

**Agricultural Water Use Efficiency Program
STATE OF CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 84 DROUGHT GRANT
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT**

Dear Applicant,

Based on the information provided, your agricultural operation has been selected to participate in this cooperative program. To participate, please kindly read carefully and complete the attached AWUE Program Cooperative Agreement and mail to:

AWUE Program
c/o Farm Bureau of Ventura County
5156 McGrath St, Ste 102
Ventura, CA 93003

Following submittal, you will be contacted to arrange a free, on-site evaluation of your operations and irrigation system(s) to develop a set of recommendations to improve your water and energy efficiency. Recommended equipment upgrades that are implemented within one year will be up to 60% reimbursed from Proposition 84 grant monies.

Special note: Farmers in Ventura County who meet certain requirements may also be eligible for funding from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to further offset the equipment costs of the same water and energy efficiency improvements. This includes special assistance funding for farms located in these Calleguas Creek subwatersheds: Revolon Slough, Beardsley Wash, Las Posas Arroyo and Lower Conejo Arroyo. Contact Dawn Afman, NRCS at dawn.afman@ca.usda.gov or (805) 984-2358 x101 for more information.

Here's an overview of what to expect:

On-Site Best Management Practices Evaluation

The evaluation may include a distribution uniformity (DU) test of the irrigation system(s) to determine if the system is applying irrigation water optimally, a review of irrigation scheduling vs. crop need, and other related practices and operational/testing equipment. In conjunction with irrigation efficiency, opportunities for energy savings will also be evaluated. As a cooperative evaluation, innovative ideas that improve water efficiency will be explored for possible recommendation.

Pre-BMPs Recommendations Report and Cost Estimate

Based on the evaluation, a recommendations report will be created and reviewed with you. If you choose to implement all or some of the recommendations, you will be requested to provide a cost estimate of the equipment to be installed. The cost share funding of 60% of the estimated equipment cost will be reserved for the next 12 months.

Practices Implementation and Equipment Installation

The participant has 12 months to install the agreed-upon water and energy efficiency equipment and implement efficiency practices at their cost.

On-Site Post-BMPs Implementation Verification

The post implementation/installation evaluation and verification will document water and energy savings, evaluate if support is needed for new technology deployment, and take photos for documentation in the final report.

Submit Equipment Receipts For Reimbursement

Final equipment receipts can be submitted for reimbursement following the post implementation verification. Reimbursement will be in the form of a check.

Annual Reporting and Maintenance

Participants must agree to annually report on the water savings of the project and the condition of equipment, etc. funded through this grant. This ensures that the investment continues to benefit our local water supplies, uses energy efficiently and enhances water quality into the future.

Contacts

For AWUE program information questions, please contact Nancy Broschart, Farm Bureau of Ventura County, at nancy@farmbureauvc.com or (805) 289-0155.

For AWUE field evaluation questions, please contact Jamie Whiteford, Ventura County Resource Conservation District, at jamie.k.whiteford@gmail.com or (805) 764-5132.

For USDA NRCS questions, please contact Dawn Afman, NRCS, at dawn.afman@ca.usda.gov or (805) 984-2358 x101

This is a cooperative program supported under the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, administered by the State of California, Department of Water Resources; and the Ventura County Watershed Protection District as the Grantee.

AWUE PROGRAM COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

(please print clearly)

Date: _____

Landowner/Grower/Operator *(circle one)*

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

VCAILG #: _____

Water Source/Provider: _____

APN(s): _____

Property
Address/Location: _____

Total Irrigated Acres: _____

Landowner *(If different from above, proof of right to operate/lease property may be requested prior to approval of this agreement)*

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Also working with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation District? _____ Yes _____ No

General Provisions

1. The "Participant" is any landowner/grower/operator entering into this agreement for the purposes of improving water and energy use on a commercial agricultural property within Ventura County.
2. The "Farm Bureau (FB) Program Manager" is the person(s) responsible for the management of the Proposition 84 Drought Grant Agricultural Water Use Efficiency program (Agreement #4600010881).
3. This agreement shall become effective on the date of the last signature to it.
4. This agreement will remain in force until either party gives written notice of termination.
5. If the subject property is sold or transferred, this agreement is cancelled.
6. The on-site evaluation and recommendations report are part of this agreement.
7. Neither party shall be held liable for any damages created by the implementation and/or installation of recommended Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Coordination

1. Any Participant working with NRCS to implement on-farm water efficiency improvements can be reimbursed by the AWUE program up to 60% of the cost of equipment installed as part of a NRCS project. The Participant understands that to be eligible for NRCS funding that they must adhere to all NRCS requirements, policies and standards
2. The Participant understands and agrees that the NRCS on-site evaluation and recommendations for on-farm water and energy efficiency equipment improvements will validate reimbursement through the AWUE program. Additionally, the following are required to participate in the AWUE program:
 - a. The Participant must report to the FB Program Manager the necessary information to demonstrate water and energy savings. NRCS will use the same savings calculation methodology as AWUE to provide standardized reporting.
 - b. To reserve reimbursement funding, the Participant must provide to the FB Program Manager a list and cost estimate of equipment to be purchased as part of an NRCS-funded project. Subsequently, the FB Program Manager will notify the Participant in writing within 30 days that reimbursement funding from the AWUE program has been reserved for one year.
3. While NRCS and the FB Program Manager will work together within the bounds of their respective programs, the Participant understands that it is their responsibility to coordinate between the programs. This will ensure that all parties are informed to make certain that funding requirements are met.
4. **Since an NRCS-funded project follows a different path to equipment reimbursement, the Participant understands that some of the requirements in the remainder of this agreement may not pertain. However, the Participant agrees to adhere to all applicable requirements contained in this agreement including, but not limited to, as indicated by * (asterisk) in the following sections.**

On-Site Best Management Practices Evaluation

1. The Participant agrees to authorize staff from the Ventura County Resource Conservation District (VCRCD), Farm Bureau of Ventura County (FB) or University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) and their agents the right of entry to the subject property for the purposes of conducting field and equipment evaluations. * At least two visits will be coordinated, in advance, with persons authorized to grant access for pre and post project evaluations.
2. All projects funded through AWUE Proposition 84 Drought grant funds must demonstrate quantifiable reductions in water and energy. Therefore, to establish pre-implementation baseline water and energy use, the Participant agrees to provide all records needed for agricultural water, fuel, and/or electricity use. *
3. A working flow meter is required to track ongoing water use. If the property does not have its own flow meter, the pre-implementation baseline may be calculated using other methods and/or records. In this case, the Participant understands that the installation of a flow meter will be a required component in the recommendations report.
4. The Participant understands that the evaluation service is without cost to the Participant and there is no obligation, nor fee, if the Participant chooses not to move forward with BMP implementation.
5. The Participant understands that they share an active role in determining the water and energy efficiency recommendations and innovative ideas that are expected to result in water and energy savings are to be explored.

Pre-BMPs Recommendations Report and Implementation Process

1. Each Participant will receive a tailored Pre-BMP Recommendations Report listing potential implementation actions as a result of the technical evaluations and analyses as well as cooperative dialogue. The Participant understands that all recommended BMPs will conform to measures previously approved/vetted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Natural Resource Conservation Service or the University of California Cooperative Extension. The Participant understands that the potential BMPs to be considered include, but are not limited to, improved operational practices and upgrades to irrigation systems such as: irrigation timers, meters, sprinklers, soil moisture sensors, drip tape, drip emitters, higher efficiency pumps, pipes and valves.
2. Following review of the Report, the Participant will choose: 1) not to continue any further with the program, 2) select components for implementation and/or installation or 3) agree to install/implement as recommended.
3. The Participant has 30 days to select the implementation components. This will be in writing by indicating which components and practices are selected on a copy of the Pre-BMPs Recommendations Report. The Participant has another 60 days to submit a cost estimate to the FB Program Manager itemizing the equipment to be purchased to implement the BMPs. At the FB Program Manager's discretion, additional time may be granted if the Participant can prove circumstances outside of their control.

4. The Participant understands that the AWUE program will reimburse only up to 60% of equipment purchased. No third-party installation, training or farm staff costs for installation and training are eligible for reimbursement due to grant restrictions. *
5. After the equipment cost estimate(s) are submitted, the FB Program Manager will notify the Participant in writing within 30 days that the equipment has been approved for reimbursement. From the date of approval, 60% of the equipment cost will be reserved for reimbursement for the following 12 months.
6. The Participant understands that the reserved funding will be released after one year but, if funds are still available, reimbursement may be possible with advance notice to the FB Program Manager. Approval of such a time extension is at the discretion of the FB Program Manager. *
7. The Participant understands that the Pre-BMPs Recommendations Report will be submitted to the State of California for grant reporting purposes.

Practices Implementation and Equipment Installation

1. The Participant agrees to install the agreed upon equipment and implement upgraded practices within one year at their own cost. *
2. The Participant agrees to notify the FB Program Manager within 30 days if, at any point, the Participant decides to not install the equipment. The Participant understands that the reserved funding will then be released.
3. The submitted equipment listing and cost estimate will form the basis of validating reimbursement at the end of the process. Therefore, changes to the equipment to be purchased are not encouraged after submittal of the BMP Recommendations Report selections and equipment cost estimate(s). However, if changes are needed, the FB Program Manager must approve them prior to purchase to maintain eligibility for reimbursement. The Participant understands it is their responsibility to contact the FB Program Manager with the type of and reasons for the equipment changes. Approval of changes is at discretion of the FB Program Manager and funds permitting. *
4. The Participant agrees to notify the FB Program Manager immediately if cost changes (different than the submitted cost estimated) are anticipated for any reason. Approval of additional costs is at the discretion of the FB Program Manager and funds permitting. Failure to notify the FB Program Manager will result in the ineligibility for reimbursement of the additional charges. *

On-Site Post Best Management Practices Implementation Evaluation

1. All BMPs and equipment funded through Proposition 84 Drought grant funds must demonstrate quantifiable reductions in water and energy. Therefore, to document post-BMPs implementation baseline water and energy use, the Participant agrees to provide all records needed for agricultural water, fuel, and/or electricity use. *
2. The Participant agrees to allow photographs of BMPs and equipment to document installation* and understands that those photos will be included in a Post-BMPs Evaluation Report.

3. The Participant agrees to review and verify all upgraded practices, such as improved irrigation scheduling, or other farm practices resulting in water and energy savings and to also verify that staff who conduct these practices are appropriately trained in the use of new technology. *
4. The Participant understands that the Post-BMPs Evaluation Report will be submitted to the State of California for grant reporting purposes.

Reimbursement

1. Following the post-BMPs evaluation, the Participant agrees to submit to the FB Program Manager copies of receipts for all equipment purchased as final documentation for reimbursement. These will be compared to the cost estimate(s) submitted earlier to assure compliance. *
2. Once validated through the approval process, the Participant will be reimbursed up to 60% of the equipment purchased costs. Reimbursement will be in the form of a check. *

Annual Reporting and Maintenance

1. The Participant agrees to operate and maintain any installed equipment in good working condition and maintain practices funded by this program for the next 10 years. *
2. The Participant agrees to submit an annual report (Attachment A) of water and energy use to demonstrate long-term savings and the condition of any equipment installed. *
3. The Participant agrees to authorize County of Ventura and California Department of Water Resources staff to officially inspect only the installed project during its useful lifecycle, with advance notice and at reasonable times. *

SIGNATURES

I/We the undersigned hereby state that we are the landowner(s) and/or lessee-operator(s) for the referenced property and by our signature(s) below agree to all the terms and conditions contained in this Agricultural Water Use Efficiency Program Proposition 84 Drought Grant COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.

Signature (1): _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature (2): _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature (3): _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature (4): _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

**Agricultural Water Use Efficiency Program
STATE OF CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 84 DROUGHT GRANT (Agreement No. 4600010881)
ANNUAL REPORTING**

Landowner/Grower/Operator _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Property
Address/Location: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____ Date Project Installed: _____

Project Description: _____

Annual Water and Energy Use **Savings** Calculated from Project: _____

Future Annual Total Water Use Calculated: _____

Annual Water Use Reporting

Beginning Meter Read: _____ Date: _____

Ending Meter Read: _____ Date: _____

Total Annual **Actual** Water Use: _____

Equipment Condition/Maintenance Reporting

Did the equipment receive regular maintenance this year? Y/N _____

Is the equipment in good working condition? Y/N _____

If no, please explain: _____

This report is to mailed annually for 10 years starting one year after completion of the grant-funded project:

County of Ventura
Watershed Protection District
800 S. Victoria Ave
Ventura, California 93009