USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

A Cal OES-Produced Fact Sheet for Our Partners

NRCS Programs & Funding Opportunities

- **Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program:** a federal program to help eligible sponsors and landowners mitigate imminent threats to life and property due to sudden watershed impairments caused by natural disasters. ***NRCS covers up to 75% of eligible costs (up to 90% in limited-resource areas)***; sponsors provide the remainder in cash or in-kind.
- **EWP – Floodplain Easement Option (EWPP-FPE):** Involves landowners who voluntarily offer to sell an easement to NRCS that provides the agency with full authority to restore/enhance the floodplain's functions/values. ***NRCS may cover 100% of easement acquisition and restoration costs.*** Landowners receive payments up to fair market value.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) *provides science-based technical and financial assistance to conserve soil, water, and related natural resources on private lands.*

NRCS *provides disaster recovery assistance to farmers, ranchers, landowners and communities through a variety of USDA programs*

Key Considerations for Applicants

- Engage NRCS early to conduct watershed assessments under EWP Recovery.
- Contact state conservationists to explore both EWP options.
- For agricultural recovery, apply for EQIP funding during state DA signup periods.
- Use CTA to develop comprehensive recovery and resilience plans.
- Farmers/ranchers should work with their local FSA office to enroll in ECP as needed.
- For precise deadlines, state-level cost rates, and application details, contact local NRCS/FSA field offices.

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** Provides financial and one-on-one technical assistance to agricultural producers for conservation practices that help recover from natural disaster–induced resource damage or prevent erosion. ***Eligible applicants include agricultural producers with priority resource concerns***, and applications are accepted during designated application windows
- **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) – Farm Service Agency (FSA):** Offers financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, wildfires, drought, and other calamities. ECP helps producers with repairing disaster-damaged farmland and restoring agricultural production while preventing further environmental harm. ***There is a cost share* up to 75%** (up to 90% for limited-resource, socially disadvantaged, or beginning farmers), and ***there are payment limits* of $500,000** per person/entity per disaster and fencing repair advance up to 25%.
- **Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA):** NRCS provides planning, design, implementation, and technical oversight to community groups, tribes, units of government, and individuals for conservation and disaster-related resource concerns—***at no cost***.



Prepared by the Cal OES RSF Team

Cal OES RSF Website
rsfconnect@caloes.ca.gov