

ACTION ITEMS / DISCUSSION CALENDAR



Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD

Prepared by Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
for California Department of Food and Agriculture Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA) Program

Primary Contact: Rose Corona

Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA) Program

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Opportunity Information

Title	Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA) Program
Description	The California Department of Food and Agriculture is pleased to announce a competitive grant application process for the Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA) program. CDFA was appropriated \$15 million for irrigation water efficiency and nutrient management technical assistance grants. The WETA grant program is designed to facilitate technical assistance to agricultural operations for on-farm water and energy use efficiency and nutrient management.
Awarding Agency Name	California Department of Food and Agriculture
Agency Contact Email	cdfa.oefi_csa_ta@cdfa.ca.gov
Fund Activity Categories	Agriculture, Environment
Category Explanation	Entities applying for WETA grants must have demonstrated expertise in on-farm irrigation water and energy use efficiency standards, evaluation and implementation of efficient practices and/or on-farm nutrient management. Lead applicants are encouraged to partner with groundwater sustainability agencies, irrigation districts, and/or water quality coalitions to address local concerns and utilize existing outreach networks.
Departments	Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation
Announcement Type	Initial Announcement



Opportunity Details

Opportunity Information

Title

Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA) Program

Description

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is pleased to announce a competitive grant application process for the Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA) program. CDFA was appropriated \$15 million for irrigation water efficiency and nutrient management technical assistance grants. The WETA grant program is designed to facilitate technical assistance to agricultural operations for on-farm water and energy use efficiency and nutrient management.

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Agency Contact Email

cdfa.oefi_csa_ta@cdfa.ca.gov

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Entities applying for WETA grants must have demonstrated expertise in on-farm irrigation water and energy use efficiency standards, evaluation and implementation of efficient practices and/or on-farm nutrient management. Lead applicants are encouraged to partner with groundwater sustainability agencies, irrigation districts, and/or water quality coalitions to address local concerns and utilize existing outreach networks.

Departments

Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation

Announcement Type

Initial Announcement

Public Link

<https://www.gotomygrants.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/f5281c34-cf54-4d7b-b7fe-5479c08ee4e6>

Is Published

Yes

Funding Information

Total Program Funding

\$15,000,000.00

Funding Sources

State

Funding Source Description

California Emergency Relief Fund

Funding Restrictions

Award Information

Award Range

\$500,000.00 Ceiling

Award Type

Competitive

Expected Number of Awards

25.00

Indirect Costs Allowed

Yes

Matching Requirement

No

Submission Information

Submission Window



Closes 06/06/2023 5:00 PM

Submission Timeline Type

One Time

Submission Timeline Additional Information

Late applications will not be accepted.

Allow Multiple Applications

No

Additional Information

Additional Information URL

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oe/technical/weta.html>

Additional Information URL Description



Project Information

Application Information

Application Name

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD

Award Requested

\$354,000.00

Total Award Budget

\$354,000.00

Primary Contact Information

Name

Rose Corona

Email Address

rose.corona@teamrcd.org

Address

P.O. Box 2078
Temecula, CA 92589-2078

Phone Number

(909) 208-7848



Project Description

WETA Application

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of the organization that will serve as lead for the project and will receive grant funds

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD

Lead organization's Federal Tax Identification Number (FEIN)

33-0017618

Lead organization type

Resource Conservation District

Entities applying for WETA funding must be located in California and have a physical mailing address within California.

Lead organization's Mailing Street Address

P.O. Box 2078

Lead organization's Mailing City

Temecula

Lead organization's State

California

Lead organization's Mailing Zip

92589-2078

Legislative information: Identify the Senate and Assembly Districts where your organization's primary mailing is located. Right click on the link below and select "Open in a new tab".

<https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>

Assembly District

75

Senate District

28

Authorized Individual/Primary Contact:

This is the person who will sign the grant agreement if the project is awarded.

Full Name of the Authorized Individual

Rosemarie Corona

Title of the Authorized Individual

President

Email Address of the Authorized Individual

rose.corona@teamrca.org

Phone Number of the Authorized Individual

909-208-7848

Secondary Contact:

This is the person who will act as a secondary contact and represent the primary contact if the primary contact is unavailable.

Full Name of the Secondary Contact

Newton Parkes

Title of the Secondary Contact

Secretary/Treasurer



Email of the Secondary Contact

newt.parkes@teamrcd.org

Phone Number of the Secondary Contact

716-566-8418

Will the applicant organization be partnering with another organization?

Yes

Name of Partner Organization

Mission RCD

Full Name of Primary Contact at the Partner Organization

Darcy Cook

Title of the Primary Contact at the Partner Organization

Executive Director

Email of the Primary Contact at the Partner Organization

darcy@missionrcd.org

Phone Number of the Primary Contact at the Partner Organization

760-994-8246

PROJECT SUMMARY

In one or two paragraphs provide a project summary describing which of the three WETA Objectives are included in the proposal and and the region to be served. This project summary will be posted on the WETA program website along with other details of the proposal prior to the WETA award announcement.

The Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District (TEAM RCD) is proposing an Irrigation Mobile Lab and Grower Training Project, which expands an existing, small-scale Irrigation Mobile Lab service and provides new training resources for local growers. The existing Irrigation Mobile Lab is funded by a local water district; however, funding is not adequate for satisfying the demand for mobile lab services and it is available only to a small portion of Team RCD's service area. The requested funding will be used for satisfying all of the demand for irrigation mobile lab services within Team RCD's 505,000 acre service area, which contains an agricultural community, which accounts for over \$1 billion in economic activity, annually. In addition, the funding will be used for creating new training resources regarding water use efficiency and nutrient management practices and technology.

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Applicant Instructions for Statement of Qualifications Section

In this section, the applicant must provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the lead organization and partnering organizations (if any) have the personnel, experience, knowledge, skills, time and resources to develop and deliver the project. Please limit each response to no more than five paragraphs.

Describe the lead and partner applicant organizations' backgrounds, purposes or missions as related to the project.

TEAM RCD's service area includes 505,000 acres, approximately 789 square miles, extending south to the San Diego County line and west to the Orange County line. Its RCD neighbors are San Jacinto Basin RCD and Riverside Corona RCD in Riverside County and Mission RCD in San Diego County. The mission of TEAM RCD is to promote conservation practices for natural resources, opportunities for public education and participation and a sustainable quality of life for communities within the District. TEAM RCD and Mission RCD have close to 10 years of experience working with Rancho California Water District (Rancho Water) on providing irrigation mobile lab services and training to avocado growers, citrus growers, winegrape growers, and growers of other specialty crops. In addition, the two RCDs partner to administer and implement Rancho Water's Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Program (AIEP), CropSWAP program, and Root Stock Replacement program.

Rancho Water's AIEP provides free irrigation evaluations to its agricultural customers with a rebate program for irrigation system equipment upgrades. Through a contract with Rancho Water for implementation of the AIEP, Team RCD partners with Mission RCD to provide growers with irrigation system evaluations to determine irrigation efficiency and to provide technical assistance and recommendations on how to improve distribution uniformity and overall system efficiency. In the last few years, the AIEP program has been expanded to include the CropSWAP program, which provides financial incentives to growers for reducing water use by replacing existing high water consumption crops with crops that consume less water. This concept was initially proposed by a former TEAM RCD Board member who won election onto the Rancho Water Board and who proposed it in 2017. The CropSWAP program is a one-of-a-kind program that has garnered statewide and national attention. It has been truly successful not only in reducing water consumption and improving operational efficiencies, but also it has helped to sustain the local agricultural economy by helping growers stay in business. More recently, the Rootstock Replacement Program was created to provide financial incentives to growers for swapping out the rootstock of older avocado trees with more disease resistant and salt tolerant varieties in order to reduce water use and to help growers improve fruit production.

For implementation of the proposed project, TEAM RCD will partner with Mission RCD and the Santa Anna Watershed Association (SAWA) to leverage their staff's extensive expertise and hire additional qualified staff to expand Irrigation Mobile Lab services currently provided through the aforementioned programs and to provide new training resources for growers. While TEAM RCD has an established system and process for providing Irrigation Mobile Lab services from their experience in working with Rancho Water, both Mission RCD and SAWA have field staff who are trained on Irrigation Mobile Lab implementation procedures and other agricultural sustainability services. Both of these agencies have vast experience on supporting local property owners, including agricultural producers, and Mission RCD has been running an Irrigation Mobile Lab and providing training in San Diego since 1983.



Explain how the partnership with the cooperating organization will expand the assistance to a larger base of farmers and ranchers than would be accomplished by a single organization

At this time, Team RCD does not have the staffing resources to provide Irrigation Mobile Lab services and additional training resources to its whole service area. However, by bringing on a staff member, and leveraging existing staff from its highly experienced and qualified partner agencies, the District will be able to expand an existing program, which currently covers only 100,000 acres of its service area (existing services are available only to Rancho California Water District's customers) to cover Team RCD's entire 505,000 acre service area.

Does the lead organization or partner organization already employ an individual that will serve as the irrigation efficiency and nutrient management technical lead for this project, or will the technical expert be hired or contracted if the project is awarded?

The irrigation water and nutrient management technical lead person is already employed by the lead applicant organization or partner organization. ▾

Upload the resume or CV of the individual(s) on the project team that will serve as the technical leads. If more than one individual is identified as the technical lead, multiple CVs/resumes may be attached.

meyst_resume_mrcd.docx, James Law Resume 8-4-21.doc

Describe how the education, training, and professional experience of the lead technical expert(s) align with providing irrigation water efficiency and/or nutrient management technical assistance.

Jameson Meyst is Mission RCDs Agriculture Specialist, is bi-lingual in Spanish and is completing his Carbon Farm Planning Certificate with the Carbon Capture Institute. He has an Associate of Science degree in Nursery Crop and Horticulture Production, an Associate of ARTs degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences and is an experienced landscape technician. Jameson Meyst has a wealth of agriculture and irrigation experience. Jameson currently provides technical assistance to both San Diego and Riverside County producers under TEAM RCD's AIEP, CropSWAP and Root Stock Swap programs, the San Diego County Water Authority's AIEP and Soil Moisture Sensor rebate programs, CDFA Healthy soils and Conservation Planning programs, and the NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Jameson has worked on writing and implementing Healthy Soils grants. Jameson grew up in Valley Center where his family grows avocados and citrus. He currently farms on 2 acres in Valley Center (primarily fruit trees) and independently provides technical assistance to a several local small vineyards.

James Law, SAWA Project Manager. James is a qualified licensed applicator (License #117305) with certifications in Landscape Maintenance, Right of Way, Forestry and Aquatics. Mr. Law has a bachelor's degree in Ecology from the University of California at Irvine and has been managing riparian restoration projects since 2006. In 2013, Mr. Law was named the "Land Manager of the Year" by the California Invasive Plant Council. He was appointed by the Council this year to serve on their advisory board assisting in Integrated Pest Management plans (IPMs). James is also the third generation owner of Law Ranch (apple orchards) and Cider Mill in Oak Glen, California,

Provide a brief biography or summary of qualifications of the key personnel from lead applicant organization involved in the project. The biography or summary of qualifications should demonstrate key personnel have knowledge and experience in the subject area of the project.

Rose Corona-President-TEAM RCD-Rose Corona has been the President of TEAM RCD for 8 years, all of which she has coordinated, implemented and administrated for the water efficiency programs for Rancho California Water District and the growers of the District.

Darcy Cook has served as the District Mnaager of Mission RCD since 2020. She has developed programs and courses including the USDA 2501 SDFR farm training program, and provides development, contract and administrative support for all of the Mission programs.

SAWA Executive Director Brian Brady is a registered water resources engineer and licensed land surveyor, commercial vinyard owner and senior vice president of the Rancho California Water District. As executive director, Dr. Brady oversees the MSHCP monitoring and habitat restoration projects in the Santa Ana and Santa Margarita watersheds in conjunction with regional RCDs.

Identify any relevant certifications that members of the organization(s) hold and indicate how these certifications might be useful to executing the proposed project.

QWEL Certification: The qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) program is an EPA WaterSense labeled professional certification in irrigation system audits. QWEL is offered through a number of organizations that have adopted the program, and Jameson took the 20 hour course through the San Diego County Water Authority that presents a proactive, local approach to reducing landscape water demand and provides graduates with knowledge in water efficient and sustainable landscape practices. Training included water management practices, irrigation system and landscape design, soils, plants, water budgeting and preservation of other valuable resources.

CCI Carbon Farm Planning: Carbon Cycle Institute (CCI) Partnered with Chico State University's Center for Regenerative Agriculture and California Polytechnic University's Center for Sustainability to design a process and training to develop Carbon Farm Plans (CFPS) that combine whole-farm planning and resource assessment in a comprehensive planning framework. Carbon Farm Planning emerged from the nexus between the climate crisis and traditional farm conservation planning, as a whole farm approach to optimizing carbon capture on working landscapes. The Carbon Farm Planner works with farmers or ranchers to assess opportunities for GHG reduction and carbon Sequestration on their land, combining traditional who-farm planning and resource assessment approaches with up-to-date climate science to develop a comprehensive, carbon-focused farm plan. A set of online GHG planning and modeling tools (COMET Planner and COMET Farm) developed by reserachers at Colorado State University, with support from NRCS, CCI and the Marin Carbon Project, facilitate the process of developing a CFP and allows for estimating the potential GHG benefits of a plan. In addition to GHG recutions and carbon sequestration in soils and vegetation, there are important co-benefits of implementing a carbon farm plan, including higher productivity, increase soil water holding capacity, and improved hydrological function, biodiversity, and climate resilience.



How will this team composition and representation from within the organization(s) enable successful implementation of the proposed water efficiency technical assistance project? Explain how various tasks will be managed and coordinated and how the project manager's technical expertise will help achieve the goals of the project.

TEAM RCD is already implementing a successful Irrigation Mobile Lab within Rancho California Water District's service area and other important conservation programs throughout southwestern Riverside County. TEAM RCD is under contract with the water district for providing the Irrigation Mobile Lab services and has an existing collaborative agreement (MOU) with Mission RCD and SAWA for shared staff, including water evaluators, experts, and biologists who can implement the program effectively and efficiently. The long-standing relationship between these agencies includes an understanding of accounting, administrative practices, and program operating procedures, and an intimate understanding of the agricultural communities they serve.

The proposed expanded program will be overseen by Rose Corona, TEAM RCD's President. Rose is a lifelong farmer who was raised in a farming family and started as President of TEAM RCD 8 years ago when the AIEP program with Rancho Water was first implemented. Rose has helped shepherd and implement the AIEP program its expansion in cooperation with Rancho Water. Over the years spent working on the Rancho Water agriculture water conservation programs, TEAM RCD has developed a positive and efficient working rapport with the participating partners and maintains those relationships through excellent communication. TEAM RCD prioritizes a high level of customer service in order to serve the local farming community efficiently and effectively and watches for opportunities to streamline processes and improve services. Rose has been a member of the Riverside County Farm Bureau for over 25 years, which provides her with immediate access to a wide range of farmers and ranchers which the District serves. The President also brings to the table a relationship with Rancho Water who assists with outreach to growers through their extensive customer e-mail lists. Day to day program Manager will be conducted by a newly hired TEAM RCD Program Manager who will be trained by Ms. Corona in the Manager of the program, and the site-visit scheduling and invoicing process. The Program Manager will work closely with Ms. Corona, field staff, Mission RCD's District Manager, the SAWA program manager and the Rancho Water Program manager.

Field work will be completed by Mission RCD's Jameson Meyst, the Mission RCD Ag Irrigation Specialist who has extensive experience in agriculture, irrigation systems and is QWEL certified. Jameson will interact face-to-face with program participants, and conduct a range of Irrigation Mobile Lab services, including evaluating irrigation systems for distribution uniformity, meeting with customers to discuss their irrigation issues, discussing the evaluation results, and informing customers of opportunities for technical training and financial incentives. Jameson has played an active role in addressing program and service improvements and also provides field service support to the San Diego County Water Authority for its Agricultural Water Management Program. As backup to Mr. Meyst, SAWA's James Law will also provide Irrigation Mobile Lab Services.

In addition to Irrigation Mobile Lab services, additional training resources will be provided to the farming community. These training resources will be provided as in-person educational workshops, which will be recorded and made available online. The training will be conducted by local experts including University of California Cooperative Extension staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service staff, representatives from the County of Riverside, and/or farming consultants who are familiar with the local growing region.

Quality control methods are embedded in both TEAM RCD's, Mission RCD's, and SAWA's culture and begins with receipt and review of the farmer's application for program participation, verifying customer eligibility information, scheduling the site visit, providing the irrigation mobile lab services, reviewing with the participant the evaluation data, making recommendations for improving efficiency, checking invoicing thoroughly for accuracy, and providing excellent customer care.

Describe the organizations' (lead and partner) experience providing technical assistance to farmers and ranchers. Discuss the organizations' outreach methods and experience with hosting workshops/trainings and providing one-on-one assistance to farmers and ranchers.

For nearly ten years, TEAM RCD has collaborated with Mission RCD and SAWA to implement various conservation programs within its service area. While collaboration with Mission RCD has been for the implementation of an Irrigation Mobile Lab in Rancho California Water District's service area, which includes providing one-on-one assistance to farmers, the partnership with SAWA has focused on other conservation activities such as habitat restoration, some of which has taken place on private agricultural land. In addition, for over 30 years, Mission RCD has implemented an Irrigation Mobile Lab in San Diego County on behalf of the San Diego County Water Authority. It has also implemented a multitude of programs designed to provide one-on-one assistance to farmers, including a CDFA funded Climate Smart Programs (Healthy Soils Incentive Program) and it has partnered with the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego on a Conservation Planning Grant, NRCS Conservation and Racial Equity Technical Assistance Programs: the California Wildlife Conservation Board Pollinator Habitat on Working Lands Program; and a USDA funded Agriculture Training Program for emerging and underserved farms. It has also partnered with the local Strategic Growth Council and their newly funded CDFA and San Diego County Carbon Farm Planning programs. Mission RCD also manages a community garden for a low-income neighborhood in Fallbrook.

In terms of hosting workshops/trainings, the partners have extensive experience. They have cooperated with local growers, the University of California Cooperative Extension, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other industry experts to provide workshops held in Water District Board Rooms and fruit packing houses, and at other venues. These trainings mostly pertained to irrigation efficiency, runoff mitigation, and other farming best management practices.

For this proposed project, outreach methods to be used for implementation of the proposed program include use of the partners' websites, farming community organization websites, social media posts, messages included in customer water bills, and most importantly, word-of-mouth and handing out fliers when meeting with producers as part of other technical assistance programs. Mission RCD will advertise the program while supporting recurring annual local events that includes Oceanside's Earth Day, the Fallbrook Wildfire Symposium, the North County Fire and Water Expo and others, and the San Diego County's Farm Bureau and Land Use Environmental Group events, and UCCE/UCANR education workshops hosted at the San Diego County Farm Bureau office in Escondido.

Describe the organization's experience working with Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (SDFRs). Please review the definition of Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers in the following section before answering.

Team RCD has not yet had the opportunity to implement any programs for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers (SDFRs), however, funds received through this grant program would enable the District to reach SDFRs. Riverside County's farming demographic includes a significant population of Hispanic farmers, and services provided through the proposed project will be available to the Latino farming community in both English and Spanish. According to USDA data from 2017, of the 4,709 agricultural producers in Riverside County, 847 belong to groups identified as SDFRs, which is 18% of the total population of agricultural producers. Therefore, while Team RCD cannot fully commit to expending 25% of the total proposed program budget on technical assistance for SDFRs, Team RCD will be sure to make the program services available to these producers through targeted outreach efforts in the Spanish language.

Based on the 2017 USDA Census of Agriculture, San Diego County's 8,597 producers are broken down as 5,096 Male; 3501 Female; with ages: 352 younger than 35 year; 4605 between 35-64 years; and 3640 who are 65 years and older. The primary secondary language is Spanish; with 1,121 Hispanic, Latino, Spanish origin farmers. San Diego County farmers are predominantly White, with 7,835 farmers; 106 farmers are of American Indian/Alaska Native descent; 384 are Asian; 44 Black or African American and 55 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. Vets and new and beginning farmers account for 1239 and 3,013 respectively.



The Project Partners do have experience with performing outreach to SDFAs. Mission RCD has just completed a USDA 2501 grant for new and emerging farmer training that focused on SDFR and new and emerging farmers. This program provided 12 weeks of farming training that included detailed information on USDA, NRCS and CDFFA resources and programs, and hand-on farming workshops. Students who completed the course had the opportunity to become Fellows, and supported with one-on-one mentoring, grant writing and business planning courses Mission also has an NRCS Racial Equity Cooperative Agreement grant and is developing relationships with local tribes and Hispanic growers to provide outreach and technical assistance for NRCS Racial Equity Cooperative Agreement grant and is developing relationships with local tribes and Hispanic growers to provide outreach and technical assistance for NRCS conservation programs. Darcy Cook of Mission RCD supported grant writing and resource identification for a local non-profit to plan and complete a USDA Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program Planning grant, to provide training and resources for socially disadvantaged and previously incarcerated individuals.

PRIORITIZATION OF ASSISTANCE TO SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS (SDFRS)/STATEMENT OF NEED

Background Information and Applicant Instructions for Prioritization of SDFRs Section

The Farmer Equity Act of 2017 (Assembly Bill 1348) defines a Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher (SDFR) as a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. A “socially disadvantaged group” means a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender discrimination. These groups include the following:

- African Americans
- American Indians
- Alaskan Natives
- Hispanics
- Asian Americans
- Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders

Striving to ensure that SDFRs have access to CDFFA programs is a department-wide priority and mandated by the Farmer Equity Act. The WETA program aims to expend at least 25% of funding to benefit SDFRs. This goal is reflected in the technical review scoring criteria. Applicants may receive the full 10 points available in this section of the application by thoroughly describing a) how their service area offers the opportunity to serve SDFRs, b) presenting a comprehensive plan that addresses the need through the program objectives, c) committing to expending 25% of the technical assistance funding on SDFRs and d) describing how this will be achieved and tracked. CDFFA strongly recommends that applicants propose offering bilingual services in their technical assistance.

CDFFA recognizes that in some areas of the state it may be difficult to expend 25% of the funding to benefit SDFRs, especially when demographics of the agricultural producers are not uniform throughout California. For this reason, WETA applicants may receive partial points for providing details on how they will attempt to fulfill the prioritization even if they are not fully able to commit 25% of the funds benefitting SDFRs directly. Five out of ten points can be available to applicants who cannot commit to utilizing 25% of the funds to support SDFRs as long as this is fully justified in context of the service area.

Please limit narrative responses to 1 to 3 paragraphs.

Which counties will be served by the water efficiency technical assistance provider?

Riverside and San Diego

Describe the agricultural community in the geographic region that will be served including demographic makeup and languages spoken. Cite references to support the description of the community.

Agriculture in Riverside County, California is a diverse industry that encompasses a wide range of crops and livestock. The county is located in Southern California and has a warm, dry climate that is well-suited for many types of agriculture. According to the Riverside County Crop Report for 2021, some of the major crops grown in Riverside County include citrus fruits such as avocados, oranges, lemons, grapefruits, and winegrapes. In fact, the county is one of the largest citrus-producing regions in the world, contributes significantly to the largest avocado growing region in the world, and has a robust and growing winegrape growing community. Other important crops include dates and vegetables such as lettuce, broccoli, and carrots. Livestock production is also an important part of agriculture in Riverside County. The county is home to many dairy farms, as well as cattle and sheep ranches. In addition, there is a growing interest in raising alternative livestock such as goats, llamas, and alpacas. Riverside County is also a leader in the production of nursery and greenhouse crops. Many of these plants are grown for landscaping and ornamental purposes, and include everything from flowers and shrubs to trees and cacti. Overall, agriculture is a vital part of the economy in Riverside County, providing jobs and supporting local businesses. With its favorable climate and diverse range of crops and livestock, the county is well-positioned to continue to thrive in the agricultural sector for years to come.[JH1]

More than 5,000 farmers call San Diego county home and make their living on 250,000 acres (San Diego County Farm Bureau). Agriculture is one of San Diego County's largest industries, with a direct economic output from agricultural production of \$1.75 billion (San Diego County Crop Statistics and Annual Report, 2021) San Diego leads the nation in nursery production, organic farms and the number of small farms. San Diego's moderate mediterranean climate allows production of 200 locally grown crops (UCCE, Grower Needs Assessment for Sustainable Food Production, 2018) across approximately 219, 874 acres (San Diego County crop Statistics and Annual Report, 2021). Nurseries are the fastest growing industry, and sales of nursery products and ornamentals represent the majority of agricultural income. Of the \$1.75 billion in annual production revenue, \$1,312,707,724 (87%) comes from nursery and cut flower production, representing 11,429 acres. Common perennial crops include, subtropicals like avocados (14,458 acres, \$82,832,387) and citrus (8,812 acres, \$114,746,057); avocados represent the second largest land use for any agricultural product in the County. Livestock and poultry income is dominated by egg production, while nearly half of agricultural land use is dedicated to rangeland (USDA, Census of Agriculture, 2017) The County boasts the highest concentration of USDA Certified Organic farmers in the Country with 376 registered growers generating \$71 million per year in sales (San Diego County Crop Statistics and Annual Report, 2021)

In both Riverside and San Diego counties, the high cost of water and land make farming here expensive and San Diego Farms have specialized in integrating agricultural activity and urban living, growing crops that optimize limited acreage. These counties far surpasses its fellow top producing counties in terms of average dollar value per acre with an agricultural production more valuable than other urbanized areas of California, such as San



Francisco, Orange County and Los Angeles combined.

Describe the project team's ability and plan to reach SDFRs with WETA assistance.

TEAM RCD's District boundaries cover a wide swath of agricultural interests and commodities .The target audience is small producers in Riverside and San Diego County, which emperically, are more representative of SDFRs. With our collaborations with Mission RCD, the various Farm Bureaus, University Co-op extensions, existing partnerships and ongoing adverstising and outreach, we are better able to reach the farmers and ranchers on a local basis much quicker and identify them in order to assist them if they so desire to participate in the programs we offer.

In the North San Diego County area, the majority of producers farm on less than 10 acres. Samall and SDFRS can be difficult to access and Mission RCD has experience leveraging it other technical assistance program site visits and workshops (for wxample CDFA Healthy Soils and Conservation Planning programs, and NRCS conservation programs) to provide initial contact with producers and land managers. Mission RCD will focus on reaching SDFTs with out established networks, word of mouth and advrtising at local events and with our networks that address this specific group. , such as Foodshed and the San Diego Food Systems Alliance.

Does the project team have the ability to provide technical assistance in languages other than English?

Yes

Identify all the languages in which the project team can provide technical assistance

English and Spanish

Will the organization commit to expending at least 25% of the awarded funds to assisting Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers?

Yes

If awarded, how will the applicant track expenditures related to SDFR support?

It will be marked by our Manager team as a separate subject and appropriate line items of expenditures through our Quickbooks program specifically outlining expenditures for the project as a whole

WORKPLAN

Applicant Instructions for Workplan Section

WETA has three primary objectives.

1. Provide on-farm, on-on-one technical assistance to farmers to evaluate irrigation system efficiency (e.g., mobile irrigation lab) and provide diagnostics, reports and recommendations to growers.
2. Coordinate or provide pump efficiency testing for farmers
3. Provide training regarding water use efficiency and nutrient management practices and technology.

Applicants may request funding to engage in any or all of the objectives. In this section, please identify which objectives the applicant organization will seek to fulfill. Each applicant will answer several general questions about the plan to fulfill the selected Objective and then will provide up to 5 activities that will be completed to fulfill the Objective(s).

Has the organization previously been awarded funding from a WETA solicitation?

No

Does the applicant organization currently provide the types of technical assistance offered through any of the three objectives of WETA?

Yes

Since the lead organization already provides the services that are funded through the WETA, provide a justification or explanation of the reasons why WETA funding is needed and how WETA funding will expand the current services offered.

The Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District (TEAM RCD) is proposing an Irrigation Mobile Lab and Grower Training Project, which expands an existing, small-scale Irrigation Mobile Lab service and provides new training resources for local growers. The existing Irrigation Mobile Lab is funded by a local water district; however, funding is not adequate for satisfying the demand for mobile lab services and it is available only to a small portion of Team RCD's service area. The requested funding will be used for satisfying all of the demand for Irrigation Mobile Lab services within Team RCD's 505,000 acre service area, which contains an agricultural community that accounts for over \$1 billion in economic activity annually. In addition, the funding will be used for creating new and currently unavailable training resources regarding water use efficiency and nutrient management practices and technology.

Specifically, funding will be used to bring on a program Manager to handle additional administrative tasks required for expanding the program. These tasks will include the facilitation of program activities, grant reporting, grant invoicing, and program advertising/outreach. In addition, funding will be used to pay contract costs for Irrigation Mobile Lab services that will be provided through partnerships with other local conservation agencies including Mission RCD and SAWA. Lastly, funding will be used to pay contract costs for providing educational and training services through in-person workshops on water use efficiency and nutrient management practices and technology.

Does the applicant request funding to support Objective 1: Provide on-farm, one-on-one technical assistance to farmers to evaluate irrigation system efficiency and provide diagnostics, reports and recommendations?



Yes

Describe the strategy to provide on-farm, one-on-one technical assistance to farmers to evaluate irrigation system efficiency (e.g., mobile irrigation lab) and provide diagnostics, reports and recommendations.

One-on-one technical assistance will be provided through an Irrigation Mobile Lab. Services provided to farmers by the lab will include an analysis of their irrigation system's distribution uniformity, and the development of a site-specific report that provides recommendations on how irrigation system efficiency can be improved. Additionally, the report will contain information on soils specific to the property, local weather conditions, and irrigation scheduling recommendations specific to the crop being grown. While distribution uniformity will be determined through collection of pressure and flow data from the irrigation system while it is running, other information provided in the report will be developed using USDA soils information, water usage history reports from local irrigation districts, weather data from local CIMIS stations, university-determined water requirements for crops, etc.

Estimate the number of farmers that will be assisted with on-farm irrigation system evaluations over the course of the three-year grant
72

Provide details of outreach methodologies that will be used to reach the proposed number of farmers and ranchers

We will use our website for initial outreach and application processes in coordination with the Water Auditor. We will leverage our collaboration with Riverside and San Diego Farm Bureaus to identify SDFRs and those smaller farming operations that may benefit from the program. We will reach out to the University of Riverside Cooperative Extension to advertise and promote the program as well as provide seminars to groups such as the Small Wine Growers Association. We will also collaborate with Mission RCD's AFFP (Agriculture, Farming and Food Pathways program) which is training for new and emerging farmers and is a general overview and training for the operation of their own farm. This includes military veterans, native Americans, and also potential career changing individuals who want to become farmers.

Describe the technical references, the resources (such as software) and training that the lead organization will rely upon to prepare and deliver the on-farm irrigation evaluation technical assistance.

Team RCD will contract with Mission RCD to perform the irrigation evaluation technical assistance. Mission RCD has been implementing an irrigation mobile lab for more than 40 years, has staff qualified to implement mobile lab activities. Over the years, Mission RCD has developed databases containing information such as USDA soils information, weather data from local CIMIS stations, university-determined water requirements for different crops, and water cost data from various water districts. Using these databases, Mission RCD leverages Microsoft Excel to run calculations for determining distribution uniformity, recommended irrigation schedules, etc. This information is exported to word documents for creating comprehensive irrigation evaluation reports that are provided to growers.

Objective 1: Workplan Activities, Lead Person and Timeframe

In the fields below, provide details on up to 5 activities that will be completed by the project team to fulfill Objective 1.

Provide an Activity Name that describes that Activity, Title of the Person to Lead the Activity, and Estimated Timeframe for the activity, and a short description. For the timeframe, estimate using year and quarter. The WETA grant term will be 3 years.

An example is provided here:

Objective 1, Activity 1: Prepare Outreach Materials to Advertise Mobile Irrigation Lab Service, Activity Led by: Project Manager, Activity Completed in: Year 1, Quarter 1.

The project team plans to use electronic newsletters and advertisement in local publications.

Objective 1, Activity 1:

The project team plans to use website notices, electronic newsletters, word of mouth outreach and advertisement in local publications. For this proposed project, outreach methods to be used for implementation of the proposed program include use of the partners' websites, farming community organization websites, social media posts, messages included in customer water bills, and most importantly, word-of-mouth and handing out flyers when meeting with producers as part of other technical assistance programs. Mission RCD will advertise the program while supporting recurring annual local events that includes Oceanside's Earth Day, the Fallbrook Wildfire Symposium, the North county Fire and Water Expo and others, and the San Diego County's Farm Bureau and Land Use Environmental Group events, and UCCE/UCANR education workshops hosted at the San Diego County Farm Bureau office in Escondido.

Objective 1, Activity 2:

Funding will be used to bring on a program manager to handle additional administrative tasks required for establishing and expanding the program. These tasks will include the facilitation of program activities, grant reporting, grant invoicing, and program advertising/outreach. In addition, funding will be used to pay contract costs for Irrigation Mobile Lab services that will be provided through partnerships with other local conservation agencies including Mission RCD and SAWA.

Objective 1, Activity 3:

Funding will be used to pay contract costs for Irrigation Mobile Lab services that will be provided through partnerships with other local conservation agencies including Mission RCD and SAWA.

Objective 1, Activity 4:

Objective 1, Activity 5:

Does the applicant request funding to support Objective 2: Coordinate or Provide Pump Efficiency Testing for Farmers?

Yes

Describe how the organization will provide/coordinate pump efficiency testing including if the organization will be equipped to perform pump testing or will hire a contractor to perform the tests.



The regional electric utility providers, Southern California Edison Company (in Riverside County) and San Diego Gas and Electric (in San Diego County), have historically and currently maintained robust agricultural pump efficiency test programs at no cost to farming customers. The TEAM RCD Program Manager will coordinate these services for the benefit of farmers participating in the grant programs.

Estimate the number of farmers that will be provided with pump efficiency testing over the three-year grant term.

72

Provide details of the outreach methodologies that will be used to reach the proposed number of farmers with pump efficiency testing.

We will use our website for initial outreach and application processes in coordination with the Water Auditor. We will leverage our collaboration with Riverside and San Diego Farm Bureaus to identify SDFRs and those smaller farming operations that may benefit from the program. We will reach out to the University of Riverside Cooperative Extension to advertise and promote the program as well as provide seminars to groups such as the Small Wine Growers Association. We will also collaborate with Mission RCD's AFFP (Agriculture, Farming and Food Pathways program) which is training for new and emerging farmers and is a general overview and training for the operation of their own farm. This includes military veterans, native Americans, and also potential career changing individuals who want to become farmers.

Objective 2: Workplan Activities, Lead Person and Timeframe

In the fields below, provide details on up to 5 activities that will completed by the project team to fulfill Objective 2.

Provide an Activity Name that describes that Activity, Title of the Person to Lead the Activity, and Estimated Timeframe for the activity, and a short description. For the timeframe, estimate using year and quarter. The WETA grant term will be 3 years.

An example is provided here:

Objective 2, Activity 1: Prepare Outreach Materials to Advertise Pump Efficiency Testing Service, Activity Led by: Project Manager, Activity Completed in: Year 1, Quarter 1.

The project team plans to use electronic newsletters and advertisement in local publications.

Objective 2, Activity 1:

Prepare Outreach Materials to Advertise Pump Efficiency Testing Service, Activity Led by: Project Manager, Activity Completed in: Year 1, Quarters 1&2. We will use our website for initial outreach and application processes in coordination with the Water Auditor. We will leverage our collaboration with Riverside and San Diego Farm Bureaus to identify SDFRs and those smaller farming operations that may benefit from the program. We will reach out to the University of Riverside Cooperative Extension to advertise and promote the program as well as provide seminars to groups such as the Small Wine Growers Association. We will also collaborate with Mission RCD's AFFP (Agriculture, Farming and Food Pathways program) which is training for new and emerging farmers and is a general overview and training for the operation of their own farm. This includes military veterans, native Americans, and also potential career changing individuals who want to become farmers.

The project team plans to use electronic newsletters and advertisement in local publications.

Objective 2, Activity 2:

The project manager will coordinate all requests for pump efficient testing with the appropriate electric service provider.

Objective 2, Activity 3:

NA

Objective 2, Activity 4:

NA

Objective 2, Activity 5

NA

Does the applicant request funding to support Objective 3: Provide training regarding water use efficiency and nutrient management practices and technology?

Yes

Describe the outreach strategy to provide training regarding water use efficiency and nutrient management including what type of training format(s) will be used (e.g., in-person, live remote, on-demand/webinar).

We will use our website for initial outreach and application processes in coordination with the Water Auditor. We will leverage our collaboration with Riverside and San Diego Farm Bureaus to identify SDFRs and those smaller farming operations that may benefit from the program. We will reach out to the University of Riverside Cooperative Extension to advertise and promote the program as well as provide seminars to groups such as the Small Wine Growers Association. We will also collaborate with Mission RCD's AFFP (Agriculture, Farming and Food Pathways program) which is training for new and emerging farmers and is a general overview and training for the operation of their own farm. This includes military veterans, native Americans, and also potential career changing individuals who want to become farmers.



In which languages will training be made available?

English and Spanish.

Describe the reference materials or resources that will be used to develop training curriculum

NA

Estimate the number of farmers or ranchers that will receive irrigation efficiency and nutrient management training over the three-year grant term.

120

Will on-demand training webinars be created?

Yes

In which languages will on-demand trainings be made available?

English and Spanish

Objective 3: Workplan Activities, Lead Person and Timeframe

In the fields below, provide details on up to 5 activities that will be completed by the project team to fulfill Objective 3.

Provide an Activity Name that describes that Activity, Title of the Person to Lead the Activity, and Estimated Timeframe for the activity, and a short description. For the timeframe, estimate using year and quarter. The WETA grant term will be 3 years.

An example is provided here:

Objective 3, Activity 1: Prepare In-Person Training Curriculum and Training Materials, Activity Led by: Project Manager, Activity Completed in: Year 1, Quarter 1.

The project team plans to use electronic newsletters and advertisement in local publications.

Objective 3, Activity 1:

Prepare In-Person Training Curriculum and Training Materials, Activity Led by: Project Manager, Activity Completed in: Year 1, Quarter 1.

Objective 3, Activity 2:

We will use our website for initial outreach and application processes in coordination with the Water Auditor. We will leverage our collaboration with Riverside and San Diego Farm Bureaus to identify SDFRs and those smaller farming operations that may benefit from the program. We will reach out to the University of Riverside Cooperative Extension to advertise and promote the program as well as provide seminars to groups such as the Small Wine Growers Association. We will also collaborate with Mission RCD's AFFP (Agriculture, Farming and Food Pathways program) which is training for new and emerging farmers and is a general overview and training for the operation of their own farm. This includes military veterans, native Americans, and also potential career changing individuals who want to become farmers..

Objective 3, Activity 3:

We will conduct 12 quarterly educational seminars over the three year period.

Objective 3, Activity 4:

NA

Objective 3, Activity 5:

NA

Briefly describe the system(s) that will be used to track technical assistance activities, the number of farmers and ranchers assisted, the number of SDFRs assisted, and project expenditures.

We will be using quickbooks and a program call Airtable which makes is easy to open projects, track their progress and necessary conversations by key people, upload GIS, photos and necessary documentation in order to fully supply the answers and data the CDFA is looking for in accountability.

BUDGET

Applicant Instructions for Completing the Budget Template

Before submitting the application for WETA funding, applicants must complete the budget template. The budget template includes the following budget categories: Personnel, Contractor, Supplies, Equipment, Travel, Indirect. Within each category the applicant will add line items to describe the costs that are expected for execution of the project. For each line-item added, use the narrative to indicate what



WETA Objective and Activity the cost is associated with and provide a short description. Refer to the WETA Request for Grant Applications for examples of allowable and unallowable costs.

Example of a line-item entry in the Budget Template:

Category: Personnel

Item Type: Personnel

Name*: Project Manager

Direct Cost: \$15,000

Narrative: Objective 1, Activity 2: The Project Manager is expected to lead Objective 1, Activity 2 and will spend X hours performing...



Budget

Proposed Budget Summary

Expense Budget

	Grant Funded	Total Budgeted
Personnel		
Project Manager	\$187,200.00	\$187,200.00
Subtotal	\$187,200.00	\$187,200.00
Consultants/Contracts		
Educational Resources Contract	\$24,000.00	\$24,000.00
Irrigation Mobile Lab Services Contract	\$72,000.00	\$72,000.00
Subtotal	\$96,000.00	\$96,000.00
Indirect		
Indirect Costs	\$70,800.00	\$70,800.00
Subtotal	\$70,800.00	\$70,800.00
Total Proposed Cost	\$354,000.00	\$354,000.00

Revenue Budget

	Grant Funded	Total Budgeted
Grant Funding		
Award Requested	\$354,000.00	\$354,000.00
Subtotal	\$354,000.00	\$354,000.00
Total Proposed Revenue	\$354,000.00	\$354,000.00

Proposed Budget Detail

See attached spreadsheet.

Proposed Budget Narrative

Personnel

Estimate the hourly cost of salary, wages and fringe benefits associated with each Objective and Activity by individuals employed by the lead applicant organization.

Project Manager

6,240 hours over 3years at \$30.00 per hour

Consultants/Contracts

Estimate the cost of work on the project that will be performed by individuals/organizations other than the lead applicant organization (e.g., consultants, contractors, partner organizations, etc.). This amount should include all associated salary and wages, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, other, and indirect costs. In the narrative indicate the Objective and Activity to be supported by the costs and briefly describe the services to be provided.

Irrigation Mobile Lab Services Contract

Two irrigation evaluations per month for 3 years at \$1,000 each .

Educational Resources Contract



Quarterly Educational Workshops at \$2,000 each,

Indirect

Indirect costs are facilities and administrative costs that cannot easily be tied directly to the activities of the grant. Examples of common indirect costs include administrative/clerical services, rent, utilities, internet and telephone service, maintenance, and general office supplies. University of California (UC) and California State Universities (CSU) may claim the established indirect cost rate with CDFA. All other eligible organizations may claim an indirect cost rate of up to 25 percent of total direct costs.

Indirect Costs

Allowable (25%) indirect costs by the CDFA

Public Link <https://www.gotomygrants.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/f5281c34-cf54-4d7b-b7fe-5479c08ee4e6>

Is Published Yes

Funding Information

Total Program Funding \$15,000,000.00

Funding Sources State

Funding Source Description California Emergency Relief Fund

Funding Restrictions

Award Information

Award Ceiling \$500,000.00

Award Type Competitive

Expected Number of Awards 25

Indirect Costs Allowed Yes

Matching Requirement No

Submission Information

Submission Timeline Type One Time

Submission Close Date 6/6/2023 5:00 PM Pacific Standard Time

Submission Timeline Additional Information Late applications will not be accepted.

Allow Multiple Applications No

Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA) Program



Budget ✓

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Options

Line Items

Proposed Budget

Expense Budget

Category	Grant Funded	Total Budgeted
+ Personnel	\$187,200.00	\$187,200.00
Project Manager	\$187,200.00	\$187,200.00
+ Travel	\$0.00	\$0.00
+ Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expense Budget Cost	\$354,000.00	\$354,000.00







Revenue Budget

Grant Funding		
Award Requested	\$354,000.00	\$354,000.00
Subtotal	\$354,000.00	\$354,000.00
Non-Grant Funding		
Subtotal		\$0.00

Total Revenue Budget Cost (\$354,000.00)

Total Overall Budget Cost \$0.00

Expense Budget

Category		Grant Funded	Total Budgeted
+ Supplies		\$0.00	\$0.00
+ Consultants/Contracts		\$96,000.00	\$96,000.00
Irrigation Mobile Lab Services Contract	 	\$72,000.00	\$72,000.00
Educational Resources Contract	 	\$24,000.00	\$24,000.00
+ Indirect		\$70,800.00	\$70,800.00
Indirect Costs	 	\$70,800.00	\$70,800.00
+ Other		\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expense Budget Cost		\$354,000.00	\$354,000.00

Revenue Budget

Grant Funding		
Award Requested	\$354,000.00	\$354,000.00
Subtotal	\$354,000.00	\$354,000.00
Non-Grant Funding		
Subtotal		\$0.00
Total Revenue Budget Cost		(\$354,000.00)
Total Overall Budget Cost		\$0.00

Mark as In Progress

Save & Continue