

# Grant discussion

February 20, 2023



science | policy | solutions

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# Why should SVGMD apply now?

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- DWR will not provide funding till end of the year and most likely only a part of the projects that SVGMD applied for will be funded
- Projects descriptions are developed and ready to be submitted
- **Projects on the ground** are the ones that will help with making groundwater sustainable and they need to start soon
  - With funding coming from other sources, projects can happen even if DWR only provide partial fundings

# Plumas Watershed Forum

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- \$1.74 million is available. Funding source - Monterey Settlement Agreement (matching funds are not directly required for anticipated projects)
- Solicitation opened January 23, 2023, Concept proposal due March 24, 2023; Grant award December 2023
- Full proposals will be requested for projects that best fit the Feather River Watershed Management Strategy priorities and considered economically feasible
- Grant Priorities
  - Water storage for augmented stream flow
  - Water quality and stream bank protection
  - Upland vegetation management
  - Groundwater retention/storage in major Aquifers
- **Sierra Valley has been identified as the highest priority for groundwater projects**

# Watershed Forum Project Concept

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*‘Priority should be given to projects which work towards meeting the requirements of the **Ag Waiver program**, fit within priorities of watershed management strategy, and include economic incentives for (and contributions from) the landowner ‘*

- **Irrigation Efficiency Advancement Project**

- Evaluate and improve the efficiency of current agricultural irrigation practices
- Would build on irrigation efficiency work conducted already
- Ranch assessments, installation of LEPA/LESA systems as described in GSP PMA
- Evaluate change in water availability for recharge

**→ Ask for about \$500,000**

# CDFW Watershed Restoration Grants

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- Over \$200 million
- **Cost share is not required** but availability of other funds may increase evaluation scores, DACs may also have a slight scoring advantage
- **No specific deadline**, applications accepted on a continuous basis – **concept proposals are first step in submittal**
- Grant priorities:
  - Protect or enhance biodiversity;
  - Climate change resiliency and connectivity;
  - Support of the State Wildlife Action Plan priority habitats;
  - Conserve or enhance working landscapes;
  - Conserve or enhance water-related projects; and/or
  - Enhance public access
  - Projects benefiting DACs

**→ Ask for about \$1,000,000**

# CDFW Project concept: Pilot Groundwater Recharge Project near Smithneck and Badenaugh Creeks

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- Priority to 'Conserve and Enhance Wetlands and Mountain Meadows in the Sierra Nevada' consistent with Wetland and Mountain Meadows Restoration priorities
- Evaluate areas impacted by wildfires compared to unimpacted areas to identify on-the-ground implementation projects to improve upland and watershed management
- Monitoring network expansion to demonstrate benefit of recharge and justify moving to larger scale projects

# Water SMART Grants- Environmental Water Resources Projects

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- \$3 million per project is available. 20-40 projects will be funded.
- Funded through Federal Bureau of Reclamation
- Solicitation opened January 24, 2023, Proposal due March 28, 2023; Grant award December 2023
- Grant Priorities
  - Water conservation and use efficiency
  - Drought resiliency
  - Benefit to ecological values or watershed health
  - Focus on Western States
- 75% of total project costs funded by Grant,
- **25% cost share/matching needed, in-kind contributions allowed or State funding**
- Applicant must include an irrigation or water district or organization with water or power delivery authority

# Eligible project types

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- Water Conservation and efficiency projects
  - Irrigation flow measurement
  - Municipal and industrial water use efficiency
- Water management or infrastructure improvements to benefit ecological values or watershed health
  - Water management changes or infrastructure improvements that will improve water supply reliability and benefit ecological value or watershed health
- Restoration Projects
  - Stream restoration to improve groundwater recharge and riparian habitat

**Irrigation Efficiency and Groundwater recharge programs would fulfill these requirements**