

Farmer & Rancher Climate Leaders

State Water Efficiency & Enhancement Program Participants

SWEEP, administered by the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA), provides grants to farmers and ranchers for irrigation management improvements that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save water.

More info is available on CDFA's website: www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/

STEVE FUKAGAWA FARMS

Kingsburg, Fresno County
Award Amount: \$235,413
for 2 grants



*“Not only am I saving water and energy,
I don’t have to do as much disking and
furrowing, and that saves me time and money.”*

— Steve Fukagawa
Steve Fukagawa Farms

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.

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.

