



URCTA Program for Small Farmers: Step-by-Step

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) provides Technical Assistance (TA) services to eligible Small Farmers (definition provided on the opposite side of this sheet) in basins regulated under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Examples of Technical Assistance services are provided on the opposite side of this sheet. **TA services are provided free of charge.**

1 Initial engagement with the Small Farmer is initiated by one or more of the Technical Assistance Providers, collectively known as the TA Services Team: University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), California Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF), and Dudek. All services will be provided in the language requested by the Small Farmer.

2 Initial site visit/meeting and needs assessment for the Small Farmer will occur with one or more of the TA Services Team (UCCE, CAFF, Dudek).

3 The TA Services Team will prepare an initial summary report of the site visit and needs assessment and the proposed technical assistance to address the vulnerabilities/risks outlined in the Needs Assessment. The TA Services Team will work with the Small Farmer throughout all steps of the process.

4 TA services for the Small Farmer will begin when the type and scope of services are agreed upon by all.

5 The Small Farmer has regular check-in meetings with the TA Services Team (UCCE, CAFF, and/or Dudek) throughout the process.

6 Any deliverables, such as preliminary engineering reports, design documents, well reports, etc., will be reviewed for comment by the Small Farmer. Comments will be provided to the TA Services Team for revisions before finalization. This process may be repeated until all deliverables are finalized.

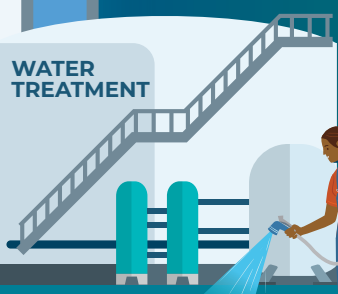
7 Before any project is closed out, a final site visit and meeting will occur and include the Small Farmer, TA Services Team, and DWR.

REPORT SUMMARY

NEEDS

PROPOSED ASSISTANCE

- Groundwater level monitoring
- Aquifer testing to determine long-term yield and supply
- Identifying Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs)
- Identify well interference
- Analyze additional water supply
- Analyze existing well condition using downhole video log
- Rehabilitation of water storage tank
- Long-term water supply demand analysis
- Analyze and help to facilitate demand transfers



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Underrepresented Communities, California Tribes, and Small Farmers Groundwater Technical Assistance (URCTA) Program



What is the Department of Water Resources' Underrepresented Communities, California Tribes, and Small Farmers Groundwater Technical Assistance (URCTA) Program?

The mission of the URCTA Program is to support Underrepresented Communities, California Native American (Federally and Non-Federally recognized) Tribes, and Small Farmers within SGMA regulated basins with the assessment of water-related needs, risks, and vulnerabilities and to provide focused technical assistance to resolve them.

SERVICES PROVIDED

	Ground Level Monitoring		Analyzing existing groundwater well conditions		Analyzing long-term water supply and demand
	Aquifer Testing		Rehabilitating and/or Replacement of water storage tanks		Analyzing and facilitating water transfers
	Analyzing well interference		Design of water systems including production, treatment, distribution and storage		Supporting in funding and grant application processes
	Identifying water supplies		Preparation of project plans and specifications		Determine fire flow requirements

Who Qualifies as a Small Farmer?

The eligibility of a small farmer for the purpose of the URCTA Program is defined as meeting **one or more** of the following criteria:

1. A rancher that is socially disadvantaged as defined by California's Farmer Equity Act of 2017¹, grazes livestock on rangelands, and has gross meat sales of less than \$1,000,000.
2. A farmer or rancher operating on **80 acres or less** that meets **one or more** of the following criteria:
 - Is socially disadvantaged as defined by California's Farmer Equity Act of 2017¹.
 - Sells 50% or more of products to direct markets.
 - Cultivates crops for California and is not represented by commodity boards or trade organizations.
 - Has undergone a transformation from conventional agricultural processes to regenerative agricultural processes within the last 10 years. Regenerative agricultural processes include indigenous farming methods, cover crops, agroforestry, permaculture, or any other farming and ranching practices that result in a regeneration of the soils to increase carbon sequestration.²
3. A farmer or rancher operating on **200 acres or less** that meets **two or more** of the following criteria:
 - Is socially disadvantaged as defined by California's Farmer Equity Act of 2017¹.
 - Cultivates a diverse crop mix of four (4) or more crop types.
 - Sells 75% or more of products to direct markets.
 - Cultivates crops for California and is not represented by commodity boards or trade organizations.
 - Has undergone a transformation from conventional agricultural processes to regenerative agricultural processes within the last 10 years. Regenerative agricultural processes include indigenous farming methods, cover crops, agroforestry, permaculture, or any other farming and ranching practices that result in a regeneration of the soils to increase carbon sequestration.²

¹ Per AB 1348: "Socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher" means a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. "Socially disadvantaged group" means a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. These groups include all of the following: African Americans, Native Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders." (www.cdfa.ca.gov/farmequity/).

² Per the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Regenerative Agriculture Work Group Draft Definition: "Regenerative agriculture," as defined for use by State of California policies and programs, is an integrated approach to farming and ranching rooted in the principles of soil health leading to improved target outcomes. This approach recognizes and respects the traditions and innovations from the original Indigenous stewards of the land. Further information on the target outcomes and meeting regenerative outcomes can be found on CDFA's Regenerative Agriculture Website (www.cdfa.ca.gov/RegenerativeAg/).

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