

Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program - May 2022

Regional Block Grant Awards

Applicant	Co Applicant	Subbasin Name(s)	Subbasin Number(s)	Senate District	Assembly District	Amount Requested	Description
Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District	Greater Kaweah GSA	Kaweah	5-022.11	12 16	32 33	\$10,000,000	This proposal will result in the development of a toolbox for assessing and selecting multibenefit land repurposing activities that protect the land-based economy, manage groundwater supply, provide short and medium term drought relief, restore wildlife habitat, and provide direct benefits to DACs. While specific land repurposing activities are not identified in the application, the applicant intends to use a bottom-up community engagement approach to develop their plan, through which they will identify which land repurposing strategies make most sense for their region. The primary goal will be to repurpose land primarily by following with the intent to restore. The applicant's partners are heavily water-focused; however, each partner is collaborating with stakeholders representing an array of interests, including farmers and ranchers, disadvantaged communities, and land conservation. Projects selected for implementation will be conducted on lands least viable for agriculture and that contribute to resource connectivity.
Pixley Irrigation District GSA	NA	Tule	5-022.13	14 16	26 32	\$10,000,000	This proposal aims to facilitate strategic land retirement, restore habitat, and protect and enhance water resources throughout the Tule Subbasin in a manner that meets regional economic, environmental, and social needs. The proposal includes planning and implementation within the three priority subregions most in need of land repurposing, as well as a subbasin-wide plan to ensure application of lessons learned from the three priority areas across the subbasin. The proposal includes funding to implement pilot projects that will be representative of future regional work (e.g., upland restoration of fallowed lands), as well as additional funding to implement yet to be identified projects. This proposal includes partnerships with a diverse group of stakeholders that would support coordinated execution of the grant, including water, disadvantaged communities, and environmental groups.
California Marine Sanctuary Foundation	Salinas Valley Basin GSA	180/400 Foot Aquifer Eastside	3-004.01 3-004.02 (not CD)	17	29	\$8,234,000	This proposal would fund work by a broad coalition of partners from multiple sectors, including disadvantaged communities and tribes, to strategically and voluntarily repurpose the least viable ag lands in Lower Salinas Valley to produce multiple water resource benefits. Partners would work to plan, develop, and implement strategies to fallow and repurpose agricultural lands for floodplain and habitat benefits. Implementation dollars would primarily be spent to acquire easements and fee title to land identified for floodplain setbacks and recharge areas and would facilitate progress toward completing project designs.
County of Madera	Madera/Chowchilla RCD, Madera County Farm Bureau, Madera Ag Water Association, CA Farmland Trust,	Chowchilla Madera Delta-Mendota	5-022.05 5-022.06 5-022.07	8 12	5	\$10,000,000	This proposal builds on SALC grant that was used to create a system to prioritize land to remain in ag and land for fallowing based on recharge potential, soil quality, and water supply. MBLR funding would be used to expand the plan regionally and explore the viability of additional land repurposing, such as habitat restoration, while using the majority of funding to provide incentive payments to landowners to repurpose marginal agricultural lands. Partnerships reflect water and habitat interests.
						<b>\$38,234,000</b>	

Statewide Support Entity Award

Applicant	Co Applicant	Subbasin Name(s)	Subbasin Number(s)	Senate District	Assembly District	Amount Requested	Description
Self-Help Enterprises	Environmental Defense Fund California Water team	Statewide	Statewide	Statewide	Statewide	\$2,000,000	This proposal will support coordinated implementation of the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program across regions throughout the state. Together, the applicant and co-applicant will provide technical assistance and facilitate communication and collaboration among block grant recipients and will assist organizations interested in applying for future funding in developing competitive applications. The team will support meaningful engagement of historically underserved groups, such as small farmers, farmers of color, disadvantaged communities, and tribes to ensure that these stakeholders have the ability to shape the direction of the program. Through this work, we will create multibenefit land repurposing models, form communities of practice, and capture learning that can motivate future action and demonstrate success.