



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Rural Development



Water & Environmental Programs

Topics

- About USDA Rural Development
- Water and Environmental Programs (WEP)
- Example Projects

USDA Rural Development Programs



Rural Housing & Community Facilities	Rural Utilities Service	Rural Business & Cooperative Service
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homeownership Loans• Home Repair Loans & Grants• Mutual Self-Help TA Grants• Multi-Family Housing Loans• Housing Preservation Grants• Community Facilities Loans & Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electric Program• Water & Environmental Programs• Telecommunications and Broadband Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans• Rural Business Development Grants• Intermediary Relending Program• Rural Energy for America Program• Advanced Biofuel Payment Program• Value Added Producer Grants• Cooperative Development Assistance

USDA Investments - \$949 Million in FY22



Water and Environmental Programs (WEP)

WEP Funding Programs

1. Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant
2. Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants
3. Colonia Grants
4. Native American Grants
5. SEARCH Grants
6. Predevelopment Planning Grants (PPG)



Water and Environmental Programs

Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant

1. Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program

- Eligible applicants include public bodies (including special districts), nonprofit corporations and federally-recognized tribes.
- Population of 10,000 or less
- Comprehensive funding: construction, engineering fees, land, legal fees, and environmental costs
- Loans can be combined with grants to keep user costs reasonable

Water and Environmental Programs

Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant

Rates & Terms

- Interest Rates are established each quarter.
- Currently 2.2500% – 3.7500%
- Interest Rate Based on State nonmetropolitan median household income
- Terms: 40 years

Water and Environmental Programs

Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant

Continued – Rates & Terms

100% California Nonmetropolitan

Median Household Income = \$62,883

Market Rate	3.7500%	Above 100% -	\$62,883
Intermediate Rate	3.0000%	80% to 100% -	\$50,307 - \$62,883
Poverty Rate	2.2500%**	Below 80% -	Less than \$50,307

** Must also correct a serious health or safety violation

Water and Environmental Programs

Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant

Grant Eligibility

Up to 45% Grant

- Service area has a MHI \$50,307 – \$62,883

Up to 75% Grant

- Service area has a MHI below \$50,307 and project is needed to alleviate health or sanitary problem.

Water and Environmental Programs

ECWAG

2. Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant (ECWAG)

- Assists rural communities that have experienced a significant decline in the quantity or quality of water directly caused by an emergency incident
- Emergency incidents can include drought, earthquake, flood, landslide
- Grants may cover 100% of project costs up to \$1 million
- Funds can be used to develop new water sources and for water treatment

Water and Environmental Programs

Colonia 306C Grants

3. Colonia Grants 306C

- Must be located within 150 miles from the U.S.-Mexico Border
- All Colonias in California are located in Imperial, San Diego, or southern Riverside Counties
- \$3 million is available for California
- Projects that correct serious health or sanitary problems associated with drinking water and waste disposal systems.

Water and Environmental Programs

Native American 306C Grant

4. Native American 306C Grant

- Projects that correct serious health or sanitary problems associated with drinking water and waste disposal systems.
- Per capita income must be $\leq \$18,590$
- Unemployment rate must be no less than 4.375%
- \$4 million maximum per project in FY23
- Approx. \$25 million nationally available FY23

Water and Environmental Programs

SEARCH Grants

5. SEARCH Grants

- Eligible Areas - Rural areas with a population of 2,500 or less
- Have a median household income below \$50,306 (80% of State Non-metropolitan median household income)
- \$30,000 max grant to pay for predevelopment planning costs to support applications for WEP funding

Water and Environmental Programs

Predevelopment Planning Grants

6. Predevelopment Planning Grants

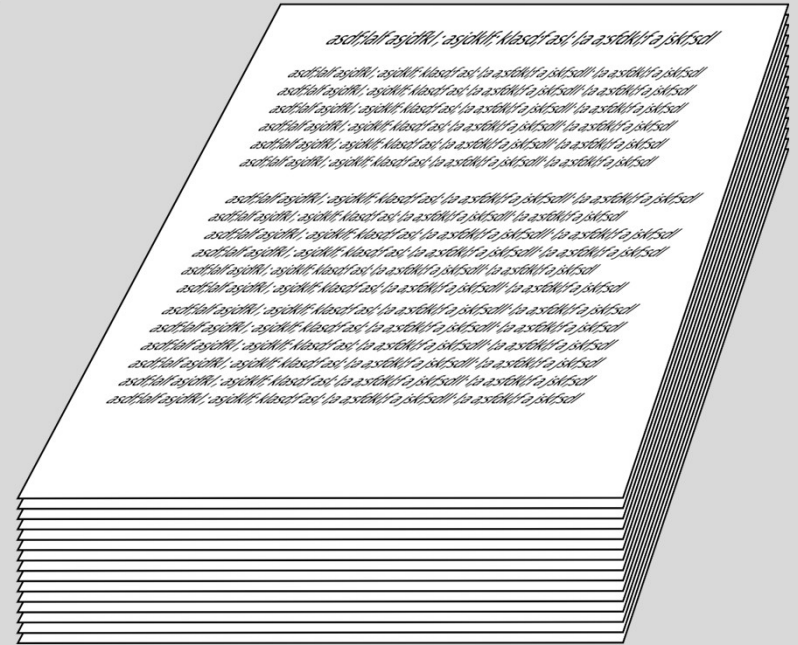
- Eligible Areas - Rural areas with a population of 10,000 or less
- Have a median household income below \$50,306 (80% of State Non-metropolitan median household income)
- \$60,000 max grant to pay for predevelopment planning costs to support applications for WEP funding
- Requires that at least 25% of the project cost come from the applicant or third-party sources. In-kind contributions are not allowed.

Water and Environmental Programs

Applying for Funding

Application Process

- Build community support
- Initial Meeting with USDA
- PER/Environmental
- Complete Application
- Letter of Conditions
- Obligate Funding
- Disbursement after loan/grant closing or start of construction



Water and Environmental Programs RD Apply

Online Application Intake System for WEP

- Convenience
- Identity Security – all users obtain e-authentication
- Faster Application Process – other persons authorized
- Reduced Paper Consumption
- Applicant's official with signature authority

<https://rdapply.usda.gov>



WEP Example: San Simeon CSD, RO membrane filtration

Total Project = \$989,600

USDA ECWAG = \$500,000



Example: Rio Alto, WWTP & Constructed Wetlands

Total Project Costs = \$7,329,329

Partners: CWSRF, NSVIRMP

USDA WEP loan/grant = \$5,441,000



CF & WEP Example: City of Woodlake

Combined USDA Investments of Nearly \$30 million!



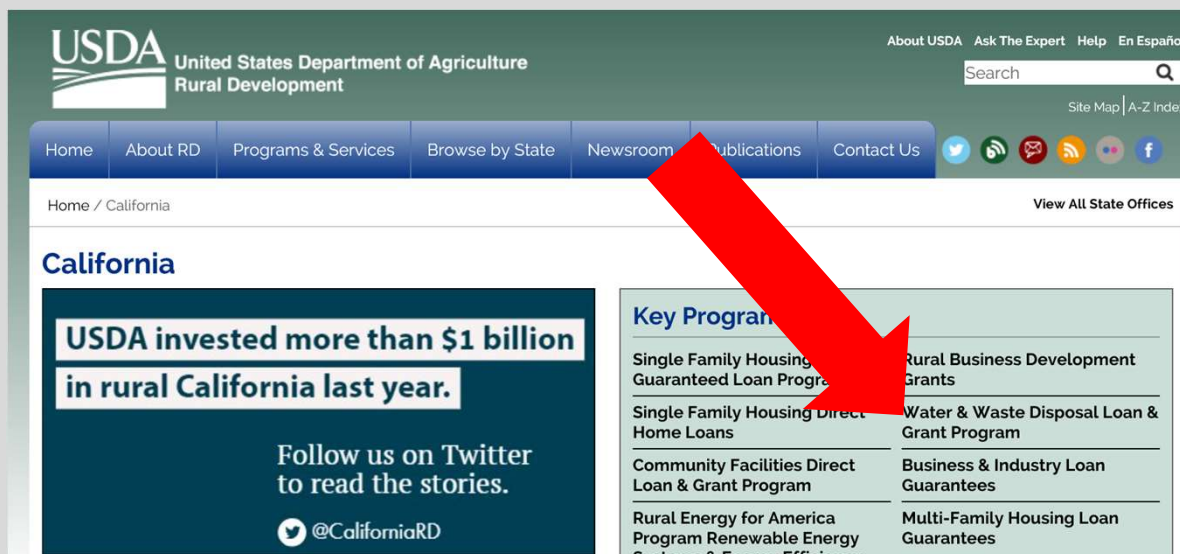
CF Loans = \$6,177,100
CF Grants = \$154,100



WEP Loans = \$17,479,000
WEP Grants = \$5,821,000

USDA Staff Available to Help

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California

USDA invested more than \$1 billion in rural California last year.

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Key Programs

Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program	Rural Business Development Grants
Single Family Housing Direct Home Loans	Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program
Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program	Business & Industry Loan Guarantees
Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency	Multi-Family Housing Loan Guarantees



Questions?





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