DISCLAIMER: The following is an **example** of what an AWEP proposal might look like. It does not reflect an example that will score high or low. The submission of an AWEP proposal is subject to a competitive process and so following this template will not guarantee the proposal will be assigned high priority or a score which leads to approval and funding. The partner should not rely only on this example for development of a proposal. Partners should fully examine the notice of the request for proposals (RFP) for complete details to develop a proposal which meets the requirements of AWEP and the project goals associated with water conservation and water quality objectives.

Optional items included in the proposal may include:

- Transmittal-Introduction letter
- Copy of letter from partner to State Conservationist(s) requesting “letter of review”

SUNNYSIDE PARTNERSHIP

Proposal for Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

Improving Groundwater and Water Quality Conditions within the Four Mile Watershed – Any State

John Doe, Project Director
Sunnyside Partnership
111 Water Street, Suite 2
Your Town, Any State 00000
(555) 555-5555 ext 2
John.Doe@sunnysideprtnshp.net

"Improving Groundwater and Water Quality Conditions within the Four Mile Watershed"

John Doe, Project Director
Sunnyside Partnership
111 Water Street, Suite 2
Your Town, Any State 00000
(555) 555-5555 ext 2
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Partners Associated with Proposal:

- Sunnyside Partnership – Lead Partner (See contact information above)
- Four Mile Irrigation District
- Four Mile Watershed Council
- Sunnyside Soil and Water Conservation District
- Any State Department of Environmental Quality

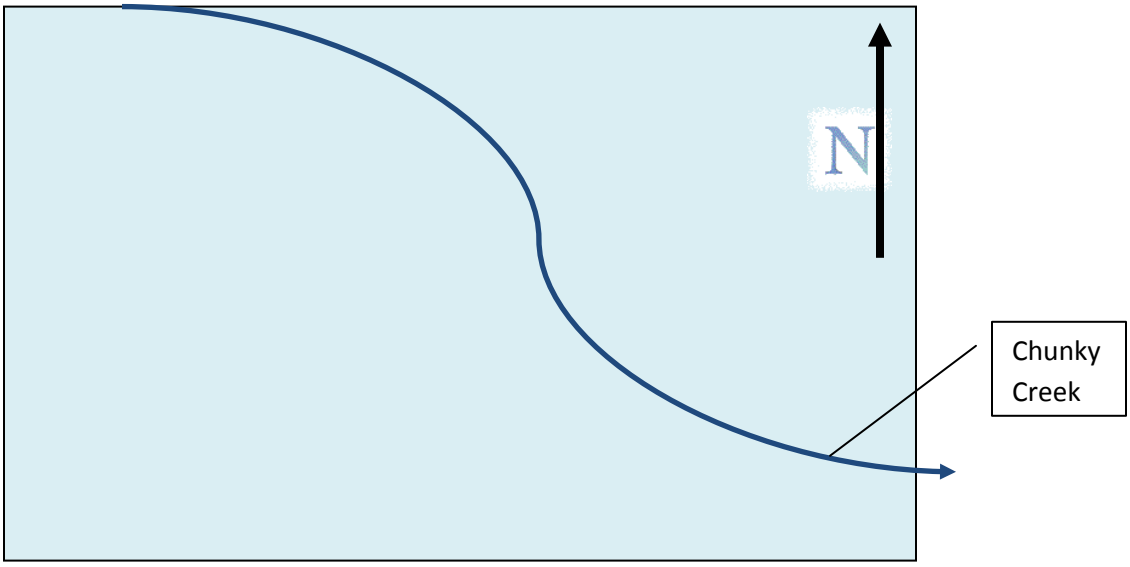
Section 1 Proposal Summary

Sunnyside Partnership seeks to obtain $3,912,300 over a five year period (2010-2014) through the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, for the purpose of encouraging producers within the Four Mile Watershed to enroll voluntarily into the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP). The entire partnership effort will contribute $3,977,500 in non-Federal resources and services. This program would provide financial benefits to participants who enter their land into AWEP contracts and voluntarily install conservation practices that will conserve irrigation water from groundwater sources and improve surface quality within the project area. The project area, located in Dryland County, was identified after consultation with partners within the watershed. The proposal includes use of AWEP financial resources to assist producers within the project area to implement the conservation practices identified below to address water conservation and water quality resource concerns. The partners will also provide resources to assist producer in conservation planning, assessment of irrigation systems and monitoring activities to help meet State regulatory water quality requirements along Chunky Creek, a major tributary within the watershed.

Specific NRCS approved conservation practices that are anticipated to be installed to address water quantity include: PC 449 Irrigation Water Management, PC 441 Irrigation System, Microirrigation, PC 442 Irrigation System – Sprinkler, PC 351 Well Decommissioning, and PC 447 Irrigation System-Tail Water Recovery. Water quality practices include: PC 340 Cover Crop, PC 320 Irrigation Canal and PC 393 Filter Strips. In addition to the NRCS resources requested, the partner proposes to provide services to producers to help plan and monitor efforts to conserve irrigation water and address regulated water quality issues within the project area. Specifically, the Four Mile irrigation district will provide irrigation system design services to producers participating in the project area. The Sunnyside Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will make the services of their mobile lab available to conduct on-farm evaluations of irrigation systems and to help monitor application rates, crop needs and will provide recommendations to help implement water management. The Department of Environmental Quality of Any State will provide on-farm monitoring of water quality to assure project objectives are met along with permit and regulatory requirements in the project area.

The project area is located entirely in Dryland County, Any State, and serving Congressional District 013. The project is not located in a national AWEP priority area, but has been designated by the U.S. Geological Survey as a priority groundwater depletion zone.

Map of Four Mile Watershed, Dryland County and AWEP project area:



A more detailed map of the project area is found at the end of the document.

2. Project Natural Resource Objectives and Actions:

a. Specific targeted goals include reduction of groundwater pumping in order to preserve the remaining groundwater basin and improvement of surface water quality to meet State regulatory requirements. Benefits would be an estimated 100 acre-feet reduction in use of groundwater per year and improved surface water quality to help producer meet State regulatory requirements. By the end of the project, the partnership hopes to provide a 25% percent decrease in overall use of groundwater resources and anticipates helping about 20% of participating producers meet State water quality permit requirements.

b. The specific actions to be completed with AWEP funding for resource concerns addressed by the project are outlined in the table below.

Water Conservation Resource Concern:

AWEP Funded Practices	Planned Extent for Project	Estimated AWEP Resources Needed
Irrigation Water Mgt 449	7,380 acres - $50/acre	$369,000
Irrigation System – Micro 441	45 systems - $19,722/ea	$887,500
Irrigation System - Sprinkler 442	72 new systems - $8,000/ea	$1,888,000
Well Decommissioning 351	20 wells - $1,500/ea	$30,000
	Total AWEP Resources Needed:	$3,174,500

Water Quality Resource Concern:

AWEP Funded Practices	Planned Extent for Project	Estimated AWEP Resources Needed
Cover Crop 340	5,000 acres - $125/acre	$625,000
Irrigation Canal 320	33,000 Feet - $0.35/Ft	$11,550
Filter Strips 393	750 Acres - $135/Ac	$101,250
	Total AWEP Resources Needed:	$1,612,800

Total NRCS AWEP Program Funds Requested: $3,912,000.

The actions being addressed using non-federal resources or fund sources are detailed in the table under section (d). Generally, they include:

1. Reductions in use of ground water will be verified by evaluation of irrigation system before and after implementation of AWEP funded practices by the conservation district mobile lab.
2. The State permitting agency will provide estimates of water quality improvements upon issue of discharge permits. Together the partnership will be able to provide seasonal outcome based measurement of water savings and water quality improvements.
3. The Sunnyside Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will make the services of their mobile lab available to conduct on-farm evaluations of irrigation systems and to help monitor application rates, crop needs and will provide recommendations to help implement water management. They will also install soil moisture sensors on the property to assist producers in identifying areas to reduce water use.
4. In addition, the Sunnyside SWCD will provide staff time and services to conduct all outreach and a portion of the conservation plan development.
5. The Four Mile Watershed Council will also provide direct technical assistance in conservation plan development.

c. The entire proposed project area is 100,000 acres of which 80,000 acres are irrigated cropland to be addressed by project participants. There are approximately 75 eligible producers irrigating rotations of corn and soybeans in the project area with an average farm size of 850 acres. However, the specific resource concerns to be addressed lie within an 8,500 acre area that runs adjacent to Chunky Creek, which is the main tributary for the watershed. Twenty-five landowners are adjacent to the Creek. The goal of the project is to work with all 25 landowners. The project will focus first on those producers utilizing groundwater that are also located along Chunky Creek where water quality permits are required by Any State. The table in section 2(b) specifically outlines the project goals for producer assistance and acres treated with AWEP funding. Partner funding will focus on different activities on the same acres.

d. The table below outlines the specific activities to be completed by the partners. Letters are provided (attached) indicating the partners' willingness to participate and full commitment to this effort.

Partner	Responsibility	Capability	Funding
Sunnyside SWCD	Outreach	Newsletter, website, landowner meeting capabilities	$ 50,000
Four Mile Irrigation District	Evaluation of Existing Irrigation Systems	expertise in irrigation system design and efficiency evaluations	$ 43,000
Four Mile Watershed Council	Conservation Plan Development	Certified conservation planners	$ 32,000
	IWM Project monitoring	expertise in irrigation system design and management	$ 57,000
	Installation of Soil Moisture Sensors	Private contract	$ 77,000
	Mainline Engineering Design	contract to private engineering design firm	$ 290,000
	Fish Passage (required at intake)	contract to private construction firm	$ 50,500
Any State Dept of Environmental Quality	Mainline Engineering Design	in-house equipment and contract to private construction firm	$ 3,250,000
	Conservation Plan Development	Certified conservation planners	$ 20,000
	Project Monitoring - stream flow and temperature	ability to install temperature and flow stations on critical stream reaches	$ 100,000
TOTAL INVESTMENT			**$ 3,977,500**

The table under Section 2(b) outlines specifically the activities that will be implemented using AWEP financial assistance. Generally, they include PC 449 Irrigation Water Management, PC 441 Irrigation System, Microirrigation, PC 442 Irrigation System – Sprinkler, and PC 351 Well Decommissioning. Water quality practices include: PC 340 Cover Crop, PC 420 Irrigation Ditch Canals and PC 393 Filter Strips.

3. Partnership Capacity

a) There are 4 partners for this proposal: Four Mile Irrigation District, Four Mile Watershed Council, Sunnyside SWCD, and the Any State Department of Environmental Quality. The long-term conservation commitments of these four partners are described below:

Four Mile Irrigation District was formed in 1975 to assist landowners in the Four Mile Watershed with delivery of groundwater for irrigation purposes and eventually developed to management of water resources due to overdraft.

Four Mile Watershed Council was formed in 1960 to assist local landowners and water users within the Four Mile Watershed.

Sunnyside SWCD was established in 1950 to promote locally led conservation and assist landowners and operators apply conservation practices.

Any State Department of Environmental Quality was established in 1955 to assist the state with environmental resource concerns and regulation of water quality.

b) District conservation efforts required working cooperatively and closely with ag producers within the watershed. All 25 producers in the projected area were visited individually, field work was assisted with and final projects were inspected. The district and watershed council are highly respected in the area and have leveraged investments of over $15 million in the county through various state and federal sources over the last 10 years to address both water quality and quantity resource concerns in the region.

c) All funds indicated in table provided for the response to 2(d) above are a part of existing programs and funding sources, as well as an approved grant from the state DEQ for the installation of on-farm soil moisture sensors to reduce irrigation runoff by improving on-farm irrigation water management. No additional federal funds are requested. The irrigation district, Department of Environmental Quality, Watershed Council and SWCD all have access to leveraged funds through their existing programs. As attached letters of support indicate, all entities are prepared to provide direct investment pending approval of the AWEP project.

d) The Department of Environmental Quality already has existing monitoring stations in place for water quality (temperature/nutrient/sediments) along Chunky Creek. These stations will be utilized to provide baseline and ongoing monitoring data to show improvements in water quality based on project implementation.

Sunnyside SWCD has a state-of-the art mobile lab that will be available and used on-site to provide irrigation system evaluations throughout the summer. In addition, this analysis will be tied directly to the soil moisture sensors when installed to provide real-time analysis of irrigation needs and efficiency gains.

e) Sunnyside SWCD and Four Mile Watershed Council have participated extensively in previously successful grant applications. Both organizations have staff and capacity to provide quarterly reports and a final report outlining both project implementation and associated monitoring. The Watershed Council executive director is formally trained in grant writing and federal reporting requirements.

f) Producer Ranking Criteria: The Sunnyside Partnership have contacted and worked with NRCS staff within Any State and offer the following criteria for ranking of AWEP producer applications within the project area.

Water Conservation Resource Concern:	Suggested Ranking Criteria:
1. Aquifer Overdraft 2. Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land 3. Inefficient Flows in Water Courses	1. On-farm system improvements will result in actual reductions of groundwater pumping and water savings. 2. AWEP applicant will decommission wells and find alternative source of irrigation water. 3. AWEP applicant will convert from a surface (flood) irrigation system to a new sprinkler system. 4. AWEP applicant will convert from a surface (flood or sprinkler) to a micro jet irrigation system.
Water Quality Resource Concern	
1. Excessive Suspended Sediment & Turbidity in Surface Water 2. Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water 3. Excessive Pesticides in Surface Water	1. On-farm conversion of cropped irrigated land to non-irrigated crop land. 2. Replacement of earthen ditches with lined concrete to reduce erosion and sedimentation. 3. Establishment of filter strips in areas within 250 feet of Chunky Creek to reduce runoff and pollution of the watershed.

g) Please see the following table for detailed description of RFP Sections G, H and I to address required items. In addition, documentation letters are provided indicating commitment of financial and staff resources for the project.

All four partners (irrigation district, SWCD, Watershed Council and DEQ) are fully committed to this project. Restoration of water quality on Chunky Creek is listed as the top priority on both the Watershed Council and SWCD strategic plans. DEQ has identified Chunky Creek as fourth on its statewide list of impaired streams, and has prioritized this groundwater depletion zone as Tier A (the top listing for a depletion zone in the state). The irrigation district is committed to assisting its producer members to meet all goals of this project as well, and was a leader in initiating this partnership effort.

h) Please see the following table for detailed description which addresses RFP Sections G, H and I as cited in the AWEP notice. The following table provides the support requested from AWEP and resources provided by the partner for each year of the project.

i) A description of the resources (financial and/or technical assistance) requested annually from AWEP for producer contracts and the non-Federal resources provided by the partner that will be leveraged by the Federal contribution is found in the following table.

Example Template

Description of Federal and Non-Federal resources and collaborative efforts to implement the project:

		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		Total
Description	**Fund Source**	**NRCS EQIP**	**Partner**	**NRCS EQIP**	**Partner**	**NRCS EQIP**	**Partner**	**NRCS EQIP**	**Partner**	**NRCS EQIP**	**Partner**	
Project Outreach to landowners	SWCD		$15,000		$18,000		$12,000		$5,000			**$50,000**
Mainline Engineering/Design	Irrigation District		$290,000									**$290,000**
Mainline Installation	Irrigation District		$3,250,000									**$3,250,000**
Fish Passage (required at intake)	Irrigation District		$50,500									**$50,500**
Existing System Evaluations	SWCD		$25,000		$18,000							**$43,000**
Conservation Plan Development (40 landowners)	SWCD		$10,000		$10,000		$10,000		$8,000		$2,000	**$40,000**
Conservation Plan Development (20 landowners)	watershed council		$2,000		$8,000		$8,000		$2,000			**$20,000**
449 - Irrigation Water Management (7,380 acres at $50/acre)	NRCS	$50,000		$75,000		$75,000		$75,000		$94,000		**$369,000**
441 - 45 Irrigation Systems (Micro Systems - $19,722 ea)	NRCS	$355,000		$532,500								**$887,500**
442 - 72 Irrigation Systems (Sprinkler - $26,222 ea)	NRCS	$524,440		$917,770		$445,790						**$1,888,000**
351 Well Decommission - 20 Wells, $1500 ea	NRCS	$7,500		$7,500		$10,500		$4,500				**$30,000**
340 Cover Crop 5,000ac $125/ac	NRCS	$125,000		$156,250		$156,250		$156,250		$31,250		**$625,000**
420 Irrigation Ditch Canals - 33,000ft @ $0.35/ft	NRCS	$2,310		$2,310		$2,310		$2,310		$2,310		**$11,550**
393 Filter Strips - 750Ac @ $135Ac	NRCS			$25,380		$25,380		$25,380		$25,110		**$101,250**
Installation of Soil Moisture Sensors	SWCD		$32,000		$16,000		$16,000		$8,000		$5,000	**$77,000**
Project Monitoring - Water Quality	DEQ				$28,000		$22,000		$25,000		$25,000	**$100,000**
Project Monitoring - IWM	SWCD				$12,000		$15,000		$15,000		$15,000	**$57,000**
		NRCS EQIP	**Partner**	**NRCS EQIP**	**Partner**	**NRCS EQIP**	**Partner**	**NRCS EQIP**	**Partner**	**NRCS EQIP**	**Partner**	**$0**
Totals		**$1,064,250**	**$3,674,500**	**$1,716,710**	**$110,000**	**$715,230**	**$83,000**	**$263,440**	**$63,000**	**$152,670**	**$47,000**	**$7,889,800**

Total Resources by Federal and Non-Federal Sources:

TOTAL NRCS REQUEST	**$3,912,300**
TOTAL PARTNER INVESTMENT	**$3,977,500**

4. *Lands to be treated*:
The proposal should describe the geographic area to be covered by the partnership agreement. Specifically, the proposal should include:

a) A very simplified map is provided at the beginning in this example. A very detailed map is included at the end of this document. This project is located in a high priority stream reach for temperature, sediment and nutrients. In addition, the project area has been designated by the U.S. Geological Survey as a priority groundwater depletion zone.

b) A description of the agricultural water quality or water conservation issues to be addressed by the partnership agreement. This was adequately addressed in the Project Natural Resource Objectives, section of this proposal.

c) Specific outcomes for this project specifically include:

- ✓ An estimated 100 acre-feet reduction in use of groundwater per year and
- ✓ Based on water quality monitoring data, reductions in nutrients (specifically nitrogen and phosphorous), and sediment to levels that will ensure that Chunky Creek's water quality is improved to a level that ensures it will meet or exceed State regulatory requirements.
- ✓ A 25% percent decrease if overall use of groundwater resources and plan to help 20% of participating producers meet water quality permit requirements.

d) The priority areas for treatment are 8,500 acres along Chunky Creek that also draw groundwater resources for irrigation water. All 25 landowners in this reach have been contacted and have indicated initial willingness to participate. These landowners are the priority, as the major contributor to groundwater reductions is irrigation water use, and in addition, tail water leaving these specific irrigated lands is entering Chunky Creek, which reduces water quality by increasing both sediment and nutrients in-stream. These properties are the highest priority properties for the project.

5. *Producer Information:*

a) There are an estimated 624 producers farming on irrigated crop land in Sunnyside County (USDA, NASS, 2007). 75 of those are located within the Four Mile Watershed. However, of these, the project is very specifically focused on the 25 landowners who have the most direct impact on both water quality and groundwater depletion in the area. The expected participation of those producers is 100%, based on informal participation surveys and landowner meetings. The landowners in the area, along with the irrigation district, are well aware of the challenges relating to groundwater use and water quality in their watershed and have been very receptive to assist in identifying ways they can help address the problem.

6. *Proposal Implementation Plan and Schedule*:

Fiscal Year	Activity	Responsible Entity	Date to be Completed	Notes
2010	Landowner neighborhood meetings	Sunnyside SWCD	2/15/2010	Landowner meetings have been held throughout Four Mile River watershed - 3 meetings in total
	Announce signup in Newsletter and with mailings	Sunnyside SWCD	5/15/2010	Date dependent on when national AWEP is announced. Newsletter and mailings will be sent immediately after announcement
	Complete engineering design for mainline installation	Four Mile Irrigation District	5/15/2010	
	Take signups and obligate funds	NRCS	8/15/2010	Date dependent on national signup and obligation deadlines
	Complete system evaluations on applicant properties		6/15/2010	
	Develop initial conservation plans for 12 initial landowners as identified in plan	Sunnyside SWCD and Four Mile Watershed Council	7/10/2010	Assume 12 producers will participate in first year
	Install first set of soil moisture sensors	Sunnyside SWCD	8/15/2010	
	Complete installation of mainline including fish passage	Four Mile Irrigation District	9/15/2010	
2011	Landowner neighborhood meetings	Sunnyside SWCD	10/15/2010	Same locations as previous year
	Announce signup in Newsletter and with mailings	Sunnyside SWCD	12/1/2010	
	Take signups and obligate funds	NRCS	3/15/2011	Date dependent on national signup and obligation deadlines
	Complete system evaluations on applicant properties		10/31/2010	
	Begin stream flow monitoring	Dept of Environmental Quality	Ongoing - begins 3/31/11	Stream flows will be monitored and graphed weekly during irrigation season
	Begin IWM Monitoring	Sunnyside SWCD	Ongoing - begins 3/31/11	IWM monitoring will include both the telemetry reports and monthly surveys with landowners. Irrigation district will provide water use data for each participating landowner from flow meters
	Develop initial conservation plans for 18 initial landowners as identified in plan	Sunnyside SWCD and Four Mile Watershed Council	1/31/2011	Assume 18 producers will participate in second year
	Install soil moisture sensors	Sunnyside SWCD	6/15/2011	
2012	Landowner neighborhood meetings	Sunnyside SWCD	10/15/2011	Same locations as previous year
	Announce signup in Newsletter and with mailings	Sunnyside SWCD	12/1/2011	
	Take signups and obligate funds	NRCS	3/15/2012	Date dependent on national signup and obligation deadlines
	Complete system evaluations on applicant properties		10/31/2012	
	Develop initial conservation plans for 18 initial landowners as identified in plan	Sunnyside SWCD and Four Mile Watershed Council	1/31/2012	Assume 18 producers will participate in third year
	Stream flow monitoring	Dept of Environmental Quality	Ongoing - begins 3/31/11	Stream flows will be monitored and graphed weekly during irrigation season
	IWM Monitoring	Sunnyside SWCD	Ongoing - begins 3/31/11	IWM monitoring will include both the telemetry reports from the Internet-linked soil moisture sensors (daily feedback) and monthly surveys with landowners. Irrigation district will provide water use data for each participating landowner from existing flowmeters
	Install soil moisture sensors	Sunnyside SWCD	6/15/2012	

Example Template

Fiscal Year	Activity	Responsible Entity	Date to be Completed	Notes
2013	Landowner neighborhood meetings	Sunnyside SWCD	10/15/2012	Same locations as previous year
	Announce signup in Newsletter and with mailings	Sunnyside SWCD	12/1/2012	
	Take signups and obligate funds	NRCS	3/15/2013	Date dependent on national signup and obligation deadlines
	Complete system evaluations on applicant properties		10/31/2013	
	Stream flow monitoring	Dept of Environmental Quality	Ongoing - begins 3/31/11	Stream flows will be monitored and graphed weekly during irrigation season
	Develop initial conservation plans for 10 initial landowners as identified in plan	Sunnyside SWCD and Four Mile Watershed Council	1/31/2013	Assume 10 producers will participate in fourth year
	IWM Monitoring	Sunnyside SWCD	Ongoing - begins 3/31/11	IWM monitoring will include both the telemetry reports and monthly surveys with landowners. Irrigation district will provide water use data for each participating landowner from flow meters
	Install soil moisture sensors	Sunnyside SWCD	6/15/2013	
2014	Landowner neighborhood meetings	Sunnyside SWCD	10/15/2013	Same locations as previous year
	Announce signup in Newsletter and with mailings	Sunnyside SWCD	12/1/2013	
	Take signups and obligate funds	NRCS	3/15/2014	Date dependent on national signup and obligation deadlines
	Complete system evaluations on applicant properties		10/31/2014	
	Develop initial conservation plans for 2 initial landowners as identified in plan	Sunnyside SWCD and Four Mile Watershed Council	1/31/2014	Assume 2 producers will participate in final year
	Stream flow monitoring	Dept of Environmental Quality	Ongoing - begins 3/31/11	Stream flows will be monitored and graphed weekly during irrigation season
	IWM Monitoring	Sunnyside SWCD	Ongoing - begins 3/31/11	IWM monitoring will include both the telemetry reports from the Internet-linked soil moisture sensors (daily feedback) and monthly surveys with landowners. Irrigation district will provide water use data for each participating landowner from existing flow meters
	Install soil moisture sensors	Sunnyside SWCD	6/15/2014	

7. Letter of Review from State Conservationist – SEE ATTACHED