. Any COD Basin that has not submitted a Spending Plan by this date and time has forfeited the funds and they will be moved into the available funding for Round 2.

2. Round 2

Applicants must submit a complete application online using DWR's GRanTS electronic submittal tool, or another electronic submittal tool, please use the link listed in the Foreword or as directed by SGM Grant Program via email and on the SGM Grant Program website. GRanTS can only be accessed with Microsoft Edge and Google Chrome. The name of these grant solicitations in GRanTS is " SGMA Implementation Round #" depending on the grant solicitation in which you are applying. To access the

application, applicants must register and have an account in GRanTS, or another online submittal tool, if they have not already done so. The online application will be available no later than the date specified on the Program website, according to Table 1. If an applicant has questions as to the content or the information requested in the grant solicitation, or questions or problems with GRanTS, please refer to the phone number or email listed in the Foreword.

When uploading an attachment in GRanTS, the following attachment title naming convention must be used: Att#_SGM_AttachmentName_#ofTotal#, where "#ofTotal#" identifies the number of files that make up an attachment, where "#" is the number of a file and "Total#" is the total number of files submitted in the attachment. This naming convention will be repeated in more detail for each Attachment in the following pages.

File size for each attachment submitted via GRanTS is limited to 2 gigabytes (GB). Breaking documents into sections or chapters so that each are less than 2 GB will aid in uploading files. Acceptable file formats are: PDF, MS Word, MS Excel, or MS Project. However, DWR prefers and highly encourages applicants to use PDF files. All portions of the GRanTS application must be received in the open filing phase. Submittals received outside the open filing phase may not be reviewed or considered for funding. The GRanTS system will allow applicants to resubmit any attachments before the close of the open filing phase.

Note: The GRanTS, or other application tool, instruction is not for Round 1. All of the instructions listed below is not for Round 1; however, applicants for Round 1 will access certain tables in this section following the instructions listed above on Page 15. Please provide answers to only the questions listed in Table 3. Do not answer questions that appear on the screen in GRanTS that are not listed below, unless marked with an asterisk (*). Please note that the application and/or review questions outlined in Tables 3 through 7 may be reworded, combined, or separated as the information is transferred into our online application tool (e.g., GRanTS or other application). SGM Grant Program staff may make clarifying or editorial changes to the application following approval. SGM Grant Program staff may also make changes to Tables 3 through 7 depending upon language outlined in future appropriations and legislative requirements. **Tables 3 through 7 are subject to change depending on the final preparations of the review questionnaire.** No substantive changes will be made to the evaluation criteria and scoring scheme.

TABLE 3 – GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST (NOT FOR ROUND 1)
APPLICANT INFORMATION TAB
<i>The following information is general and applies to the applicant and the overall proposal. Specific project information should be detailed on separate project component tabs provided in the GRanTS application. Applicants must enter all information listed in the Information Tab of this checklist (Table 3) along with any field marked with an asterisk (*).</i>
<u>Organization Name</u> : Provide the name of the Agency/Organization responsible for submitting the application. Should the proposal be successful, this Agency/Organization will be the Grantee.
<u>Point of Contact</u> : Please type the First Name, Last Name, Email Address, Phone Number, Division Name, Address, City, State, and Zip of the Point of Contact person. Should the proposal be successful, this person will be the Point of Contact for the Agreement.
<u>Point of Contact Position Title</u> : Provide the title of the Point of Contact person. (Maximum Character Limit: 50)
<u>Proposal Name</u> : Provide the title of the proposal. This title cannot be changed for the life of the grant and should NOT include the grant solicitation title anywhere. (Maximum Character Limit: 50)
<u>Proposal Objective</u> : Provide the objective of the proposal. The objective should include the project description, purpose, goals, and targets of the proposed project. The reader should be able to understand what is being proposed (project description), where the project will be located, the purpose/why the project is needed, and how (goals and targets) those needs will be met. (Maximum Character Limit: 2,000)
PROPOSAL BUDGET
<i>For the proposal, the following budget items should be taken from Table 5A or 5B – Grant Proposal Summary Budget</i>
<u>Other Contribution</u> : Provide the amount of other funds (such as other State grants, Federal grants, etc.) not included in the categories as listed below. If there is no other contribution, enter zero. Other Contribution costs are not considered part of the total project cost.
<u>Local Contribution (Cost Share)</u> : Provide the local cost share that will be committed to the Project. If none, enter zero.
<u>Federal Contribution</u> : Enter any Federal funds being used. If none, enter zero.
<u>In-Kind Contribution</u> : Leave blank and include all In-Kind Contributions in the Local Contribution above.
<u>Grant Funds Requested</u> : Please provide the amount of total grant funds requested. Amounts must be between \$1,000,000 and \$20,000,000. The amounts may be edited based upon Legislature approval of future appropriations.
<u>Total Proposal Cost</u> : Provide the total proposal cost, in dollars. This amount must agree with the total proposal cost shown in Attachment 3 Budget Table is the sum of the Local Contribution (Cost Share) and Grant Funds Requested.
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
<i>GRanTS requests latitude and longitude in degrees, minutes, and seconds. You may use converters on the web, such as https://www.fcc.gov/media/radio/dms-decimal</i>
<u>Latitude</u> : Enter the latitude at the location that best represents the Project area. This should be taken from the center of the Project site.
<u>Longitude</u> : Enter the longitude at the location that best represents the Project area. This should be taken from the center of the Project site.
<u>Longitude/Latitude Clarification</u> : Only use if necessary to explain the location. (Maximum Character Limit: 250)
<u>Location</u> : Identify the approximate location that best represents the center of the Project area. Provide cross-streets or the closest main streets for reference. Provide City and County(-ies) the Project is located in for frame of reference. (Maximum Character Limit: 100)
<u>County(-ies)</u> : Provide the County(ies) in which the Project is located.
<u>Groundwater Basins</u> : Provide the groundwater basin as listed in the current version of DWR Bulletin 118 (https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Basin-Boundary-Modifications) in which the Project is located. Only one application per basin is allowed.
<u>Hydrologic Regions</u> : Provide the hydrologic region in which the Project is located. For proposals covering multiple hydrologic regions, hold down the control key and select all that apply.
<u>Watershed(s)</u> : Provide the name of the watershed(s) the groundwater basin underlies (Maximum Character Limit: 250)

TABLE 3 – GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST (NOT FOR ROUND 1)
A map of California watershed can be found at the following link: https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/watershed/Documents/CALFED_Watershed_Map[1].pdf . If the groundwater basin covers multiple watersheds, you may only provide one "Unique Watershed Number" as listed on the watershed map and should be the one that the majority of the Project is located.
LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION
Enter the State Assembly, State Senate, and U.S. Congressional Districts in which the groundwater basin is located. For proposals covering multiple State Assembly, State Senate, and U.S. Congressional Districts, hold the control key down and select all that apply. Maps of these districts are found at: http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators_and_districts/legislators/your_legislator.html .
PROJECTS TAB
<i>This section contains information about the project contained in the Proposal. Applicants must enter all information listed in the Projects Tab of this Checklist (Table 3) along with any field marked with an asterisk (*).</i>
PROJECT INFORMATION
Project Name: Provide the title of the Project (Maximum Character Limit: 150) DO NOT include the solicitation name in the Project name (e.g., SGMA Implementation). The Project name will remain the same for the life of the grant and must match identically with all invoices and timesheets that will be provided in invoicing if the Project is selected for funding.
Implementing Organization: This should be GSAs, member agencies of GSAs, an entity that represents a GSA(s) (which can include public agencies, non-profit organizations, public utilities, federally recognized Indian Tribes, State Indian Tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's Tribal Consultation list, or mutual water companies), and agencies with an Alternative to a GSP.
Secondary Implementing Organization: Not applicable to this solicitation
Proposed Start Date: This date includes local cost share and reimbursement; therefore, the Start Date should be after the date the 2021 Guidelines and PSP were approved (approximately December 24, 2021).
Proposed End Date: This is the last date that funds can be reimbursed for the Project; therefore, the End Date should be before June 30, 2025 (end date could be subject to change based upon legislative approval of future appropriations).
Scope of Work: Describe the type(s) of work proposed and task(s) needed to complete work. (Maximum Character Limit: 450)
Project Description: Provide a generalized description of the proposed Project. Provide the need the Project will meet and how the proposed Project will meet the need(s). (Maximum Character Limit: 1,000)
Project Objective: Provide a description of the proposed Project's objectives, the goals and targets needed to meet those objectives, and how the proposed Project will meet those. (Maximum Character Limit: 500)
PROJECT BENEFITS INFORMATION
Benefit Level: Leave blank.
Benefit Type: Leave blank.
Benefit: Leave blank.
Description: Leave blank.
Measurement: Leave blank.
PROJECT BUDGET
<i>The following budget items should be taken from the Grant Proposal Summary Budget</i>
If only one Project (no components) is being proposed, use the "Copy Budget data from Applicant Info" feature to populate previously entered data. Otherwise, enter individual budget items for each Project component in the same manner as described for the Applicant Information Tab. The sum of the budget items must agree with the total project budget.
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
Enter the geographical information for each individual Project and Project component location (latitude and longitude in degrees, minutes, and seconds).
LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION (Note: for each Project component; different from Applicant Information)
If only one Project is being proposed, use the "Copy Legislative data from Applicant Info" feature to populate previously entered data. Otherwise, enter legislature information for each Project component in the same manner as described for the Applicant Information Tab. For projects covering more than one district, hold the control key down and select all that apply.

TABLE 3 – GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST (NOT FOR ROUND 1)	
QUESTIONS TAB	
<i>The answers to these questions will be used in processing the application and determining eligibility and completeness.</i>	
Q.1. Project Description:	Provide a brief abstract of the proposal. This abstract must provide an overview of the proposal including the main issues and priorities addressed in the proposal. (25 words or less)
Q.2. Previous Funding:	Has the applicant received prior funding through another grant source? If so, identify the source and amount of funding provided for the Project.
Q.3. Project Representatives:	Provide the name and details of the Project Director who is responsible for signing and executing the Agreement for the applicant. This is the authorized person as outlined within the adopted resolution and the title within the adopted resolution must align with the title provided here. Persons that are contractors/consultants or their subs cannot be listed as the Project Director. Other entities included in the GSA can be listed here.
Q.4. Project Manager:	Provide the name, title, and contact information of the Project Manager from the applicant agency or organization that will be the day-to-day contact on this application. This person must be an employee of the applicant agency and cannot be contactors/consultants or their subs.
Q.5. Eligibility:	Has the applicant met the requirements listed within the 2021 Guidelines and submitted the Eligibility Criteria Self-Certification form?
Q.5.1.	Is the proposed Project consistent with the goals within the GSP or Alternative to a GSP?
Q.6. Eligibility:	To satisfy SB 985 requirements, all stormwater and dry weather capture projects must be listed in a SWRP or approved FE-SWRP that is consistent with the relevant code provisions enacted by SB 985 (Water Code §10562 (b)(7)) as determined by the State Water Board. The SWRP or FE-SWRP must be incorporated within the local Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The definition of a stormwater and dry weather capture project is provided within Appendix B of the 2021 Guidelines.
Q7. Underrepresented Community Assistance:	Will the Project benefit an Underrepresented Community?
Q.7.1.:	If so, how much of the funds requested will directly benefit the Underrepresented Community?
Q.7.2:	How much of the funds being requested will benefit an SDAC?
Q.8. Certification:	By submitting the application, the applicant and its authorized representative are certifying that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The applicant is an eligible entity; b) He/She/They is/are aware that any attachment exceeding the page limit listed in the attachment templates will NOT be reviewed; c) He/She/They is/are aware that, once the proposal is submitted in GRanTS, any privacy rights and other confidentiality protections offered by law with respect to the application package and project location are waived; d) He/She/They is/are aware that, if the proposed Project is chosen for funding, any privacy rights and other confidentiality protections offered by law with respect to any portion of the grant (including the Agreement, all deliverables, all invoices, and backup documentation supporting the invoices, and all reporting requirements outlined within the agreement) are waived; e) He/She/They agrees/agree to the Start and End Dates provided in this application and will complete the project within the dates provided; and f) He/She/They, and their attorney, has/have read and agrees to all the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement template.
CLIMATE RISK IN INVESTMENTS TAB	
<i>The answers to these questions will be used in surveying Program applicants.</i>	
Q.9. Climate:	Does the organization have a primary point of contact for climate change? (Yes/No. If yes, who is it and to what position in the organization does that person report?)
Q.10. Climate:	Does the organization have a strategic business plan that considers climate change? (Yes/No. If yes, please submit a copy.)
Q.11. Climate:	Has the organization adopted any policies or made any formal public statements about climate change? (Yes/No. If yes, please submit a copy.)
Q.12. Climate:	Has the organization conducted a climate change vulnerability assessment? (Yes/No. If yes, please submit a copy.)
Q.13. Climate:	How would you describe your organization’s capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change? (Open ended; one to three paragraphs.)

ATTACHMENTS TAB	<i>Provide the attachments listed below by attaching files to the GRanTS application. When attaching files, please use the naming convention found in Section V.B of this PSP. Requirements for information to be included in these attachments are found in Section V.B.2 of this PSP or in the supplied templates.</i>
ATTACHMENT #	ATTACHMENT TITLE
Attachment 1	Authorizing Documentation (e.g., adopted resolution using example provided on Page 18)
Attachment 2	Eligibility Criteria Self-Certification Form
Attachment 3	Work Plan (Applicant <u>MUST</u> use supplied template)
Attachment 4	Maps, supporting letters, figures, tables, or budget backup documentation (Optional)

ATTACHMENTS TAB INSTRUCTIONS (not for Round 1)

Within the Attachments Tab, applicants are required to submit up to three attachments, as applicable, to complete the SGMA Implementation grant solicitation application. A discussion of each attachment is provided below. Attachments 1 and 2 (Authorizing Documentation and Eligibility Criteria Self-Certification Form) are mandatory and provide backup documentation for the eligibility of an applicant. Attachment 3 (Work Plan) is also mandatory and will be scored during the application review based upon the applicant using the templates provided on the Program website.

ATTACHMENT 1. AUTHORIZING DOCUMENTATION

For the "AttachmentName" in the naming convention of GRanTS, use the following for this attachment:

Att1_SGM_AuthDoc_#of#".

The applicant must provide an adopted resolution that has been adopted by the applicant’s governing body designating an authorized representative to submit the application and execute an agreement with the State of California for the SGMA Implementation grant application. An adopted resolution must be provided before DWR can enter into an agreement with the Grantee. If a resolution cannot be adopted prior to the application submittal, a draft can be submitted with a note of when an adopted resolution is expected.

If an entity is acting on behalf of a GSA, then an adopted resolution from the GSA is required authorizing the applicant entity to act in such a role. Furthermore, a resolution is required by the entity acting as applicant stating authorization to work on behalf of the GSA. Therefore, no less than two adopted resolutions are required for the application and grant execution.

The following text box provides an example of the resolution that must be submitted to fulfill this requirement.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Resolved by the *<Insert Name of Applicant Governing Body>*, that an application be made to the California Department of Water Resources to obtain a grant under the 2021 Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program SGMA Implementation Round *<insert funding round>* Grant pursuant to the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) (Pub. Resource Code, § 80000 et seq.) and the California Budget Act of 2021 (Stats. 2021, ch. 240, § 80) and to enter into an agreement to receive a grant for the: *<Insert Project Name>*. The *<Insert title of Authorized Applicant Official>* of the *<Insert Name of Applicant>*, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to prepare the necessary data, conduct investigations, file such application, and execute a grant agreement and any future amendments (if required), submit invoices, and submit any reporting requirements with the California Department of Water Resources. Passed and adopted at a meeting of the *<Insert Name of Applicant>* on *<Insert date>*.

Authorized Original Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Clerk/Secretary: _____

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the *<Insert Name of Applicant>* held on *<Insert date>*.

Clerk/Secretary: _____

DWR highly recommends you follow this language verbatim to ensure that the resolution is sufficient to execute an agreement, execute future amendments (if required), submit invoices, and submit all reporting requirements. **Any deviation from this template may result in a delay in executing the Agreement and beginning the Project.**

ATTACHMENT 2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA SELF-CERTIFICATION FORM

For the "AttachmentName" in the naming convention of GRanTS, use the following for this attachment:

"Att2_SGM_EligDoc_#of#".

The applicant must use the form located on the Program website (www.water.ca.gov/sgmgrants) and upload the completed form as Attachment 2. Details for the eligibility criteria can be found in Section III.C. of the 2021 Guidelines.

ATTACHMENT 3. WORK PLAN (not for Round 1)

For the "AttachmentName" in the naming convention of GRanTS, use the following for this attachment:

"Att3_SGM_WrkPlan_#of#".

Attachment 3 must contain the Project description, a Scope of Work, one budget summary table, and one schedule table. The budget categories, schedule tasks, and scope of work must align with one another. The Work Plan template should be downloaded from the Program webpage at www.water.ca.gov/sgmgrants.

The Work Plan **MUST NOT EXCEED** the page limits as detailed in Table 4 below. Pages must use a minimum Arial, 10-point type font. Anything greater than the maximum allowed page will not be

reviewed or used in our scoring of the application. Maps, supporting letters, or figures should NOT be included within the Work Plan document and should be uploaded separately. There is no limit to the maps, supporting letters, figures, or tables. Please refer to the template for specific details that should be included. An outline and general description are provided in the table below. **Any changes made to the Word template will not be reviewed or scored by DWR technical staff.**

TABLE 4 – WORK PLAN TEMPLATE OUTLINE

Section Title	Section Description	Maximum Page Limit
GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Provide a narrative description of the proposed Project (or component), a brief description of the groundwater basin from the GSP, and a description of communities served by the Project. Describe how the Project (or component) will help to meet or meet the sustainability goal(s) outlined in the GSP or Alternative to a GSP. Provide the goal(s) and target(s) using quantifiable benefits only (e.g., acre-feet per year (AFY) captured, AFY recharged, etc.). Other benefits can be discussed but will not increase your score.	4 PAGES PER COMPONENT
SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLES	Descriptions of the anticipated tasks necessary to complete the proposal. Tasks should be organized by the budget categories, as indicated in the template. Each task identified in the proposal must have a minimum of one deliverable. Deliverables should be actual work products that can be submitted to DWR.	2 PAGES PER COMPONENT
BUDGET	In the table provided in the template, provide the estimated costs for each budget category. If the Project has components, the budget summary is an estimate per component only. This is a summary budget only. If desired, backup documentation for the cost estimates can be provided in a separate document along with the maps, figures, or tables. Local Cost Share (aka. Matching Funds) are not required. However, additional points will be provided for those who provide Local Cost Share at a minimum of 5% of the total project cost.	2
SCHEDULE	In the table provided in the template, provide a schedule for each budget category showing the sequence and timing of each of the tasks and subtasks, depending on how the tasks and subtasks are outlined in the Work Plan’s Scope of Work and Deliverables and Budget table.	2

Use Table 5: Proposal Summary Budget Table (Table 5A, No Components) or Component Summary Budget (Table 5B, Multiple Components). Costs must be broken down consistent with how tasks are presented in the Scope of Work section of the Work Plan. For example, if the Scope of Work describes projects at the task and subtask level, the budget must also present costs at the task and subtask level.

NOTE: the maximum grant administration budget cannot exceed 10% and the maximum construction administration budget cannot exceed 15% of the requested grant funds. Grantees shall invoice and report on a quarterly basis only. The technical assistance provider may invoice and report on a monthly basis.

Grant Proposal Summary Budget

If there are no components to the proposal, Table 5A should be used.

TABLE 5A – GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY BUDGET (NO COMPONENTS)

GRANT PROPOSAL TITLE: _____

Budget Categories ¹	(a) Requested Grant Amount	(b) Local Cost Share: Non-State Fund Source ²	(c) Total Cost	(d) % Local Cost Share (Col (b))/(Col (c))
(a) Grant Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	
(b) Planning / Design / Environmental	\$0	\$0	\$0	
(c) Construction / Implementation	\$0	\$0	\$0	
(d) Monitoring / Assessment	\$0	\$0	\$0	
(e) Interested Parties Outreach / Public Education	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Grand Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<i>Sum rows (a) through (e) for each column</i>				

¹ Only these Budget Categories shall be used. Tasks can be added for more detail. If any Budget Category is edited, the budget will not be scored.

² List sources of funding: Use as much space as required here. If reporting Local Cost Share, Local Cost Share is calculated based on the total project cost (grant amount plus match), not the grant amount. Local Cost Share will not be included in the Agreement, if awarded, and will only be used as a tool for scoring the grant application.

If there are components, Table 5B should be used.

TABLE 5B – GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY BUDGET (MULTIPLE COMPONENTS)

GRANT PROPOSAL TITLE: _____

Budget Categories ¹	(a) Requested Grant Amount	(b) Local Cost Share: Non-State Fund Source ²	(c) Total Cost	(d) % Local Cost Share (Col (b)/ Col (c))
Component 1 Grant Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Component 2: Title	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Component 3: Title	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Component n: Title	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Grand Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	%
<i>Sum rows (1) through (n) for each column</i>				

¹ These components are shown here for example purpose only. Actual number of components may vary.

² List sources of funding: Use as much space as required. Local Cost Share is calculated based on the total project cost (grant amount plus match), not the grant amount. Local Cost Share will not be included in the Agreement, if awarded, and will only be used as a tool for scoring the grant application.

Grant Proposal Summary Schedule

The schedule should show the sequence and timing of each of the tasks and subtasks, depending on how the tasks and subtasks are outlined in the Scope of Work and Budget table. Please use Table 6A for applications without components and Table 6B for applications with multiple components.

The proposal dates within the proposal must start and end at the following dates:

Start Date – Reimbursable grant funds begin after the date the 2021 Guidelines and PSP are approved (anticipated for December 17, 2021).

Work Completion Date – All work, including final invoicing and reporting and retention invoice, must be completed on or before June 30, 2025. Actual end date may be edited based upon future appropriations and legislature approvals.

The dates within the Schedule cannot be before the Start Date listed above or after the Work Completion Date. The Work Completion Date is the date that all deliverables and invoices are submitted to DWR and approved by the DWR Grant Manager. The Work Completion Date IS NOT the construction end date. Absolutely no work will be reimbursed or reported as local cost share after the Work Completion Date.

TABLE 6A – GRANT PROPOSAL SCHEDULE (NO COMPONENTS)

GRANT PROPOSAL TITLE: _____

Categories	Start Date (Earliest Start Date)	End Date (Latest End Date)
(a) Grant Agreement Administration		
Task n. xx		
(b) Planning / Design / Environmental		
Task n. xx		
(c) Construction / Implementation		
Task n. xx		
(d) Monitoring / Assessment		
Task n. xx		
(e) Interested parties Outreach / Public Education		
Task n. xx		

TABLE 6B – GRANT PROPOSAL SCHEDULE (MULTIPLE COMPONENTS)

GRANT PROPOSAL TITLE: _____

COMPONENT TITLE: _____

Categories	Start Date	End Date
Component 1: Grant Agreement Administration	Earliest Start Date	Latest End Date
(a) Grant Agreement Administration		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
Component 2: Title	Earliest Start Date	Latest End Date
(a) Component Administration		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
(b) Planning / Design / Environmental		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
(c) Construction / Implementation		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
(d) Monitoring / Assessment		

Categories	Start Date	End Date
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
(e) Stakeholder Outreach / Public Education		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
Component n: Title	Earliest Start Date	Latest End Date
(a) Component Administration		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
(b) Planning / Design / Environmental		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
(c) Construction / Implementation		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
(d) Monitoring / Assessment		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		
(e) Interested parties Outreach / Public Education		
Task 1. xx		
Task n. xx		

VI. APPLICATION REVIEW

All applications will first be screened for eligibility and completeness in accordance with Section VI of the 2021 Guidelines and Section III of this PSP. The information provided by applicants in GRanTS, as well as Attachments 1 through 3 of the application, will be used in determining eligibility and completeness. The final dates for all proposals for both Round 1 and Round 2 will be provided in the grant solicitation announcement and posted on the SGM Grant Program website (www.water.ca.gov/sgmgrants).

A. Round 1

All complete and eligible applications will require a self-evaluation be submitted with the application package. Applicants will self-evaluate their application based on the evaluation questions presented below in Table 7 – Application Evaluation Criteria. Eligible applicants should submit their self-evaluation form and spending plan to sgwp@water.ca.gov no later than **noon on February 18, 2022**. SGM Grant Program staff will meet with each eligible applicant to review their spending plan and self-evaluation forms to determine the final project list for award.

B. Round 2

All complete and eligible applications will be evaluated, scored, and ranked based on the evaluation questions presented below in Table 7 – Application Evaluation Criteria. Please note that the application and/or review questions outlined in Table 7 – Application Evaluation Criteria may be reworded, combined, or separated as the information is transferred into our online application tool (e.g., GRanTS or other application). SGM Grant Program staff may make clarifying or editorial changes to the application following PSP approval. Table 7 is subject to change depending on the final preparations of the review questionnaire and various application templates. No substantive changes will be made to the evaluation criteria and scoring scheme.

For proposals with multiple components, the evaluation will be repeated for each component. The score for a proposal with multiple components will be determined by summing each individual component's total score, dividing that summation by the number of components for the Component Average Score, and then rounding up or down to the nearest whole number (Final Score). See Table 7 for an example of the scoring criteria.

DWR staff may recommend reducing individual grant amounts from the requested amount. However, such reductions will be considered only if technical reviewers have indicated that the budget is too high for the task(s)/component(s) described or some tasks/components are determined to be ineligible for the grant program or are not necessary for project completion. A reduction would also be weighed against whether the reduced funding would impede project implementation or if the proposed budget is determined inconsistent with similar projects. A reduction in requested grant funds can also occur when a greater number of well-qualified projects are requesting grant funds greater than the funding available.

If multiple applications are received within a single basin, DWR will contact the applicants and request that a consolidated application for the basin be submitted before the close of the open filing period, if feasible. If identified after the close of the solicitation, DWR will work with the multiple applicants to consolidate, if awarded.

VII. AWARD PROCESS

Funding will be allocated to proposals consistent with minimum and maximum award amounts, using the proposal score, professional judgement, and available funding. DWR's funding recommendation may vary from grant funding requests.

Following funding awards DWR will execute an Agreement with the Grantee. Agreements are not executed until signed by both the authorized representative of the Grantee and DWR. The Grantees

have approximately six months to obtain an executed Agreement after the grant award notification letter is sent by DWR. The exact date for Agreement execution will be outlined in the grant award notification letter. DWR reserves the right to withdraw an award due to lack of responsiveness on the part of the applicant.

Please note that the review questions outlined in Table 7 may be reworded, combined, or separated. SGM Grant Program staff may make clarifying or editorial changes to the scoring criteria following approval. SGM Grant Program staff may also make changes to Table 7 depending upon language outlined in future appropriations and legislative requirements. **Table 7 is subject to change depending on the final preparations of the review questionnaire.** No substantive changes will be made to the evaluation criteria and scoring scheme.

TABLE 7 – APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA				
Section Name	Q#	Questions	Possible Points	Scoring Guidance
General	1	<p>Was a description of the proposed Project or Component provided? Did it explain why this Project or Component was chosen over all others identified in the Plan in terms of benefits provided, communities served, measurable objectives, minimum thresholds, plan implementation timeline, and feasibility? If you feel a question component does not apply to your proposed project, please explain why it is not applicable. (Example "Measurable objective not applicable because project is planning only".)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>No funds will be awarded without clear justification for the proposed tasks/subtasks.</i> 	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 – Fully addressed 3 – Mostly addressed, with minor details not included or unclear 2 – Mostly addressed, with significant details missing or unclear 1 – Marginally addressed 0 – Not addressed
General Implementation Only	2- Imp	<p>Does the Project or Component provide a description of quantifiable benefits? Was an explanation of the benefits that are expected to be realized from the Project or Component provided, along with how those benefits will be evaluated and quantified?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>To obtain full points, 3 or more quantifiable benefits must be identified and fully supported with backup documentation.</i> 	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4- At least three quantifiable benefits with explanations and supporting documents. 3 – Two quantifiable benefits with explanations and supporting documents. 2 - Two quantifiable benefits lacking explanations and supporting documents. 1 - One quantifiable benefit with explanations and supporting documents. 0 – Benefits provided but are not explained or quantified.
General Planning Only	2- Plan	<p>Does the Project Description describe a well-coordinated proposal including a GSP(s) that encompasses the entire basin or describes why a portion of the basin is not covered in the proposal? Does it describe how well the multiple GSA(s) surrounding and within the basin are working together?</p>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 – Fully addressed 3 – Mostly addressed, with minor details not included or unclear 2 – Mostly addressed, with significant details missing or unclear 1 – Marginally addressed 0 – Not addressed
General	3	<p>Does the Project or Component fully describe their plan for outreaching and engaging interested parties (e.g., residents, local leaders, non-profit representing Underrepresented Communities, etc.) located within Underrepresented Communities? Does the outreach and engagement include interested parties during all phases of the Project or Component (e.g., planning, design, and implementation)? Can interested parties provide input and be involved in the decision-making processes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>To obtain full points, a minimum of three comment letters are required from the Underrepresented Communities.</i> 	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 – Interested parties included on decision-making committees and fully engaged/involved in all aspects of the Project or Component 2 – Interested parties engaged/involved, but not included on decision-making committees 1 – Marginally addressed 0 – Not addressed
General	4	<p>Was there a regional and Project map(s) depicting the site location, current conditions, and benefitting areas?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The information should be clear and easy to read. If not, the point will not be given.</i> 	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 – Provided and all necessary information provided 1 – Provided but missing some information 0 – Not provided

General	5	Does the project benefit an Underrepresented Community (-ies)? Was there a map(s) depicting the Underrepresented Community (-ies) that the project will benefit? Does the project benefit an SDAC? Was there a map(s) depicting the SDAC(s) that the project will benefit? Please provide the amount of funding that will benefit both the Underrepresented Community and SDAC. • <i>No points will be given if a map(s) is not provided.</i>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3- Project benefits an SDAC(s) • 2- Project benefits Underrepresented Community • 1 – Project partially benefits either • 0 – Project does not benefit either
General	6	Will the Project or Component positively impact issues associated with small water systems or private shallow domestic wells (e.g., groundwater contamination vulnerability, drawdown, etc.)? Was justification such as domestic well census results, water system maps, service area maps, etc. provided? Does the Project or Component help address the needs of the State Water Board’s SAFER Program?	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 – Fully addressed • 2 – Mostly addressed, with minor details not included or unclear • 1 – Marginally addressed • 0 – Not addressed
General	7	How does the proposed Project or Component address the Human Right to Water (AB 685 Section 106.3)? How will the Project or Component support the established policy of the State that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes?	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 – Fully addressed • 3 – Mostly addressed, with minor details not included or unclear • 2 – Mostly addressed, with significant details missing or unclear • 1 – Marginally addressed • 0 – Not addressed
Scope of Work	8	Did the proposal provide a description of the tasks/subtasks that will be completed as part of this grant Project? • <i>No funds will be awarded without clear justification for the proposed tasks/subtasks.</i>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 – Fully addressed • 2 – Mostly addressed • 1 – Marginally addressed • 0 – Not addressed
Budget	9	Is a budget summary table provided? Is the budget reasonable for the project? Is the budget table tasks/subtasks provided in the scope of work coincide with the tasks/subtasks in the budget and schedule tables? Is local cost share included (minimum of 5%)? Local cost share may include costs expended on projects before grant agreement date. • <i>Local cost share is not required but necessary to obtain full points.</i>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 – Local cost share is provided, and budget is consistent and feasible • 2 – Budget is consistent and feasible • 1 – Budget is consistent but not feasible • 0 – Not consistent and feasible
Schedule	10	Is the tasks/subtask in the schedule table consistent with those listed in the budget table and within the description in the application? Is the schedule feasible?	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 – Consistent and feasible • 0 – Not consistent and feasible
Total Range of Possible Points			0-30	
(a) Average of Questions 1 – 8 for Multiple Component Applications				
(b) Total Score for Questions 9 and 10				
Total Points Overall Project:				
TOTAL FUNDING RECOMMENDED:				\$

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*CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY'S
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES -
DIVISION OF REGIONAL ASSISTANCE*



**California Department of Conservation
Solicitation Notice and Application for:**

Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program

**FINAL
February 22, 2022**



California
**Department of
Conservation**

At A Glance

Program

The Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program seeks to increase regional capacity to repurpose agricultural land to reduce reliance on groundwater while providing community health, economic wellbeing, water supply, habitat, and climate benefits.

Funding Source

This program is funded by the Budget Act of 2021 (SB 170, Ch. 240, Stat. 2021)

Critical Dates (proposed, subject to change)

Public Comment Period Closes—January 31, 2022

Solicitation Notice and Application released— February 22, 2022

Applications due— April 1, 2022

Awards Announced—May16, 2022

Contact for Questions

Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
Keali'i Bright, Division Director
mlrp@conservation.ca.gov
(916) 275-0676

Background

Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA") necessitates coordinated management of landscapes to minimize economic, social, and environmental impacts from the transition of agricultural lands in areas of groundwater overdraft to less water intensive land uses while providing benefits to local and regional communities. The Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program seeks to increase regional capacity to repurpose agricultural land to reduce reliance on groundwater while providing community health, economic wellbeing, water supply, habitat, renewable energy, and climate benefits.

Multi-Agency Implementation

The Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program will be led by the Department of Conservation ("Department") and implemented in close partnership with multiple state and federal agencies. This partnership will help the Department structure the program so that it can efficiently respond to specific regional needs related to SGMA implementation and land repurposing, as well as provide support to grantees throughout program implementation.

An Agency Advisory Group comprised of representatives from state and federal agencies will provide ongoing guidance to the program and coordinate the alignment of technical and other grant program resources to support the goals of the program. While the Advisory Group will have an adaptive membership model, the initial participants include:

- CA Department of Conservation
- CA Department of Water Resources
- CA Department of Food and Agriculture
- CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
- CA Wildlife Conservation Board
- Governor's Office of Business Development
- CA Strategic Growth Council
- US Natural Resources Conservation Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Agency Advisory Group will directly consult with non-member agencies, including regulatory agencies, on an as-needed basis to inform the program.

Vision

This program is part of a suite of complementary programs administered by the Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection's Conservation Unit. These programs protect, restore, and enhance natural and working lands through capacity building, land-use and project planning, and implementation funding. The programs operated by the Conservation Unit include:

- Agricultural Land Mitigation Program
- California Farmland Conservancy Program
- Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
- Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program

These programs address the land element of the Department of Conservation's mission, which is to balance today's needs with tomorrow's obligations by fostering the wise use and conservation of energy, land, and mineral resources.

Program Authorization and Funding

This program is funded by the Budget Act of 2021 (SB 170, Ch. 240, Stat. 2021), which appropriated \$50 million to the Department to fund groundwater sustainability projects that reduce groundwater use, repurpose irrigated agricultural land, and provide wildlife habitat. The appropriation provides three years (June 30, 2024) to encumber and two years (June 30, 2026) to fully liquidate program funds.

Grants up to \$10 million each will be awarded as block grants to regional or basin-scale organizations to develop and implement land repurposing programs. Block grant recipients will then award subgrants and contract to achieve the program deliverables. The Department reserves the right to increase grant awards above \$10 million as funding allows.

\$2 million will be awarded to one entity to provide statewide technical assistance and facilitate communication and collaboration necessary to meet the purposes of the program.

Up to \$5 million in grants will be awarded to federally recognized and non-federally recognized California Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission to plan for, develop, and implement multibenefit land repurposing projects within the eligible groundwater basins identified in Section 2. This funding may also be used to increase regional block grant awards where the block grant recipient partners or collaborates with a tribe to plan for, develop, and/or implement multibenefit land repurposing projects.

Up to 5% of the funds available under this program may be used by Department of Conservation to administer the program.

Goals

The primary goals of the Program are to:

- Support coordinated, regional and basin-scale efforts to achieve groundwater sustainability in critically overdrafted basins and in high and medium priority basins where a state emergency drought declaration has been declared
- Support long-term repurposing of lands least viable for agriculture and multibenefit opportunities that convert land to less intensive water uses while maintaining natural and working lands
- Provide short- and medium-term drought relief
- Support regional efforts to sustain land-based economies that are impacted by groundwater sustainability measures
- Reduce groundwater use
- Create or restore wildlife habitat and wildlife connectivity, including seasonal wetland habitat to replenish aquifers
- Improve groundwater supply, including through groundwater recharge, improved baseflows in rivers and streams, and groundwater supply improvement for fish and wildlife habitat
- Support nature-based solutions to reduce the impacts of hazards on lives, property, and the economy from overdrafted groundwater basins

- Provide benefits to disadvantaged communities and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers
- Foster partnerships and collaboration among diverse entities to enable regional scale leadership to meet this program's goals
- Develop scalable, transferable land repurposing models
- Support farmer, rancher, and farm worker leadership in multibenefit land repurposing strategies and project implementation
- Provide flexible and efficient program administration so that grantees can lead expeditious and adaptive programs to meet their needs.

Disadvantaged Communities

The Budget Act of 2021 requires that the Department of Conservation prioritize the achievement of disadvantaged community benefits when implementing this program. For the purposes of this program, a disadvantaged community is defined as a community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide average. This may include protection of community air quality, improved drinking water supplies, and creation of recreational spaces and community-agriculture buffer zones

Section 2: Regional Block Grants

Eligible Applicants

Eligible regional block grant applicants are: (1) Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (“GSAs”), (2) federally recognized California Native American tribes, (3) non-federally recognized California Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission; (4) public agencies; (5) nonprofit groups with 501(c) status; and (7) Watermasters implementing an approved groundwater sustainability plan or approved alternate plan.

Eligible applicants that are not Groundwater Sustainability Agencies or tribes must partner with at least one Groundwater Sustainability Agency to submit an application. The application must include a resolution or letter from the Groundwater Sustainability Agency(ies) stating their support for the project, and how the Groundwater Sustainability Agency will be involved in the applicant's work.

Eligible applicants must also be either: 1) locally-based, which is defined as an entity that maintains a local office and focuses on issues within or proximal to the region or basin that is the focus of the application; or 2) non-local, where there are strong local partnerships between the applicant, the local GSA(s), and other important stakeholders.

Partnering and Collaboration

This grant program requires partnering and collaboration among stakeholders within regions or basins. Proposals should demonstrate multiple, committed partnerships and extensive collaboration with other agencies, organizations, entities, and individuals with interests in their proposal area.

Partnering is defined as commitments by other organizations, government agencies, private citizens or volunteer groups to provide funds or in-kind services. Partners will be eligible to receive program dollars to support their participation in work toward the program deliverables. Partnerships must be initially evidenced by letters of commitment that explain the relationship between the partner and block grant recipient and outline the partner's contributions to the program. As land repurposing projects progress toward implementation, the Department will require partners to enter into memoranda of understanding with the block grant recipients to formalize roles.

Collaboration is defined as working with other organizations, government agencies, groups, and individuals to ensure that all entities work in agreement and are non-duplicative of each other's activities, and to ensure that diverse interests are meaningfully incorporated into the block grant recipient's work. Collaboration may be evidenced by letters of support, signed agreements, board resolutions, or other signed documents.

Eligible Groundwater Basins

Eligible proposals are those that address a project area as defined by the applicant and comprised of one or more SGMA critically overdrafted basins managed under an approved groundwater sustainability plan or alternate plan, one or more high- or medium-priority groundwater basins where a state emergency drought declaration has been declared, or a combination of the two. A map of eligible basins is provided in Appendix A.

Regional Block Grant Deliverables

Regional block grant recipients must include each the following activities in their scope of work:

1. Develop a **Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan** to reduce reliance on groundwater while providing regionally appropriate benefits, including community health, economic wellbeing, water supply, flood resilience, habitat, renewable energy, and climate benefits;
2. Complete **project development and permitting** to generate implementation-ready projects to repurpose agricultural lands for funding consideration;
3. Implement **land repurposing projects** that achieve multiple benefits;
4. Support **capacity needs of partners** to achieve the deliverables of the grant;
5. Conduct **outreach, education, and training** as needed to facilitate and build capacity to implement the above activities; and
6. Conduct **monitoring** to ensure defined conservation outcomes from projects have been achieved and maintained for the agreed upon duration the benefit.

The majority of each block grant recipient's budget should go toward project development and project implementation. Block grant recipients may conduct work toward each deliverable in parallel or sequentially as is appropriate for their region and the successful implementation of their grant.

Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plans

Each block grant recipient must use a portion of this funding to develop a Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan that identifies and prioritizes land repurposing strategies and projects to address groundwater sustainability within their region. Plans must be consistent with the relevant Groundwater Sustainability Plan(s) for the region and prioritize projects that provide meaningful benefits to disadvantaged communities and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

Desired outcomes from the Plan's development and implementation include:

- Identification and prioritization of agricultural land repurposing strategies and projects that can be implemented at scale within their region
- A quantifiable estimate of project benefits, such as reduction in groundwater demand, quantity of recharge, stream flow improvement, or habitat acreage/quantity
- Protection of long-term viability of agricultural economies through support for agricultural systems with flexible water demand and sustainable groundwater management
- Attainment of strong regional support for the Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan and identified projects through broad inclusion of stakeholders and partners
- Development and management of a broad collaborative structure and effective networks of partners and collaborators

- Coordination of agricultural land repurposing efforts across land ownerships
- Resource and habitat connectivity
- Identification of habitat restoration opportunities that are located adjacent to land with high habitat value and provide habitat for endangered plant or animal species
- Identification of adaptive management strategies to avoid adverse impacts on neighboring properties of repurposed lands
- Economic development planning to support regional land-based economies through sustainable groundwater management implementation
- Durable, long-term benefits that meet the program goals
- Short- and medium-term emergency groundwater demand reduction to address environmental or public health needs caused by drought
- Benefits to disadvantaged communities and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers
- Tribes' ownership, co-ownership, co-management of, and access to the land
- Support for local jobs, local communities, small businesses, and local economies.

Desired outcomes from the priority projects identified in each Plan should be consistent with the outcomes listed for Land Repurposing Projects below.

Each Plan must:

- be developed in coordination with the applicable groundwater sustainability agency, farmers and ranchers, local/state/federal agencies, local disadvantaged communities, tribes, non-governmental organizations, and environmental justice organizations
- be consistent with the applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- Include a description of all disadvantaged communities in the region and the extent to which the program will benefit those communities
- Identify a clear process for engaging disadvantaged communities in project development and implementation.

Block grant recipients should ensure that their plan is consistent with the best available state, regional, and local data (water, climate, habitat, etc).

Block grant recipients will lead the development of the Plan for their region, partnering directly with organizations in their region through sub-contracts or other agreements as needed throughout the process.

Block grant recipients and partnering entities will work in coordination with the Department, the Agency Advisory Group, and the statewide support entity to ensure that the Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan is consistent with the program's goals and desired outcomes for plans.

If a comprehensive multibenefit agricultural land repurposing plan already exists for the region and substantially meets the requirements above, that plan may be used in lieu of

development of a new plan, at the discretion of the Department. Block grant recipients may also incorporate relevant portions of existing plans into their Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan as applicable.

Land Repurposing Project Development and Permitting

Block grant recipients must use a portion of this funding to support preliminary project development and permitting activities for the priority projects identified in their Plan or previously contemplated projects that were identified prior to development of the Plan and already have regional support. Developing and completing permitting for these projects should ensure that projects are ready to receive implementation funding from state and non-state programs. These projects should contribute to the desired outcomes identified for land repurposing projects.

To ensure that disadvantaged communities are engaged in and meaningfully benefit from projects developed using this funding, as part of a project's development, block grant recipients must:

- Identify and describe the disadvantaged communities near the proposed project
- Describe to what extent each disadvantaged community near the proposed project will benefit from the project or, if no benefit is provided to a particular disadvantaged community, provide justification why
- Describe the process by which the block grant recipient will engage with the relevant disadvantaged communities in the project's development and implementation
- Engage the relevant disadvantaged communities in the project's development

Project development and permitting may occur in parallel with the development of the Plan pursuant to consultation with the Department.

Desired outcomes for project development and permitting include:

- Completed project design and permitting
- Established non-state partnerships, support, and funding, as well as broad partnerships with regional stakeholders
- Completed memorandums of understanding with project partners to implement projects
- Developed pipeline of multiple years of implementation-ready projects that meet the goals of the Plan available for funding consideration
- Integrated benefits to disadvantaged communities and tribes

Land Repurposing Project Implementation

Block grant recipients must use a majority of their grant to implement multibenefit agricultural land repurposing projects that achieve the goals of the program. Projects must result in multiple benefits lasting at least 10 years, unless they are directly responding to a state emergency drought declaration, in which case, benefits must be reasonably durable.

Block grant recipients must prioritize projects that:

- Meaningfully benefit disadvantaged communities
- Are conducted on lands that are least viable for irrigated agriculture
- Contribute to resource connectivity (e.g., connectivity of habitat, agricultural landscapes, renewable energy centers, etc.)

Multibenefit projects are those that provide both groundwater sustainability benefits as well as at least one other community health, economic wellbeing, habitat, flood, renewable energy, or climate benefit.

Block grant recipients should identify regionally appropriate project opportunities throughout the grant period.

Block grant recipients will work with the statewide support entity to identify performance measures to assess desired outcomes of projects.

Block grant recipients should propose the most effective means to implement projects to meet their goals. This may include subcontracting with conservation partner organizations, paying farmers and ranchers to lead implementation, working with academic institutions, or other options as appropriate.

The program encourages early action on funding-ready implementation projects while supporting thoughtful development of project priorities through the Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan. Land repurposing projects funded by this program must be consistent with the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the area and may either be identified through the Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan or pre-identified, shovel-ready projects that meet program requirements and maximize the project outcomes outlined below.

Examples of strategies and projects that may be funded include:

- Rewilding landscapes, including through creation or restoration of habitat such as pollinator habitat, wetland habitat, upland habitat, and riparian habitat
- Creation of multibenefit recharge areas
- Restoring floodplains
- Transitioning irrigated land to dryland farming or non-irrigated rangeland
- Transitioning to less water intensive crops, including for native seed production
- Planting cover crops or conservation cover
- Reestablishment of tribal land uses
- Implementation of tribal cultural practices
- Facilitation of renewable energy projects that have an overall net GHG reduction
- Creation of parks or community recreation areas
- Incentive payments to landowners, farmers, and ranchers to implement multibenefit land repurposing projects that create a public benefit for at least ten years
- Land acquisitions to facilitate land repurposing and protect repurposed land uses
- Voluntary land transfers to tribes or qualified public entities to facilitate land repurposing and protect repurposed land uses
- Easement acquisitions, including conservation easement and flood easement acquisitions, to facilitate land repurposing and protect repurposed land uses

The block grant recipient will work with the Department to develop reasonable incentive payments to landowners, farmers, and ranchers to implement multibenefit land repurposing projects.

Land acquisitions, land transfers, and easement acquisitions must occur in conjunction with at least one non-acquisition land repurposing strategy or project type on the acquired land.

Desired outcomes for land repurposing projects include:

- Reduced groundwater use
- Increased groundwater recharge
- Improved baseflows in rivers and streams
- Transition of land to less water intensive, regenerative uses while maintaining natural and working lands
- Creation and/or restoration of wildlife and pollinator habitat and/or migratory resources
- Protection of cultural resources
- Improved water quality
- Land use agreements to accomplish prioritized opportunities
- Quantified achievement of multiple benefits of the program
- Incorporated participation from multiple partners, collaborators, and funding sources
- Replicability and scalability
- Integrated benefits to disadvantaged communities and tribes
- Increased community outreach, involvement, and education
- Increased regional workforce development opportunities and support of local business
- Diversified economic opportunities.

Funding for project implementation will only be released upon Department review of individual projects and confirmation that said projects are consistent with the goals of the program.

SB 170 (Committee on Budget Statutes of 2021-22) requires that any groundwater recharge achieved through these strategies and projects must be subtracted from any calculation by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency from the groundwater available for extraction by water users for the duration of the benefits paid for by the program. Payments for benefits must be linked to the achievement and delivery of the defined conservation outcomes for the project and the duration of those outcomes.

Partner Capacity Needs

The program requires broad partnerships with entities to participate in regional planning, project development, and project implementation, and support broader block grant implementation to achieve the program's goals. Block grant recipients must develop mechanisms to support the critical capacity needs of their partners to ensure their participation can be sustained and meaningful and to meet program goals.

The Department will work with the block grant recipient and fiscal control entities to determine whether actual expenditures are reimbursable, but examples of partner capacity needs that should be considered include:

- financial compensation for program staff time
- minor office materials
- compensation for participation by non-paid members of organizations that bring specific expertise to the grant.

Outreach, Education, and Training

Critical to all the above activities, the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program intends to support outreach to a broad and diverse range of communities within each region to develop a comprehensive understanding of and support for the program. This includes block grant recipients' outreach to and engagement of farmers, ranchers, and disadvantaged communities in the development of Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plans. Further, the program aims to strengthen grantees' skills by developing region-wide peer-to-peer training opportunities. Block grant recipients must use funds from this program to further the above goals.

Desired outcomes of outreach, education, and training efforts associated with each block grant include:

- Community-level engagement and education, including to disadvantaged communities, regarding the need to repurpose land, options for repurposing land, and what happens in a "do-nothing" scenario
- Targeted outreach to and engagement of farmers and ranchers about land repurposing, including education regarding the need to repurpose, options for repurposing, and what happens in a "do-nothing" scenario
- Practitioner-level education and regional coordination
- Regional understanding of the benefits of land repurposing strategies and projects identified in the Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan
- Broad regional support for Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan
- A collaborative stakeholder structure that can implement the Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan long-term

Optional Activities

In addition to the deliverables outlined above, block grant recipients may use funds to support research and demonstration projects needed to test innovative land repurposing strategies of interest to block grant recipients.

Eligibility Criteria

Below are the Eligibility Criteria upon which each proposal will be evaluated. Applications must receive a 'yes' on all eligibility criteria to be considered for funding under this solicitation.

Criteria	Y/N
Applicant is a (1) Groundwater Sustainability Agency; (2) federally recognized California Native American tribe, or (3) non-federally recognized California Native American tribe on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission OR is a public agency; nonprofit group with 501 (c) status; or Watermaster implementing an approved groundwater sustainability plan or approved alternate plan and is partnering with a GSA to submit an application.	Y/N
Applicant is locally based or has strong, well-documented ties to local communities, stakeholders and/or GSA(s).	Y/N
Applicant has overall capacity to administer the grant.	Y/N
Application is for one or more SGMA critically overdrafted basins managed under an approved groundwater sustainability plan or alternate plan; one or more high- or medium-priority groundwater basins where a state emergency drought declaration has been declared; or a combination of the two AND application does not include ineligible areas.	Y/N
<p>Application includes the following deliverables in the scope of work and budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan to reduce reliance on groundwater while providing regionally appropriate benefits, including community health, economic wellbeing, water supply, habitat, renewable energy, and climate benefits; • Complete project development and permitting to generate implementation-ready projects to repurpose agricultural lands for funding consideration; • Implement land repurposing projects that achieve multiple benefits; • Support capacity needs of partners to achieve the deliverables of the grant; • Conduct outreach, education, and training as needed to facilitate and build capacity to implement the above activities; and • Conduct monitoring to ensure defined conservation outcomes from projects have been achieved and maintained for the agreed upon duration the benefit. 	Y/N
Application is complete and was received by the deadline	Y/N

Selection Criteria

Factors to be considered when selecting regional block grant recipients include:

Criteria	Points
Goals. The extent to which the applicant's vision for an agricultural land repurposing program in their region aligns with the program's goals.	/30
Community Engagement and Collaboration. The extent to which the applicant demonstrates experience and expertise in conducting effective and inclusive engagement and collaboration across diverse communities and organizations, as well as the extent to which the applicant plans to engage with and meaningfully include the feedback of: farmers, ranchers, disadvantaged community members, tribes, and other interested practitioners in the development and implementation of their land repurposing work. Applicants who demonstrate experience and expertise collaborating with farmers, ranchers, disadvantaged communities, and tribes will receive more points.	/20
Partnerships. The extent to which the applicant has strong existing regional partnerships, and a plan to expand these partnerships and enter into new partnerships to execute the grant. Partnerships are demonstrated through letters of support outlining the financial and in-kind commitments of partner organizations to the work conducted under the grant.	/20
Fiscal and Administrative Capacity. The extent to which the applicant has the fiscal and administrative control systems to adequately oversee the expenditure of block grant awards.	/15
Policy and Project Expertise. The extent to which the applicant demonstrates the policy and project implementation expertise necessary to complete the grant deliverables. Applicants may demonstrate this ability in-house or through partnerships and collaborations.	/15
Total	/100

Application Review and Award

Materials and Submission

The application template is provided in Appendix B and is available on the [Department's website](#). Applicants should familiarize themselves with this solicitation prior to completing the application.

Applicants must submit all required application materials via email to mlrp@conservation.ca.gov. Applications must be received digitally by 11:59 p.m. on April 1, 2022.

Incomplete applications, applications that don't meet all the eligibility criteria, and applications not received by the deadline will not be evaluated for funding.

Each applicant will receive an acknowledgement upon the Department's receipt of their application.

The schedule for this solicitation is provided in the "[At-A-Glance](#)" section of this solicitation. The schedule is subject to change.

Application Review Process

Applicants for regional block grants will be required to submit an application for funding and participate in a virtual interview with reviewers to discuss their project prior to funding decisions being made.

Applications will be evaluated by Department of Conservation and scored by a review panel comprised of representatives from the Agency Advisory Group, collectively "reviewers." Mean scores will be calculated and ranked.

The reviewers will convene to provide consensus for funding recommendations.

Project Selection

The projects and selection scoring will be presented to the Director of the Department who will consider the comments and recommendations of the reviewers and make the final funding decisions. The Department will notify applicants within 10 days of the Director's determination as to whether their project was approved for funding.

Eligible projects will be presented to the Director in ranked order based on the amount of points received during the selection criteria evaluation. The Director may consider the following when making awards:

- Selection criteria ranking
- Interview responses
- The availability of funds
- The program purposes
- The balance and distribution of funding among program priorities and/or geographic area.

Program Participation

Block grant recipients must participate in all of the following activities:

- An orientation
- Monthly check-in meetings with the Department
- Monthly block grant recipient webinars with the statewide support entity
- Quarterly progress report meetings with the Department and Agency Advisory Group members

Section 3: Statewide Support Funding Eligibility and Scope of Work

Funding will be provided to one statewide support entity to support the implementation of the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program statewide. The statewide support entity will provide technical assistance and facilitate communication and collaboration necessary to meet the purposes of the program. The statewide support entity may partner and contract with other entities to meet the deliverables outlined below.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible statewide support entities are: (1) nonprofit groups with 501(c) status and (2) academic institutions.

Deliverables

The statewide support entity must include each of the following activities in their scope of work:

1. Coordinate collaboration between block grant recipients
2. Develop a peer-learning structure through which block grant recipients can receive education and training to successfully execute the deliverables of their grant
3. Connect block grant recipients to resources needed to successfully execute the deliverables of their grant
4. Coordinate external communications about program work (e.g., reports, stories, press)
5. Working with block grant recipients to engage disadvantaged communities, tribes, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in the development of their Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plans and in the development and implementation of land repurposing projects
6. Work to fill gaps in and build capacity to develop and implement land repurposing work, and provide technical assistance to entities interested in applying for land repurposing funding
7. Oversee monitoring efforts and outcomes reporting to ensure consistency and transparency in outcomes monitoring across regions.

Optional Activities

In addition to the deliverables outlined above, the statewide support entity may use funds to support research and demonstration projects needed to test innovative land repurposing strategies.

Eligibility Criteria

Below are the Eligibility Criteria upon which each proposal will be evaluated. Applications must receive a 'yes' on all eligibility criteria to be considered for funding under this solicitation.

Criteria	Y/N
Applicant is a (1) Eligible statewide support entities are: (1) nonprofit groups with 501(c) status and (2) academic institutions.	Y/N
Applicant has overall capacity to administer the grant.	Y/N
Application includes all required deliverables in the scope of work and budget.	Y/N
Application is complete and was received by the deadline	Y/N

Selection Criteria

Factors to be considered when selecting the statewide support entity include:

Criteria	Points
Goals. The extent to which the work outlined in the applicant's proposal aligns with the program's goals.	/25
Community Engagement and Collaboration. The extent to which the applicant demonstrates experience and expertise in conducting effective and inclusive engagement and collaboration across diverse communities and organizations. Applicants who demonstrate experience and expertise collaborating with farmers, ranchers, disadvantaged communities, and tribes will receive more points.	/20
Coordination. The extent to which the applicant has experience and expertise coordinating the work of multiple entities and developing peer-to-peer learning networks.	/15
Fiscal and Administrative Capacity. The extent to which the applicant has the fiscal and administrative control systems to adequately oversee the expenditure of block grant awards.	/15
Policy Expertise. The extent to which the applicant demonstrates the policy expertise necessary to complete the grant deliverables. Applicants may demonstrate this ability in-house or through partnerships and collaborations.	/15
Regional Relationships. The extent to which the applicant has strong regional relationships with primary actors in groundwater sustainability planning.	/10
Total	/100

Application Review and Award

Materials and Submission

The application template is provided in Appendix C and is available on the [Department's website](#). Applicants should familiarize themselves with this solicitation prior to completing the application.

Applicants must submit all required application materials via email to mlrp@conservation.ca.gov. Applications must be received digitally by 11:59 p.m. on April 1, 2022.

Incomplete applications, applications that don't meet all the eligibility criteria, and applications not received by the deadline will not be evaluated for funding.

Each applicant will receive an acknowledgement upon the Department's receipt of their application.

The schedule for this solicitation is provided in the "[At-A-Glance](#)" section of this solicitation. The schedule is subject to change.

Application Review Process

Applicants for the statewide support funding will be required to submit an application for funding and participate in a virtual interview with reviewers to discuss their project prior to funding decisions being made.

The reviewers will convene to provide consensus for funding recommendations. The final funding decisions will be made by the Director of the Department.

Project Selection

The projects and selection scoring will be presented to the Director of the Department who will consider the comments and recommendations of the reviewers and make the final funding decisions. The Department will notify applicants within 10 days of the Director's determination as to whether their project was approved for funding.

Eligible projects will be presented to the Director in ranked order based on the amount of points received during the selection criteria evaluation. The Director may consider the following when making awards:

- Selection criteria ranking
- Interview responses
- The availability of funds
- The program purposes

Section 4: Funding for Tribes

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants under this Section are: (1) Federally recognized California Native American tribes; (2) non-federally recognized California Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission; and (4) nonprofit groups with 501 (c) status with meaningful connections to or on behalf of eligible tribes.

Non-profit applicants must have a Native American-centered mission or have a majority Native American board. If the non-profit applicant does not meet this criterion, they must provide a letter of support from an eligible tribe detailing the nature of the relationship between the non-profit and the tribe, how the tribe will benefit from the project, and the tribe's support for the project.

At its discretion, the Department may also use the funding available under this Section to increase block grant awards where the block grant recipient partners or collaborates with a tribe to plan for, develop, and/or implement multibenefit land repurposing projects consistent with the project types listed below. In order to receive additional funding under this Section, block grant recipients must provide memoranda of understanding with or letters of support from the tribe(s) they are partnering or collaborating with detailing the work to be conducted using this funding.

Maximum Grant Award

Up to \$5 million in funding is available under this Section. Applications may be submitted for up to the total amount of funding available under this Section.

Solicitation Period

Applications submitted under this Section will be accepted on a rolling, non-competitive basis. If funding remains available under this section as of March 1, 2024, the Department, in consultation with the Agency Advisory Group and the California Natural Resources Agency Assistant Secretary of Tribal Affairs or similar position, may elect to distribute the remaining funds to regional block grant recipients.

Project Types

Tribes may apply for funding under this section to plan for, develop, or implement multibenefit agricultural land repurposing projects that address two or more project outcomes identified below. Projects must result in benefits lasting at least 10 years, unless they are directly responding to a state emergency drought declaration, in which case, benefits must be reasonably durable. Multibenefit projects are those that provide both groundwater sustainability benefits as well as at least one other community health, economic wellbeing, habitat, renewable energy, or climate benefit.

Examples of projects that may be funded include:

- Creation or restoration of habitat, including pollinator habitat, wetland habitat, upland habitat, and riparian habitat
- Creation of multibenefit recharge areas
- Conversion of irrigated land to dryland farming or non-irrigated rangeland
- Planting cover crops or conservation cover
- Reestablishment of tribal land uses

- Implementation of tribal cultural practices
- Facilitation of renewable energy projects that have an overall net GHG reduction
- Creation of parks or community recreation areas
- Incentive payments to landowners, farmers, and ranchers to implement multibenefit land repurposing projects that create a public benefit for at least ten years
- Land acquisitions to facilitate land repurposing and protect repurposed land uses
- Easement acquisitions to facilitate land repurposing and protect repurposed land uses

Land acquisitions, land transfers, and pumping allocation acquisitions must occur in conjunction with at least one non-acquisition land repurposing strategy or project type on the acquired land.

Desired outcomes for land repurposing projects include:

- Reduced groundwater use
- Increased groundwater recharge
- Improved baseflows in rivers and streams
- Conversion of land to less intensive water uses while maintaining natural and working lands
- Creation and/or restoration of wildlife and pollinator habitat and/or migratory resources
- Protection of cultural resources
- Improved water quality
- Land use agreements to accomplish prioritized opportunities
- Quantified achievement of multiple benefits of the program
- Incorporated participation from multiple partners and funding sources
- Replicability and scalability
- Integrated benefits to disadvantaged communities
- Tribes' ownership, co-ownership, co-management of, and access to the land
- Increased community outreach, involvement, and education
- Increased regional workforce development opportunities and support of local business.

As required by statute, any groundwater recharge achieved through these strategies and projects must be subtracted from any calculation by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency from the groundwater available for extraction by water users for the duration of the benefits paid for by the program. Payments for benefits must be linked to the achievement and delivery of the defined conservation outcomes for the project and the duration of those outcomes.

Tribes must work with the relevant Groundwater Sustainability Agency to quantify the groundwater recharge achieved by funded projects.

Eligibility Criteria

Criteria	Y/N
Applicant is a (1) Federally recognized California Native American tribes; (2) non-federally recognized California Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission; (3) members of a Federally recognized or non-federally recognized California Native American tribe; and (4) nonprofit groups with 501 (c) status with connections to or on behalf of eligible tribes.	Y/N
The project is located in one or more SGMA critically overdrafted basins managed under an approved groundwater sustainability plan or alternate plan; one or more high- or medium-priority groundwater basins where a state emergency drought declaration has been declared; or a combination of the two.	Y/N
Application is for an eligible project type.	Y/N
Application is complete.	Y/N
The proposed project provides groundwater sustainability benefits.	Y/N
The proposed project provides benefits in addition to groundwater sustainability benefits. Additional benefits include community health, economic wellbeing, habitat, renewable energy, or climate benefits. Projects that are conducted on lands that are least viable for irrigated agriculture and that contribute to resource connectivity (e.g., connectivity of habitat, agricultural landscapes, renewable energy centers, etc.) will receive priority for funding.	Y/N
The benefits provided by the proposed project will last for at least ten years.	Y/N
The proposed project meets at least three goals of the program and provides at least one desired outcome for project development or implementation grants, as relevant.	Y/N
The applicant has the fiscal and administrative control systems to adequately oversee the expenditure of the grant.	Y/N
The funding request is reasonable and commensurate with the work required to complete the project.	Y/N
The applicant has access to the site.	Y/N

Application Review and Project Selection

Materials and Submission

The application template is provided in Appendix D and is available on the [Department's website](#). Applicants should familiarize themselves with this solicitation prior to completing the application.

Applications will be reviewed as they are received.

Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant for revision. Applications that don't meet all the eligibility criteria will not be awarded funding.

Each applicant will receive an acknowledgement upon the Department's receipt of their application.

Application Review Process

Applicants will be required to submit an application for funding and participate in a site visit prior to a funding decision being made. Applications will be evaluated by Department of Conservation for consistency with the program's goals and requirements. Projects that meet the program's eligibility criteria will be awarded funding on a first come, first served basis as funding allows. The final funding decisions will be made by the Director of the Department.

Limited Waivers of Sovereign Immunity

Limited waivers of sovereign immunity may be necessary to ensure the enforceability of agreements. The Department will consult with tribes as needed in the formation of grant agreements.

Section 5: Eligible Costs

Only eligible costs incurred during the grant agreement term that are related to the project will be reimbursed. All eligible costs must also be reasonable and supported by appropriate documentation to be reimbursed. All eligible costs must, to the satisfaction of the Department, support the work plan and be directly related to, and in support of, the program deliverables.

Reasonable

For an eligible cost to be considered reasonable, the cost, in its nature and amount, must not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the cost. In determining reasonableness of a given cost, consideration must be given to:

- Whether the cost is of a type generally recognized as ordinary and necessary for the operation of the entity or the proper and efficient performance of project.
- The restraints or requirements imposed by such factors as: sound business practices; arm's-length bargaining; federal, state, local, tribal, and other laws and regulations; and terms and conditions of this project.
- Market prices for comparable goods or services for the geographic area.
- Whether the individuals concerned acted with prudence in the circumstances considering their responsibilities to its employees, the public at large, and the state.
- Whether the cost significantly deviates from the acquiring entity's established practices and policies regarding the incurrence of costs.

Direct Costs

Funding may be used for the following direct costs incurred to meet the program deliverables:

- Block grant recipient, statewide support entity, tribal set-aside recipient, subgrantee, and their contractors' staff costs, including salary at the fully burdened rate. Administrative costs should not be included in the staff rate or salary. Administrative costs should be budgeted separately and must comply with the requirements outlined below.
- Payments to tribes or members of tribes for expertise provided in the development of plans; the development, permitting, and implementation of projects, and in the development and implementation of educational, training, and monitoring activities.
- Incentive payments to landowners, farmers, and ranchers to implement multibenefit land repurposing projects that create a public benefit for at least ten years.
- Travel. Eligible travel costs can only be used for in-state travel for the watershed coordinator as necessary to complete coordination work. Mileage for watershed coordinator activities is reimbursable if included in the proposed budget and work plan. In addition to mileage for watershed coordinator activities, costs must meet the requirements outlined below and in the Grant Agreement:
 - Accommodation-related travel costs: maximum reimbursement rates based on county as shown at: <http://www.calhr.ca.gov/employees/Pages/travel-lodging-reimbursement.aspx>, with no option for approval of an "excess lodging rate."

- Rental car costs or personal vehicle mileage for travel directly related to the grant activities will be reimbursed at the relevant rental car or Reimbursement Rate Per Mile for Personal Vehicle as shown here:
<http://www.calhr.ca.gov/employees/Pages/travel-personal-vehicle.aspx>.
- Rental car, personal vehicle, ride share, train, or airfare costs will only be reimbursed for travel directly related to execution of the work plan, and then only if it is the typical method used to get from one location to the other. Grantees should choose the least expensive mode of transportation feasible given their travel needs.
- No other travel-related costs will be reimbursed through this grant program.

Administrative costs

Administrative costs may account for no more than twenty percent (20%) of the total funding award. This limit may be exceeded if the block grant recipient or statewide support entity has a federally approved administrative cost rate that is greater than 20%. Proof of the federally approved administrative cost rate must be submitted with the application. Administrative costs may include those costs incurred by a block grant recipient to administer their grant, or administrative costs by subgrantees necessary to fulfill the deliverables outlined in these guidelines. Administrative costs include:

- Office space
- Supplies and equipment
- Legal or management oversight
- Prorated general liability, Workers' Compensation (may be included in payroll), and automotive insurance

Project development costs and permitting fees

Block grant funding and funding provided under Section 4 may be used for project development costs, including:

- Preparing project plans, specifications, and cost estimates that will result in a specific project
- Acquiring permits for specific, future on-the-ground projects
- Analysis required to support and complete CEQA and or NEPA documentation for specific projects
- Performing necessary cultural resources, biological, botanical, aquatic, soil, hydrologic, wildlife, timber, or other studies/surveys and/or developing necessary project designs related to a specific site or physical project

Project implementation costs

Block grant funding and funding provided under Section 4 may be used for project implementation costs, including:

- Preparation of bid packages and contractor documents
- Performance costs within the scope of the project, including materials and supplies
- Labor and other costs necessary for the physical implementation of the project

Outreach, Education, and Training

The following costs associated with outreach, education, and training activities directly related to the execution of program deliverables are considered eligible, in keeping with the program's goal of ensuring that the program provides benefits to disadvantaged communities, and recognizing that public participation in community engagement activities is a benefit to the program and public:

- Meeting space
- Meeting materials
- Facilitation services
- Technical assistance to landowners, farmers, or ranchers to apply for program funds
- Translation and interpretation for meetings and written materials
- Participant compensation that is an exchange of payment for services rendered in the development of community work products, and appropriately documented with deliverables such as sign in sheets or written surveys.
- Provision of transportation services for community residents, such as a vanpool.
- Provision of childcare services for community residents.
- Food and refreshments, excluding alcoholic beverages of any kind, that are determined to be an integral part of the event. Examples of activities where it would be appropriate to approve food purchase would include a design charrette held in the evening, where the meal is consumed as part of the event and replaces a meal otherwise missed by attending the event.

Monitoring

Block grant funding and funding provided under Section 5 may be used for pre- and post-project monitoring and adaptive management, including preparation of long-term management plans associated with projects.

Research

Block grant funding may be used for research and demonstration projects needed to test innovative land repurposing strategies of interest to block grant recipients.

Ineligible Costs

Ineligible costs are:

- Costs that are not related to the Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program
- Costs that occur outside of the Grant Agreement term
- Meals, incidentals, tips, per diems, or refreshments for travel
- Out-of-state travel and activities

Grant Agreements

All grantees will be required to enter into a grant agreement with the Department. Grantees will work with an assigned grant manager to develop their grant agreement. Grant agreements will not be executed until authorized by the Department and will be effective upon execution by the Department's authorized signatory. The Department may require modifications to the project in the grant agreement. All contents of the grant recipient's application will be included in the grant agreement.

Each grant agreement with the Department will terminate on March 30, 2026.

Responsibility of the Block Grant Recipient

The block grant recipient will be responsible for carrying out the project and for managing finances, including: invoicing; payments to contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers; accounting and financial auditing; and other project management duties such as monitoring and reporting requirements.

Block grant recipients shall:

- Distribute necessary funds through subgrants and/or contracts to create regional multibenefit agricultural land repurposing plans; develop and permit land repurposing projects; implement land repurposing projects; support the capacity needs of partners; provide outreach, education, and training; and monitor land repurposing projects all consistent with these guidelines and the applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- Ensure execution of all project deliverables and requirements outlined in Section 3 within the grant term
- Coordinate and integrate management of agricultural land repurposing efforts within their region or basin
- Coordinate activities with the relevant Groundwater Sustainability Agency to ensure activities are consistent with the goals of the applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan and to ensure any groundwater recharge achieved through these strategies and projects is subtracted from any calculation by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency from the groundwater available for extraction by water users for the duration of the benefits paid for by the program.

Distribution of Block Grant Funds to Third Parties

As the fiscal administrators of the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program, block grant recipients will award subgrants of Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program funding or enter into contracts to fulfill the scope of work of this program. Subgrantees may be selected to engage in completion of all the deliverables or for discrete tasks. Block grant recipients may award subgrants via competitive or non-competitive processes and may engage subgrantees and contractors to fulfill individual deliverables or multiple deliverables, at their discretion.

Eligible subgrantees include federal, state, and local government agencies; federally and non-federally recognized California Native American tribes; resource conservation districts;

special districts; universities, colleges, and research institutions; and California 501c3 non-profit organizations.

Contracts may be entered in to with qualified entities in accordance with block grant recipients' internal contracting policies and procedures.

Block grant recipients may also provide incentive payments directly to landowners, farmers, and ranchers to implement multibenefit land repurposing projects that create a public benefit for at least ten years, including reasonable incentives to support a farmer or rancher's ability to transition land use. In order to distribute funds to landowners, block grant recipients must establish guidelines for funding projects based on the conservation outcomes achieved and delivered, and the duration of the outcomes provided. Block grant recipients must verify that the defined conservation outcomes of the project have been achieved and delivered for the duration identified in order to distribute incentive payments and must report this information to the Department quarterly.

Invoicing and Reporting

Payments

Grant agreements will generally be structured to provide reimbursement in arrears for work performed. Invoices for reimbursement may be submitted quarterly or monthly.

Advance payment terms will be considered and negotiated on a case-by-case basis. Subject to future approval from the Department and its control agencies, advance payment terms may allow up to 25% of the original grant amount to be paid in advance at a time. Funding for project implementation will only be released upon Department review of individual projects and confirmation that said projects are consistent with the goals of the program.

Block grant recipients receiving advanced funds must provide a fiscal report detailing how those funds have been expended on a quarterly basis and along with each subsequent request for an advance. Block grant recipients that receive funding on a reimbursement basis must provide a fiscal report detailing how funds have been expended along with each invoice.

Loss of Funding

Actions of the grantee that may lead to suspension or cancellation of the grant agreement include, but are not limited to:

- Failure to execute an agreement within six months of receiving an official funding notification,
- Withdrawal from the grant program prior to completion of the work plan,
- Failure to submit required documentation within the time periods specified in the grant agreement,
- Change in project scope, schedule, or budget without prior approval,
- Failure to complete the deliverables within the grant agreement term,
- Failure to demonstrate sufficient progress toward deliverables, and

- Failure to comply with applicable laws or grant requirements.

State Audits

Projects are subject to audit by the state annually and for three (3) years following the final payment of grant funds. If the project is selected for audit, the grantee will be contacted in advance of the audit. The audit will include all books, papers, accounts, documents, or other records of grantee, as they relate to the project. All project expenditure documentation should be available for an audit, whether paid with grant funds or other funds.

The grantee must have project records, including source documents and evidence of payment, readily available and must provide an employee with knowledge of the project to assist the auditor. The grantee must provide a copy of any document, paper, record, or other such material requested by the auditor.

Accounting Requirements

Grantees must maintain an accounting system that:

- Accurately reflects fiscal transactions, in accordance with standard accounting principles,
- Provides a good audit trail, including original source documents such as purchase orders, receipts, progress payments, invoices, employee paystubs and timecards, evidence of payment, etc.,
- Provides accounting data so the total cost of each individual project can be readily determined, and,
- Maintains records for a period of three (3) years after final reimbursement is made by the state. Grantee must retain all project records at least one (1) year following an audit

Section 7: General Requirements

Confidentiality

Once the application has been submitted, any privacy rights, as well as other confidentiality protections afforded by law with respect to the application package may be waived. All applications, communications, or other documentation received by Department are subject to the Public Records Act (Government Code § 6250, et seq.).

Conflict of Interest

All applicants and individuals who participate in the review of submitted applications are subject to applicable conflict of interest laws. Any individual who has participated in planning or setting priorities for a specific solicitation or who will participate in any part of the grant development and negotiation process on behalf of the public is ineligible to receive funds or personally benefit from funds awarded through this solicitation. Applicants should also be aware that certain local agencies may submit applications that will compete for funding. Failure to comply with the conflict of interest laws, including business and financial disclosure provisions, will result in rejection of the application and any subsequent grant agreement being declared void. Other legal actions may also be taken.

This paragraph is not intended to enlarge the scope of existing restrictions under applicable conflict of interest laws, including the Political Reform Act (Government Code, § 81000, et seq.) and provisions regarding financial interests in public contracts (Government Code, § 1090, et seq.). Those laws, including their relevant statutory exceptions, apply to this solicitation and any ensuing grants and contracts.

Compliance with Laws

Activities funded under this solicitation must be in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and applications may include in their budgets the funding necessary for compliance-related activities. As part of a grantee's project development work, grantees must identify expected required permits, state whether they have received the required permits or describe the process through which the permits will be obtained, and indicate which permits could significantly delay project implementation.

Environmental Compliance

Grants awarded consistent with this solicitation may be subject to prevailing wage provisions of the California Labor Code commencing with section 1720. Any questions of interpretation regarding the California Labor Code should be directed to the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, the state department having jurisdiction in these matters. For more details, please refer to the Department of Industrial Relations website.

The Department, as a government agency that will be taking a discretionary action to provide funding for projects, must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Each proposed project must follow the California Environmental Quality Act, Division 13 (commencing with Public Resources Code section 21000) and California Code of Regulations Title 14 section 15000 et seq. ["CEQA"].

For applications submitted by government entities, it is expected that the resolution adopted to submit the application will address CEQA and that the Department will act as a responsible agency. For applications submitted by non-profits or California Native American

tribes, the Department will act either as a lead or responsible agency depending on what other CEQA documents have been completed for the proposed activities.

Projects implemented using program funding must meet all environmental compliance requirements prior to disbursement of funding.

Therefore, for the Department to review a project proposed for implementation, one of the following must be submitted:

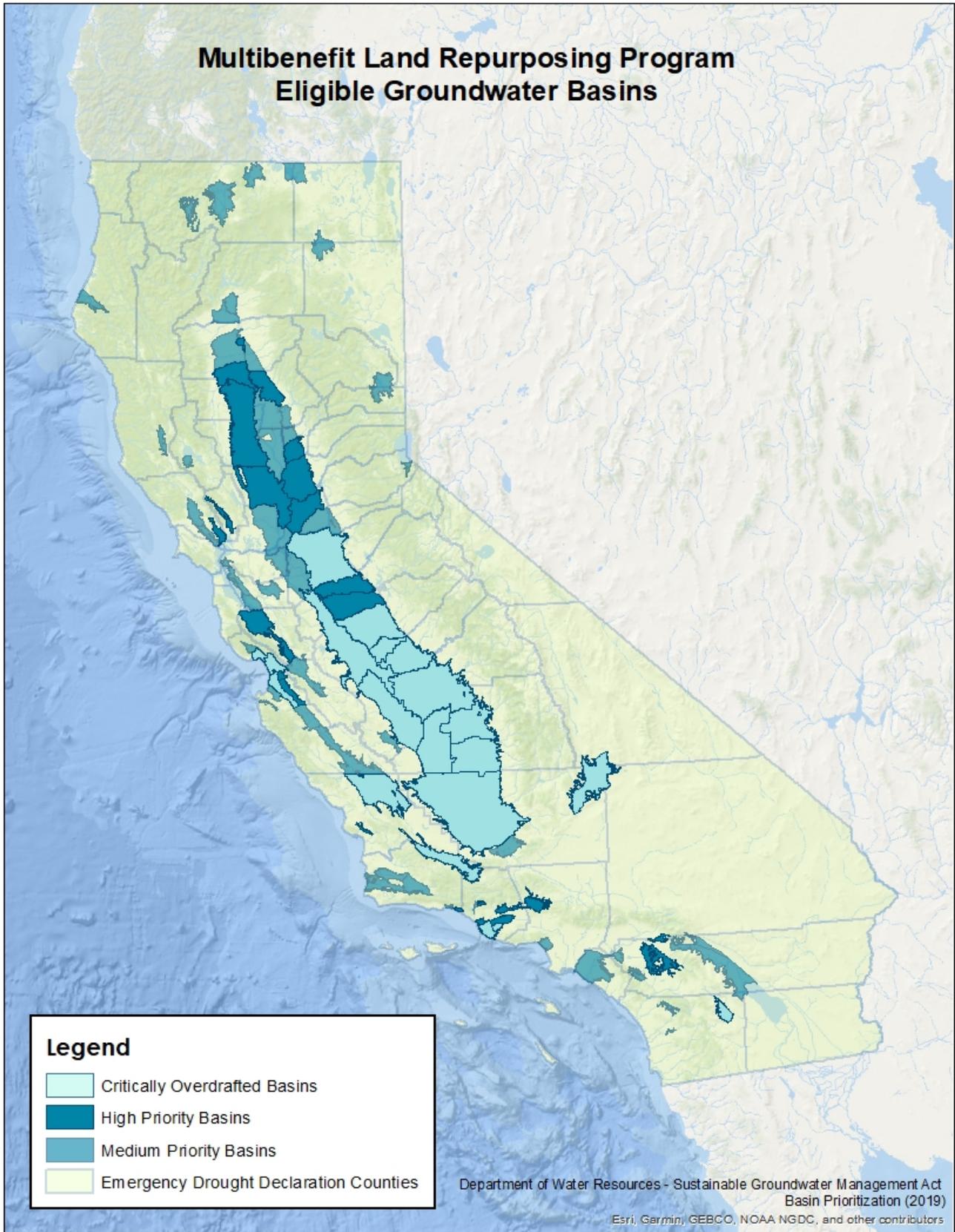
- a. A Finding or similar determination that the proposed project is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act, with an explanation as to why it is not a project, with the appropriate sections of the Public Resources Code and California Code of Regulations cited.
- b. The Notice of Exemption filed with the County Clerk and State Clearinghouse (as applicable) if the proposed project is categorically or statutorily exempt, with the appropriate Public Resources Code section citation to the exemption(s) being relied upon by the lead agency.
- c. The Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted by the lead agency and Initial Study, including a copy of the Environmental Checklist Form located in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines and the Notice of Determination filed with the County and with the State Clearinghouse. If the lead agency has adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration, the applicant must also provide the adopted mitigation monitoring and reporting program.
- d. The Final Environmental Impact Report certified and adopted by the lead agency with Initial Study, including a copy of the Environmental Checklist Form located in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the adopted mitigation monitoring and reporting program, and the Notice of Determination filed with the County and the State Clearinghouse. Please include any State Clearinghouse responses received by the applicant.

*For b and c, include documentation the State of California Department of Fish and Wildlife CEQA fee was paid or is not applicable.

- e. Projects that tier from a Programmatic, Master, or other Environmental Impact Report shall include a copy of any subsequent Initial Study for the proposed project together with a copy of any supplementary environmental documentation adopted by the lead agency, including, if applicable, any required findings pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21157.1, subdivision (c), and the Notice of Determination, filed with the County Clerk and with the State Clearinghouse, as applicable.

Pursuant to section 75102 of the Public Resources Code, before the adoption of a Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report, the lead agency shall notify the proposed action to a California Native American tribe, which is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission, if that tribe has traditional lands located within the area of the proposed project.

Appendix A: Map of SGMA Priority Basins



As of October 19, 2021, the Emergency Drought Declaration covers all 58 counties.

APPENDIX B: Regional Block Grant Application

This is the application for 2022 Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program. The solicitation details the background and requirements to apply for funding under the program.

Application instructions

- Each application must contain all of the materials listed in the checklist below.
- Materials should be presented in the order indicated on the checklist.
- Please complete all materials using an easy-to-read font, 11 point or larger.
- In the header or footer of each page of the application, applicants should include: (1) name of applicant and (2) sequential page numbers.
- Materials not specifically requested (e.g., press clippings or brochures) will not be considered during the evaluation.

Application Checklist

1. Cover Sheet
2. Applicant Eligibility and Capacity
3. Basin(s) Description
4. Proposal Summary
5. Community Engagement and Collaboration
6. Partnerships
7. Policy and Project Expertise
8. Budget Summary
9. Project Maps
10. Authorizing Resolution from Governing Body

1. Cover Sheet

Project Information	
Project Title	
Location (County/ies)	
District Number(s):	Senate:
	Assembly:
SGMA Sub-basin(s) (see Appendix A – List of eligible basins)	
Applicant Information	
Applicant Name	
Organization Type	<i>[e.g., groundwater sustainability agency, tribe, public agency, 501(c) non-profit organization, watermaster]</i>
Federal Employer ID Number	
Mailing Address	
Contact Person	
Title	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
Partner Information <i>(if applicant is not a GSA or tribe)</i>	
Partner Name	
Organization Type	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Federal Employer ID Number	
Mailing Address	
Contact Person	
Title	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

2. Applicant Eligibility and Capacity

Eligibility

Applicants must provide all the following to demonstrate eligibility:

- Verification that the applicant is a: (1) Groundwater Sustainability Agency; (2) federally recognized California Native American tribe, or (3) non-federally recognized California Native American tribe on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission OR is a public agency; nonprofit group with 501 (c) status; or Watermaster implementing an approved groundwater sustainability plan or approved alternate plan and is partnering with a GSA to submit an application.
 - Non-profit groups must provide a copy of their IRS 501 (c) Tax Determination Letter.
- Evidence that the applicant is locally based or has strong working ties to local stakeholders, communities, and/or GSAs.

Capacity

Applicants must provide a short narrative description of their capacity to successfully implement the grant, should the project be funded. This description should address:

- How the applicant's board and/or management structure will contribute to the effective execution of project activities.
- Any professional staff within the applicant's employ who are qualified to develop and successfully implement the activities outlined in the proposal. The response should include a description of the skills and experience of such staff or, if the applicant does not possess such expertise, how the applicant will acquire this expertise.
- Any financial resources at the applicant's disposal to support the implementation of the grant.
- Any additional resources the applicant can draw on to ensure his/her success. Resources include, but are not limited to volunteers, physical capital, and existing partnerships.

Applicants must provide the following to demonstrate capacity:

- A copy of the current annual organizational budget.
- A copy of the most recent financial audit (if an audit is not available, a copy of the organization's recent financial statements).

3. Basin(s) Description (1/2-page maximum)

Briefly describe the basin(s) included in the proposal, including whether they are critically overdrafted, or whether they are high- or medium-priority basins where a state emergency drought declaration has been declared. Indicate whether a Groundwater Sustainability Plan has been approved for each critically overdrafted basin included in the proposal.

4. Proposal Summary (3-page maximum)

- Summarize the applicant's land repurposing vision for their region.
- Describe the proposed work to be conducted under the grant, including how the proposed work relates to the goals and objectives of the program. The summary of proposed work should include:
 - Development of a Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan
 - Project development and permitting
 - Land repurposing project implementation
 - Support of partners' capacity needs
 - Outreach, education, and training to facilitate and build capacity to conduct land repurposing
 - Monitoring to ensure defined conservation outcomes of projects.

If the application is funded, the Department will work with the applicant to convert this summary into a work plan to be included in the grant agreement.

5. Community Engagement and Collaboration (1-page maximum)

A disadvantaged community is defined as a community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide average. Collaboration is defined as working with other organizations, government agencies, groups, and individuals to ensure that all entities work in agreement and are non-duplicative of each other's activities, and to ensure that diverse interests are meaningfully incorporated into the block grant recipient's work. Applicants are urged to work collaboratively with other groups and agencies to avoid multiple proposals for the same sub-basins. Collaboration may be evidenced by letters of support, signed agreements, board resolutions, or other signed documents.

- Describe the applicant's experience and expertise conducting effective and inclusive engagement and collaboration across diverse communities and organizations.
- Describe any existing collaborations that will support the applicant's land repurposing work. Provide documentation from the relevant individual(s)/organization(s) describing those collaborations.
- Explain how the applicant will engage with and include feedback from farmers, ranchers, disadvantaged community members, tribes, and other interested practitioners in the development and implementation of their land repurposing work.
- Describe the disadvantaged community/ies to be served by the applicant's land repurposing work, and describe how the work performed will result in benefits to those communities.

6. Partnerships (1/2-page maximum)

Partners are defined as organizations, government agencies, private citizens or volunteer groups that provide funds or in-kind services. Proposals that demonstrate multiple, committed

partnerships and extensive collaboration with other agencies, organizations, or entities will be given more points.

- List any participating partners and describe how each partner will contribute to the work proposed in this application.
- For each partnership, provide a letter of commitment explaining the relationship between the partner and applicant and outlining the partner's contributions to the proposed work.

Do not submit general letters of support that do not specify financial contributions, as these will not increase the number of points awarded.

7. Policy and Project Expertise (1-page maximum)

Describe the applicant's land repurposing policy expertise and project implementation expertise. Applicants may demonstrate this ability in-house or through partnerships and collaborations.

8. Budget Summary

Applicants must provide a budget broken down by cost type (line item). Cost estimates should be consistent with the proposal summary. All costs must be eligible. If awarded funding, the Department will work with the applicant to refine the budget for incorporation into the Grant Agreement.

2021 Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program: BUDGET SUMMARY

Line Item	Total cost
Development of Multi-Benefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan	
Project Development and Permitting	
Land Repurposing Project Implementation	
Partner Capacity Needs	
Outreach, Education, and Training	
Monitoring	
[Optional Activities]	
Administrative Costs (<i>max 20% of grant</i>)	
TOTAL	

9. Project Map(s)

A location map (in PDF) that identifies the project area relative to nearby cities and/or landmarks must be included with the application.

Additional maps that further describe or otherwise support the proposal may be included as relevant (e.g., maps of the subbasins included in the proposal, maps of disadvantaged communities within the proposal area, etc).

All maps must be of sufficient resolution to be legible if printed on an 8 ½" x 11" sheet of paper.

The applicant may submit geographic information system (GIS) data along with any maps.

10. Authorizing Resolution from Governing Body

Applicants must submit a signed Resolution of Support adopted by the entity's governing body that evidences authority to submit the application and, if awarded funding, to enter into and perform under the terms of the Grant Agreement template ([Appendix C](#)).

The resolution must:

- Authorize the submittal of the grant application for a 2022 Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program grant.
- Authorize entrance into a grant agreement with the Department for the project and accept the template terms and conditions, if the project is awarded funding.
- Authorize a designated individual to, as agent, accept the award of grant funding and to execute tasks, such as signing documents, related to the application, grant agreement, reimbursement requests, if the project is awarded funding.

APPENDIX C: Statewide Support Entity Application

This is the application for 2022 Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program. The solicitation details the background and requirements to apply for funding under the program.

Application instructions

- Each application must contain all of the materials listed in the checklist below.
- Materials should be presented in the order indicated on the checklist.
- Please complete all materials using an easy-to-read font, 11 point or larger.
- In the header or footer of each page of the application, applicants should include: (1) name of applicant and (2) sequential page numbers.
- Materials not specifically requested (e.g., press clippings or brochures) will not be considered during the evaluation.

Application Checklist

1. Cover Sheet
2. Applicant Eligibility and Capacity
3. Scope of Work
4. Applicant Questions
5. Budget Summary
6. Authorizing Resolution from Governing Body

1. Cover Sheet

Project Information

Project Title	
Location (County/ies)	
Senate District Number(s):	
Assembly District Number(s):	
SGMA Sub-basin(s)	

Applicant Information

Applicant Name	
Organization Type	<i>[e.g., groundwater sustainability agency, tribe, public agency, 501(c) non-profit organization, watermaster]</i>
Federal Employer ID Number	
Mailing Address	
Contact Person	
Title	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

2. Applicant Eligibility and Capacity

Eligibility

Applicants must provide verification that the applicant is a: (1) Eligible statewide support entities are: (1) nonprofit groups with 501(c) status and (2) academic institutions.

- Non-profit groups must provide a copy of their IRS 501(c) Tax Determination Letter.

Capacity

Applicants must provide a short narrative description of their capacity to successfully implement the grant, should the project be funded. This description should address:

- How the applicant's board and/or management structure will contribute to the effective execution of project activities.
- The applicant's experience managing efforts of similar size and complexity.
- Any financial resources at the applicant's disposal to support the implementation of the grant. Applicants must provide the following to demonstrate fiscal capacity:
 - A copy of the current annual organizational budget.
 - A copy of the most recent financial audit (if an audit is not available, a copy of the organization's recent financial statements).

3. Scope of Work (3-page maximum)

Describe the proposed work to be conducted under the grant, including how the proposed work relates to the goals and objectives of the program. The summary of proposed work must include:

- Development of a peer-learning structure through which block grant recipients can connect and receive education and training
- Connecting block grant recipients to resources needed to successfully execute the deliverables of their grant
- Coordinating external communications about program work (e.g., reports, stories, press)
- Working with block grant recipients to engage disadvantaged communities, tribes, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in their work
- Working to fill gaps in and build capacity to develop and implement land repurposing work, and provide technical assistance to entities interested in applying for land repurposing funding

- Overseeing monitoring efforts and outcomes reporting to ensure consistency and transparency in outcomes monitoring across regions.

If the application is funded, the Department will work with the applicant to convert this summary into a work plan to be included in the grant agreement.

4. Applicant Questions

For the below questions, the applicant should include a description of the skills and experience of professional staff within the applicant's employ who are qualified to implement the activities discussed, as well as any additional resources the applicant can draw on to ensure his/her success. Resources include, but are not limited to volunteers, physical capital, existing partnerships, and organizations who provide letters of commitment to support the applicant's work.

- Partners are defined as organizations, government agencies, private citizens or volunteer groups that provide funds or in-kind services. For each partnership, provide a letter of commitment explaining the relationship between the partner and applicant and outlining the partner's contributions to the proposed work. Do not submit general letters of support that do not specify financial contributions, as these will not increase the number of points awarded.
- For organizations not providing funds or in-kind services but who will be engaged as subcontractors to complete the proposed work, provide letters of commitment explaining the relationship between the organization and the applicant and outlining the organization's expertise and contributions to the proposed work.

Community Engagement and Collaboration (1/2-page maximum)

Describe the applicant's experience and expertise conducting effective and inclusive engagement and collaboration across diverse communities and organizations, including farmers, ranchers, disadvantaged communities, and tribes.

A disadvantaged community is defined as a community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide average. Collaboration is defined as working with other organizations, government agencies, groups, and individuals to ensure that all entities work in agreement and are non-duplicative of each other's activities, and to ensure that diverse interests are meaningfully incorporated into each block grant recipient's work.

Coordination (1/2-page maximum)

Describe the applicant's experience and expertise coordinating the work of multiple entities and developing peer-to-peer learning networks.

Policy Expertise (1/2-page maximum)

Describe the applicant's land repurposing policy expertise.

Regional Relationships (1/2-page maximum)

Describe the applicant's relationships with regional actors in groundwater sustainability planning.

5. Budget Summary

Applicants must provide a budget broken down by cost type (line item). Cost estimates should be consistent with the proposed scope of work. All costs must be eligible. If awarded funding, the Department will work with the applicant to refine the budget for incorporation into the Grant Agreement.

6. Authorizing Resolution from Governing Body

Applicants must submit a signed Resolution of Support adopted by the entity's governing body that evidences authority to submit the application and, if awarded funding, to enter into and perform under the terms of the Grant Agreement template.

The resolution must:

- Authorize the submittal of the grant application for a 2022 Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program grant.
- Authorize entrance into a grant agreement with the Department for the project and accept the template terms and conditions, if the project is awarded funding.
- Authorize a designated individual to, as agent, accept the award of grant funding and to execute tasks, such as signing documents, related to the application, grant agreement, reimbursement requests, if the project is awarded funding.

APPENDIX D: Tribal Project Grant Application

This is the application for 2022 Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program. The solicitation details the background and requirements to apply for funding under the program.

Application instructions

- Each application must contain all of the materials listed in the checklist below.
- Materials should be presented in the order indicated on the checklist.
- Please complete all materials using an easy-to-read font, 11 point or larger.
- In the header or footer of each page of the application, applicants must include: (1) name of applicant and (2) sequential page numbers.
- Materials not specifically requested (e.g., press clippings or brochures) will not be considered during the evaluation.

Application Checklist

1. Cover Sheet
2. Applicant Eligibility and Capacity
3. Project Summary
4. Application Questions
5. Work Plan
6. Budget
7. Project Map(s)
8. Environmental Documentation
9. Authorizing Resolution from Governing Body

1. Cover Sheet

Project Information

Project Title:

Property Location (County and Nearest City):

SGMA Sub-basin(s):

[SGMA Sub-basin status](#) (check all that apply):

- Critically overdrafted
- High priority basin
- Medium priority basin
- Located in a county subject to an emergency drought declaration

[Groundwater Sustainability Plan](#) approved: Yes No

Landowner Name(s):

Project APN(s):

Property's 5-year agricultural history:

Disadvantaged Community: Yes No

Census Tract:

Project Category

- Project Development
- Project Implementation

Project Implementation Grants Only

Proposed Project Acreage:

Site Access Agreement:

Project type (check all that apply):

- Creation or restoration of habitat, including pollinator habitat, wetland habitat, upland habitat, and riparian habitat
- Creation of multibenefit recharge areas
- Conversion of irrigated land to dryland farming or non-irrigated rangeland
- Planting cover crops or conservation cover
- Reestablishment of tribal land uses
- Implementation of tribal cultural practices
- Facilitation of renewable energy projects that have an overall net GHG reduction
- Creation of parks or community recreation areas
- Incentive payments to landowners, farmers, and ranchers to implement a multibenefit land repurposing project
- Land acquisition to facilitate land repurposing and protect repurposed land uses
- Easement acquisition to facilitate land repurposing and protect repurposed land uses
- Other:

Project Funding

Grant Request Amount:

Total Estimated Project Cost:

Applicant Information

Applicant Name:

Applicant type (check all that apply):

- Federally Recognized California Native American Tribe
- Non-federally recognized California Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission
- Member of one of the above
- Nonprofit group with 501(c) status with connections to or on behalf of an eligible tribe

Mailing Address:

Contact Person:

Title:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

2. Applicant Eligibility and Capacity

Eligibility

Applicants must provide the following (as relevant) to demonstrate eligibility:

- For Federally recognized California Native American tribes: Documentation of Federal acknowledgement
- For non-federally recognized California Native American tribes: Documentation that the applicant is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission
- For Non-profit groups:
 - A copy of their IRS 501(c) Tax Determination Letter
 - A letter of support, signed agreement, board resolution, or other signed document demonstrating the non-profit's connection to or work on behalf of a tribe.

Capacity

Applicants must provide a short narrative description of their capacity to successfully implement the grant, should the project be funded. This description should address:

- How the applicant's governance and/or management structure will contribute to the effective execution of project activities.
- Any financial resources at the applicant's disposal to support the implementation of the grant.
- Any additional resources the applicant can draw on to ensure his/her success. Resources include, but are not limited to volunteers, physical capital, and existing partnerships.

3. Project Summary (1-page maximum)

Concisely summarize the proposed project. Include:

- a description of the property's existing condition and agricultural use
- a description of work proposed
- how the proposed work will enhance the project site

4. Application Questions

Groundwater Sustainability (1/2-page maximum)

Describe how the project will result in groundwater sustainability benefits, either through reduced groundwater use or increased groundwater recharge. Describe the length of the benefits to be provided by the proposed project and how those benefits will be maintained (must be a minimum of ten years).

Additional Benefits (1/2-page maximum)

Describe any additional benefits provided by the project. Additional benefits include community health, economic wellbeing, habitat, renewable energy, or climate benefits. Describe the length of the benefits to be provided by the proposed project and how those benefits will be maintained (must be a minimum of ten years).

Program Goals (1/2-page maximum)

Select three of the goals listed below. Describe how the proposed project meets those goals.

- Support coordinated, regional and basin-scale efforts to achieve groundwater sustainability in critically overdrafted basins and in high and medium priority basins where a state emergency drought declaration has been declared
- Support long-term repurposing of agricultural lands
- Provide short- and medium-term drought relief
- Support regional efforts to sustain land-based economies and the communities that rely on them while achieving groundwater sustainability
- Reduce groundwater use
- Create or restore wildlife habitat and wildlife connectivity, including seasonal wetland habitat to replenish aquifers
- Improve groundwater supply, including through groundwater recharge and improved baseflows in rivers and streams
- Support nature-based solutions to reduce the impacts of hazards on lives, property, and the economy from overdrafted groundwater basins
- Provide benefits to disadvantaged communities and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers
- Foster partnerships and collaboration among diverse entities at the regional scale to effectively meet this program's goals
- Develop scalable, transferable land repurposing models to reduce groundwater reliance
- Support farmer, rancher, and farm worker leadership in multibenefit land repurposing strategies and project implementation
- Provide flexible and efficient support to grantees so that they can lead expeditious and adaptive programs to meet their needs.

Project Development Outcomes (1/2-page maximum)

Only complete this section if the application is for a project development request. Select one outcome listed below. Describe how the proposed project addresses that outcome.

- Completed project design and permitting
- Established non-state partnerships, support, and funding, as well as broad partnerships with regional stakeholders
- Completed memorandums of understanding with project partners to implement projects
- Developed pipeline of multiple years of implementation-ready projects that meet the goals of the Plan available for funding consideration

Project Implementation Outcomes (1/2-page maximum)

Only complete this section if the application is for a project implementation request. Select one outcome listed below. Describe how the proposed project addresses that outcome.

- Reduced groundwater use
- Increased groundwater recharge
- Improved baseflows in rivers and streams
- Transition of land to less water intensive, regenerative uses while maintaining natural and working lands
- Creation and/or restoration of wildlife and pollinator habitat and/or migratory resources
- Protection of cultural resources
- Improved water quality
- Land use agreements to accomplish prioritized opportunities
- Quantified achievement of multiple benefits of the program
- Incorporated participation from multiple partners, collaborators, and funding sources
- Replicability and scalability
- Integrated benefits to disadvantaged communities and tribes
- Increased community outreach, involvement, and education
- Increased regional workforce development opportunities and support of local business
- Diversified economic opportunities

5. Work Plan

Applicants must provide a detailed work plan that specifies the tasks and subtasks that will be performed during the grant term.

The work plan will also include a schedule of target completion dates, cost estimates, and a list of deliverables to be provided as proof of project completion. The schedule should be of sufficient detail to allow assessment of the progress through the work plan at regular intervals. Cost estimates should be consistent with the budget. If awarded funding, this work plan will be incorporated into the Grant Agreement.

TASK 1	Timeline [Start and End Date]	Deliverables	Total Requested Grant Funds
Subtask A: Subtask B: Subtask ...			\$
TASK 2			
Subtask A: Subtask B: Subtask ...			\$
TASK 3			
Subtask A: Subtask B: Subtask ...			\$
TASK ...			
Subtask A: Subtask B: Subtask ...			\$
GRAND TOTAL			\$

6. Budget

Applicants must provide a budget broken down by cost type and by task. Cost estimates should be consistent with the work plan. All costs must be eligible. If awarded funding, this Budget will be incorporated into the Grant Agreement. Refer to the Department's website for an excel version of this spreadsheet.

7. Project Map(s)

The following maps must be included in the application:

- A location map that identifies the project relative to nearby cities and/or landmarks
- A site map that identifies the project location, extent, and areas of impact relative to property boundaries and relevant landscape features (e.g., stream corridors)
- A parcel map that depicts the APNs of the parcels impacted by the project.
- Additional maps that further describe or otherwise support the proposal may be included.

All maps must be of sufficient resolution to be legible if printed on an 8 ½" x 11" sheet of paper.

The applicant may submit geographic information system (GIS) data along with any maps.

8. Photos

Applicants must provide photos of the proposed project site sufficient to convey the before condition of the site in the application.

9. Environmental Documentation

The proposed project (select the appropriate answer):

- Is not a project under CEQA. Briefly specify why.
- Is exempt under CEQA. Provide the CEQA exemption number and specify how the project meets the terms of the exemption.
- Requires Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report. Specify the lead CEQA agency (the agency certifying the document) and the expected completion date.

Provide the documentation prepared in accordance with the Environmental Compliance sub-section of the solicitation (see page 26).

10. Authorizing Resolution from Governing Body

Applicants must submit a signed Resolution of Support adopted by the entity's governing body that evidences authority to submit the application and, if awarded funding, to enter into and perform under the terms of the Grant Agreement template ([Appendix C](#)).

The resolution must:

- Authorize the submittal of the grant application for a 2022 Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program grant.
- Certify that the Applicant understands the assurances and certification in the application,
- Authorize entrance into a grant agreement with the Department for the project and accept the template terms and conditions, if the project is awarded funding.
- Authorize a designated individual to, as agent, accept the award of grant funding and to execute tasks, such as signing documents, related to the application, grant agreement, reimbursement requests, if the project is awarded funding.

APPENDIX E: Best Practices for Disadvantaged Community Engagement

The Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program prioritizes the achievement of disadvantaged community benefits through the development and execution of all deliverables. For the purposes of this program, a disadvantaged community is defined as a community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide average.

To meet this goal, the Department has outlined basic requirements for disadvantaged community engagement in the Guidelines. This Appendix provides a set of best practices grantees should also consider when engaging disadvantaged communities in their planning and project development efforts to meet the program requirements and meaningfully incorporate disadvantaged communities in their land repurposing efforts. These best practices should serve as a starting place for each grantee's work with disadvantaged communities and should be expanded upon to meet the needs of the disadvantaged communities each grantee works with.

Language Access

- Materials used to conduct outreach to disadvantaged communities should be translated to the most spoken language in the relevant disadvantaged community, and, where feasible, into the second and third most spoken languages in that community.
- Grantees should employ bi-lingual staff or hire bi-lingual subcontractors to facilitate engagement with disadvantaged communities.
- Grantees should provide interpretation services for the most spoken languages in the relevant disadvantaged communities at each meeting.
- Offer at least one meeting during each stage of a plan or project's development in the most spoken language of the relevant disadvantaged community.

Meeting Notifications

- All hearing, workshop and/or meeting times should be posted well in advance, but no less than 72 hours ahead of time.
- Meeting notices should be easy to find and shared via multiple formats (e.g., via door-to-door outreach, mailings, online, at physical locations frequented by disadvantaged community members, etc).
- Door-to-door outreach should be prioritized over online postings and mailings.
- All meeting materials, including agendas, reference documents, translated materials, and detailed information regarding participation should be shared at least 72 hours in advance of the hearing or meeting, and further in advance where feasible.
- All meeting materials, including agendas, reference documents, translated materials, and detailed information regarding participation should be provided to key community-based stakeholders for dissemination to interested residents well in advance of the hearing or meeting.
- Translated materials should be posted at the same time as all other materials.

In Person Meetings

- Provide children's activities (stickers, coloring books, etc.) or childcare to allow caregivers to attend.
- Host meetings at a location accessible via public transit and/or provide transportation to and from the meeting.
- Provide refreshments and/or food at the meeting if the meeting is held during regular meal times.
- Provide multiple options for participation (e.g., in-person or virtual, verbal, written, tactile, etc).
- Offer meetings during non-business hours to allow broad participation by members of the public.

Virtual Meetings

- For meetings conducted via webinar, offer a telephone call-in option for individuals who may not have access to reliable internet.
- In situations where multiple individuals from one household log-in or call-in using one line, allow each person on the line time to speak equal to that allowed for a single commenter calling in from their own line. This should be allowed without the household having to disconnect and reconnect to return to the queue.
- Offer meetings during non-business hours to allow broad participation by members of the public.