



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

## Rural Development



# Water & Wastewater Environmental Programs

# Water and Environmental Programs (WEP)

## WEP Funding Programs

1. Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant
2. Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants
3. Colonia Grants
4. Native American Grants
5. SEARCH Grants
6. Predevelopment Planning Grants (PPG)



# Water and Environmental Programs

## Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant

### 1. Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program

- Eligible applicants include public bodies (including special districts), nonprofit corporations and federally-recognized tribes.
- Population of 10,000 or less
- Comprehensive funding: construction, engineering fees, land, legal fees, and environmental costs
- Loans can be combined with grants to keep user costs reasonable

# Water and Environmental Programs

## Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant

### Rates & Terms

- Interest Rates are established each quarter.
- Currently 2.875% – 4.75%
- Interest Rate Based on State non-metropolitan median household income
- Terms: up to 40 years

# Water and Environmental Programs

## Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant

### Continued – Rates & Terms

100% California Nonmetropolitan

Median Household Income = \$80,546

Market Rate	4.75%	Above 100%	\$80,546
Intermediate Rate	3.75%	80% to 100% -	\$64,436 - \$80,546
Poverty Rate	2.875%**	Below 80% -	Less than \$64,436

\*\* Must also correct a serious health or safety violation

# Water and Environmental Programs

## Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant

### Grant Eligibility

#### Up to 45% Grant

- Service area has a MHI \$64,436 – \$80,546

#### Up to 75% Grant

- Service area has a MHI below \$64,436 and project is needed to alleviate health or sanitary problem.

# Water and Environmental Programs

## ECWAG

### 2. Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant (ECWAG)

- Assists rural communities that have experienced a significant decline in the quantity or quality of water directly caused by an emergency incident
- Emergency incidents can include drought, earthquake, flood, landslide
- Grants may cover 100% of project costs up to \$1 million
- Funds can be used to develop new water sources and for water treatment

# Water and Environmental Programs

## Colonia Grants

### 3. Colonia Grants

- Must be located within 150 miles from the U.S.-Mexico Border
- All Colonias in California are located in Imperial, San Diego, or southern Riverside Counties
- \$4 million is available for California
- Projects that correct serious health or sanitary problems associated with drinking water and waste disposal systems.

# Water and Environmental Programs

## Native American 306C Grant

### 4. Native American 306C Grant

- Projects that correct serious health or sanitary problems associated with drinking water and waste disposal systems.
- Per capita income must be  $\leq$ \$26,347
- Unemployment rate must be no less than 4.750%
- \$4 million maximum per project in FY26
- Approx. \$22 million nationally available FY26

# Water and Environmental Programs

## SEARCH Grants

### 5. SEARCH Grants

- Eligible Areas - Rural areas with a population of 2,500 or less
- Have a median household income below \$64,436 (80% of State Non-metropolitan median household income)
- \$30,000 max grant to pay for predevelopment planning costs to support applications for WEP funding

# Water and Environmental Programs

## Predevelopment Planning Grants

### 6. Predevelopment Planning Grants

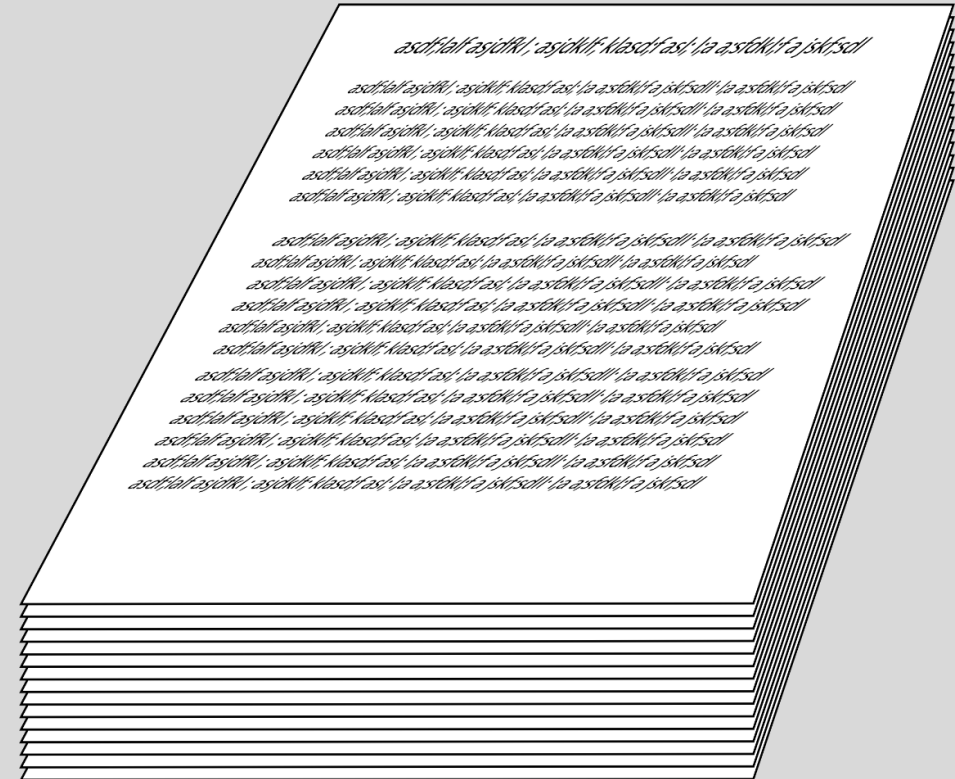
- Eligible Areas - Rural areas with a population of 10,000 or less
- Have a median household income below \$64,436 (80% of State Non-metropolitan median household income)
- \$60,000 max grant to pay for predevelopment planning costs to support applications for WEP funding
- Requires that at least 25% of the project cost come from the applicant or third-party sources. In-kind contributions are not allowed.

# Water and Environmental Programs

## Applying for Funding

# Application Process

- Build community support
- Initial Meeting with USDA
- PER/Environmental
- Complete Application
- Letter of Conditions
- Obligate Funding
- Disbursement after loan/grant closing or start of construction



# Water and Environmental Programs RD Apply

## Online Application Intake System for WEP

- Convenience
- Identity Security – all users obtain e-authentication
- Faster Application Process – other persons authorized
- Reduced Paper Consumption
- Applicant's official with signature authority

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# WEP Example: Amador Water Agency

\$6,000,000 Project Fully funded by WEP

Before USDA WEP Funding



After USDA WEP Funding



# Example: Rio Alto, Wastewater Treatment Plant & Constructed Wetlands

Total Project Costs = \$7,329,329

Partners: CWSRF, NSVIRMP

USDA WEP loan/grant = \$5,441,000



# Los Osos Wastewater Treatment Plant County of San Luis Obispo

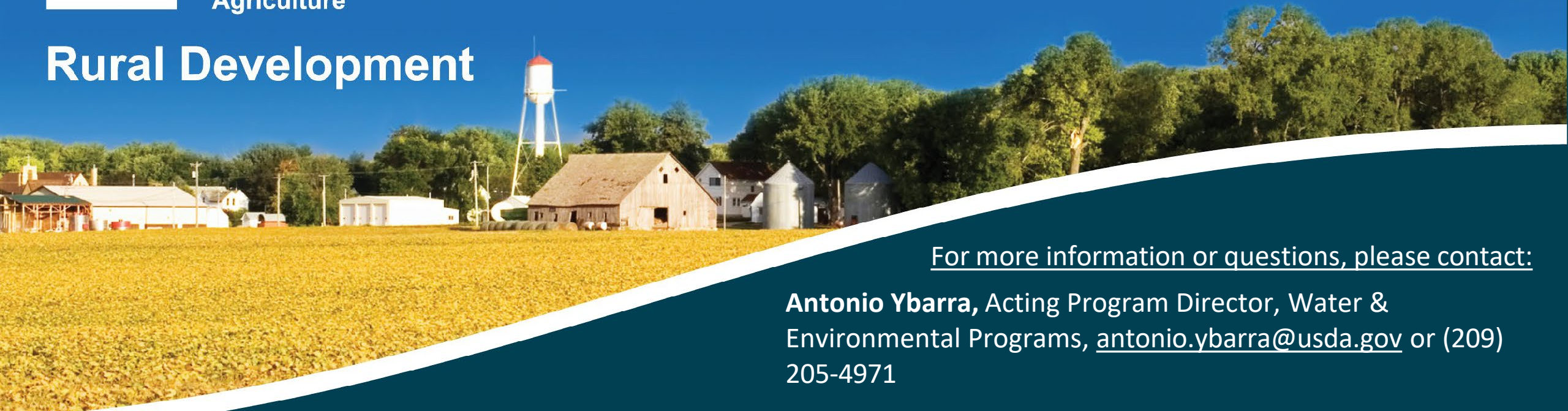


Total Project Cost: \$189,245,000



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