

## 12-410-555 - Extending Agricultural BMPs in the Lower San Joaquin River

**PURPOSE:** State shall provide a grant to and for the benefit of Grantee for the purpose of helping farmers implement agricultural BMPs, including Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices in the cultivation of cotton, alfalfa, and almonds, and reduce the use of diazinon and chlorpyrifos to seventy-five percent (75%) or less than the county average.

### B. PROJECT-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

#### 1. Recruit Growers

- 1.1 Hold annual recruitment fairs, during the first three (3) months of the first two (2) years of the Project, to showcase the Project to area farmers that cultivate alfalfa, almonds and cotton, and invite them to participate in implementing agricultural BMPs. Announce the event via local press releases, mailers, and news articles. Provide project-related incentives to come to the meeting. Incentives will include technical advice and services such as well water testing and soil testing. Submit the recruitment fair announcements, agendas, and attendance lists to the Grant Manager.
- 1.2 Contact a minimum of twenty-five (25) previous farmer partners and invite them into the program to serve as mentors.
- 1.3 Participate in the Westside Watershed Coalition meetings and encourage growers to participate in the program. Submit the meeting information to the Grant Manager.

#### 2. Complete Grower Enrollment Paperwork

- 2.1 Complete thirty (30) to thirty-five (35) grower enrollment applications which collect identifying information critical to program effectiveness evaluation. This will include grower identification, field code, acres enrolled in the program, acres of target crops grown in total, known pest and disease problems, growers' areas of concern, practices they are interested in implementing, and specific knowledge they would like to gain. Submit the signed enrollment applications to the Grant Manager.
- 2.2 Assist a minimum of thirty (30) new growers in completing the relevant existing self-assessment workbook for their specific crop(s) during the first six (6) months of enrollment and submit the workbook to the Grant Manager.

#### 3. Plan and Implement BMPs for Each Enrolled Property

- 3.1 Create a map of each property enrolled in the program, identifying Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates for farms, total acreage, noting which portion of the property is enrolled in the program, and areas of concern identified in a farmer's completed workbook. Submit the maps to the Grant Manager.
- 3.2 Create a written BMP implementation plan and MP for each enrolled farm. Plans will include materials needed to undertake BMPs and BMPs selected for use on each farm. Submit the BMP implementation plans and MPs to the Grant Manager for approval.
- 3.3 Implement selected BMPs on each of the enrolled farms per the approved written implementation plans. Develop a summary document with a compilation of the BMPs implemented each year on enrolled farms and submit it to the Grant Manager.

#### 4. Outreach and Technology Transfer Activities

- 4.1 Compose a weekly blog during the growing season to highlight field activities and provide links to important information. Blogs are posted at <http://centralvalleyfarmscout.blogspot.com>. Submit copies of the weekly blog in monthly progress reports.
- 4.2 Conduct at least six (6) field days per year, during the first two (2) years of the Project, to share important water quality and crop information. Submit the field day announcements, sign-in sheets and evaluations to the Grant Manager.
- 4.3 Publish two (2) Project newsletters per year and submit to the Grant Manager.
- 4.4 Invite reporters from agriculture and trade publications to field days to ensure wide visibility of efforts to reduce pollutant loads in the San Joaquin River. Secure at least one (1) publication per year. Submit the published articles, presentations, and publications to the Grant Manager.
- 4.5 Collect monitoring data from each farm and distribute weekly field notes during the growing season to enrolled growers, enabling growers to see what is happening on other farms and how other growers respond to on-farm resource issues. Submit the field notes to the Grant Manager.
- 4.6 Update the Grantee's website monthly, with information and publications relevant to the Project. Notify the Grant Manager of any updates.

## 5. Evaluation and Follow-Up

- 5.1 Complete an annual grower survey, during the first two (2) years of the Project, with each enrolled grower to understand what prompted them to enroll in the Project, what they learned, what did and did not work, and how they will continue to apply the BMPs after the completion of the Project. Submit a copy of the survey and a summary of the survey responses to the Grant Manager.
- 5.2 Conduct pre-and post-photo monitoring of BMP implementation to illustrate results and submit the photos to the Grant Manager.
- 5.3 Analyze water quality data and reports from the Westside San Joaquin Valley Watershed Coalition to determine the success of reaching the Project goal to reduce chlorpyrifos and diazinon by twenty thousand (20,000) pounds from the total acreage of the three (3) crops in the watershed. Submit the results to the Grant Manager in the Final Project Report.
- 5.4 Confirm adherence to the Project goal of reducing the use of chlorpyrifos and diazinon to seventy-five percent (75%) or less than the county average, by crop, for all Project participants during the first implementation year. Submit the Project goal results to the Grant Manager in the Final Project Report.