

# Request for Approval

**To:** **Michelle Martin**  
Deputy Director, Division of the Circular Economy

**From:** **Nicholas Amante**  
Section B Manager, Financial Resources Management Branch

**Request Date:** **September 30, 2024**

**Decision Subject:** Awards for the Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant Program (Farm and Ranch Cleanup Account, Fiscal Year 2024–25)

**Action By:** October 10, 2024

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## Summary of Request

Staff requests approval of 2 grant awards in the amount of \$250,000 for the competitive Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant Program (Program) for fiscal year (FY) 2024–25.

## Funding

The FY 2024–25 Budget Act allocates \$1,000,000 to the Farm and Ranch Cleanup Account for the Program after subtracting for administrative costs. Funds are transferred from the Integrated Waste Management Fund, California Tire Recycling Management Fund, and California Used Oil Recycling Fund. The Program encompasses four cycles per fiscal year.

**Table 1. Funding**

Fund Source	Amount Available	Amount to Fund Item	Amount Remaining	Line Item
Farm and Ranch Cleanup Account (FY 2024–25)	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	\$750,000	State Operations/Grants

## Background and Findings

### Statutory Authority

Public Resources Code (PRC) section 48100 et seq. authorizes CalRecycle to award grants to public entities and federally recognized Native American tribes for the purposes of cleaning up and abating the effects of illegally disposed waste on farm and ranch property owned by innocent parties. The grants are awarded to eligible entities on behalf of the property owner. PRC section 48103(e) and 14 CCR 17992.2(a) allow a farm and ranch property owner to receive reimbursement, through a public entity, for solid waste cleanup or abatement costs under the program.

### Program Background

Properties eligible for grants include those involving a broad range of agricultural activities (e.g.,

farms, ranches, horticulture activities, and silviculture activities) where the property owner is not responsible for the illegal disposal based on a determination by the city, county, resource conservation district, or tribe. The Program's funding is primarily used to pay for the removal and proper disposal of small nuisance illegal dump sites containing non-hazardous solid waste, including but not limited to, tires and incidental amounts of household hazardous materials, and for site security measures to prevent recurrence of illegal disposal after the projects are completed. A private property owner is not an eligible applicant. Property owners must work with eligible applicants to clean up their property. Eligible applicants for the Program include cities, counties, resource conservation districts, and federally recognized Native American tribes. Applicants may apply for up to \$200,000 per fiscal year, and each eligible site shall not exceed \$50,000. Grantees may not expend more than seven percent of the grant for administrative costs. Each property owner, or an authorized agent for the property owner, must submit a signed Property Access Authorization and Non-Responsibility Affidavit (affidavit) before a site can be remediated. The affidavit states that neither the property owner, nor any other person allowed on the property, directed, authorized, permitted, or otherwise consented to the disposal of solid waste onto their property. Furthermore, each application includes a statement by the applicant supporting the property owner's affidavit.

## **Criteria and Process**

The Eligibility Criteria and Evaluation Process was signed on June 9, 2023, and subsequently announced at the June 20, 2023, CalRecycle Public Meeting. The Notice of Funds Available was placed on the CalRecycle website on May 30, 2024, with an appropriate notice sent to interested parties.

Applications for the first cycle were due July 9, 2024, with a secondary due date of August 8, 2024, for authorizing documentation submission. CalRecycle received three applications requesting a total of \$250,000. Staff reviewed the applications in accordance with the approved evaluation criteria. One application did not qualify for this round of funding.

Listed below are the types of projects recommended for funding.

### **Kings County**

Number of Sites: 1

Grant Funds Recommended for Approval: \$50,000

Kings County is actively seeking funding to address a previously remediated illegal dump site located on privately owned land. Despite prior cleanup efforts, the site has continued to be a target for illegal dumping by transients, leading to a significant buildup of tire debris, landfill materials, and general refuse. This ongoing issue has prompted the Kings County Environmental Health Department to issue a notice of violation, underscoring the urgent need for intervention. In response to the problem, the property owner has taken the initiative to clean up the site, successfully restoring it for agricultural use. However, the financial burden of this extensive cleanup has been substantial, and additional funding will greatly assist the landowner in offsetting these costs.

To prevent future incidents of illegal dumping, the plan includes the installation of locks and signage around the property, aimed at deterring unauthorized access and raising awareness about the importance of proper waste disposal. This proactive approach not only addresses the

current challenges but also fosters a commitment to maintaining the land's agricultural potential for years to come.

### **Pit River Tribe**

Number of Sites: 6

Grant Funds Recommended for Approval: \$200,000

The Pit River Tribe is currently seeking funding to address the cleanup of six tribal-owned sites, these sites have a history of agricultural use and are intended for agricultural purposes following restoration. This initiative aims to tackle the growing volume and variety of solid and household hazardous waste accumulating on tribal lands. Such waste contributes to land, air, and water pollution and is fostering the proliferation of flies, rodents, and litter, while wasting precious natural resources and degrading the overall environment.

Preserving the health, comfort, welfare, and safety of the community is of utmost importance. By regulating uncontrolled disposal and illegal dumping of solid waste within the Pit River Tribe's 100-square-mile territory, this project will help safeguard the well-being of both the land and its inhabitants. Additionally, grant funds will be used to install signage to deter future illegal dumping.

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## **Recommendation**

Staff recommends approval of 2 grant awards as listed below for \$250,000.

**Table 2. Recommended Awards**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
Kings County	\$50,000
Pit River Tribe	\$200,000
<b>Total Award</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>

## **Deputy Director Action**

On the basis of the information and analysis in this Request for Approval and the findings set out herein, I hereby conditionally approve the grant awards for the Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant Program as listed in Table 2. Each proposed grantee's award is subject to two conditions:

1. The recommended grantee must pay all outstanding debts due to CalRecycle, or bring current any outstanding payments owed to CalRecycle, within 60 days of the date of the award email.
2. The recommended grantee's Signature Authority (or where delegation is authorized, his or her Designee) must sign and return the Grant Agreement to CalRecycle. The signed Grant Agreement must be received by CalRecycle within 60 days of the date of the award email.

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Michelle Martin  
Deputy Director

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Dated