

PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

Please complete a unique Project Information Form for each project in the application. There are no character limits on specific questions but the Project Information Form as a whole may not exceed 10 pages.

1. Project Name: Sonoma County Household Drought Resiliency Project
2. Local Project Sponsor (if different than grantee): Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District
3. Please provide the latitude and longitude of the project site. For linear projects or those covering a large area, report the coordinates for a central point. If this information is confidential, it must be clearly labeled "confidential." You can find the latitude and longitude easily using google maps. You can find instructions at the following link:
<https://support.google.com/maps/answer/18539?hl=en&co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop>.

Latitude: 38.5015

Longitude: -122.8830

4. Please briefly describe the proposed project.

Through a partnership of the Gold Ridge and Sonoma RCDs, Sonoma Water, and nonprofit Daily Acts, the project seeks to promote water conservation, provide alternatives to extractive water sources, protect streamflow, and foster water use awareness among Sonoma County's urban and rural residents by expanding a cost-effective rainwater catchment rebate program. This funding will be used to both bolster the program in rural areas reliant on streamflow diversions, seasonal springs, or compromised aquifers for their water security, while developing a structure to expand both the urban and rural programs to include a range of household-level strategies, such as raingarden construction and greywater system installation. This funding will also expand a workshop series meant to build capacity among both local landscapers and homeowners to design and implement these practices.

In 2020, the partnership was awarded funding through DWR's Prop 1 IRWM program to establish a pilot program to promote rainwater catchment for drought resiliency and environmental benefits. With the program now underway, this request would expand the funding to provide more rebates to larger-scale rural residential systems in areas suffering from water security and threatening summer streamflow. Many residents in these water-scarce areas, completely reliant on riparian pumps or shallow alluvial wells, have experienced water insecurity as stream reaches have run dry, while facing emergency orders restricting riparian usage in an effort to protect critical habitat. Due to the size of the systems needed to both provide water security and offset the environmental impacts of the diversions on these rural properties, the existing rebate program has insufficient funds to assist these communities at scale.

This additional funding would allow RCDs to greatly expand their technical and financial assistance to these rural landowners. Additionally, this funding would allow the partners to research and design a rebate structure to include associated

stormwater management practices like raingarden construction and tank overflow capture, in an effort to promote groundwater recharge and attenuate winter storm surges. A rebate structure would also be developed for other water conservation strategies like greywater installation.

This project is being undertaken to improve water supply reliability and improve drought resilience. The project is consistent with the general guidance in Section 10560 of the water code, and thus a Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP) is not required on a watershed-specific basis for these projects. The rationale for this determination is that the project provides a net benefit within the watershed and is in compliance with the SWRP guidance.

Attached is a letter of support that was previously provided by the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the initial pilot program phase of the project. As indicated in the attached letter, rainwater catchment is an important component of water supply sustainability for the Santa Rosa Plain groundwater basin (1-055.01), which is a medium priority basin. The GSA recognizes this rainwater catchment program as an important early step in involving and educating groundwater users in water conservation efforts at the household level. (See attached GSA letter of support).

5. Does this project respond to an existing emergency to humans and/or wildlife? If so, please describe the emergency and how this project is addressing it.

In the short term, the Household Drought Resiliency Project will provide rapid technical and financial assistance to homeowners to implement practices to capture this season's stormwater as a readily available emergency nonpotable water source, while protecting early season streamflows needed for outmigrating salmonids, reducing water needs, and attenuating stormwater to recharge groundwater. In the long term, the program will improve household drought resiliency and awareness around alternative water sourcing, while promoting groundwater recharge, in a time many climate experts have determined to be the beginnings of a permanent shift to a drier climate.

The project focus area includes the North Coast region within Sonoma County (see enclosed Drought Resiliency Project Map). While the partnership is working to build the program to provide rebates throughout the county, current funding levels necessitate a prioritization process. The rebate prioritization ranking will consider applicants' water security, resource/streamflow impacts, and financial status of the household and community. Below is information regarding DACs, SDACs and Tribal Communities in the project area.

Disadvantaged Communities (DAC):

Block Groups: 060971542012, 060971542023, 060971540002, 060971537044, 060971537051, 060971537043, 06097153703, 060971537052, 060971534041, 060971538081, 060971527015, 060971527014, 060971528011, 060971530021, 060971530054, 060971530061, 060971530031, 060971522013, 060971522014, 060971514012, 060971522021, 060971522024, 060971522022, 060971525022, 060971525023, 060971517001, 060971517004, 060971513082, 060971513063; Tract: 06097153704, 06097153703, 06097153705, 06097152802, 06097153001,

06097152203, 06097152000, 06097151900, 06097153104, 06097153102, 06097151402, 06097151305, 06097151201; Cazadero, Monte Rio CDP, Guerneville CDP, Graton CDP

Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDAC):

Block Groups: 060971542013, 060971536001, 060971521001, 060971529033, 060971531033, 060971515025, 060971513083, 060971528021, 060971519004, 060971514023, 060971514024, 060971513051, 060971513054, 060971512011, 060971512015

Tribal Benefit:

**Tribal members in the project area are welcome to participate and include:
Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California, Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria, Koi Nation of Northern California, Lytton Band of Pomo Indian.**

6. Each project must meet one of the following purposes as it relates to drought. Please select the appropriate purpose for your project.
 - a. Address immediate impacts on human health and safety, including providing or improving availability of food, water, or shelter.
 - b. Address immediate impacts on fish and wildlife resources.
 - c. Provide water to persons or communities that lose or are threatened with the loss or contamination of water supplies.
7. Each project must enhance regional drought resilience and align with the goals and objectives of the relevant approved Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. You can find the relevant IRWM Region by using the map at the following link:
<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>

The IRWM Plans can be found at the following link: <https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grant-Programs/Plan-Review-Process>. If you have any questions about the IRWM region the contact list can be found at the following link: <https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grant-Programs>. Applicants are encouraged to contact and coordinate with the applicable RWMG for the IRWM region in which the project is located

Please identify the IRWM objective your project addresses.

North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, Phase III (2014)

Goal 3: ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT

-Objective 6: Conserve, enhance, and restore watersheds and aquatic ecosystems, including functions, habitats, and elements that support biological diversity

Goal 4: BENEFICIAL USES OF WATER

-Objective 8: Ensure water supply reliability and quality for municipal, domestic, agricultural, Tribal, and recreational uses while minimizing impacts to sensitive resources

Goal 5: CLIMATE ADAPTATION & ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

-Objective 11: Address climate change effects, impacts, vulnerabilities, including droughts,

fires, floods, and sea level rise.

-Objective 12: Promote local energy independence, water/energy use efficiency, GHG emission reduction, and jobs creation

8. Describe the Primary Benefit of the project.

Quantified benefit: 150000

Units (Drop down):Other If other please enter:gallons of water provided per year

Benefit Type: Water Supply Reliability If other please enter:

9. Describe the Secondary Benefit of the project:

Quantified benefit: 50000

Units (Drop down):Other If other please enter:gallons of streamflow diversion prevented per year

Benefit Type: Ecosystem/Habitat Restoration If other please enter:

10. Please briefly describe how the project will achieve the claimed benefits.

This phase of the program is expected to rebate at least 150,000 gallons of rainwater catchment in priority areas, addressing water security for rural households and, in some cases, offsetting streamflow diversions. Most rural systems are constructed to capture 10,000-15,000 gallons, providing sufficient water to meet late season nonpotable needs when groundwater levels drop and streamflow becomes disconnected

11. Briefly describe how the community/area benefiting from this project is being impacted by the current drought.

Governor Newsom declared a drought emergency for Sonoma County in April 2021, based in part on historic low levels in the region's two largest reservoirs. Later that summer, the SWRCB issued orders curtailing water diversions from the Russian River. While recent rains have helped significantly, Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino still remain at 49% and 35% capacity, respectively, (the latter had fallen below 10% in late September) and Sonoma County's largest water provider, Sonoma Water, has retained a mandatory 20% reduction requirement among its contracted urban and water company suppliers. Hardest hit, however, have been communities outside of water provider service areas. Many rural communities reliant on groundwater, particularly along ridgetops or in aquifer-deficient areas, have been forced to truck water through the summer to meet basic household needs. Other households rely exclusively on riparian diversions, compromising summer streamflow and the deep pools that provide summer refugia habitat for the area's listed salmonids. Many riparian landowners along priority coho-bearing streams have been subject to emergency orders restricting diversions over the past several years, while others have simply watched their riparian water sources dry up.

12. How will this project alleviate the impacts described in your answer to Question 11?

The pilot phase of this program, currently funded through DWR's Prop 1 IRWM program, has proven essential to develop and launch the rebate program, and develop materials and workshops to assist both landscapers and homeowners in design and construction. However, due to the structure of the RCDs' partnership with Sonoma Water and Daily Acts, much of the rebate provision is earmarked for urban homeowners with relatively small systems. The requested funding would greatly expand the program to provide water security to rural households outside of

water supplier distribution areas, whose well and riparian pump diversions have significant environmental impacts while also facing depleted aquifers and compromised summer streamflow.

13. Please complete the following budget table for the project. (Identify funding sources in Question 15)

	BUDGET CATEGORY	Grant Amount	All Other Cost	Total Cost
(a)	Project Administration	27,600		27,600
(b)	Land Purchase / Easement			
(c)	Planning / Design / Engineering / Environmental Documentation	42,100		42,100
(d)	Construction / Implementation	115,848		115,848
	TOTAL COSTS	185,548		185,548

14. Please describe why state funding is needed for this project. If state funding is not secured, what will happen to the project?

Pilot project funds have been provided through a North Coast Prop 1 IRWM grant, which have allowed several program components to get underway: the establishment of a rainwater catchment rebate program in the city of Healdsburg through Sonoma Water; the development of a Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper training module and workshop series; a workshop series targeted at homeowners interested in installing their own systems; and limited rebates available for prioritized rural areas. However, due to the size systems required for dry season water security for rural landowners in water-scarce areas, the program currently does not have sufficient funds to meet the significant demand for assistance from these rural communities. Without this second phase funding, the existing program will prove insufficient to meet the growing demand among rural households. In addition, this state funding will provide planning funds to expand the rebate program to other water management practices, like raingarden construction for groundwater recharge, and greywater use to reduce water demand.

15. Will the applicant provide cost share (encouraged but not required) and/or will this project require any additional funding from sources other than this solicitation? If so, please describe the funding source and indicate if the funding has been secured. If the funding has not been secured, please describe the plan to secure the necessary funding.

Cost share proposals have been submitted to the County of Sonoma Climate Resilience Fund and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, but has not yet been secured.

16. Is land acquisition or landowner permission required for this project? If so, please briefly describe the status of the acquisition or agreement with the landowner. If the acquisition is not complete or permission not secured at the time of application, please describe the plan to

complete it.

No

17. Has planning and design for this project been completed? If not, please describe the status of planning and design.

No. Technical assistance for rainwater catchment system design will be offered through the project for larger systems, although many systems will be constructed from typicals and not require full designs. Planning work for the development of an expanded rebate program is included in this request.

18. Are the CEQA (and NEPA if applicable) and permitting processes for this project complete? If not, please briefly describe the permits and CEQA (or NEPA) documents to be completed and projected schedule for completion.

Yes, a Notice of Exemption SCH#2020070568 was filed with the State Clearinghouse and county

19. Please briefly describe the necessary construction/implementation for this project.

Construction of rainwater catchment systems will be completed by the landowner or by those contracted directly by the landowner. Rebates will be provided for installed systems verified by project staff.

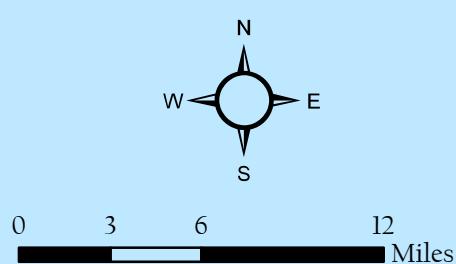
20. Please complete the schedule below for the project. Projects must be complete by March 31, 2026, to allow time for final invoice processing and retention payment before the State funds expire on June 30, 2026. Project administration should end at least three months after construction.

	Categories	Start Date	End Date
(a)	Project Administration	6/1/2022	3/31/2026
(b)	Land Purchase / Easement		
(c)	Planning/ Design / Engineering / Environmental Documentation	7/1/2022	9/30/2025
(d)	Construction/ Implementation	8/1/2022	12/31/2025

North Coast Resource Partnership
Department of Water Resources
Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant 2021

Sonoma County Household Drought Resiliency Project
Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District

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- Project Focus Area
- North Coast IRWM Boundary
- Sonoma RCD
- Gold Ridge RCD
- Coho Partnership focus watersheds
- Russian River
- Sonoma Water service areas
- economically disadvantaged community





SANTA ROSA PLAIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

August 13, 2019

SENT VIA: EMAIL

California Department of Water Resources
Prop 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Program
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Gold Ridge RCD's Rainwater Catchment Rebate and Streamflow Enhancement Pilot Project Proposal

Dear Prop 1 IRWM Review Committee:

As Administrator for the state-mandated Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), I am writing to express my support for the Rainwater Catchment Rebate and Streamflow Enhancement Pilot Project (Pilot Project) proposal, submitted through a partnership between Sonoma Water, the Gold Ridge and Sonoma RCDs, Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership, and Daily Acts.

This project advances the goals of the GSA by promoting household-level water conservation, awareness, and self-reliance to reduce groundwater use. Approximately 25% of groundwater extraction in our area is from rural residential uses. Rainwater catchment as an important component of water supply sustainability for our basin and the GSA recognizes this pilot program as an important early step in involving our groundwater users in these efforts at the household level.

As a prominent stakeholder in promoting water conservation and sustainability in Sonoma County's North Coast region, the GSA appreciates the opportunity to advocate for the Pilot Project proposal and we look forward to supporting this project through implementation. We encourage you to consider funding this proposal.

If you have any questions or concerns about the GSA's position, please do not hesitate to contact me at (707) 508-3670

Sincerely,

Andy Rodgers, Administrator
SANTA ROSA PLAIN GSA

cc: Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District

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