

IWRB Ground Water to Surface Water Conversion Grant Criteria

- This grant is intended to be a statewide grant.
- IWRB is setting aside \$20 million for these projects.
- Eligible projects must be in geographic areas that propose to convert groundwater to surface water irrigation.
- Hard conversions and soft conversions are eligible. Hard conversions will receive a higher cost share and a higher grant percentage than soft conversions.
- Eligible entities include groundwater districts, irrigation districts, irrigation boards of control, and canal companies. Individuals may apply through one of those entities.
- Projects must be in basins that have been designated critical groundwater areas and groundwater management areas.
- The grant award limit is up to \$5 million per application,
- The grant cannot exceed 50% for soft conversion or 75% for hard conversion costs
- The applicants must agree to cease pumping the proposed portion of groundwater related to the project.
- Delivered conversion water will be used only on lands with an existing groundwater right tied to this project. Conversion projects are required to be at least 80% efficient,
- If project construction is underway and is completed by the application deadline, the project is not eligible. If there's been some planning work completed the project is still eligible
- The IWRB will require a letter of support for the project from the Irrigation District or Canal Company along with an agreement to deliver the surface water supply for the conversion project and documentation of long-term leases storage water existing shares to support the proposed project. The documentation should address the terms of the surface water delivery agreement and how, and how often, that water will be available.
- The application shall include documentation of support from the groundwater district for the project and an agreement to administer the pumping reduction.
- The project will be rated on a 100-point system. Up to 75 points will be awarded for the project's benefits and effectiveness. Up to 25 points will be awarded for the project's proposal clarity.
- Applications are due before October 4, 2024.