

12-405-252 - Farm Water Quality Planning in the Sonoma Creek Watershed

PURPOSE: State shall provide a grant to and for the benefit of Grantee for the purpose of reducing non-point source pollution in the Sonoma Creek Watershed by working with vineyard owners and managers in facilitating the completion of a third party certification program and fifteen (15) certified Farm Water Quality Plans within five thousand (5,000) to ten thousand (10,000).acres of vineyard property in the Sonoma Creek Watershed.

B. PROJECT-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

1. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

- 1.1 Convene a TAC to provide input on a Farm Water Quality Plan template, third party certification program, site prioritization, and other aspects of this Project.
- 1.2 Solicit participation from representatives in areas of vineyard agricultural practices, erosion and sediment control, habitat conservation, and nonpoint source pollution regulation. Submit a list of TAC members to the Grant Manager for approval.
- 1.3 Schedule and conduct a minimum of five (5) TAC meetings and submit the sign-in sheets, agendas and minutes to Grant Manager.

2. Third Party Certification Process

- 2.1 Develop eligibility criteria for members who will serve as the third-party certification panel with input from the Grant Manager.
- 2.2 Select certification panel members and submit a list to the Grant Manager for approval.
- 2.3 Develop a process by which the certification panel will review Farm Water Quality Plans, verify site conditions, and confirm that existing and proposed management practices are appropriate and will be effective.

3. Third Party Certification Program

- 3.1 Develop a Third-Party Certification Program, either individually or in partnership with another third-party program, consistent with the goals of the State Water Board's Policy for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control and the Regional Water Board's Vineyard Program.
- 3.2 Develop the Farm Water Quality Plan assistance materials (including a farm plan template, a checklist, or an online tool), with input from the Grant Manager and the TAC.
- 3.2 Develop a process (workshops/training, site visits, outreach, etc.) for using the Farm Water Quality Plans assistance materials, to assist farmers in developing complete and accurate Farm Water Quality Plans.
- 3.3 Describe the Farm Water Quality Plan evaluation process (developed under item 2.3 above) including site inspection and auditing frequency proposed for future farm planning efforts conducted under the Third-Party Certification Program.
- 3.4 Submit the final Farm Water Quality Plan assistance materials, outreach materials, and evaluation process to the Grant Manager.

4. Site Prioritization and Selection Criteria for Farm Water Quality Plans

- 4.1 Work with the TAC and certification panel to develop site selection process and criteria and submit description of process and criteria to the Grant Manager for approval.
 - 4.2 Analyze priority sites in a watershed context using the Sediment Source Analysis model and other appropriate tools such as the Site Prioritization Criteria Geographic Information System (GIS) based model developed by Sonoma Ecology Center to select fifteen (15) vineyard properties for the farm planning program. Submit the electronic files of land use and HUC-12 watershed scale GIS layers with applicable progress reports (GIS data submitted will not be specific to location of participating sites).
5. Public Outreach and Education of Nonpoint Source Pollution Control
 - 5.1 Create and distribute outreach materials (e.g. workshop binders, flyers, templates, etc.), including advertisements for workshops. Submit a summary of activities to the Grant Manager in applicable progress reports.
 - 5.2 Solicit workshop presenters and guest speakers to discuss the process of developing a Farm Water Quality Plan, financial and technical resources available, and the certification and waiver process. Facilitate, and conduct workshops. Submit a list of presenter and guest speaker participants and the workshop agenda to the Grant Manager in applicable progress reports.
6. Farm Water Quality Plans
 - 6.1 Identify fifteen (15) vineyard landowners for Farm Water Quality Planning assistance based on selection process and criteria and submit a list of selected sites and the rationale for their selection to the Grant Manager.
 - 6.2 Prepare Farm Water Quality Plans for the identified fifteen (15) sites that identify, plan, and schedule effective management practices to control nonpoint source pollution associated with vineyards.
 - 6.3 Work with the certification panel to certify fifteen (15) Farm Water Quality Plans. Review the Farm Water Quality Plans and conduct site visits to confirm that the plans are complete and accurate and the participants are implementing management practices as scheduled. Submit a list of certified sites on a watershed map, with facility name and location, to the Grant Manager in progress reports.
 - 6.4 Assist interested vineyard owners/managers with completing applications for financial assistance in compliance with the Regional Water Board's vineyard program to promote nonpoint source pollution control on an as-needed basis and submit a summary of activities in progress reports.