New SWEEP Guidelines

The California Department of Food and Agriculture just released the draft version of the 2021 SWEEP Request for Grant Applications. To be eligible, you need to show that your proposed project will reduce both energy usage and water usage.

Here's the link to the draft RGA:
https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/docs/2021_SWEEP_RGA_Draft.pdf

Updates:

- They will start accepting applications in October.
- Maximum grant award is now $200,000, not $100,000.
- Project must be finished in 24 months instead of 18 months.
- They will be accepting applications on a first-come, first-served basis.
- $2 million set aside for subsurface drip projects using dairy effluent to fields
- Extra points for these situations:
    o 3 points for new SWEEP applicants
    o 1 point for irrigation training
    o 1 point for reducing groundwater pumping in critically overdrafted subbasin
    o 1 point for soil health practices like mulching and composting

To do list:

- Get a pump efficiency test
    o PG&E subsidizes pump tests. For information on getting a subsidy, go to page 6 of this document:
    https://www.pge.com/includes/docs/pdfs/mybusiness/energysavingsrebates/incentivesbyindustry/agriculture/APEP_Pump_Advisory.pdf
- Find your last 12 months of electricity bills
- Get quotes for all components of your project. Quotes must be itemized and include labor.
- Schedule a time to talk to Shulamit Shroder before September 1 (sashroder@ucanr.edu) or Sami Budhathoki after September 1 (sbudhathoki@ucanr.edu).
- Check out the Excel tools required for this application:
    o Irrigation water savings tool:
    http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/SWEEP/docs/IrrigationWaterSavingsAssessmentTool.xlsm
    o Greenhouse gas calculator tool:
    http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/SWEEP/docs/GHG_CalculatorTool