

SENATE BILL SB-8

Introduced by Senator Jerry McNerney (D-5)

An act relating to Agricultural Water Efficiency Grant Act.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB-8, Jerry McNerney (D-5). Agricultural Water Efficiency Grant Act.

Grants for improvements in agricultural water efficiency are provided by current legislation. In order to assist California farmers in installing water-saving irrigation techniques and technology, this bill would increase funds.

Vote: Majority. **Appropriations/fiscal:** yes. **Local program:** no.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. *This act shall be known as the Agricultural Water Efficiency Grant Act.*

SEC.2. *For purpose of this act:*

- a. *“Department” means the California Department of Food and Agriculture.*
- b. *“Eligible” agriculture operation” means a farm, ranch, or other agricultural operation located in the State of California*
- c. *“Water-efficiency project” is one that aims to lower the amount of water used in agriculture by using better irrigation equipment , monitoring technology,upgraded pumps or other department approved water saving techniques.*

SEC.3.

- a. *The department shall provide additional financial assistance for water efficiency projects*
- b. *Drip irrigation systems, soil-moisture monitoring devices, water-flow meters, pump modifications, low-pressure irrigation systems, and other authorized water-saving technologies are examples of eligible projects.*

SEC. 4.

(a) The department shall give priority to projects that demonstrate significant expected water savings.

(b) The department might prioritize small and medium-sized agriculture operations that might otherwise struggle to finance water-efficiency upgrades.

(c) Grant funds shall be used only for approved project costs.

SEC. 5.

(a) For funds given out in accordance with this act, the department will set standards for eligibility, application, and reporting.

(b) Grant recipients shall report completion of funded projects and provide information requested by the department concerning expected or measured water savings.

(c) A summary of grant awards and program results will be made available to the public by the department.

SEC. 6. *For the purpose of carrying out this act, ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) is thus appropriated from the General Fund to the California Department of Food and Agriculture.*

SEC. 7. *This act shall take effect on January 1 following its enactment.*