



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & BUILDING
Small Farm Assistance Program Application

This application is for the Small Farm Assistance Program. The Small Farm Assistance Program offers monetary incentives for property owners to remove irrigated agriculture and fallow the land through December 31, 2039.

Date of Application Submittal: _____

Site Address: _____

APN (s): _____ Size of Site (acres): _____

Owner/Applicant Name (to appear on rebate check): _____

List any adjacent parcels that are under the same ownership: _____

Mailing address (for rebate check): _____

Site Description:

Describe the current state of the site, the site's irrigation history since January 1, 2016, and Williamson Act status (if under active contract).

Plan Description:

Describe the post-conversion plan, demonstrate how noxious weeds will be limited/prevented and soil erosion will be minimized.

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Existing Crops & Water Demand On-Site

Date Planted	Crop Type	Acreage	Applied Water by Crop Type (AFY/acre)*	Water Demand (AFY)*
Total Existing Water Demand (AFY):				

* See water demand calculation method on next page. Attach additional pages if needed.

Water Demand Calculation

Water Demand (AFY) = Applied Water (AFY/acre) x Acreage

Applied water shall be determined based on the crop type as follows:

- **Crops shown in Table 2 and Table 3 below**

Fill in the applied water figures as specified in Table 2 and Table 3 below.

- **Crops not shown in Table 2 and Table 3 below**

Leave the applied water section blank. Irrigated crops that do not fall into one of the crop groups listed in Table 2 and Table 3 will be assigned an applied water amount by a joint committee of representatives from the Department of Planning and Building, Department of Public Works, and the Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures, in consultation with UC Cooperative Extension.

- **Supplementally Irrigated Dry Croplands**

Lands which produce supplementally irrigated dry croplands (see Table 2 for crop types) are not eligible for the Small Farm Assistance Program.

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Table 2: Crop Group and Commodities Used for the Agricultural Demand Analysis

Crop Group	Primary Commodities
Alfalfa	Alfalfa
Nursery	Christmas trees, miscellaneous nursery plants, flowers
Pasture	Miscellaneous grasses, mixed pastures
Citrus	Avocados, grapefruits, lemons, oranges, olives, kiwis, pomegranates (non-deciduous)
Deciduous	Apples, apricots, berries, peaches, nectarines, plums, figs, pistachios, persimmons, pears, quinces
Strawberries	Strawberries
Vegetables	Artichokes, beans, miscellaneous vegetables, mushrooms, onions, peas, peppers, tomatoes
CBD Hemp	Field Grown CBD Hemp
Vineyard	Wine grapes, table grapes

Table 3: Existing Crop-Specific Applied Water by Crop Type

Crop Group	Applied Water (AF/Ac/Yr)
Alfalfa	4.5
Citrus	2.3
Deciduous	3.5
Strawberries	2.3 ⁽¹⁾
Nursery	2.5
Pasture	4.8
Vegetables	1.9
CBD Hemp	1.5 ⁽²⁾
Vineyard	1.25 ⁽¹⁾

1. Information obtained from RCD Program, UCCE, UC Davis (Strawberries 2011 data)
 2. Information obtained from UCCE, San Luis Obispo County Cooperative Extension, April 2019
 Source: *Table 9 of the Agricultural Water Offset Program, Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, October 2014.*

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Include these attachments with your application:

- Farming Unit designation (to be assigned by the County).
- Ownership information for the enrolled lands (i.e., a Farming Unit may contain parcels under different ownership).
- APN designations for all parcels located within the Farming Unit.
- A Map (or Maps) delineating the irrigated fields that are the subject of the application. The map(s) shall depict the crop type for each field, estimated crop age, type of irrigation system(s) installed, and source of water supply, including the location of the irrigation supply well(s), associated irrigation lines, and other irrigation related equipment.
- A description of the proposed land repurposing/fallowing strategies to be implemented.
- A description of what measures are going to be taken to avoid unintended consequences such as dust, weeds, pests, and soil degradation. The property must be actively managed to avoid substantial growth of noxious weeds.
- A current title report or lot book guarantee.
- Landowner consent form.
- A signed Terms and Conditions page.

What to expect after your application is accepted as complete:

- County Planning staff will reach out to schedule a site inspection.
- Sign a deed restriction which restricts, or limits uses or activities on a property to those which are consistent with the approved plan and ensures that groundwater continues to be offset by the termination of irrigation operations through December 31, 2039.

Submit application with attachments and any questions about the Small Farm Assistance Program to waterprograms@co.slo.ca.us.