

Agricultural Research Service Water Management Research Laboratory

Recipient: United States Department of Agriculture

Location: Brawley, CA

Amount: \$340,000

Funds will be used for critical research at the Brawley Agricultural Research Service (ARS) facility on water supply, soil salinity, crop production and salt tolerance in a region where farming and ranching are important industries in the local economy. Results from these vital ongoing experiments would be lost without funding.

APHIS Import Inspection Program

Recipient: California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association

Location: Santa Paula, California

Amount: \$1,650,000

The Import Inspection element of the CA County Pest Detection Augmentation Program is a statewide program operated by county agriculture commissioners to inspect incoming plant material at points of entry in CA to prevent the establishment of serious agricultural and environmental invasive pests and diseases. The program focuses its operations at terminals inside California borders where staff inspects and investigates incoming shipments for pests and diseases. This project will train and establish regional dog teams to assist in inspections. Currently, dog teams are operating regionally from five counties in California. In one example of the success of this program, in September 2008, a canine team detected an unmarked parcel that contained plant material and contraband hosting seventeen live insect species of concern and three live plants of concern that were not known to occur in California. The introduction of any serious exotic insect pest or plant could potentially cost California millions of dollars in eradication and control efforts.

Applied Agriculture and Environmental Research

Recipient: California State University

Location: CSU Campuses throughout California

Amount: \$3,000,000

The California State University Agricultural Research Initiative supports the ongoing need for quality applied agricultural and environmental research activities for the benefit of the nation's farmers, ranchers, and consumers. Funds will be used for competitive science and best management research related to climate change, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and carbon sequestering; food safety and security; water quality, infrastructure, and conveyance; and public health and welfare.

Chollas Creek Enhancement Initiative

Recipient: City of San Diego

Location: San Diego, California

Amount: \$250,000

Funds will be used to support the environmental and ecosystem restoration of Chollas Creek, including the removal of trash, sediment and non-native plants, revegetation with native species, and habitat enhancement. As part of the San Diego's Chollas Creek Enhancement Plan, initial efforts will focus on the most distressed areas, beginning with a stretch of the Creek between Euclid and College Avenue. Chollas Creek is a natural drainage system that traverses inner San Diego within the Greater Mid-City, Encanto Neighborhoods, Southeastern San Diego, and Barrio Logan communities, from its headwaters in La Mesa and Lemon Grove to San Diego Bay. The Creek's environmental value is its contribution to improved downstream water quality and support for a wetland ecosystem. Urbanization has caused severe stream degradation and channel instability in the Creek, it currently lacks native vegetation, and much of the channel is concrete channel and culverts. The Environmental Protection Agency has identified it as an "impaired" water body due to high levels of cadmium, copper, lead, zinc, and other toxicity.

Fresh Produce Safety Research Initiative

Recipient: University of California

Location: Campuses throughout California

Amount: \$2,000,000

Funding is requested for ongoing food safety research at University of California campuses in an effort to prevent additional food borne illness outbreaks like the E.coli outbreak in spinach that occurred in 2007. Recent incidents of E. coli O157:H7 and other microbial contaminants in spinach and leafy greens in California resulted in serious illnesses and several deaths, and has shaken consumer confidence, costing growers millions of dollars. The research being conducted will focus on areas with significant fresh produce production, and the packing and shipping of leafy green and fresh pack vegetables (like lettuce, spinach, broccoli, strawberries, salad greens, etc.). This competitive research program advances scientific knowledge in sources and causes of food-borne illnesses.

Keystone Regional Water Reclamation Facility and Wastewater Collection System

Recipient: City of Imperial

Location: Imperial, California

Amount: \$2,000,000

Imperial County has one of the highest unemployment and poverty rates in California and is also the fastest growing county in the state. New job generators are necessary to diversify the economy and improve the quality of life in the area. Water system upgrades will play a critical role in helping the City of Imperial and Imperial County enhance economic development opportunities in the region. Funds will be used to construct a facility that will provide essential wastewater treatment reclamation services to industrial, commercial, mixed use, residential, recreational and educational facilities. The project will centralize treatment activities, reduce energy consumption and produce quality recycled water.

Long Beach Water Conservation in Public Landscapes

Recipient: City of Long Beach,

Location: Long Beach, California

Amount: \$1,000,000

The Water Conservation in Public Landscapes project seeks to implement irrigation infrastructure upgrades throughout the City of Long Beach using more efficient technology to improve water conservation in the City's 3,000 acres of parkland. The current park and street median irrigation system used by the City is over 40 years old. The antiquated technology, poor design and lack of water pressure render the system entirely inefficient. For that reason, the City is requesting funds to help upgrade and reconstruct its public land irrigation system to maximize efficiency and water conservation.

Orange County Efficient Irrigation Program

Recipient: Municipal Water District of Orange County

Location: Fountain Valley, California

Amount: \$500,000

Funds will be used for the application of irrigation technology to help Orange County and greater-Southern California manage its existing water supplies more efficiently. The program will also help take pressure off of imported water supplies from Northern California and the Colorado River. The project also has significant environmental protection benefits, as the devices that will be installed will help reduce urban runoff, which is responsible for transporting pollutants and sediment into natural waterways and eventually to beaches and the ocean.

Orange County Great Park Recycled Water Line and Reservoir for Farming Operations Project

Recipient: Orange County Great Park

Location: Irvine, California

Amount: \$850,000

The Orange County Great Park, a military base reuse project on the site of the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station in Irvine, California, plans to tap into the water supply of a nearby canal to build a small farm that will ultimately supply fresh produce to local food banks. Doing this will require a small reservoir and pumping station to be built on Great Park property, which is what requested funds would be used for. When completed, Great Park will be larger than New York's Central Park and San Francisco's Golden Gate Park combined, and will offer sports and recreation areas for children and families, a two-and-a-half mile nature canyon, a thousand-acre nature preserve, a twenty-acre lake, botanical gardens, a great lawn, a Veteran's Memorial, a performing arts venue, and wildlife corridors to the Cleveland National Forest and the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. This project will support the creation of 25 construction jobs, and up to 60 full-time jobs when the farm area is operational.

Tulare Rural Community Water Systems

Recipient: County of Tulare

Location: Visalia, California

Amount: \$3,000,000

Funds will be used to facilitate the planning, engineering surveys, assessments, and capital improvements necessary to develop sustainable water supplies for small, disadvantaged communities in Tulare County. Tulare County has the largest number of disadvantaged water districts of all California counties. Twenty-nine of thirty-one water systems in the County are out of compliance for one or more contaminants.

Pierce's Disease and Invasive Species Research Program

Recipient: University of California

Location: Campuses throughout California

Amount: \$3,000,000

These competitively awarded grant funds will be used to address Pierce's Disease and other high priority invasive species that are causing significant crop damage, endangering natural and urban ecosystems, and threatening public health in California. Invasive species pose a severe threat to California's agricultural economy, as well as its urban and natural ecosystems. This project will continue the Pierce's Disease research program (which funds competitively awarded research to find solutions to this devastating bacterial disease that threatens California's wine grape industry) and fund research on other invasive species impacting California and the nation like Citrus Greening, West Nile virus, Sudden Oak Death, vine mealy bug, quagga mussel, and yellow star thistle. Greater knowledge of these species, understanding of invasion biology parameters, and potential control and eradication strategies is critical for California.

Viticulture Consortium

Recipient: University of California

Location: Campuses throughout California

Amount: \$2,500,000

Started in 1996 and administered by the University of California, Cornell University, and Penn State University, the Viticulture Consortium funds USDA competitive grape-related research that is dedicated to accelerating innovation and the adoption of best practices to enhance the competitiveness of grapes and grape products industries. Grapes are the highest value fruit crop in the nation – contributing about \$162 billion to the U.S. economy annually – and this shared research resource greatly benefits California, which is responsible for 90 percent of all domestic wine production and 95 percent of U.S. wine exports.