

## **Irrigation grants process explained at training**

**By WILLIAM ROLLER, Staff Writer | Posted: Wednesday, July 20, 2016 12:30 am**

Imperial County agricultural operations are invited to a workshop that explains how to apply for substantial grants to implement irrigation systems next week.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture notifies all agricultural businesses the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program is accepting applications to install irrigation systems able to reduce greenhouse gases and reduce water usage. Growers can apply for up to \$200,000 for projects that provide for quantifiable water savings and minimize greenhouse gas emissions, noted Cherie Watte, executive director of the California Asparagus Association and California GROWN, a partnership between CDFA and commodity groups representing the state's agriculture industry.

The SWEEP workshop takes place between 10 a.m. and noon July 28 at the Imperial County Farm Bureau at 1000 Broadway, in El Centro. It is co-sponsored by Imperial Valley Water, a nonprofit organization focusing on representing and protecting Imperial Valley water rights, and the University of California Cooperative Extension Imperial County.

An irrigation specialist will be present to provide in-depth technical review of grant requirements and step-by-step instructions to complete the application. Also the specialist can assist with making required grant calculations and put together a strong grant proposal.

The grant deadline is 5 p.m. Aug. 5. Applicants can view the application guidelines online at [www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/SWEEP](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/SWEEP). But prospective applicants must register for a financial assistance application submittal tool account at <https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov>. For further information questions can be directed to Cherie Watte at [ccwatte@hotmail.com](mailto:ccwatte@hotmail.com)