



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
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FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR WATER ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS ON FARMS AND RANCHES WITHIN THE ACID SERVICE AREA

Applicants are encouraged to sign up now for planning and to prepare applications for projects

Redding, Calif., November 4, 2010 – Agricultural producers and water users within the ACID Service Area who receive ACID water through private unlined earthen ditches, are encouraged to apply for cost-share assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for community irrigation lateral improvement projects with on-farm water conservation practices under the NRCS's Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP).

"I want to encourage farmers and ranchers who receive irrigation water thru private irrigation laterals in ACID that serve multiple farms to come together and apply for funding to upgrade their unlined earthen ditch laterals to buried pipelines with concrete water control structures," said Bob Bailey, NRCS District Conservationist in Redding.

Proposals from multiple landowners to upgrade eroding, overgrown earthen ditches to modern buried pipelines with uniform water control structures should compete well for funding. Successful applicants can also receive cost-share assistance for on-farm companion practices such as land leveling, pasture planting and Irrigation Water Management Incentives to utilize water more efficiency for crop production. Cost-share assistance may cover 50, 75 or up to 90% of eligible project costs. Successful applicants will receive a conservation plan and contract with all improvements to be completed in 1 to 2 years.

The AWEP proposal for the Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District service area was submitted by the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District. Project funding is administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Two 1 hour public meeting to explain program details will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday November 8th at the Western Shasta RCD located at 6270 Parallel Road in Anderson, CA (530) 365-7332 (Ext. 201) and Wednesday, November 10th at 6:30 PM at Evergreen Middle School 19500 Learning Way, Cottonwood .

Applications will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at the NRCS Redding Office 3644 AvTech Parkway, Suite C. 226-2577

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

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