

Edwards Aquifer Authority
2026 Conservation Grant Request for Applications
Irrigation Efficiency Improvement Grant Program

I. Introduction

The Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) promotes water efficiency through the implementation of a groundwater conservation plan and its water conservation grant programs. Individual groundwater conservation plans are implemented using water saving practices that encourage, promote, and document conservation measures. Grants may be awarded to fund a portion of the project's costs through reimbursement or other approvable arrangements.

II. Purpose of Grant

Conserving groundwater is important to the effective management and sustainability of the region's primary water resource, the Edwards Aquifer. In 2026, the EAA is awarding grants for irrigation improvement projects that will collectively save 100 acre-feet of Edwards Aquifer groundwater. Applications received before the deadline will be eligible to receive up to \$1,400 per acre-foot of water saved.

III. Grant Period

January 2026 – December 2026

Project must be completed by December 31, 2026.

Projects that do not expect completion by December 31, 2026, will not be evaluated.

IV. Eligible Applicants

Edwards Aquifer Irrigation Groundwater Withdrawal Permit holders who did not receive 2025 EAA Groundwater Conservation Grant funding.

V. Funding

Projects will be awarded up to 100% of the project cost.

- Flood to new sprinkler or new sub-surface drip projects are eligible for up to 100% funding.
- Sprinkler to new sprinkler projects are eligible for up to 50% funding.

Awards are dependent on the number of applications received and number of projects approved.

VI. Use of Funds

Grant funds must be used for the implementation of irrigation efficiency improvement practices and must demonstrate reduction of Edwards Aquifer water use. Qualifying conservation equipment includes conversion from flood irrigation systems to center pivots, linear move sprinkler systems, micro sprinkler systems, drip systems, and conversion from inefficient water delivery systems.

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VII. Ineligible Use of Funds

Funds may not be used for projects that do not improve the efficiency of irrigation practices.

VIII. Application Deadline

March 31, 2026

IX. Proposal Review and Evaluation

Grants will be awarded based on the clarity of description in the following focus areas, not in any specific order:

- Significance of irrigation efficiency improvement.
- Description of equipment used to improve irrigation efficiency.
- Project cost.
- Potential water savings.

X. Grant Application Requirements

Applicants **MUST SUBMIT** the following:

1. EAA Grant Application Form
 - a. Provide contact information of individual who will serve as project manager and be able to answer specific questions about the project.
2. Commit to not apply for a base-irrigation groundwater conversion based on the installation of conservation equipment for five (5) years.
3. Commit to provide crop reports for 10 years.
4. Product specification sheet with description of efficient irrigation equipment.
5. Applicants must own the land for which they are applying.
6. Location of proposed projects must have been irrigated consecutively for three years – 2023, 2024, and 2025.
7. Annual Withdrawal Reports from 2023, 2024, and 2025 for the permit that is the subject of the application must be on file with the EAA.
8. Irrigation Assessment for the permit must be on file with the EAA.
9. Conservation equipment must be utilized for the life of the system.

XI. Grant Contacts

Any questions regarding the 2026 EAA Conservation Grant may be directed to:

Isabel Martinez, Sr. Permit & Conservation Coordinator imartinez@edwardsaquifer.org

Omar Garcia, Sr. Director, Water Resources ogarcia@edwardsaquifer.org

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XII. Mailing and Delivery Addresses

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