

## STATE WATER BOARD AWARDS \$17 MILLION FOR AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY PROJECTS

The State Water Resources Control Board has awarded more than \$17 million in grants to improve agricultural water quality. Project sites throughout the state focus on reducing pollutants in agricultural drainage water through research, monitoring, treatment, reuse, and drainage improvements.

The competitively awarded grants are funded by the state through bonds approved by California voters in 2002 in Propositions 40 and 50. In all, 23 grants were awarded, totaling a little more than \$17.5 million. Nine of those grants are in the million dollar range (\$999,000 or more).

Projects funded by the grants will improve agricultural runoff from Imperial County to Siskiyou County, from the California coast to the Central Valley. In addition to funding projects throughout the state, a variety of agricultural practices that can be duplicated by other farmers are expected to be developed and refined to improve water quality.”

Goals of the projects that were awarded grants include:

- restoring a portion of the Napa River;
- reducing nutrients, sediment, and pathogens draining from livestock facilities;
- demonstrating the compatibility of water quality and food safety;
- reducing pesticides and herbicides that run off of orchards, and;
- establishing best water quality management practices for rice growers

The State Water Board administers a number of grant and loan programs that help protect human health and the environment by guarding water bodies, improving drinking water and wastewater treatment and cleaning up California’s beaches, shores, and ocean.

### Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program (AWQGP) Funding list

<b>PIN</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>
9012	Implement projects at livestock facilities to reduce nutrient, sediment and pathogen pollution (multiple counties)	\$999,900
9314	Napa River Restoration project, Rutherford (Napa County)	\$1,000,000
9300	Integrated, regional dairy management plan, implementing best management practices in the San Jacinto watershed (Riverside County)	\$739,069

<b>PIN</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>
9531	Strategy to resolve methylmercury and low dissolved oxygen events in the northern Suisun Marsh (Solano County)	\$795,000
8978	Coordinate permit and agricultural water quality implementation program in the Pajaro watershed (Santa Cruz County)	\$999,660
8939	Demonstrate compatibility of water quality and food safety through research and implementation (Santa Cruz County)	\$1,000,000
9374	Monitor Salton Sea ecosystem (Imperial County)	\$810,000
9492	Agricultural operator voluntary program for the San Jacinto watershed (Riverside County)	\$273,000
9234	Implement best management practices for water quality for Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta rice production (San Joaquin County)	\$999,981
9161	Reduce unexplained toxicity to protect sediment quality associated with irrigated agriculture (multiple counties)	\$532,000
8925	Implement agricultural clean water fish-friendly farming program (multiple counties)	\$750,000
9399	Restore Hedrick Ranch Nature Area wetland and riparian sites (Ventura County)	\$605,456
9176	Establish best management practices to reduce sediment and pesticides in runoff from almond orchards(Colusa County)	\$1,000,000
8853	Improve distribution facilities for Westside Regional Drainage Plan (multiple counties)	\$1,000,000
9308	Monitor and reduce nutrients in Santa Margarita watershed (multiple counties)	\$600,000
9395	Cycle and export methylmercury from agricultural and natural wetlands in the Yolo Bypass (Yolo County)	\$999,881

<b>PIN</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>
8986	Shasta River tailwater reduction: demonstration and implementation project (Siskiyou County)	\$735,490
8850	Selby Creek Stream Habitat Restoration and Riparian Re-vegetation project (Napa County)	\$475,000
8952	Implement integrated pest management best management practices to reduce pesticide runoff from agricultural land in the San Joaquin Watershed (multiple counties)	\$744,175
9445	Orange County nurseries water quality improvement project	\$372,000
9243	Research and implement best management practices to protect water quality from central coast vineyards (San Luis Obispo County)	\$680,000
9123	Central valley water quality improvement (Merced County)	\$999,997
9435	Study transport processes of Pyrethroid insecticides in streams and rivers of the San Joaquin basin (multiple counties)	\$400,000

A full list of projects, including the Regional Water Boards in whose territory each project is located, is available at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/agendas/2006/october/1011\\_04.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/agendas/2006/october/1011_04.pdf)

For a county-by-county view of the funded projects, please navigate to the map at:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press/awqgp.html>

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