

June 14, 2023

The California Department of Water Resources has announced a grant program called LandFlex. It is a land fallowing and groundwater reduction program for 2023. If it is successful, our understanding is that they want to continue it in future years subject to available funding. LTRID & PIXLEY GSAs applied earlier this year in the first round of applications. Though, our GSAs were not awarded in the first round, DWR is now opening up the program to landowners in our GSAs. The application period opens today, 6/14/2023.

Here is a flier summarizing the program: [LandFlex flier](#)

Highlights:

- Land must be fallowed for a 12 month period
- Cover crops and recharge activities are allowed on fallowed land. For a list of acceptable cover crops in the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's jurisdiction, check https://ucanr.edu/sites/covercrops/Cover_Crop_Species_Selection_Tools/Cover_Crop_Database/ and https://ucanr.edu/sites/covercrops/Cover_Crop_Species_Selection_Tools/Common_Cover_Crops/.
- Cap: 40 acres or 25% of acres owned in the GSA (whichever is greater).
 - o Landowners will apply at www.landflex.org. Starting 6/14/2023
 - o Must provide FSA-578 form for proof of farmed acreage.
 - o Must provide CCC-941 form or CPA prepared document for proof of income. 3-year average adjusted gross income must be less than \$2.5 million.
 - o Proximity to domestic wells is the main scoring criteria to determine which applications get funded. Other criteria to be considered: Proximity to deepest groundwater areas in the GSA and lands being converted to recharge basins

Funding:

- o \$350/acre-foot fallowing. Determined by comparing ET on the enrolled acres from fallowed year vs. previous year.
- o \$1,000/acre-foot for overdraft allocations sold to the program. This is a one time payment but also includes future overdraft allocations to the enrolled acres. 2023 Transitional allocations to be sold to the program: 2 acre-feet per acre
- o Option to retire additional overdraft allocations. Landowners who wish to sell additional Transitional water to the program must put in a bid for the amount of water and the \$\$\$/acre-foot that they are willing to sell. The GSA will verify the amount of additional overdraft is consistent with the landowner accounts and will determine how much will be bought. This will be compensated as an additional Sustainability Payment.
- o Land use transition. Payments for orchard removal, purchase of upcycled ag waste for dairy feed replacement, cover cropping costs are examples of eligible payments.
 - Plan must be submitted as part of landowner application.
 - Invoices and photos are required to be submitted
 - Funding available:
 - Row crops: up to \$250/acre
 - Dairy Feed Replacement: up to \$2,000/acre
 - Orchard and Vine removal: up to \$2,800/acre

Process

- o LandFlex Portal will open
- o Growers submit applications,

o DWR, DWR's technical advisor partners and the GSA to score applications within one week

Questions:

o Reach out to Western United Dairymen:

-Anja Raudabaugh: anja@wudairies.com

-Allison Tristao: allison@wudairies.com

More information can be found at: <https://water.ca.gov/landflex>

Sincerely,

Eric Limas

General Manager