

APPENDIX E – GROWER SCORING CRITERIA

Growers who meet the following eligibility requirements will be ranked and prioritized by the Grantee based on the Grower Scoring Criteria for subawards below.

A. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS – GROWER APPLICATION INFORMATION

- Proof of Farmed Acreage to be fallowed using Farm Service Agency's 2021 FSA-578 or 2021 Acreage Report/CCC-576 (small farm applications)
- Local average estimate of ET by crop provided by the GSA accounting. ET value will be based on the local average ET per crop data provided by the GSA and accounts only for irrigation water pumped from a groundwater well (not water from rainfall or loss to inefficiencies such as runoff, deep percolation, or irrigation system inefficiencies). This initial figure of crop ET will be used to assist the GSA and TAPs in estimating an applicant's groundwater savings (in acre-feet) to the basin. If using groundwater well meters as a form of accounting, reporting must be provided in acre-feet.
- Proof of Lease (if applicable)
- Proof of Enrollment Cap (up to a total of 40 acres enrolled or 25% of total acreage whichever is greater). FSA Form 578: Partnership acreage is calculated separately.
- No farming entity (e.g., individual, LP, or LLC) having a 3-year average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) >\$2.5 million will be permitted in the program. FSA Form 1132 will be required to verify.
- Payment limitation per each awarded grower will be \$2.5 million
- Duration of fallowing will be through the duration of the current water year ending on September 30, 2023. If future funding becomes available for this program, at the end of the current contract there may be an option for growers to opt into a rolling contract - to be determined based on amount of future funding available.
- Grantee will require the selected grower under contract to permanently eliminate any overdraft allocations above sustainable yield associated with the enrolled acreage. These overdraft allocations are not transferable or bankable within or outside of the basin.

B. FULL APPLICATION INFORMATION AND SCORING CRITERIA

Grantees must use the minimum criteria listed below to identify which grower will be selected into the basin's LandFlex program. The Grantees will determine the final score and rank for each grower application. This information will be identified using tools, such as, DWR's SGMA Data Viewer (<https://sgma.water.ca.gov/webgis/?appid=SGMADataViewer#currentconditions>) for proximity to dry domestic wells and the State Water Control Board's SAFER Dashboard (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer/safer_data.html) that identifies public water systems at risk and identification of domestic wells and state small water systems at risk.

Minimum Grower Selection Criteria includes:

1. Land being fallowed in proximity to dry, shallow, domestic wells that were reported to DWR within the last 24 months ranging from:

TABLE 5 – DRY WELL CRITERIA FOR GROWERS	
Distance from Dry Well	Points
0 to 0.5 mile of a reported dry domestic well	15
0.6 to 1 mile of a reported dry domestic well	10
1.1 to 2.5 miles of a reported dry domestic well	5
>2.5 miles of a reported dry domestic well	1

2. Proximity of proposed enrolled lands to URCs as determined by the URC Technical Assistance Program’s mapping tools (www.water.ca.gov/urctaprogram), or proximity to other communities identified by the appropriate TAP as likely to benefit from program investments:

TABLE 6 – URC CRITERIA FOR GROWERS	
Distance to URC	Points
Property within 0 to 0.5 mile of a URC	15
Property within 0.6 to 1 mile of a URC	10
Property within 1.1 to 2.5 miles of a URC	5
Property >2.5 miles of a URC	1

In addition to the grower scoring criteria above, Grantees, in coordination with the appropriate TAPs, can provide more stringent criteria, as needed, to further refine *grower proximity to each other in order to have a measurable impact to the basin*, as well as to align with the projects and management actions being implemented to achieve the sustainability goal for their GSP and basin and on-the-ground conditions.

1. Grant Award To Growers

Incentive payments for each enrolled acre have three inseparable components. Each component is an investment in a distinct but complementary public benefit:

- **Domestic Well Drought Relief.** To achieve immediate relief of drought-related pressure on shallow domestic wells, LandFlex will provide up to a cap of \$350 for each acre-foot of water kept in the groundwater basin through the remainder of WY 2023 (ending September 30, 2023). GSAs will determine a locally appropriate payment amount per acre-foot. Each acre-foot of saved groundwater must be verified by the GSA using locally adopted and state-approved methods of evapotranspiration or groundwater well metering measurement and reporting.
- **Sustainable Yield Acceleration.** LandFlex will provide a one-time payment of \$1,000 for each acre-foot of permanent overdraft eliminated, based on a GSA’s WY 2023 overdraft allocation plan. For example, a grower whose GSA has established a 2.2 acre-feet/acre (per year) overdraft allocation would receive \$2,200 ($\$1,000 \times 2.2$) as a total one-time payment for each enrolled acre. The GSA will ensure that all overdraft allocations associated with each enrolled acre during and after WY 2023 is permanently eliminated and accounted for in GSP updates and consistent with LandFlex program requirements. The GSA-determined Sustainable Yield allocation will remain unaffected.
- **Transition to Sustainability.** To facilitate beneficial agricultural land practices associated with immediate and long-term elimination of overdraft pumping, LandFlex will provide a one-time land-use transition payment that will vary based on the current uses of enrolled acres, such as row crops, dairy feedstock, and permanent tree crops. Removal and on-farm mulching of orchards, purchase of upcycled agricultural waste for dairy feed replacement,

and cover cropping for air quality and pollinator habitat are examples of actions eligible for the Transition to Sustainability payment component. Payments are based on UC Cooperative Extension economic data and other public agency sources.

- Row Crops: \$250 per acre
- Dairy Feed Replacement: \$2,000 per acre
- Permanent Orchard & Vine Removal: \$2,800 per acre

Transition practices must be submitted with the grower application process and verified as acceptable documentation before issuance of final payment (i.e., visual, invoices, photo evidence of transition practice, etc.).