

Water-related Agricultural Sustainability

The objective of this focal area is to promote water-related agricultural sustainability projects related to the protection of California's rivers, lakes, streams and watersheds (Water Code Section 79732). Examples include, but are not limited to:~~that also improve ecosystem or watershed condition, functions, and resiliency. Examples include projects that:~~

- Projects that improve water management to support agriculture and provide other benefits within watersheds, including but not limited to flood protection, urban water supplies, and/or ecosystem health.
- ~~and water quality and/or ecosystems.~~
- Minimize detrimental impacts to water quality, including:
 - ~~Conservation on agricultural lands that will result in pollution runoff reduction.~~
 - ~~Modification of planting, harvesting, irrigating, or other practices on productive fields to improve water quality.~~
- Projects that minimize the detrimental ecological impacts of water diversions for agriculture, including by consolidating existing intakes, screening new intakes, and installing new pumps to improve irrigation efficiency by reducing water and power consumption.
- Sustain agricultural productivity and enhance the habitat value of agricultural lands, including:
 - Projects that increase support for native terrestrial wildlife through planting hedgerows and native vegetation to that increases the presence of native pollinators beneficial to crop production.~~support for native terrestrial wildlife.~~
 - Projects that modify planting, harvesting, irrigating, or other practices on productive fields to improve habitat value and increase agricultural productivity, such as by reducing the need for costly pesticide applications.
 - ~~Implementing flexible and responsible management in agricultural areas to support diverse and dynamic wildlife habitats.~~
 - ~~Managing agricultural fields in a way that mimics seasonal wetland or floodplain habitat.~~
- Minimize the distance from wildlife friendly agriculture to nearby wildland areas that benefit similar species. Projects that install livestock exclusion fencing along drainage canals and other sensitive waterways to improve water quality, reduce habitat disturbance, and improve livestock health.
- Projects that develop and implement best management practices for pesticide and fertilizer applications to reduce chemical use (and associated costs) and improve the quality of agricultural discharges.
- Projects that assist with the exclusion or drainage of seepage water to reduce salinity intrusion and support continued farming.

- Projects that support agricultural sustainability in areas where agriculture is impacted by restoration or other water-related projects.
- Projects that aAcquire an interest in real property to protect agricultural and ecosystem benefits, such as by contributing to improved agricultural water management.