

Frequently Asked Questions – 2008 WMA Funding

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Updated: June 17, 2008

BASELINE FUNDS

Q: Who gets the money?

A: The WMA gets the money for an approved project and the County Ag Dept frequently acts as the banker for that money, however the RCD or other government entity may also act as the banker for the WMA funding. RCDs are taking the lead role more and more across the state.

NOTE: *If a WMA includes two or more counties*, each county (boundary lines is intent here) of the WMA receives the BASEline funding (\$16,758): Alameda Contra Costa WMA; Calaveras Tuolumne Central Sierra Partnership; San Joaquin, Stanislaus Merced Central Valley WMA; Colusa Glenn Tehama WMA; Inyo Mono Eastern Sierra WMA; Humboldt Del Norte WMA; Marin Sonoma WMA; Nevada Placer WMA; Plumas Sierra WMA; Fresno Mariposa Madera WMA; and Yuba Sutter WMA.

NOTE: *If a county includes two or more WMAs*, each WMA needs to agree upon how to split the BASEline funds. Southern California where portions of counties are involved in more than one WMA include: Low Desert WMA (most of Riverside co, Coachella Valley part of Imperial County, part of E. San Diego Co); Mojave (most of San Bernardino Co); Santa Anna River (Santa Ana River Watershed: parts of W. Riverside, San Bernardino, and Orange Counties).

Q: Our S. California WMA has a meeting tomorrow and need clarification on "BASEline funding." The e-mail you sent out states that "each county partner in an active WMA will receive \$16,758.00." Does this mean the County will receive these funds or can the actual WMA group receive the funds? There are two active WMAs within the County of San Bernardino, if the funds are given to S.B. County, will they/can they split them between the two WMAs?

My records show that most of San Bernardino County falls within the Mojave WMA group. The Santa Ana River WMA group has three county partners- parts of western Riverside, San Bernardino, and Orange Counties. If this information is still considered accurate by the Mojave and Santa Ana River WMA groups--- I would think that a significant portion of the allocation of \$16,758 BASEline WMA funding for San Bernardino County (geographical boundaries) would go toward the Mojave WMA group.

The Santa Ana River WMA group has three active county partners- so they can draw from three BASEline funding sources of \$16,758, or portions anyway, pending WMA group decisions. Riverside WMA group (partners in Low Desert and Santa Ana WMA groups), like San Bernardino is part of two separate WMA groups--- so partial funding to both WMA groups is likely a reality. In other words the Santa Ana group doesn't exactly have \$16,758 x 3 for BASEline funding, but certainly has more opportunity to get portions of \$16,758, than the one-county Mojave WMA group.

I know it gets complicated in S. California, but I am optimistic with communication between neighboring WMA groups, who "share" multiple partners... reasonable split allocations of BASEline FUNDING allocations can be reached.

Q: Partial Contributions from Multi-County WMAs: How to structure budgets and work plans.

If Merced County is going to use \$12,000 of the BASEline funding for A rated weed projects in the Co., and the remaining amount \$4,578 is going to be combined with BASEline funding from the other counties in the WMA; how do we submit this budget/fiscal display without it being too confusing?

We just ask that you be very clear as to where each of the contributions is coming from and WHO the contract is with... No need to split up your budget based on where (which county partner) the funding is coming from... we want just simple budget with one Personnel Section and one Operating Expenses Section.

For example (hypothetical scenario), EACH of THE THREE CONTRACTS WOULD STATE SOMETHING LIKE:

1. Contract with Merced Ag Office for 20,000 (12,000 from Merced portion, 8,000 from Stanislaus portion). Remaining Merced portion of \$4,578 will go to San Joaquin RCD.
2. Contract with San Joaquin RCD for 21,516 (4,758 from Merced Portion, 16,758 from San Joaquin portion).
3. Contract with Stanislaus County Ag Office for 8,758 (other 8,000 of Stanislaus portion went to Merced County Ag contract).

Q: What may BASEline funding be spent on?

A: On-the-ground eradication and control projects (especially of A-rated weeds) are the aim (stemming from original legislation for WMA programs). Salaries may be included in the budget, although elements of mapping, outreach/education, etc. may

be included. WMA BASEline funding, as well as other WMA funds--- the original intent of the funding (back to original legislative bills) was to "kill weeds"--- control, contain and eradicate weeds. While some (modest, \$6K maximum) funds can be used for education outreach or mapping or coordinator role-- most of the funding is intended to be spent on control type projects with monitoring components.

Q: How many BASEline projects may be submitted in the work plan?

A: Unlimited. Number of projects for BASEline work plans- unlimited: up to WMA group and top priorities as outlined in their strategic plan, as well as funding necessary to adequately conduct an eradication, control or containment project.

Q: May BASEline funding be used as seed funding for supplemental projects?

A: Essentially, no- too risky. Not recommended. Supplemental funding is only \$243,000 with a \$50K max per WMA, so essentially as few as 5 proposals could be funded in all- potentially. If a WMA group was not funded through supplemental, then the BASEline funds would be "wasted dollars." if were originally intended to be seed money or Phase I of a larger project.

Q: May multi-county WMA groups combine their BASEline funding (\$16,758 each) together into one contract with just one of the three counties (or RCD or other state entity of a WMA Group)?

A: Yes. If a WMA group has more than one county involved, the \$16,758 per county partner in the WMA may be combined- but this should be made very clear at the top of the BASEline funding proposal (line three of the proposal format) as to how much \$ is to be "donated/given" to another county WMA partner and WHOM the contract will be with (since we had some confusion last year with who actually wanted a contract versus who was the leadership contact for the WMA group, etc.).

Some Southern CA WMAs have portions of counties involved in their WMA group--- still the total that any one county can receive is \$16,758 for BASEline funding. If they would like a portion of their \$16,758 funding to go to say two separate WMA groups in which they are involved, that is fine--- the total of their \$16,758 BASEline funding portion just needs to be clarified in the BASEline funding proposal. Overall we need clarity when putting contracts together.

Q: Matching funds?

A: A match is not required for the WMA BASEline FUNDING (\$16,758), but a reporting of all in-kind and cash contributions to the WMA BASEline Funded Projects will be required (ball park really) in the ANNUAL Report that is due by February 14th, 2010- --- as we still need these impressive figures to maintain funding for the WMA Program, as well as efforts to try and grow (\$) the WMA program. Note, that the Supplemental Competitive RFP Program requires a minimum 50:50 MATCH.

Q: Do WMAs get BASEline funding automatically?

A: Each County (boundary lines intended here) involved in a WMA group (some WMAs have 1-, 2- or 3-county partners) receive the BASEline funding pretty much automatically *with proposal submission*--- as long as the WMA is an active group and has a reasonably sound proposal with monitoring components. All WMAs at present are considered active and we don't expect poor or inadequate BASEline funding proposals. If we need clarification with a BASEline funding proposal we will work with the county or WMA to do so.

Q: What is a “county partner”?

A: There are 45 WMAs and 58 counties in CA – these are the county partners. In this context “county partner” does not mean MOU signatory member.

Q: May BASEline funds be used to pay for a portion of WMA admin costs - not contract admin costs - but rather for time spent supporting the WMA (i.e setting up meetings, agendas, writing MOU updates and Strategic Plan docs, writing Board transmittals for WMA contracts, etc)?

A: Some funds can be allocated toward roles of a WMA coordinator -- as long as it is reasonable, suggested: doesn't exceed \$2,400 (this would pay for 2 weeks of somebody's time if at \$30/hr x 80 hours). Most money should be spent toward killing weeds. Acres needed to report to Legislature to try and get more WMA funding down the road.

Supplemental Grants

Q: If a group is awarded a supplemental can this money be combined into 1 contract with a county, RCD or other state entity?

A: Yes. (For CDFA purposes, should be o.k. timing, as to not cause delays in contracting... as review committee will meet last week of July to rank supplemental proposals).

Q: If our county received funding in the last funding cycle, are we eligible for supplemental funding this year?

A: Yes. Since CDFA is starting a new funding system (BASEline +supplemental) in the 2008 cycle, every WMA is eligible for all available funding. WMAs that received funding in the 2007 cycle will be in their second year of funding during this 2008 cycle, and are eligible for BASEline and for submitting a proposal for the competitive supplemental funding.

WMA Summer Site Visits for WMAs funded in 2006 cycle

Q: How define number of times the WMA group meets?

A: meetings of the ENTIRE WMA group (not steering committees or sub-committees).

Q: May the WMA "REVIEW the Review" before it is submitted to the Advisory Committee?

A: No. Please don't hesitate to call if further clarification is needed. Carri at: 530-545-9119

2008 CDFA Grant (gross amounts should include a 10% allocation as administrative overhead for the sponsoring WMA)

Summary compiled by San Mateo WMA.

Grant	Max Avail Gross / Net	Compete	App Due	Grant Period	Projects / App	Priority Topic Areas
Base	\$16,758 / \$15,082	NO	7/15/08	2009	Unlimited, be reasonable ☺	WMA's Strategic Plan
Supplemental	\$50,000 / \$45,000	YES	7/15/08	2009	Max=5; <=3 recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eradication • Containment • Regional Collaboration • High-Value Site
Research Mini-Grant	\$5,000 / \$4,500	YES	8/1/08	2009 (likely funding avail in 2010 and 2011)	Max=3; 1 recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flushing the seed bank • Little to no management research conducted to date • Restoration • Wildlife and invasive plant interactions