

Board Meeting  
May 21, 2025 - 1:30 PM  
870 Greenfield Ave., Hanford

1. **Call to Order**
  - a. **Flag Salute**
2. **Public Comment**
  - a. *Any person may directly address the Board at this time on any item on the agenda or any other item of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board.*
3. **Financial reports**
  - a. March Financials – **Action**
  - b. Invoices – **Action**
    - i. May 2025 KCFB Contract Invoice
    - ii. HSP Grant Reimbursement Invoices
    - iii. WETA Grant Reimbursement Invoices
4. **Meeting Minutes**
  - a. April 2025 regular meeting minutes – **Action**
5. **NRCS Report**
6. **Old Business**
  - a. Grants
    - i. CDFA Healthy Soils Program (HSP)
    - ii. CDFA Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA)
7. **New Business**
  - a. Innovative Ag Services – **Action**
    - i. Professional Services Agreement
    - ii. Grant Research and Reporting Proposal
  - b. Vacant Director Seat – **Action**
8. **Adjournment**

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting  
June 18, 2025  
1:30 PM



**County of Kings**  
**KCFEFS Trial Balance Summary**

Accounting Period 9/2025  
 As Of Mar 31, 2025

**Selection Criteria:** Fund(s) 710240 - Excel/Kings River Consvtn  
 Report Generated on Apr 17, 2025 8:10:04 AM

**Fund: 710240 - Excel/Kings River Consvtn**

GL Account	GL Account Description	Debit Balance	Credit Balance
<b>Assets</b>			
<a href="#">710240-10000</a>	Excel/Kings River Consvtn/Cash In Treasury	88,487.89	
<b>Subtotal - Assets</b>		<b>88,487.89</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<a href="#">710240-51000</a>	Excel/Kings River Consvtn/Warrants Payable		99.00
<a href="#">710240-59999</a>	Excel/Kings River Consvtn/VOUCHERS PAYABLE		
<b>Subtotal - Liabilities</b>			<b>99.00</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>			
<a href="#">710240-71002</a>	Excel/Kings River Consvtn/Fund Balance Unavailable		27,699.94
<a href="#">710240-71009</a>	Excel/Kings River Consvtn/Fund Balance Available		176,258.30
<b>Subtotal - Fund Balance</b>			<b>203,958.24</b>
<b>Revenue</b>			
<a href="#">710240-84000</a>	Excel/Kings River Consvtn/Interest On Current Deposits		4,068.00
<a href="#">710240-88025</a>	Excel/Kings River Consvtn/Other Revenue		477,603.33
<b>Subtotal - Revenue</b>			<b>481,671.33</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<a href="#">710240-92047</a>	Excel/Kings River Consvtn/Contractual Services	597,240.68	
<b>Subtotal - Expenditure</b>		<b>597,240.68</b>	
Fund Totals		<b>685,728.57</b>	<b>685,728.57</b>
		Fund is in Balance	



**County of Kings**  
**KCFEFS Trial Balance Detail**  
**Transaction Dates Between Mar 1, 2025 and Mar 31, 2025**

**Selection Criteria:** Fund(s): 710240 - Excel/Kings River Consvtn, All Keys, All Objects, All Sets  
 Report Generated on Apr 17, 2025 8:10:02 AM

GL Organization Key	FUND	DEPT	FTYP	CATG	SUBF	DIVI	BDUN
710240 - Excel/Kings River Consvtn	710240	000	FIDCRY	SD	0000	0000	000000

Date	Reference	Description	Period	Year	Debit	Credit	Transaction Amount
<b>10000 - Cash In Treasury</b>							
03/12/2025	20074582	HSP Reimbursement	09	2025	\$0.00	\$11,098.74	(\$11,098.74)
03/12/2025	20074583	Jan/Feb Contract Inv	09	2025	0.00	5,000.00	(5,000.00)
03/14/2025	102924	Mail Box Storage and virus sca	09	2025	0.00	25.40	(25.40)
03/20/2025	61D6E196-0013	Web Design Services	09	2025	0.00	99.00	(99.00)
03/20/2025	61D6E196-0014	Web Design Services	09	2025	0.00	99.00	(99.00)
03/31/2025	#3	Prop 68 Riparian Corridor Reim	09	2025	0.00	14,354.18	(14,354.18)
<b>Object 10000 Total</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$30,676.32</b>	<b>(\$30,676.32)</b>
<b>51000 - Warrants Payable</b>							
03/06/2025	20074582	HSP Reimbursement	09	2025	\$0.00	\$11,098.74	\$11,098.74
03/06/2025	20074583	Jan/Feb Contract Inv	09	2025	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
03/11/2025	102924	Mail Box Storage and virus sca	09	2025	0.00	25.40	25.40
03/11/2025	61D6E196-0013	Web Design Services	09	2025	0.00	99.00	99.00
03/11/2025	61D6E196-0014	Web Design Services	09	2025	0.00	99.00	99.00
03/12/2025	20074582	HSP Reimbursement	09	2025	11,098.74	0.00	(11,098.74)
03/12/2025	20074583	Jan/Feb Contract Inv	09	2025	5,000.00	0.00	(5,000.00)
03/14/2025	102924	Mail Box Storage and virus sca	09	2025	25.40	0.00	(25.40)
03/20/2025	61D6E196-0013	Web Design Services	09	2025	99.00	0.00	(99.00)
03/20/2025	61D6E196-0014	Web Design Services	09	2025	99.00	0.00	(99.00)
03/25/2025	#3	Prop 68 Riparian Corridor Reim	09	2025	0.00	14,354.18	14,354.18
03/25/2025	61 D6E 196-0015	3/11/25-WEB DESIGN SERVICES	09	2025	0.00	99.00	99.00



**County of Kings**  
**KCFEFS Trial Balance Detail**  
**Transaction Dates Between Mar 1, 2025 and Mar 31, 2025**

**Selection Criteria:** Fund(s): 710240 - Excel/Kings River Consvtn, All Keys, All Objects, All Sets  
 Report Generated on Apr 17, 2025 8:10:02 AM

Date	Reference	Description	Period	Year	Debit	Credit	Transaction Amount
03/31/2025	#3	Prop 68 Riparian Corridor Reim	09	2025	14,354.18	0.00	(14,354.18)
<b>Object 51000 Total</b>					<b>\$30,676.32</b>	<b>\$30,775.32</b>	<b>\$99.00</b>
<b>59999 - VOUCHERS PAYABLE</b>							
03/06/2025	102924	Mail Box Storage and virus sca	09	2025	\$0.00	\$25.40	\$25.40
03/06/2025	61D6E196-0013	Web Design Services	09	2025	0.00	99.00	99.00
03/06/2025	61D6E196-0014	Web Design Services	09	2025	0.00	99.00	99.00
03/11/2025	102924	Mail Box Storage and virus sca	09	2025	25.40	0.00	(25.40)
03/11/2025	61D6E196-0013	Web Design Services	09	2025	99.00	0.00	(99.00)
03/11/2025	61D6E196-0014	Web Design Services	09	2025	99.00	0.00	(99.00)
03/24/2025	#3	Prop 68 Riparian Corridor Reim	09	2025	0.00	14,354.18	14,354.18
03/24/2025	61 D6E 196-0015	3/11/25-WEB DESIGN SERVICES	09	2025	0.00	99.00	99.00
03/25/2025	#3	Prop 68 Riparian Corridor Reim	09	2025	14,354.18	0.00	(14,354.18)
03/25/2025	61 D6E 196-0015	3/11/25-WEB DESIGN SERVICES	09	2025	99.00	0.00	(99.00)
<b>Object 59999 Total</b>					<b>\$14,676.58</b>	<b>\$14,676.58</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>92047 - Contractual Services</b>							
03/06/2025	102924	Mail Box Storage and virus sca	09	2025	\$25.40	\$0.00	\$25.40
03/06/2025	20074582	HSP Reimbursement	09	2025	11,098.74	0.00	11,098.74
03/06/2025	20074583	Jan/Feb Contract Inv	09	2025	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
03/06/2025	61D6E196-0013	Web Design Services	09	2025	99.00	0.00	99.00
03/06/2025	61D6E196-0014	Web Design Services	09	2025	99.00	0.00	99.00
03/24/2025	#3	Prop 68 Riparian Corridor Reim	09	2025	14,354.18	0.00	14,354.18
03/24/2025	61 D6E 196-0015	3/11/25-WEB DESIGN SERVICES	09	2025	99.00	0.00	99.00
<b>Object 92047 Total</b>					<b>\$30,775.32</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$30,775.32</b>
<b>GL Key 710240 Total</b>					<b>\$76,128.22</b>	<b>\$76,128.22</b>	<b>\$198.00</b>



870 GREENFIELD AVE  
HANFORD, CA 93230-3570 US  
+15595843557  
kcfb@kcfb.org  
www.kcfb.org

## INVOICE

BILL TO  
Excelsior/Kings River RCD  
870 Greenfield Ave  
Hanford, CA 93230

INVOICE 20074630  
DATE 05/01/2025  
TERMS Net 30  
DUE DATE 05/31/2025

ACTIVITY	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
EKRCD Contract	1	2,500.00	2,500.00

BALANCE DUE

**\$2,500.00**



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## INVOICE

BILL TO  
Excelsior/Kings River RCD  
870 Greenfield Ave  
Hanford, CA 93230

INVOICE 20074627  
DATE 03/31/2025  
TERMS Due on receipt  
DUE DATE 03/31/2025

SALES REP  
Dusty Ference

ACTIVITY	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
EKRCD Payroll Reimbursement HSP TA Hours (Dusty)	115	100.00	11,500.00
EKRCD Payroll Reimbursement HSP Admin Hours (Tiffany)	200	65.00	13,000.00
EKRCD Expense Reimbursement Mileage	605	0.67	405.35

BALANCE DUE

**\$24,905.35**

Pay invoice



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## INVOICE

BILL TO  
 Excelsior/Kings River RCD  
 870 Greenfield Ave  
 Hanford, CA 93230

INVOICE 20074645  
 DATE 03/31/2025  
 TERMS Due on receipt  
 DUE DATE 03/31/2025

SALES REP  
 Tiffany Flores

ACTIVITY	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
EKRCD Expense Reimbursement Comcast (HSP) Jan - Mar 2025	1	150.00	150.00
EKRCD Expense Reimbursement Dataflow (HSP) Jan - Mar 2025	1	275.00	275.00
EKRCD Expense Reimbursement Verizon (HSP) Jan - Mar 2025	1	50.00	50.00

BALANCE DUE

**\$475.00**



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## INVOICE

BILL TO  
Excelsior/Kings River RCD  
870 Greenfield Ave  
Hanford, CA 93230

INVOICE 20074642  
DATE 12/31/2024  
TERMS Due on receipt  
DUE DATE 12/31/2024

SALES REP  
Dusty Ference

ACTIVITY	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
EKRCD Expense Reimbursement Comcast (HSP) Dec 2023-Dec 2024	1	915.00	915.00
EKRCD Expense Reimbursement DataFlow (HSP) Dec 2023 - Dec 2024	1	920.00	920.00
EKRCD Expense Reimbursement Verizon (HSP) Dec 2023 - Dec 2024	1	50.00	50.00

BALANCE DUE

**\$1,885.00**

Pay invoice



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 Excelsior/Kings River RCD  
 870 Greenfield Ave  
 Hanford, CA 93230

INVOICE 20074644  
 DATE 03/31/2025  
 TERMS Due on receipt  
 DUE DATE 03/31/2025

SALES REP  
 Tiffany Flores

ACTIVITY	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
EKRCD Expense Reimbursement Comcast (WETA) Jan - Mar 2025	1	150.00	150.00
EKRCD Expense Reimbursement Dataflow (WETA) Jan - Mar 2025	1	275.00	275.00
EKRCD Expense Reimbursement Verizon (WETA) Jan - Mar 2025	1	50.00	50.00

BALANCE DUE

**\$475.00**



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 DATE 03/31/2025  
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 Tiffany Flores

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BALANCE DUE

**\$475.00**



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INVOICE 20074643  
DATE 12/31/2024  
TERMS Due on receipt  
DUE DATE 12/31/2024

SALES REP  
Dusty Ference

ACTIVITY	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
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BALANCE DUE

**\$1,885.00**

Pay invoice

Board members present: E. Esajian, M. Miya, P. Newton

Others present: M. Burks, M. Pellegrini, T. Johnson, I. Vietti, T. Flores, D. Ference

1. **Call to Order:** 1:35 PM
2. **Public Comments:**
  - a. N/A
3. **Financial Report**
  - a. A motion was made by Paul Newton, seconded by Ed Esajian, and passed without opposition, approving the February 2025 Financial Report and invoice as presented.
4. **Meeting Minutes:**
  - a. A motion was made by Ed Esajian, seconded by Paul Newton, and passed without opposition, approving the March 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented.
5. **NRCS Report**
  - a. M. Burks presented.
6. **Old Business:**
  - a. Grants
    - i. D. Ference provided updates.
7. **New Business**
  - a. Innovative Ag Services Consultant Bid
    - i. A motion was made by Michael Miya, seconded by Paul Newton, and passed without opposition, to table the item until the next board meeting.
8. **Adjournment:** 2:31 PM



# INNOVATIVE AG SERVICES

1201 Delta View Road, Suite 5, Hanford, CA 93230  
P (559) 587-2800 | F (559) 587-2801 | [www.innovativeag.net](http://www.innovativeag.net)

## Professional Services Agreement

### INTRODUCTION

This Professional Services Agreement (Agreement) made \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 (Effective Date) is by and between Innovative Ag Services, LLC (IAS), located at 1201 Delta View Road, Suite 5, Hanford, CA 93230 and \_\_\_\_\_ (Client) whose address is \_\_\_\_\_ (Client Address), as authorized by \_\_\_\_\_ (Authorized Signer).

### SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work identified in this Agreement includes IAS researching the following grant funding programs from \_\_\_\_\_ related to the \_\_\_\_\_. Details of the grant funding program research are as follows:

- Eligibility requirements, funding amounts, timeframes, primary criteria for awarded grants, application costs for funding, and expert opinions on the likelihood of receiving a grant from the specific agency or program.

### FEE SCHEDULE

The project operates on a time and materials basis, not to exceed \$2,500. Permit fees, subcontractor fees, or any other reimbursable expenses necessary for the project's completion are payable to IAS within 30 days of receiving the itemized invoice. The estimated cost is outlined below but may change due to unforeseen circumstances.

### COMPLETION CRITERIA

Work will begin immediately upon receipt of this Agreement in anticipation of meeting the submittal dates. In signing, you accept all services and fees as outlined. You also agree to participate in the data collection, as required and necessary, so that IAS can provide a timely submittal.

Authorized Signer \_\_\_\_\_ Authorized Signer Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Authorized Signer Initials)

Page 1 of 2



# INNOVATIVE AG SERVICES

1201 Delta View Road, Suite 5, Hanford, CA 93230  
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## Grant Research and Reporting Proposal

### INTRODUCTION

---

The following proposal has been prepared by Innovative Ag Services, LLC (IAS) to provide grant research, identification, and presentation consulting services for \_\_\_\_\_ (Client) to assist them in identifying opportunities that meet their organization's program priorities.

---

### SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work identified in this proposal includes the following items to be delivered to the client on an ongoing basis.

1. Conducting 10 hours of monthly research to identify potential grants that meet the Client's objectives.
  2. Conduct an initial assessment of potential grants' time and material requirements.
  3. Preparing a monthly report of all identified potential grants for distribution to the Client.
  4. Presenting the monthly report to the Client at meetings of the Client's choosing.
  5. Conducting further research into opportunities identified by the Client of interest requires additional time to be billed on a time and material basis.
  6. Review for conflict of interest and contact 3<sup>rd</sup> party grant writers for grant writing proposals for the Client.
  7. Facilitate 3<sup>rd</sup> party grant-writing agreements for the Client when not providing direct grant-writing services
  8. Prepare grant applications at the request of the Client on a per-agreement basis.
- 

### FEE SCHEDULE

The cost of sub-contract fees or any other reimbursable expenses necessary to complete the project is payable to IAS within 30 days of receipt of the itemized invoice. The items below indicate the level of service desired for this Scope and Client:

**FEE Schedule:**

	LABOR CATEGORY	HOURLY RATE	PROJECTED HOURS
<input type="checkbox"/>	GOVERNMENT FUNDING SPECIALIST (GRANT RESEARCH MONTHLY)	\$105	3 (MONTHLY)
<input type="checkbox"/>	GOVERNMENT FUNDING SPECIALIST (GRANT RESEARCH, ADDITIONAL T&M)	\$105	T&M



# INNOVATIVE AG SERVICES

1201 Delta View Road, Suite 5, Hanford, CA 93230  
P (559) 587-2800 | F (559) 587-2801 | www.innovativeag.net

## Expenses

The cost of permit fees, subcontract fees, or any other materials necessary to complete the project is payable to IAS within 30 days of receipt of the itemized invoice.

## Payment

Monthly research service payment is expected. At the client's request, additional research services on specific programs will be available on a time and material basis and billed on the following month's bill. The client must pay invoices within 30 days.

## TIME FRAME

---

Work will begin immediately upon receipt of this proposal. In signing this document, you accept all services and fees as outlined in this proposal and agree to supply the necessary direction for Innovative Ag Services, LLC to provide a timely summary of grant opportunities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sign Here)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Billing Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Full Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

## **Misc CA Department grants**

### **DWR**

LandFlex- funding for temporary fallowing. Expected Summer, \$250 million

### **Riverine Stewardship Program/Urban Streams Restoration:**

The RSP, supports fish passage improvements, and other similar projects to accomplish increased ecological, stream management, climate, and community improvement benefits. The RSP's goals include: (1) protecting, restoring, and enhancing the natural environment of riparian systems. (2) supporting innovations in green infrastructure that support fish migration improvements, and habitat enhancement that benefit aquatic species, by reconnecting aquatic habitat to help fish and wildlife endure drought and adapt to climate change.

### **Dept of Conservation**

#### **Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP)**

The Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program seeks to use this funding 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.

Based on discussions with Delta View Water Assn, there may be potential projects that could be of interest to Delta View, TLDD, EKRCDD, Water Blueprint, as well as other GSA partners in the Kings, Kaweah, and Tule watersheds, that could be combined into a large regional project that would include most of the above programs in concert, as well as other community grants and prop 4 monies to assist in funding. It will require a grand vision and planning, as well as all parties willing to make tradeoffs to get larger improvements.

In response to the Governor's *California's Water Supply Strategy, Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future* and, as California enters its fourth year of drought, the shrinking groundwater supply underscores the need for action. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will launch the LandFlex Program as a new and innovative tool to protect drinking water wells.

LandFlex will provide \$25 million in block grants to local government agencies to grant to farmers. The program will incentivize farmers to limit agricultural groundwater use near drought-stricken communities whose drinking water wells have gone dry or are close to going dry. LandFlex will provide community benefits such as reduced pressures on drinking water wells, groundwater overdraft prevention, and climate resilience.

### **Funding for Farmers:**

LandFlex will provide financial incentives to farmers for each enrolled acre. To ensure small and mid-sized farms have access to the program, eligibility is limited to farmers with a 3-year average Adjusted Gross Income of \$2.5 million or less. No individual grant will be greater than \$2.5 million. Farmers are identified based on their proximity to drinking water wells that have gone dry or are in jeopardy of going dry.

### **Farmers receive incentives for the following actions:**

- **Provide Immediate Drought Relief** by fallowing land for 1 year. For each acre-foot of water saved in the ground a farmer will receive up to a cap of \$350. GSAs will determine a locally appropriate payment amount per acre-foot.
- **Long-Term Elimination of Groundwater Overdraft.** A farmer will receive \$1000 to permanently eliminate each acre-foot of annual pumping that exceeds locally determined groundwater sustainable yield levels.

- **Transition to more climate resilient ag practices.** Depending on current land uses the farmer could receive between \$250-\$2,800/acre for the removal of permanent tree crops, purchasing upcycled ag waste for dairy feed replacement, and planting cover crops that use natural rainfall to grow.

LandFlex will give the agricultural community an opportunity to transition now to more sustainable practices and help their local communities in the face of an uncertain water future.

### **Partnerships:**

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are the local government agencies that will be responsible for identifying vulnerable communities and providing grants to farmers. To assist GSAs with this task, DWR has partnered with Self-Help Enterprises, Community Alliance with Family Farmers, Western United Dairies Foundation, and the Almond Alliance to provide technical assistance. These partnerships will ensure:

- Equitable participation by a broad socioeconomic spectrum of farmers
- Investments that provide the greatest benefit to vulnerable communities impacted by drought and groundwater overdraft
- Increased compliance with Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirements by reducing groundwater overdraft

These partnerships are important to ensure success of the program and transparency of state investments.

For more information about the LandFlex pilot program and to apply, visit [www.water.ca.gov/landflex](http://www.water.ca.gov/landflex)

## 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](mailto:mlrp@conservation.ca.gov)  
(916) 275-0676

## Potential Grant Overview

### NRCS Grants

#### **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program is an NRCS program that allows for regional planning and funding of projects within a specific focus. Funds can be administered by NRCS like the EQIP process, or by their partner in an internal process. Grants can range between \$1-25 million but typically have a 25% cost share. The WaterSmart RCPP is the best example of the benefits of RCPP.

Funding flowmeters, transfer structures (including regional infrastructure,) irrigation systems and irrigation evaluations could make an attractive bundle.

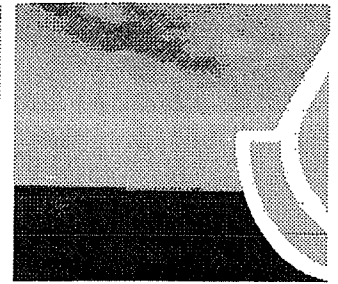
#### **Conservation Innovation Grant**

NRCS' grant program to develop new practices for conservation with three types: National, State, and On-Farm Trials. These projects are meant to help develop new tools for EQIP, as well as test them on the farm landscape in real settings. The Manure SDI and Recharge practices are examples of past CIG projects.

One idea would be to develop a NRCS practice for annual testing and calibration of flow meters, to help offset that cost. Several surrounding GSA's are planning on those requirements, so a broad partnership may be achievable.

# Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Natural Resources Conservation Service



## Overview

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand our collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns.

Through RCPP, NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address.

## Benefits

RCPP makes available a variety of NRCS conservation activities to help partners, agriculture producers, and private landowners address local and regional natural resource challenges.

## How it Works

RCPP is a partner-driven approach to conservation that funds solutions to natural resource challenges on agricultural land. This program demonstrates the power of public-private partnerships in delivering results for agriculture and conservation. Once a RCPP project is established based on the partner's goals, producers and landowners are able to work with the partner and NRCS to create contracts that carry out agreed-to conservation activities. RCPP assistance can be used on all types of agricultural operations including:

- Conventional and organic
- Specialty crops and commodity crops
- Wildlife and forestry
- Historically underserved farmers
- Livestock Operations



## How to Apply

Visit your local USDA Service center to see if your land is included in the scope of current RCPP projects. You can find your local service center find at [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

[Missouri]

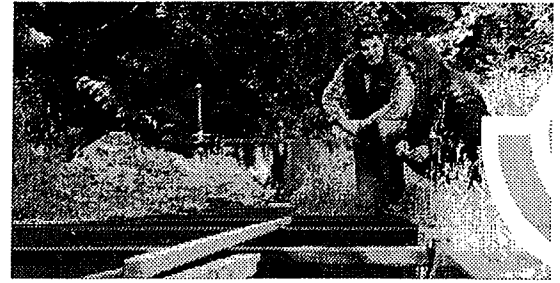
Natural Resources Conservation Service

<https://nrcs.usda.gov>



# Conservation Innovation Grants

Natural Resources Conservation Service



## Investment in Innovation

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) are competitive grants that drive public and private sector innovation in resource conservation. CIG projects inspire creative problem-solving—boosting production on farms, ranches, and private forests through improvements in water quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat.

## Program at a Glance

National and State CIG – Public and private grantees develop the tools, technologies, and strategies to support next-generation conservation efforts on working lands and develop market-based solutions to resource challenges. Grantees must match the CIG investment at least one to one.

**On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials** – Newly authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill, On-Farm Trials supports more widespread adoption of innovative approaches, practices, and systems on working lands. On-Farm Trials projects feature collaboration between NRCS and partners to implement on-the-ground conservation activities and then evaluate their impact. Incentive payments are provided to producers to offset the risk of implementing innovative approaches. The Soil Health Demo Trial (SHD) component of On-Farm Trials focuses exclusively on implementation of conservation practices and systems that improve soil health. Eligible entities receiving SHD awards agree to follow consistent soil health assessment protocols to evaluate the impacts of practice and system implementation.

## Who is Eligible?

CIG applications are accepted from state or local governments, federally-recognized American Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Caribbean Area (Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands), and the Pacific Islands Area (Guam, American Samoa, Pacific Islands Area).



CIG funds innovative, on-the-ground conservation projects, including pilot projects and field demonstrations. Proposed projects must conform to the description of innovative conservation projects or activities published in the annual funding notice. With its focus on innovation, CIG does not fund projects supporting technologies and approaches commonly used in the geographic area covered by the application, including those already eligible for funding through EQIP.

The maximum CIG award is set annually by the NRCS Chief and historically has been either \$1 million or \$2 million. An applicant's CIG funding request must be matched at least 1:1 with non-federal funding. Matching funds can be any combination of cash and in-kind contributions. The grantee is also responsible for providing the technical assistance required to successfully complete the project. NRCS will provide technical oversight for each project receiving an award.

## CIG History

Conservation Innovation Grants are competitive grants that stimulate the development and adoption of innovative approaches and technologies for conservation on agricultural lands.

First authorized by 2002 Farm Bill

Funding source: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Annual national CIG funding average: \$20 million

Total national CIGs awarded since 2004: 711

Total national CIG funding since 2004: \$286.7 million

# Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Historically Underserved Farmers, Ranchers and Forest Landowners

NRCS recognizes the need to provide special consideration to historically-underserved agricultural producers and forest landowners and strives to ensure that they benefit from innovative technologies and approaches. Each year, up to 10 percent of national CIG funds are set aside for applicants who are historically underserved (beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, military veteran farmers and ranchers, or American Indian tribes) or community-based organizations that include or represent these groups.

## How to Apply

**National CIG:** A CIG funding notice is announced each year. Funds for single- or multi-year projects, not to exceed three years, will be awarded through a nationwide competitive grants process. Projects may be watershed-based, regional, multi-state, or nationwide in scope. The natural resource concerns eligible for funding through CIG are identified in the funding announcement and may change annually to focus on new and emerging, high priority natural resource concerns.

Applications are evaluated by a technical peer review panel against criteria identified in the funding notice. The peer panel recommendations are reviewed by an NRCS Grants Review Board that makes funding recommendations to the NRCS Chief. The NRCS Chief makes the final award selections.

**State CIG:** The CIG state component emphasizes projects that benefit a limited geographical area. Participating states announce their funding availability for CIG competitions through their state NRCS offices.

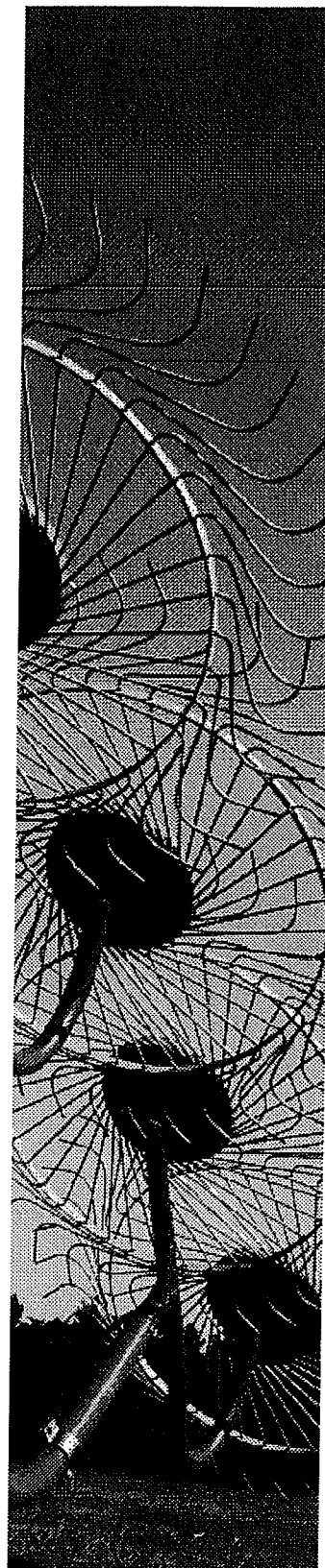
## More Information

Once funds for CIG become available, a funding notice is posted on [grants.gov](http://grants.gov), the federal e-Grants portal. The funding notice is also posted on the NRCS website: [nrcs.usda.gov](http://nrcs.usda.gov). The funding notice details CIG requirements and the information required from applicants.

Complete applications must be submitted through [grants.gov](http://grants.gov) and e-mailed to the NRCS National Office at [nrcscig@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:nrcscig@wdc.usda.gov).

For more information, visit [nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill](http://nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill) or [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov).

Find your local USDA Service Center at [farmers.gov/service-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-locator).



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## **CDFA OARS Grants (name change to Office of Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability)**

### **Healthy Soils and SWEEP Block Grants**

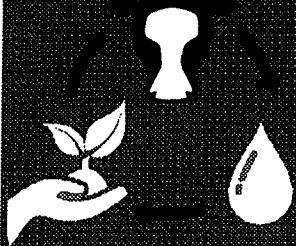
Expected to come around this fall. HSP would likely require an expansion of the service area or additional partners to be competitive. SWEEP Grant already written, just needs polish to resubmit.

### **Regional Equipment Sharing Program**

Upcoming grant to fund the purchase of equipment for sharing in a region. Potential to develop more technical advisory work, if used for healthy soils and pollinator habitat type programs. Waiting for details. \$15 million has been established as a line item in Prop 4, though about \$150 million from other nebulous programs could be used to enhance the grant. Statutory preference to applicants who benefit small, medium, and SDFR producers.

### **TAP**

Technical assistance in the form of hands-on application assistance to farmers and ranchers is critical to the success of CDFA's Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) programs. One-on-one technical assistance improves accessibility of incentive funding to agricultural operations that otherwise may not have the resources or technical expertise to complete the application process and implement the CSA programs incentivized practices.



# CDFA Climate Smart Agriculture Technical Assistance Program

## HELP AVAILABLE FOR CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE APPLICANTS AND AWARDEES

Technical assistance in the form of one-on-one and hands-on assistance to farmers and ranchers is critical to the success of CDFA's Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) programs, which include the Healthy Soils Program (HSP), State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET), and Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP). Assembly Bill 2377 of 2018 authorized CDFA's Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation to administer a Technical Assistance Grant Program. Funds awarded through this competitive grant process are distributed to Resource Conservation Districts, the University of California Cooperative Extension and nonprofit organizations to help farmers and ranchers participate in CDFA's CSA programs.

The program is prioritized to farms 500 acres and smaller and to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, including:

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

Technical assistance is:

- FREE to farmers and ranchers
- Available for application development and submission
- Ongoing for project implementation and meeting CDFA's reporting requirements

CDFA encourages farmers and ranchers to use these free resources.

Learn more at <https://cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/technical> and follow us on X @CDFAClimateNews.

Updated October 2023

## UC ANR Community Education Specialists

CDFA partners with the University of California (UC), Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) to offer CSA technical assistance. UC ANR's ten Community Education Specialists, located across the state, work closely with UC Farm Advisors and deliver personalized one-on-one assistance through all phases of CDFA's Climate Smart Agriculture incentives programs. They work closely with CDFA staff in outreach efforts, provide application assistance to farmers and can facilitate reporting and invoicing.

Find your local Community Education Specialist at:

<https://ciwr.ucanr.edu/Programs/ClimateSmartAg/TechnicalAssistanceProviders/>



**Subject:** Appointment to Excelsior-Kings River Resource Conservation District #2025-7-229  
**Date:** Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 4:33:28 PM Pacific Daylight Time  
**From:** Crystal M. Pizano  
**To:** Dusty Ference, Tiffany Flores  
**CC:** Venturella, Catherine, Sumeet Kaur, LegalDocReview

Hello Dusty,

My name is Crystal Pizano, and your inquiry was forwarded for our review by the County. As such, we are following up regarding the current vacancy on the Excelsior-Kings River Resource Conservation District (“EKR RCD” or “District”) Board, which resulted from the resignation of Tony Azevedo on February 19, 2025. Specifically, it is our understanding that the District seeks guidance on how it may fill the vacancy on the District’s Board.

In short, when a vacancy arises, the Kings County Board of Supervisors (“BOS”) has the authority to appoint a replacement pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 9314 and 9316.

Based on the information available to us, our understanding is that Mr. Azevedo was elected to the EKR RCD Board in 2018 for a four-year term, which would have ended in 2022. However, it is unclear whether he was subsequently re-elected or appointed to serve an additional term. Could you please confirm whether Mr. Azevedo was reappointed or re-elected after 2022, and, if so, the end date of that term? This information is necessary to determine the appropriate term length for the new Director. Furthermore, will you please advise if the District has anyone in mind that they would like to appoint?

Below is a summary of what is required for the Kings County BOS’s to appoint directors to the District Board.

### **Appointment of Directors in Lieu of Election**

In place of electing directors, a Resource Conservation District may adopt a resolution requesting that the BOS appoint directors. (Pub. Res. Code, § 9314, subd. (b)(1).) This resolution remains in effect until rescinded by the district board or until a petition requesting rescission is filed with the elections official. (See Pub. Res. Code § 9314, subd. (b)(2).)

According to available records, the District adopted a resolution on June 16, 1994, authorizing the Kings County BOS to appoint directors to the EKR RCD Board. However, since the County does not have a copy of the 1994 resolution and the District has been unable to locate one, a new resolution will need to be adopted. Please let us know if you would like us to assist you in drafting a resolution granting the Kings County BOS authority to make appointments to the District Board.

When appointing directors, the BOS must consult with the BOS of any other counties that are part of the District. (Pub. Res. Code, § 9314, subd. (b)(1).) Based on the District’s boundaries, it includes portions of Fresno, Tulare, and Kings counties. Therefore, the Kings County BOS must consult with the Fresno and Tulare County BOS before making any appointment to the District Board. After discussions with the County’s Clerk of the Board’s Office, we also understand that it

has been past practice to have the County Counsel's Office reach out to the other District County BOS.

Given the foregoing, we can work with the Kings County BOS to coordinate with the Fresno and Tulare County BOS if there is a candidate the District is seeking to appoint to its Board. However, before doing so, we will need the contact information or guidance regarding whom we should consult with from the Fresno County and Tulare County BOS.

**Notice of Vacancy Instead of Election**

If Directors are appointed rather than elected, no election notice is required. However, a notice of the vacancy must be posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54974. This requires posting a special vacancy notice in the following locations:

- In the office of the clerk of the local agency,
- On the agency's website or at a designated library (see Gov. Code, § 54973),
- And in other locations as determined by the legislative body.

We have discussed this with the County Clerk of the Board's Office and they have confirmed that they will assist in ensuring the notice is properly posted.

Finally, the District also has the option to fill the vacancy through an election pursuant to Government Code section 1780. (See Pub. Res. Code § 9317.) If this is an option you would like to explore this option, please let us know, and we will provide further guidance.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if you would like to discuss this further.

Thank you,

Crystal



**Lozano  
Smith**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**Crystal M. Pizano | Attorney At Law**  
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T: 559.431.5600 F: 559.261.9366

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