

LandFlex Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Application Questions

Question: What time on February 3, 2023 does the GSA application need to be submitted?

Response: *The GSA application is due by 5 pm (PST) on February 3, 2023. After 5 pm, the application will not be accessible.*

Question: Can GSAs submit a joint application?

Response: *Multiple GSAs cannot send in a joint application. The GSA scoring criteria identifies domestic dry well statistics per GSA boundary, not subbasin.*

Question: Is there a specific naming convention to use for submitting the additional attachments (i.e., email subject line, document name of attachments)?

Response: *There is no right or wrong way; however, if possible, use the following for ease of acceptance: Subject: LandFlex Application_GSA Name*

For Attachments, the naming convention could be Name of Applicant_GSA Name_Attachment Name.

Question: Whose name needs to be printed on the first signature line of the Sample Authorizing Resolution?

Response: *The name on the first signature line of the Sample Authorizing Resolution is typically signed by the president or chair of the board or agency. The secretary also signs the resolution. If the president/chair will also be the authorized signatory for the grant, then the vice president or vice chair will also need to sign, or they need to include the board votes.*

GSA Grant Eligibility

Question: Does a GSA need to have adopted and submitted an Urban Water Management Plan to be eligible for LandFlex?

Response: No. If you are not an Urban Water Supplier this eligibility criteria does not apply to you.

Note: The Guidelines do include a list of eligibility criteria (i.e., plans, reporting and compliance etc.), please be sure to read the criteria carefully as many are specific to urban water suppliers, public utilities or mutual water companies, **not** GSAs.

Question: Does the GSA allocation program need to be implemented for the entire water year 2022 (October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022) to be eligible?

Response: *The Department requires the technical information and data to support the groundwater savings within a basin, so the allocation program information is needed for some point within the previous water year 2022 and the entire current water year 2023 to be eligible. This includes the data for water demands within the GSA using remote sensed evapotranspiration (ET) accounting method (e.g., OpenET, LandIQ, or similar) or an equivalent alternative accounting method (e.g., groundwater well metering) to measure reduction in groundwater use on acres enrolled in LandFlex.*

Grower Eligibility

Question: Is a cover crop allowed on the acreage of lands that would participate in LandFlex?

Response: *Yes. The program requires that enrolled acres/lands have a cover crop to mitigate for dust. Cover crops are generally supported by rainfall; however, if the cover crop is irrigated, the ET will be deducted from the net water savings.*

Question: Can lands that participate in the LandFlex program be allowed to recharge groundwater by flooding lands with surface water?

Response: *The Department does not want to inhibit the ability of GSAs to use fallowed lands for groundwater recharge. The Department will work with the TAPs to determine how the GSAs would account for enrolled lands that are flooded for groundwater recharge.*

Question: Is there a list of eligible crops for the program, and if so, is cannabis an eligible crop type?

Response: *Short answer, there is not a list for eligible crop types because crop-type isn't an eligibility factor. The key factors for growers are based on fallowed land: in proximity to a dry well(s), distance to an underrepresented community (URC) and other criteria determined by awarded GSAs related to impacts the grower's actions will have on the groundwater basin. Additional grower criteria are provided in Appendix E of the LandFlex Guidelines: https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/LandFlex/landflex_final_2023guidelines_13_January2023_Appendix-Ea.pdf.*

Question: Do you have to give up all the remaining GSA allocated overdraft (e.g. transition) water available through 2040 if you participate in this program?

Response: *Yes. For lands participating in LandFlex, the total overdraft that will be eliminated is what is determined locally within the GSA groundwater allocation plan submitted for Water Year 2023. Please refer to Appendix E of the LandFlex Program guidelines for more detail. As an interested grower, you may also want to reach out to your local GSA for more information.*

Figure 1 is the visual illustration for a GSA allocation program with a block of groundwater overdraft (shown as a gray hatched bar) that the GSA is allowing to meet current water demands for existing crops that will decrease over the next 10-20 years to get to the sustainable yield. The groundwater overdraft highlighted with a yellow box will be eliminated through 2040 and beyond for enrolled acres in the LandFlex grant program. These values are not based on actual GSA allocation program data and could vary each water year.

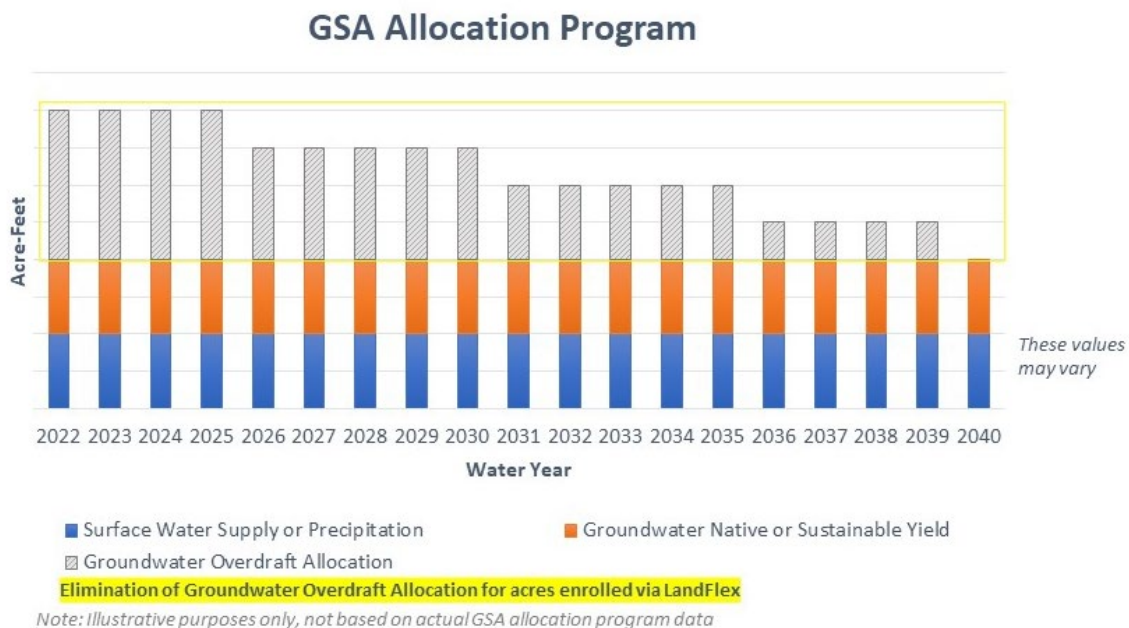


Figure 1. Simulated GSA allocation program with groundwater overdraft allocation

Question: I am having trouble finding the FSA Form 1132 that is required to provide with the grower application as described in Appendix E. Where is this form found?

Response: The Department apologizes for the typo; the required form is FSA Form 1123 and can be located at <https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12/fsa-1123-12152021.pdf>.

Question: If neighboring GSAs are awarded via LandFlex, can a landowner whose lands cross both GSA boundaries enroll their acreage under multiple GSAs?

Response: There is no rule that precludes a landowner from enrolling acreage under multiple GSAs; however, there must be a parcel tracking mechanism in place to ensure there is no duplication of payment on the same acreage (i.e., double dipping). The GSAs involved must work together to manage the tracking of the parcels enrolled, ET, and net water savings to the basin(s).