Steve Fukagawa grows organic raisin grapes and stone fruit in Kingsburg, south of Fresno. He is a third-generation California farmer whose grandfather emigrated from Japan and rented their farm during the difficult years of their interment during World War II. Steve received two SWEEP grants, one in 2015 and the second grant in 2020.

With the first grant, on a 40-acre block of vines and orchards he installed a computer-controlled drip system, upgraded his groundwater pump, and put up solar panels to power it. He can now switch from surface water to groundwater pumping, depending on the time of year and water availability, and he estimates that he uses 50% less water when on the drip system.

With his second grant, learning from the first project, he will install two efficient pumps—one for surface water and one for groundwater—so he can be flexible with the water source and maximize efficient water and energy use.

“Not only am I saving water and energy, I don’t have to do as much diskng and furrowing, and that saves me time and money.”
— Steve Fukagawa
Steve Fukagawa Farms

The California Climate & Agriculture Network (CalCAN) is a statewide coalition that advances state and federal policy to realize the powerful climate solutions offered by sustainable and organic agriculture.

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