

**Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda Date: April 14, 2026
Agenda Item #: 1
Agenda Item Subject: SWEEP Grant Program

To: SRCD Board of Directors
From: SRCD Staff

Background

The SWEEP Block Grant Program initial phase has officially opened with a deadline of May 15th. Staff will be pursuing block grant application and connecting with local partners.

SWEEP provides financial assistance to implement on-farm irrigation improvements that reduce water use and greenhouse gas emissions. Funding can be used to install or upgrade equipment and systems that improve irrigation efficiency and reduce energy consumption.

SRCD's responsibility:

SRCD's responsibility will be to administer regional funding programs and provide technical assistance to producers. Farmers will be able to apply for funding at a later date through awarded Block Grant Recipients serving their region. Farmers will apply for funding through SRCD and we will award that funding for projects to approve water and energy efficiency strategies on their operations.

The Lead Applicant is the organization that applies for and, if awarded, receives funding from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). As Block Grant Recipients, they enter into an agreement with CDFA to administer a local grant program and distribute funding to producers who implement eligible water and energy efficient strategies on their agricultural operations.

Estimated Block Grant Solicitation Timeline*:

- Concept Proposal Opens: April 2026
- Full Proposal Notification: June 2026
- Full Proposal Close: August 2026
- Award Notification: September 2026
- Award Execution: January 2027

Eligible practices include:

- Irrigation water management, including soil moisture monitoring, flow metering and in field Evapotranspiration (ET) station
- Efficient irrigation systems up grades, such as drip irrigation.
- Retrofitting existing systems to support lower pressure components
- Pump repair or replacement
- Fuel efficiency changes to the pumping system, including renewable energy installation

These improvements support growers in adopting innovative technologies that protect natural resources while sustaining crop yields.

Benefits: SWEEP empowers farmers to become more resource-efficient, reduce operational costs, and contribute to a more sustainable agricultural industry. By helping producers invest in efficient irrigation infrastructure, the program strengthens California agriculture's ability to thrive under changing environmental conditions.

SWEEP Block Grants

The SWEEP Block Grant's allow CDFA to fund trusted regional partners—called Block Grant Recipients (BGRs). These BGRs partner and provide local technical assistance for interested farmers and ranchers. They further run an application solicitation, make project recommendations, set up agreements with local on-farm grant beneficiaries, and provide implementation assistance and support. These partners work directly with farmers and ranchers in their area to support water-efficient practices and report back to CDFA. The goal is to bring resources closer to the community and tailor support to local needs.

Discussion:

- Board to confirm SRCD's intent to apply for a block grant as a lead agency