

Resumen del formulario

Applicant Name and Title	[REDACTED] manager
Applicant Address	[REDACTED] 95521
Applicant Phone	[REDACTED]
Applicant Email	sunnysidefarmsca@gmail.com
Applicant interest in project/site	LLC managing member and farm manager
Business/Association Name	Sunnyside Farms, LLC
Are you applying as a Humboldt County based business, cooperative, association, or nonprofit organization?	Yes
Are 75% or more of its operations based in Humboldt County?	Yes
Are you currently licensed and registered to operate in Humboldt County?	Yes
If you are not licensed or registered to operate in Humboldt County, are you in the process of doing so?	
Are the activities of your business, association, or organization, specific to the cultivation, processing, manufacturing, distribution or retail of cannabis, or whose organization provides support and/or services to the cannabis industry?	Yes
\$10,000 Eligibility	Cultivation (as defined in Humboldt County Code 719-3)
Cultivation Lighting (as defined in Humboldt County Code 719-3)	Outdoor
\$50,000 Eligibility	
[[]]	
If Other, please explain	
What amount of the business is Humboldt-owned? "Humboldt-owned" is defined by registered residency of owners	100% Humboldt-owned
Ownership Structure and Owners	LLC partnership: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
# of FTE Employees	

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Summarize the business/association and its activities Word Limit: 250

Sunnyside Farms is a cultivation business with two legacy farms in the hills of southern Humboldt. Our LLC comprises two longterm Humboldt residents and two transplants. Collectively, we have a cross-generational set of couples who wish to continue bringing our off grid farms into full compliance in order to keep the hill farming lifestyle alive with a (slightly) younger generation.

One of our farms is a light-deprivation cultivation site and the other is a full sun, full term site. While our activities would be considered small scale compared to many, the practices and professionalism we have brought into the field of cannabis cultivation from our different life experiences means we are able to maximize our potential while maintaining control over our business as we navigate legality.

Sunnyside Farms, LLC consists of a former Whole Foods senior chef instructor for their global headquarters, a former EPIC conservation professional, a former middle school teacher and coach, and a genuine legacy farmer who was a part of the original back-to-the-land movement in Humboldt County. At this point, we do or we've done everything required to grow cannabis off grid, from compliance paperwork and bookkeeping to every single step of the cultivation process, with watershed restoration work and logging road improvements/maintenance thrown in for good measure! Basically, we're a small group of mixed-background folks who became cannabis farmers and are now a business on the road to compliance success.

Program / Project Name

Sunnyside Farms water storage tank addition

Requested Amount

USD 10000.00

Total project cost/funding needed:

USD 14116.22

Additional Funding Sources

owners

Type of project

Other

If Other, please explain

infrastructure

Project Address

 Redway CA, 95560

Project Assessor's Parcel Number (APN):

212-012-002, 212-011-005

Does the project/business consist of a qualified outdoor cultivating operation (as per Humboldt County Land Use Ordinance) that produces less than 10,000 sq. ft. of cannabis (not including co-ops and associations whose cumulative area may exceed 10,000 square feet)?

Yes

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Licenses & Permits	CDFA Cannabis Cultivation Provisional Permit, CDFW Lake And Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreement or written verification if not needed., Humboldt County Provisional Permit, California Department of Tax and Fee Administration tax permit, CDFA Weighmaster license, Articles of Incorporation, Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)
Licenses, Permits, & Agreements	archive-1.zip
Word Limit: 500	<p>A big ticket item in our compliance agreement is: "The applicant shall obtain permits for the 24,000 gallon [Pioneer] water tank." The Pioneer tank was purchased from and installed by Whitethorn Construction in 2006 and registered in the CDFW Emergency Tank Program during the 2014 drought emergency. It was installed per manufacturer specs but a permit application was not submitted to the county.</p> <p>Retroactively permitting Pioneer tanks is difficult, as local engineers have yet to provide a process to prove that the existing gravel base meets code. As members of the Humboldt County Growers Alliance we have compared engineering quotes with others. Current theoretical proposals involve dismantling the tank and pouring a concrete foundation or constructing a steel cable anchoring system tied to concrete piers. Both options cost more than the tank itself!</p> <p>Until 2018, our tank was reserved for fire mitigation and protection. During enrollment in the Statewide Cannabis Cultivation General Order the Water Board dictated that the 24,000 gallons be registered for use in cannabis cultivation but as this farm is at the end of a remote, private road, we take fire safety and preparedness seriously. Our goal is to add five, 5,000-gallon poly water tanks for use in cannabis cultivation and re-designate the 24,000 gallons stored in the Pioneer tank as intended for incidental fire purposes.</p> <p>Our Pioneer tank is plumbed and hooked up to a fire hose station and our local volunteer fire department has visited the property to note the water supply that would be available for fire crews.</p> <p>While we are not certain that the Building Division will accept our proposal to leave the Pioneer tank as-is, dedicated solely for fire mitigation and protection, at a minimum we will have the replacement storage capacity. Via phone conversations with the compliance team at the Planning Department, they appear to support the creativity and goodwill intentions in our attempt to complete our cannabis compliance agreement while also being responsible residents who recognize the fire risks inherent with living in remote regions of Northern California.</p> <p>If a grant were rewarded to Sunnyside Farms we would use the funding to purchase five, 5,000-gallon poly water tanks. We cannot afford to pay an engineer to design a base or anchoring system for the Pioneer tank. By adding the additional tanks we can proceed with pleading our case to preserve the Pioneer tank solely for fire usage.</p>

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We will purchase the additional tanks described in February with personal funding, as good faith efforts toward compliance must be made in a timely fashion. Other large financial items also linked directly to compliance include: relocating the battery bank for our solar system, partially demo-ing the largest structure on the property so that it can meet code requirements, permitting our septic system, and upgrading multiple culverts. These big ticket items add up very quickly and for farms of our scale, we know the point of insolvency is always just one compliance task away.

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If Sunnyside Farms is awarded Project Trellis funding to replace the 25,000 gallons of water storage tied-up in our unpermitted Pioneer tank, we would spend that money locally on tanks and delivery and could then focus more of our personal spending with local beneficiary businesses on other compliance projects. We view the industry as a closed-loop system: grant money would stay in the county while our personal spending on other projects would also remain in the county and cannabis produced by our farm, using the water held in the storage tanks, would then be taken to market locally. Everyone wins!

As one of our LLC members so eloquently puts it, "Water is necessary for cannabis." With water, we can grow cannabis. As we grow cannabis we are local consumer spenders, loyal to Humboldt County garden supply centers and building supply stores. Our cannabis is then handled by local processing companies and local distributors and ultimately sold to buyers, which generates local tax revenue. We have yet to sell product that did not begin in the hands of a company either headquartered in the county or with a local base of operations. As residents with no outside stakeholders in our business, we are completely committed to preserving and maintaining the Humboldt County cannabis industry to the fullest extent possible.

When it comes to the long term viability of smaller farms in our region we must stay ahead of the game and fully aware of market legalities and demands. While we focus on immediate compliance requirements that require a lot of spending and current solvency, we have an eye on the future when revenues might drop based on a larger state market supply. In order to be prepared for those times we aim to make necessary expenditures now so that we don't find ourselves in dire circumstances at any point in the foreseeable future.

The pandemic has seriously hindered our normal community interactions and involvement, but through it all we have been vocal participants in the Humboldt County Growers Alliance, as previously mentioned, but we've also become mentors and helpers for neighboring farms as they navigate permitting, compliance, and solvency. As active members of the Seely Creek Road Association we volunteer physical labor hours maintaining the road and removing brush for fire risk reduction, and also happen to have the farms that are furthest ahead in the permitting process within the road system. This means we have become ad hoc consultants, on hand for neighbors with questions about any part of permitting, compliance, or cannabis cultivation in this newer iteration within a larger market. We attend tax workshops and pest management seminars et cetera and relay the knowledge gathered to smaller neighboring farms. As such active members of our road association our continued success positively impacts everyone in the road system, especially when we can provide encouragement and sound advice to other stakeholders in the Humboldt County cannabis industry such as our neighbors.

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Sunnyside Farms' farms were founded by one of our members following water and land conservation best management practices. The layout of the farms was chosen not for ease of cultivation, which we can certainly attest to, but in order to preserve as much of the natural habitat as possible and have as little impact on the environment as possible.

One of our two farms has a landscape predisposed to supporting a man-made rainwater catchment basin, so that was put in some years ago at that property. That allowed our light deprivation site to cease diversion from Seely Creek proper, a voluntary relinquishment of diversion for cannabis that we are proud to have made.

At the cultivation site pertaining to this grant application a rainwater catchment basin was not viable without significantly impacting the landscape, so water storage tanks were chosen as the better choice. The introduction of five, 5,000-gallon water storage tanks will not disturb additional land, as the location will be on an old logging skid road immediately adjacent to the property driveway on previously disturbed terrain.

Without a rainwater catchment basin, this full term farm demands that we be water-conscious in every action and decision. Grant funding for new water storage tanks would not allow us to increase our cultivation footprint but rather maintain our current sustainable farming practices while hopefully rededicating some of our water storage to fire protection. We meter and record all water diverted into storage and used for cannabis cultivation, a practice that would honestly help regular households in a drought-stricken state better understand their water consumption.

We have made major cultivation decisions based on environmental impact, such as designating this farm as a strictly full sun, full term cultivation site in order to minimize the water use required for cultivation. Both farms in our business are powered by solar arrays, which we continue to add to in order to decrease ancillary use of backup generators. Because we are environmentally-minded, we elect to not grow cannabis outside of the natural growth season, as we prefer to use no artificial lighting in our canopy and do not wish to rely on generators during the winter months, when solar power is insufficient for farming. The idea of having to offset a carbon footprint in order to balance pollution production at a cannabis cultivation site makes those of us who already have our environmental impacts in mind kind of shake our heads. Being such small farms, it is in our best interest to maintain focus on sustainability in all aspects, especially environmental. If we don't have the land and our natural resources, we have nothing as farmers.

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Our project is simple and has very measurable goals and action items. We began by asking neighboring farms and those on other road systems if anyone had water tanks they wanted to offload, either because they were stepping out of the permitting process or had previous abatement issues that forced them to abandon their operations. Finding no spare tanks, we contacted water tank suppliers to gather quotes for the tanks and also for delivery services to our cultivation site, as hiring a larger truck outfitted to deliver two tanks at once is more environmentally responsible than hauling a single tank at a time.

Concurrently, we spoke with the Planning Department about our proposal to add water storage tanks to replace the capacity of our unpermitted Pioneer tank in an attempt to meet the conditions of our compliance agreement by abandoning the Pioneer tank for use in cannabis cultivation. The Planning Department advised a simple site map update via email to demonstrate the proposed location of the five new tanks. We have decided, however, that we should apply for a Minor Deviation to our permit because we subsequently need to reappropriate two structures on the property for use with the cannabis business and it makes sense to take care of multiple things at once considering county staff time availability is at a premium these days.

The addition of five, 5,000-gallon water tanks at our farm is mandatory for continued cultivation, as we could completely lose the 24,000-gallon Pioneer tank if it cannot exist for fire mitigation and protection without a secured county permit. For that reason we are prepared to purchase these tanks out-of-pocket or to pay the difference between awarded grant funding and the final costs of the tanks plus tank delivery. We will not incur labor costs for plumbing as we do that work ourselves. The funding issue is that this is the first of many large compliance project costs we face at our two farms in 2021.

As previously stated, our small business is extremely self-sufficient on all fronts in the cannabis industry. We have adhered to best practices from the outset, first as a legacy farm dedicated to organic inputs and watershed restoration who worked with CDFW to ensure that our methods were not detrimental to the environment. We continue to have a good working relationship with all agencies we are involved with such as the County Agriculture Department and CalCannabis. As Jacks and Jills of all trades, we have evolved with the regulations and emerging best practices and feel confident that we remain abreast of the knowledge and skills required to be successful in the current cannabis industry. That said, we are just in the process of filing an attestation regarding AB 1291.

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Project Budget

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Select each item being uploaded.	Any accompanying and supportive project documents such as site maps, equipment specifications, contractor bids and estimates.
File upload	archive-3.zip