



EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

STEERING COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

AGENDA

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Teleconference Meeting Only

Call-In Information Provided

NOTICE: Coronavirus COVID-19

See Attached Notice Regarding COVID-19, Closure of Board Chambers to the Public During the Steering Committee Meeting.

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call
- II. Scheduled Items – *Presentation materials to be posted on ESJGroundwater.org and emailed prior to the meeting.*
 - A. Discussion /Action Items
 1. Budget and Cost Allocation (Materials to follow)
 2. Proposition 68 Grant Agreement Update
 3. Project Planning and Phase 4 Federal Relief for Infrastructure Projects
 4. Regional Conservation Partnership Program Alternative Funding Arrangement Grant (Attachment)
- III. Public Comment (non-agendized items)
- IV. Director's Comments
- V. Future Agenda Items
- VI. Adjournment

Important Notice Regarding COVID 19 and Closure of Board Chambers to the Public During Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting

On March 18, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 recognizing that COVID 19 continues to spread throughout our community resulting in serious and ongoing economic harm. Governor Newsom has therefore waived certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act relating to public participation and attendance at public meetings.

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Steering Committee Special Meeting

AGENDA

(Continued)

Based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the California Governor's Officer, *effective immediately* and while social distancing measures are imposed, Board chambers will be closed to the public during the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Steering Committee Meetings.

In order to minimize the spread of the COVID 19 virus, the following options are available to members of the public to listen to these meetings and provide comments to the Committee Members before and during the meeting:

1. You are strongly encouraged to listen to the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee meetings by attending the teleconference:

Join by Webex

Meeting number (access code): 620 830 229

Meeting password: 4SsFpxcxw44



[Join meeting](#)

Join by Phone

Toll-Free 877-226-8163

Access Code 8199361

Once connected, we request you kindly mute your phone.

2. If you wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment via email by 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to the meeting. Please submit your comment to the Secretary of the Board at ksmith@sjgov.org. Your comment will be shared with the Board members and placed into the record at the meeting. Every effort will be made to read comments received during the meeting into the record but some comments may not be read due to time limitations. Comments received after an agenda item will be made part of the record if received prior to the end of the meeting.

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Steering Committee Special Meeting

AGENDA

(Continued)

Next Scheduled Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

8:30 am to 10:00 am

City of Stockton DWSP Training Room



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

FY 2020 Regional Conservation Partnership Program Alternative Funding Arrangement

Grant Overview

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Alternative Funding Arrangement (AFA) is intended to expand eligible partners ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resources concerns. Through this program, RCPP funding is provided to partners, which in turn are responsible for working with and providing funding to producers and landowners for eligible conservation activities. There are a wide range of eligible partners through this program including states, local governments, and water districts.

Program History

This is a new program through the RCPP.

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$50 million

Award Range: \$250,000 - \$10 million

Match: 100 percent

Solicitation date: March 17, 2020

Proposal due: May 18, 2020

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=325380>



Tips

- The funding agency gives preference to partner entities that can wholly supply technical assistance to implement conservation activities
- Applicants are encouraged to work with appropriate NRCS RCPP coordinators

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

FY20 Regional Conservation Partnership Program Alternative Funding Arrangement

Detailed Summary

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

RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA) are intended to support project structures and approaches that cannot be carried out as effectively through RCPP Classic. RCPP AFA applicants must describe the innovative nature of the conservation approach they are proposing to justify potential funding through the AFA funding announcement, versus RCPP Classic. Additionally, applicants should consider the additional administrative and technical assistance responsibilities that accompany receipt of an AFA award. RCPP AFA applications must propose one of the following project types:

- Projects making infrastructure investments relating to agricultural or nonindustrial private forest production that benefit multiple producers and address natural resource concerns such as drought, wildfire, or water quality impairment on the land covered by the project
- Projects addressing natural resources concerns through targeted coordination with producers, including the development and implementation of watershed, habitat, or other area restoration plans (note that a proposal focused solely or largely on planning is unlikely to be competitive). Projects may use sophisticated targeting tools to identify priority areas for conservation or use innovative mechanisms to aggregate and streamline contracts for producers, all in service of maximizing conservation impacts at a watershed or regional scale.
- Projects that use innovative approaches to leverage the Federal investment in conservation with private financial mechanisms, in conjunction with agricultural production or forest resource management. These projects may include pay-for-performance, pay-for-success and environmental market approaches.
- Any other project consistent with program goals and objectives that cannot be effectively carried out through RCPP Classic

RCPP AFA projects can carry out any combination of land improvement/management/restoration, land rental, conservation easement, or watershed/public works activities.

Through AFAs, NRCS provides funding to partners to support conservation activities with eligible producers and landowners on (or benefitting) eligible land. RCPP AFA funding flows directly to a lead partner - not from NRCS to producers or other entities as in RCPP Classic.

Farmers, ranchers and private forest landowners access RCPP through partner entities, like conservation districts, producer associations, water districts, state or local governments, American Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, and nongovernmental organizations.

Applicant Eligibility

RCPP Eligible partners include:

- An agricultural or silvicultural producer association or other group of producers
- A State or unit of local government;
- An Indian Tribe
- A farmer cooperative
- A water district, irrigation district, rural water district or association, or other organization with specific water delivery authority to agricultural producers
- A municipal water or wastewater treatment entity
- An institution of higher education
- An organization or entity with an established history of working cooperatively with producers on agricultural land, as determined by NRCS, to address:
 - Local conservation priorities related to agricultural production, wildlife habitat development, or nonindustrial private forest land management
 - Critical watershed-scale soil erosion, water quality, sediment reduction, or other natural resource issues
- An entity, such as an Indian Tribe, State government, local government, or a nongovernmental organization that has a program that purchases agricultural land easements
- A conservation district

Given that RCPP AFA projects are designed to use alternative implementation approaches, it is anticipated that partners awarded RCPP AFA funding will have access to producer and landowner networks.

RCPP projects must be carried out on private or Tribal:

- Cropland
- Grassland
- Rangeland
- Pastureland
- Nonindustrial private forest land
- Other land incidental to agricultural production (including wetlands and riparian buffers) on which significant natural resource issues could be addressed under the program

Funding

In FY 2020, approximately \$50 million is available to support 15 awards between \$250,000 and \$10 million through this program. RCPP funds, at the time of agreement execution, remain available for the duration of the project, generally not to exceed five years from the date of partnership agreement execution.

RCPP funding provided by NRCS is divided into two categories--financial assistance (FA) and technical assistance (TA). Each RCPP partnership agreement will receive a commitment of funding as follows:

- At least 70 percent FA—these funds are provided directly to producers/eligible entities to implement eligible RCPP activities
- Up to 30 percent TA—these funds are used to support implementation of the RCPP project

A 100 percent match is required for this solicitation - project contributions should be at least equal to the NRCS investment in a RCPP project. Partner contributions can consist of any combination of direct funding and in-kind support. In addition to the lead partner, RCPP AFA projects may include direct or in-kind contributions from other entities known as “contributing partners.”

Contact Information

Program Staff

rcpp@usda.gov

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=325380>