

## **ETSGSA Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program 2026 Project Funding Application**

### Program Summary:

The East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (ETSGSA) is soliciting applications for funding for **Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP)** projects to be implemented in the Turlock Subbasin. MLRP projects are demand reduction projects that result in a reduction in groundwater pumping and net groundwater use and also provide additional benefits (“multibenefit”). MLRP projects may include, but are not limited to, the following land repurposing activities: MLRP Fallowing, Orchard Swale Rewilding, Stormwater Ponds, Constructed Basins (Retention/Recharge Basin), Floodplain Reconnection, Floodflow Spreading, or other strategies that repurpose land from irrigated to non-irrigated status and provide a variety of other benefits. Visit <https://turlock-mlrp.netlify.app/> for more information about the ETSGSA’s MLRP.

### Purpose of this Application:

This 2026 MLRP Project Funding Application seeks to gather the necessary information for ETSGSA to evaluate and select projects to receive incentives/partial funding in 2026 through ETSGSA's MLRP. The 2026 round of MLRP projects will be funded (in part) through Department of Conservation (DOC) MLRP grant funding that was secured by ETSGSA (DOC-Funded MLRP Projects). Incentive payment amounts and procedures are described in ETSGSA’s **Incentive Payment Framework** for MLRP.

### Project Selection Process:

Applications received by the closing date of the Solicitation Period (provided below) will be processed and scored in relation to ETSGSA’s defined MLRP Project scoring criteria. Ranked applications will then be reviewed by the ETSGSA and its designated Technical Advisory Committee and Stakeholder Advisory Committee, at which point initial project selections will be approved by ETSGSA’s Board of Directors. Selected Projects will be sent to DOC for review and approval. Upon approval by DOC, approved Project applicants will enter into an Agreement with ETSGSA prior to Project implementation.

### Program Requirements:

To adhere to ETSGSA’s Rules and Regulations, and the DOC MLRP funding requirements which apply for these MLRP Project solicitations, projects must meet the following requirements:

- Projects must be located on **parcel(s) designated as “Irrigated”** per ETSGSA’s definition.

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- Projects must be implemented in accordance with ETSGSA's applicable **Implementation Standards**.
- Projects must provide the intended benefits for a **minimum duration of ten years**.
- Projects that achieve demand reduction solely through land repurposing that reduces the irrigated crop area (i.e., Projects that do not include use of surface water to provide Direct Recharge and/or In-Lieu Recharge benefits) must be conducted on lands that currently **only use groundwater for irrigation supply**.
- Project implementation must be completed and invoices submitted to ETSGSA by **December 31, 2026** to ensure that final project funding can be released by DOC by the MLRP grant closing date of March 31, 2027.
- If selected for MLRP Project funding, the Owner/Operator of a Project must enter into an **Agreement** with ETSGSA and comply with all terms of said Agreement.
- If a Project is selected and intends to use contractor(s) to perform any portion of the work, the Applicant will be required to obtain and submit to ETSGSA at least two (2) **contractor quotes** for the work prior to execution of the Agreement with ETSGSA.
- If the Applicant is not the Owner of the parcel on which the Project is located, **written owner consent** must be obtained and submitted by the solicitation deadline along with the completed Application.

### Technical Assistance:

Technical Assistance is available, through ETSGSA's MLRP team, including to assist with development of project concepts and to answer landowners' questions regarding completion of this application. **For technical assistance please contact ETSGSA at:**

Email: [etsgsa-support@formationenv.com](mailto:etsgsa-support@formationenv.com)

Phone: (209) 407-1233

### Instructions:

Interested applicants should complete this Application in its entirety and submit to ETSGSA by the end of the applicable Solicitation Period, below.

Applicants may fill out the form either online or in hard copy:

1. Online: answer each required question (denoted with an asterisk \*) in the online application form. You have the option to save drafts and complete the form over multiple sessions. Once complete, click submit. It is recommended to then "save a copy of my response", and a copy of the completed application will be emailed to you.

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2. Hard copy: Download and print the application and answer each required question (denoted with an asterisk \*). Mail the completed hard-copy application, including all attachments, to:

East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Attn: MLRP Project Application  
731 East Yosemite Ave., Suite B#318  
Merced, California 95340

Or email the completed application form to:

[etsgsa-support@formationenv.com](mailto:etsgsa-support@formationenv.com)

### 2026 MLRP Application Solicitation Period:

The Solicitation Period for MLRP projects to be funded (in part) by the DOC grant is:

**January 1, 2026 through February 28, 2026**

Additional MLRP Project Funding Application Solicitation Periods may be opened in the future based on available MLRP funding.

# **1 Applicant and Property Information**

- ❖ *This section requests information regarding the Applicant, the property on which the proposed Project is located, and related information for purposes of Application tracking.*

## **1.1 Applicant Contact Information**

Please provide contact information for the applicant.

- ***Note: If a proposed Project is approved for funding, details on the person or legal entity that will be party to the funding Agreement with ETSGSA will be worked out, as necessary.***

Applicant Name \*

Applicant Email Address \*

Applicant Phone Number \*

Applicant Mailing Address \*

Is the Applicant the Owner of the Parcel(s)? \*

Yes

No

- ***Note: If the applicant is not the Owner of the parcel, then written consent regarding potential participation in the MLRP Program must be obtained from the Owner and submitted by the solicitation deadline along with the completed application.***

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## Additional Applicant Information (if applicable)

Provide in the space below the name(s), email address(es), phone number(s), and mailing address(es) of any additional applicant(s) that you would like to be associated with this application.

## 1.2 Project Property Information

Please provide the following information for the specific parcel(s) where the proposed Project is or will be located.

Property Physical Address (Street, City, State, ZIP\*

County\*

Parcel Number\*

Additional Parcel Numbers (if any)\*

## 1.3 Groundwater Account

- ❖ *The Groundwater Accounting Platform (<https://groundwateraccounting.org/etsgsa>) is an online system for tracking groundwater use for parcels designated as “Irrigated” within the ETSGSA area.*

Please provide the 5-digit Groundwater Accounting Platform account number associated with the specific lands that are part of the proposed Project: \*

## 2 Project Details

- ❖ *This section requests the following information on the proposed Project:*
- *The proposed Project's consistency with the Turlock Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP's) goals and the DOC's MLRP goals*
  - *A narrative Project description*
  - *Specific questions about the proposed Project's components (land repurposing activities, water infrastructure, water sources, etc.).*
  - *Project Budget and Funding*

### 2.1 Project Consistency with the Turlock GSP

Please indicate whether the proposed Project is consistent with the following sustainability goal for the Turlock Subbasin, as defined in the Turlock GSP:

“The Sustainability Goal for the Turlock Subbasin is to ensure a reliable and sustainable groundwater supply that supports population growth, sustains the agricultural economy, and provides for beneficial uses, especially during drought.”

Yes

No

### 2.2 Project Consistency with the DOC MLRP Desired Outcomes for Projects

Please indicate whether the proposed Project is consistent with the following desired outcomes for projects specified by the DOC in their MLRP Guidelines (check all that apply):

Reduced groundwater use  
Increased groundwater recharge  
Improved baseflows in rivers and streams  
Transition of land to less water intensive, regenerative uses while maintaining natural and working lands  
Creation and/or restoration of wildlife and pollinator habitat and/or migratory resources  
Protection of cultural resources  
Improved water quality  
Increased access to nature  
Land use agreements to accomplish prioritized opportunities  
Quantified achievement of multiple benefits of the program  
Incorporated participation from multiple partners, collaborators, and funding sources  
Replicability and scalability

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Integrated benefits to disadvantaged communities and tribes  
Increased community outreach, involvement, and education  
Increased workforce development opportunities and support of local business  
Diversified economic opportunities

## 2.3 Project Description

- ❖ *This section requests a narrative description of the proposed Project and is intended to gain a qualitative understanding of how the various specific Project components fit together. Sections 2.4 and 2.5, below, request quantities of the Project components for use in project scoring, quantitative benefits assessment, and funding estimates.*

### 2.3.1 Project Narrative

Describe what Land Repurposing Activities (see list under Section 2.4 below) are part of the proposed Project, including areas, locations, repurposed land use (e.g., vegetative cover).

Describe any new or existing water infrastructure to be constructed/ installed/ modified as part of the proposed Project, including locations, quantities and dimensions, and how the infrastructure components relate to each other.

Describe how the proposed Project will be implemented/ constructed, in accordance with the applicable ETSRSA Implementation Standard(s) (e.g., earthwork, crop removal, land cover/ vegetation establishment, equipment installation, etc.).

Describe how the proposed Project will be operated and maintained, in accordance with the applicable ETSRSA Implementation Standard(s) (e.g., vegetation management, water management/operations, maintenance activities, etc.).

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If applicable, identify any partners (e.g., other landowners, agencies, contractors, local organizations, etc.) are or will be involved in developing and/or implementing the proposed Project.

### 2.3.2 Project Benefits

Describe how benefits in the following categories are proposed to be achieved under the proposed Project.

- Groundwater Sustainability Benefits to the Turlock Subbasin (e.g., groundwater pumping demand reduction, new water supply, etc.) – Required
- Habitat Benefits (e.g., creation of habitat for pollinators, beneficial insects, etc.) – if applicable
- Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities (e.g., flood risk reduction, air quality benefits, etc.) – if applicable
- Benefits to the Local Economy (e.g., workforce development, use of local businesses/contractors, etc.) – if applicable
- Other Benefits (e.g., soil health, green energy, etc.) – if applicable

## 2.4 Land Repurposing Activities Included in the Proposed Project

- ❖ *Land Repurposing Activities are activities that involve removing crops and converting croplands to alternative uses, such as those listed below. Information about the above*



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*Land Repurposing Activities can be found in the Repurposing Opportunities and Approaches section of the Turlock MLRP website (<https://turlock-mlrp.netlify.app/>).*

- MLRP Extended Fallowing
- MLRP Orchard Swale Rewilding
- MLRP Stormwater Ponds
- MLRP Constructed Basins (Retention/Recharge Basins)
- MLRP Floodplain Reconnection
- MLRP Floodflow Spreading

### 2.4.1 Areas of Land Repurposing Activities

Area (in acres) of **MLRP Extended Multibenefit Fallowing** included in the proposed Project? (enter "0" if none) \*

Area (in acres) of **MLRP Orchard Swale Rewilding** included in the proposed Project? (enter "0" if none) \*

Area (in acres) of **MLRP Stormwater Ponds** included in the proposed Project? (enter "0" if none) \*

Area (in acres) of **MLRP Constructed Basins** (Recharge / Retention basin) included in the proposed Project? (enter "0" if none) \*

Area (in acres) of **MLRP Floodplain Reconnection** included in the proposed Project? (enter "0" if none) \*

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Area (in acres) of **MLRP Floodflow Spreading** included in the proposed Project? (enter "0" if none) \*

Describe any **Other land repurposing strategies** and associated acreage below.

### 2.4.2 Current Land Use on Areas Designated for Land Repurposing

What is the current cropping and irrigation status of the areas designated for land repurposing? \*

Currently Uncropped/Fallow

Currently Cropped but Not Irrigated

Currently Cropped and Irrigated

If the land is currently fallow, since what year has it been fallow? \*

Not applicable (land is not Currently Uncropped/Fallow)

Fallow since before 2022

Fallow since 2022 or after

If the land is currently cropped, what is the crop? (enter "NA" if the land is not currently cropped)  
\*

If the land is currently cropped and irrigated, what are the current water source(s) for irrigation? \*

Not Applicable (land is not currently cropped and irrigated)

Only groundwater

Only surface water

Mix of groundwater and surface water

***Note: Lands irrigated partially or wholly with surface water are not eligible for participation in the ETSGSA MLRP.***

## 2.5 Water Infrastructure

- ❖ *Projects may include construction/installation or modification of water infrastructure, including but not limited to:*
- Constructed Basins (Retention/Recharge Basins)
  - Side Gates
  - Pipelines
  - Pumps
  - Flow Meters
  - Flow Control Structures
  - General Earthwork (not part of Constructed Basins)

What is the capacity (in acre-feet) of any **Constructed Basin** (Retention/Recharge Basin) to be constructed as part of the proposed Project? (enter "0" if no basin is to be constructed) \*

What is the estimated capacity (in cubic feet per second) of any **side gate** to be constructed as part of the proposed Project? (enter "0" if no side gate is to be constructed) \*

*Note: 1 cubic foot per second = 449 gallons per minute*

What is the length (in feet) of any **Ranch Road** to be constructed as part of the proposed Project? (enter "0" if no ranch road is to be constructed)\*

What is the capacity (in cubic feet per second) of any **pipeline** to be constructed as part of the proposed Project? (enter "0" if no pipeline is to be constructed) \*

*Note: 1 cubic foot per second = 449 gallons per minute*

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What is the capacity (in cubic feet per second) of any **pump** to be installed as part of the proposed Project? (enter "0" if no pump is to be installed) \*

*Note: 1 cubic foot per second = 449 gallons per minute*

What is the number of **flow meters** to be installed as part of the proposed Project? \*

What is the volume (in cubic yards) of any **General Earthwork** (not as part of Constructed Basins, Stormwater Ponds, or Ranch Roads) to be constructed/performed as part of the proposed Project? (enter "0" if no general earthwork is to be constructed/performed) \*

If the proposed Project includes any **other water infrastructure**, please describe it below including the quantity. If no other water infrastructure is included, enter "none". \*

## 2.6 Project Map

Please attach a map showing the locations of each of the Land Repurposing Activities and Infrastructure (Existing and to be Constructed or Modified as part of the proposed Project). \*

### Instructions:

Project Maps may be provided in any of the following formats:

- Static map figure (.pdf, .jpg, .tif)
- Engineer's plan view drawings (.pdf, .jpg, .tif)
- Shapefile (.shp and related files)
- Google Earth file (.kml or .kmz)

*Google Earth is free software and easy to use. Instructions on how to create a kml or kmz file can be found here:*

*<https://support.google.com/mapcontentpartners/answer/15179231?hl=en>*

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If the Project Map is submitted in the form of a static map figure (option 1 above) or Engineer's plan view drawing (option 2 above), they must include the following:

- A scale indication
- A North arrow/indication

### 2.7 Project Implementation Timeline

Will the proposed Project be able to be implemented/constructed (including permitting) by December 31, 2026, assuming the Project enters a funding Agreement no earlier than start of Summer 2026? \*

Yes

No

- ***Note: To ensure that funding for projects can be released by DOC by the end of the grant term (March 31, 2027), Project implementation must be completed by December 31, 2026.***

### 2.8 Project Water Source

- ❖ *Projects may (but are not required to) involve the use of surface water for either Direct Recharge or In-Lieu Recharge (described further below).*

Does the proposed Project involve use of a new water source for direct recharge and/or in-lieu recharge? \*

Yes, for direct recharge

Yes, for in-lieu recharge

Yes, for both direct and in-lieu recharge

No

Which of the following will be used as the proposed Project's water source? (check one) \*

Turlock Irrigation District Replenishment Water

Merced Irrigation District Water

Merced Irrigation District Transfer Water

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Riparian Water

Stormwater (Local Runoff)

Other

If “Other”, please describe:

### **Status of Proposed Water Source(s) for Project**

Which of the following best describes the status of development of the proposed Project’s water supply source(s) in terms of Engineering, Contractual Arrangements, and Water Rights (check one for each category, and optionally describe). \*

#### Engineering

Does not apply

Early development

Advanced development

Complete

Describe (optional):

#### Contractual

Does not apply

Early development

Advanced development

Complete

Describe (optional):

#### Water Rights

Does not apply

Early development

Advanced development

Complete

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Describe (optional):

Who will pay for the water source associated with the proposed Project? \*

Does not apply

Landowner will pay for the proposed Project water source, with no funding provided by ETSOSA

ETSOSA will provide funding for any portion of the proposed Project's water

### 2.9 Direct Recharge

- ❖ *Direct Recharge is managed percolation of surface water into the subsurface for purposes of increasing groundwater storage in the subsurface aquifers.*

Please provide an estimate, if known, of the maximum water available for direct recharge (in acre-feet), in a year when such water is available. Enter "0" if none or not applicable.

### 2.10 In-Lieu Recharge

- ❖ *In-lieu Recharge is the substitution of surface water for groundwater for irrigation purposes.*

Please provide the area (in acres) to be served by the new water source for in-lieu recharge. Enter "0" if none or not applicable. \*

Please indicate the irrigation method to be used on the specific lands that will be served by the new water source for in-lieu recharge as part of the proposed Project (check one). \*

Not applicable (no in-lieu recharge as part of the proposed Project)

LEPA

Linear Move

Center Pivot

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Traveling Gun  
Side-Roll  
Hand-Move  
Solid-Set  
Furrow (Conventional)  
Furrow (Surge)  
Furrow (with Tailwater Reuse)  
Basin  
Precision Level Basin  
Bubbler (Low Head)  
Microspray  
Micropoint Source  
Microline Source  
Surface Drip  
Subsurface Drip

### 2.11 Estimated Project Cost and Funding Details

*This section requests information on costs of the proposed Project to inform project evaluation and scoring.*

- **Note: Selected Projects will undergo budget refinement prior to entering into a Project Agreement with ETSGSA.**

Please provide an estimate of the total costs to construct/implement the Project (prior to provision of any Incentive Payments from ETSGSA). \*

Provide an itemized budget including costs for labor, equipment, materials, and other direct costs to implement and maintain the Project. \*

[\[file upload\]](#)

Please upload any quotations or bids from contractors for any Project components to be implemented using contractors.

[\[file upload\]](#)



- ***Note: If a Project is approved for funding and plans to use contractor(s) for implementation, a minimum of two quotes from contractors must be obtained and submitted to ETSGSA prior to execution of the Agreement.***

## 2.12 Other Information

If desired, please provide any other information about your Project that you would like the ETSGSA to know.