

# EQIP - WaterSMART Initiative

Opportunities available in Tulare County



## What is EQIP-WaterSMART?

WaterSMART stands for Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow, and is a program of the Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation (USBR).

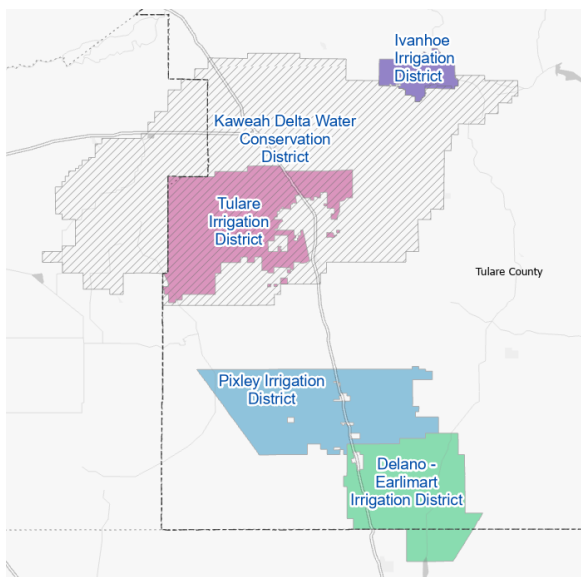
Through this program, USBR supports water conservation planning and improvement projects by states, tribes, local governments, irrigation or water companies, and other organizations.

In partnership, NRCS offers Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding to improve water conservation and irrigation water use efficiency on eligible farms within the boundaries of a District that has received WaterSMART funding. These farm-scale projects complement the District-wide water conservation projects funded through the USBR.

EQIP WaterSMART projects in Tulare County prioritize reducing groundwater withdrawals.

## Am I eligible?

Any farmer is eligible for EQIP funding. Farmers in WaterSMART boundaries can compete for the additional funds provided through this Initiative. In Tulare County, farms within the districts identified on this map are eligible for WaterSMART funding.



## How do I apply?

- Fall 2023:

Submit an application form (Form 1200) to your NRCS Service Center

**Due date November 3, 2023**

- Fall-Winter 2023:

Develop a plan with the NRCS Conservationist

- Early 2024:

Funding decisions announced and contracts awarded

## Contact:

Visalia Service Center  
 559-734-8732  
 3530 W. Orchard Ct.  
 Visalia



## What can I do?

Conservation practices that are eligible for EQIP WaterSMART in California include:

### Irrigation Efficiency

- Microirrigation system
- Irrigation ditch lining
- Irrigation pipeline
- Irrigation reservoir
- Irrigation water management

### Water Conservation

- Mulching
- Cover crop
- Reduced Tillage or No-Till
- Well decommissioning
- Windbreaks and Hedgerows

