

***FOLLOW-UP ON AG REPORT NO. 2020-106***

**June 30, 2020**

<b>Finding 2: Agricultural Cost-share Program (continued)</b>	
<b>Original District Response</b>	<p>The Agricultural Cost-Share Directive effective May 2019 and Agricultural Cost-Share Programs Procedure effective August 2019 were revised to clarify the program staff’s responsibilities, how projects are prioritized, and reflect current practices. All references to the AG Team have been eliminated.</p> <p>The District agrees with the importance of maintaining copies of properly completed applications and evidence of the applicant’s program eligibility. An application review checklist has been developed to ensure applications are properly completed and to demonstrate program eligibility.</p> <p>The District Agricultural Cost-Share Programs Procedure effective August 2019 requires invoices to provide the appropriate documentation for program area specific cost-share items. The Directive and Procedure will be updated to require onsite monitoring and visual verifications where practicable prior to making reimbursements. The program manager will review recipient list with FDACS on a quarterly basis to avoid duplicate awards and will revise the procedure accordingly.</p> <p>The District has a long-term monitoring program that analyzes trends. The District’s hydrological monitoring network consists of 252 groundwater level sites, 48 surface water sites of which nine are springs, 42 rain gauges sites, and eight daily discharge sites. Discharge is measured intermittently at 51 springs on either a quarterly (16 locations), bi-annual (24 locations), or annual (11 locations) basis. Water Quality sampling is conducted at 69 groundwater sites and 106 surface water sites of which 55 are springs.</p> <p>The District’s agricultural monitoring program requires monitoring of wells greater than eight inches inside diameter and surface water withdrawals with an outside diameter of six inches or greater. The District will update the Agricultural Cost-Share Directive to include monitoring practices for assessing project benefits.</p> <p>The Agricultural Cost-Share Directive effective August 2019 requires that project applications are reviewed for potential conflicts of interest and any such conflict will be documented.</p>
<b>Status per Management as of July 2020</b>	<p>As described in our original response to the Auditor General’s finding, the District has enhanced its documentation of the review process for Ag Cost-Share applications, including considerations of potential conflicts of interest and applicant participation in other entities’ funding programs. Project files also include documentation of onsite monitoring procedures conducted to ensure that program objectives have been met.</p>