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### State budget increased for Climate-Smart Agriculture initiatives

Governor Newsom finalized a set of budget bills in June that boosts California's Climate-Smart Agriculture initiatives, increasing the budget from previous years and helping farmers become more resilient to climate change.

Some highlights from the budget package, signed by Governor Newsom, include the following:



- \$85 million for the [Healthy Soils Program](#) (up from \$75 million).
- \$50 million for the [State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program \(SWEET\)](#).
- \$48 million for dairy methane programs, including prioritization for the [Alternative Manure Management Program](#) (up from \$32 million).
- \$25 million in additional funding for the [Sustainable Agricultural Conservation Program \(SALCP\)](#).
- \$15 million for the [Pollinator Habitat Program](#) created at CDFA last year.
- \$5 million for [drought relief for underserved farmers](#).

## **\$66 million awarded in Healthy Soils incentives grants – a new record!**

The HSP Incentives Program provides financial incentives to California growers and ranchers to implement conservation management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs), and improve soil health.



On the latest solicitation round in 2021, **CDFA awarded \$66 million in Healthy Soils Program incentives grants to 940 projects.** This is the highest allocation in a single year in the program's history, awarding more than 70% of the submitted applications.

So far the Healthy Soils Program has funded 1,513 incentives projects totaling \$98 million between 2017 and 2021. These projects will sequester 350,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents.

The upcoming solicitation round for the 2022 period will likely open in the next few months. Farmers are encouraged to obtain the required documentation and apply early, since previous rounds awarded funds on a rolling basis. For more information and assistance, contact Maria Ridoutt at [mridoutt@ucanr.edu](mailto:mridoutt@ucanr.edu) or 661-903-9442.

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## **Seeds for Bees: Healthier soils with cover crops – Deadline Aug 31<sup>st</sup>**

Seeds For Bees **provides growers free or subsidized cover crop seeds** designed by Project Apis m., along with technical support. This incentive gives growers an opportunity to try out cover crops for themselves at a reduced cost so that they can experience the benefits first hand.

[Enrollment is open](#) from June 1 through August 31, 2022, to California farmers growing honey bee pollinated crops, nuts, and fruits.



## **New grants from San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District**

The SJVAPCD develops and administers a comprehensive suite of highly-successful voluntary incentive programs targeted at reducing harmful emissions throughout the Valley. They have recently launched two new grants:



## **San Joaquin Valley** **AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT**

### **Zero-Emission Agricultural UTV Program**

Provides monetary incentives for the replacement of existing diesel or gasoline-powered UTVs and tractors with less than 25 horsepower with new, zero-emission UTVs to qualified individuals, businesses, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations involved in a California agricultural operation.

The incentive amount is up to 75% of the eligible cost of new equipment, with a maximum eligible funding amount of \$13,500. Funds are provided on a first come, first serve basis and applicants must obtain a signed voucher from the SJVAPCD prior to the purchase of new equipment.

For additional assistance, please contact:

SJVAPCD Grants & Incentives Department  
Phone: (559) 230-5800  
Email: [grants@valleyair.org](mailto:grants@valleyair.org)  
Website: [www.valleyair.org/grants](http://www.valleyair.org/grants)

### **Small Farmer Certified Pre-Owned Agricultural Equipment Pilot Program**

Now accepting applications to replace Tier 0 or 1 diesel agricultural equipment with used Tier 3 or cleaner equipment.

This Pilot Program is available for small operations (100 acres or less) only and will be funded based on the total acreage of all of the applicant's agricultural operations in the San Joaquin Valley.

The incentive is not to exceed 80% of all eligible replacement equipment costs.

For more information on this new Pilot Program, please contact District Off-Road Program Staff at 559-230-5800 or [click here](#).

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