

APPENDIX B: Regional Block Grant Application

This is the application for the Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program. The solicitation details the background and requirements to apply for funding under the program.

Application Instructions

- Each application must contain all of the materials listed in the checklist below.
- Materials should be presented in the order indicated on the checklist.
- Please complete all materials using an easy-to-read font, 11 point or larger.
- In the header or footer of each page of the application, applicants should include: (1) name of applicant and (2) sequential page numbers.
- Materials not specifically requested (e.g., press clippings or brochures) will not be considered during the evaluation.

Application Checklist

1. Cover Sheet
2. Applicant Eligibility and Capacity
3. Basin(s) Description
4. Proposal Summary
5. Partnerships and Collaboration
6. Community Engagement
7. Disadvantaged Community Benefits
8. Policy and Project Expertise
9. Budget Summary
10. Project Maps
11. Authorizing Resolution from Governing Body

1. Cover Sheet

Project Information

Project Title:

Location (County/ies):

District Number(s):

Senate:

Assembly:

SGMA Sub-basin(s) (see Appendix A – List of eligible basins):

Applicant Information

Applicant Name:

Organization Type:

Federal Employer ID Number:

Mailing Address:

Contact Person:

Title:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Partner Information *(if applicant is not a GSA or tribe)*

Partner Name:

Organization Type: Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Federal Employer ID Number:

Mailing Address:

Contact Person:

Title:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

2. Applicant Eligibility and Capacity

Eligibility

Applicants must provide all the following to demonstrate eligibility:

- Verification that the applicant is a: (1) Groundwater Sustainability Agency; (2) federally recognized California Native American tribe, or (3) non-federally recognized California Native American tribe on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission OR is a public agency; nonprofit group with 501(c) status; or Watermaster implementing an approved groundwater sustainability plan or approved alternate plan and is partnering with a GSA to submit an application.
 - Non-profit groups must provide a copy of their IRS 501(c) Tax Determination Letter.
- Evidence that the applicant is locally based or has strong working ties to local stakeholders, communities, and/or GSAs.

Capacity

Applicants must provide a short narrative description of their capacity to successfully implement the grant, should the project be funded. This description should address:

- How the applicant's board and/or management structure will contribute to the effective execution of project activities.
- Any professional staff within the applicant's employ who are qualified to develop and successfully implement the activities outlined in the proposal. The response should include a description of the skills and experience of such staff or, if the applicant does not possess such expertise, how the applicant will acquire this expertise.
- Any financial resources at the applicant's disposal to support the implementation of the grant.
- Any additional resources the applicant can draw on to ensure his/her success. Resources include, but are not limited to volunteers, physical capital, and existing partnerships.

Applicants must provide the following to demonstrate capacity:

- A copy of the current annual organizational budget.
- A copy of the most recent financial audit (if an audit is not available, a copy of the organization's recent financial statements).

3. Basin(s) Description (1/2-page maximum)

Briefly describe the basin(s) included in the proposal, including whether they are critically overdrafted, or whether they are high- or medium-priority basins where a state emergency drought declaration has been declared. Indicate whether a Groundwater Sustainability Plan has been approved for each critically overdrafted basin included in the proposal.

4. Proposal Summary (3-page maximum)

- Summarize the applicant's land repurposing vision for their region.
- Describe the proposed work to be conducted under the grant, including how the proposed work relates to the goals and objectives of the program. The summary of proposed work should include:
 - Development of a Multibenefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan
 - Project development and permitting
 - Land repurposing project implementation
 - Support of partner and collaborators' capacity needs
 - Outreach, education, and training to facilitate and build capacity to conduct land repurposing
 - Monitoring to ensure defined conservation outcomes of projects.

If the application is funded, the Department will work with the applicant to convert this summary into a work plan to be included in the grant agreement.

5. Partnerships and Collaboration (1-page maximum)

Partners are defined as organizations, government agencies, private citizens or volunteer groups that provide funds or in-kind services. Collaboration is defined as working with other organizations, government agencies, groups, and individuals to ensure that all entities work in agreement and are non-duplicative of each other's activities, and to ensure that diverse interests are meaningfully incorporated into the block grant recipient's work. Proposals that demonstrate multiple, committed partnerships and extensive collaboration with other agencies, organizations, or entities will be given more points. Applicants are urged to work collaboratively with other groups and agencies to avoid multiple proposals for the same sub-basins.

- List any participating partners and describe how each partner will contribute to the work, including their proposed financial contribution, proposed in this application. For each partnership, provide a letter of commitment explaining the relationship between the partner and applicant and outlining the partner's contributions to the proposed work.
- List any participating collaborators and describe how each collaborator will contribute to the work proposed in this application. For each collaboration, provide documentation from the relevant individual(s)/organization(s) describing those collaborations.
- Describe your plan, if any, to expand these partnerships and/or collaborations to execute the grant.

Do not submit general letters of support that do not specify the individual/organization's specific contributions to the proposal, as these will not increase the number of points awarded.

6. Community Engagement (1-page maximum)

- Describe the applicant's experience and expertise conducting effective and inclusive engagement and collaboration across diverse communities and organizations.

- Explain how the applicant will engage with and include feedback from farmers, ranchers, disadvantaged community members, tribes, and other interested practitioners in the development and implementation of their land repurposing work.
- Describe the disadvantaged community/ies to be served by the applicant's land repurposing work, and describe how the work performed will result in benefits to those communities.

7. Disadvantaged Community Benefits (1-page maximum)

A disadvantaged community is defined as a) a community with a median household income less than 80 percent of the statewide average, or b) a community where the lands are under the control of a federally recognized Tribe.

- Describe how the proposal will provide substantiated benefits to disadvantaged communities, including through project prioritization and implementation.

8. Policy and Project Expertise (1-page maximum)

Describe the applicant's land repurposing policy expertise and project implementation expertise. Applicants may demonstrate this ability in-house or through partnerships and collaborations.

9. Budget Summary

Applicants must provide a budget broken down by cost type (line item). Cost estimates should be consistent with the proposal summary. All costs must be eligible. If awarded funding, the Department will work with the applicant to refine the budget for incorporation into the Grant Agreement.

2021 Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program: BUDGET SUMMARY

Line Item

Development of Multi Benefit Agricultural Land Repurposing Plan - \$
Project Development and Permitting - \$
Land Repurposing Project Implementation - \$
Partner Capacity Needs - \$
Outreach, Education, and Training - \$
Monitoring - \$
[Optional Activities] - \$
Indirect Costs (*max 20% of grant*) - \$

TOTAL - \$

10. Project Map(s)

A location map (in PDF) that identifies the project area relative to nearby cities and/or landmarks must be included with the application.

Additional maps that further describe or otherwise support the proposal may be included as relevant (e.g., maps of the subbasins included in the proposal, maps of disadvantaged communities within the proposal area, etc).

All maps must be of sufficient resolution to be legible if printed on an 8 ½" x 11" sheet of paper.

The applicant may submit geographic information system (GIS) data along with any maps.

11. Authorizing Resolution from Governing Body

Applicants must submit a signed Resolution of Support adopted by the entity's governing body that evidences authority to submit the application and, if awarded funding, to enter into and perform under the terms of the Grant Agreement template ([Appendix C](#)).

The resolution must:

- Authorize the submittal of the grant application for a 2022 Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program grant.
- Authorize entrance into a grant agreement with the Department for the project and accept the template terms and conditions, if the project is awarded funding.
- Authorize a designated individual to, as agent, accept the award of grant funding and to execute tasks, such as signing documents, related to the application, grant agreement, reimbursement requests, if the project is awarded funding.