

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM (EWP)

- WHAT IS EWP?
- ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
- SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS

Potential Drought Sponsor Briefing
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Presented by: John Harrington
USDA-NRCS, Davis California

WHAT IS EWP?

- Emergency Watershed Protection Program.
- Provides Federal assistance through Public Sponsors.
- Relieves imminent hazards to life and property from flooding or soil erosion left as a result of a disaster event.
- Typical Disaster Events include: fire, flood, hurricane and drought.
- The purchase of flood easements from individuals is also available on a voluntary basis.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Disaster causes damage to a watershed, streambank or levee which results in an imminent threat to life and property.
- Project restores watersheds or protects property to reduce the threat to life and property to pre-disaster conditions.
- There must be a local unit of government willing to sponsor the project and provide landrights, permits, local cost share and O&M.

TYPICAL MEASURES

- Non-drought - Streambank Protection, Levee Repair, Sediment/Debris removal from creeks to restore stream to pre-flood capacity, for example.
- For drought, some examples could be:
 - Critical area seeding and vegetation establishment
 - Tackifier on dirt/gravel maintenance roads to reduce water use for dust control
 - Possibly silt fences for safety near roads or to protect homes or other structures from silt deposition
 - Anything that is feasible and in keeping with practice standards which helps to keep soil in place.

LIMITATIONS OF EWP

- Cannot be used to solve pre-existing problems or upgrade the level of protection.
- Cannot be used to perform operation and maintenance work (i.e. sediment removal from debris basins).
- Cannot repair private or public transportation facilities or utilities, or drill irrigation wells, for example.

EWP TIME LINE

- Emergency situation requires prompt response.
- Requests for funding within 60 days of disaster.
- Exigency work. Must be completed within 10 days after funding is committed.

ELIGIBLE SPONSORS

- Local Units or subdivisions of State, City or County Government.
- Native American Tribes or Tribal Organizations.
- Must have legal authority to acquire necessary landrights, permits for work.

SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide 25% local cost share of construction cost in cash or in-kind services.
- Acquire Land Rights and Permits.
- Responsible for Operation and Maintenance as needed.

GETTING STARTED!

- Sponsor contacts local NRCS District Conservationist after disaster (www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov).
- Sponsor submits letter of request to NRCS State Conservationist.
- NRCS & Sponsor prepares DSR to determine eligibility.
- Request funding and approve Cooperative Agreement.
- Begin preparation of design and contract documents.
- Award contract and certify completion of work.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov

Or contact your local NRCS
Office

Helping People Help the Land...

