

# PEST MANAGEMENT RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM

## PART 1 | 2014-15 SOLICITATION

### PEST MANAGEMENT RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM

The Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPR) Pest Management Research Grant Program was established to develop practices that reduce use of pesticides that are of human health or environmental concern.<sup>1</sup>

Voluntary adoption of these practices, through use of integrated pest management<sup>2</sup> (IPM) systems, reduces use of high-risk pesticides and reliance on regulations to minimize risks associated with these pesticides. Effective IPM systems resulting from a research grant may be promoted in the future through DPR's Pest Management [Alliance Grants Program](#),<sup>3</sup> which emphasizes outreach and implementation.

### GRANT SUBMISSION STAGES

**Phase I, Concepts:** Concepts are a concise description of the project and include goals and objectives, team members, and the scientific merit of the experimental design and statistical analysis.

**Phase II, Proposals:** *Proposals are by invitation only.* The proposal is an expansion of the concept and should provide straightforward descriptions of the project and the IPM issues it will address, including a detailed scope of work, a committed team, and a budget justification.

### SCOPE OF PROSPECTIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS

Grant proposals must contribute to an IPM system by addressing at least one of the following:

- decision-making for pest management
- prevention and management of pests currently controlled with high-risk fumigants
- improvement of application technologies
- increased cost effectiveness of reduced risk practices
- modeling or meta-analyses to answer important questions related to high-risk fumigants and IPM adoption

### 2014-15 FUNDING PRIORITY:

This year, the Pest Management Research Grant Program will be funding projects that explore integrated pest management (IPM) solutions to pesticide-related risks associated with **agricultural field fumigants**.

### IMPORTANT DATES

Phase I, Concepts	Sep 6, 2013	Release grant solicitation
	Sep 12, 2013	Webinar for instructions and questions regarding the FAAST Application Submittal Tool (See <a href="#">Conference Calls and Webinar</a> )
	Sep 17, 2013	Conference call for questions about the Research Grant Program and Solicitation (See <a href="#">Conference Calls and Webinar</a> )
	Oct 7, 2013	Concepts due by 5:00 p.m.
Phase II, Proposals	Oct 21, 2013	Notice of invitation to submit proposals
	Dec 16, 2013	Proposals due by 5:00 p.m.
	Mar 21, 2014	Grants awarded
Project	Jul 1, 2014	Project start date
	Jan 31, 2017	All sub-contract work must be completed
	Mar 31, 2017	All work must be completed
	May 1, 2017	Final invoices due

<sup>1</sup> "Human health or environmental concern" is intentionally open-ended to allow groups to make their own case for project need and impact. DPR does not maintain a list of pesticides of human health or environmental concern.

<sup>2</sup> University of California Statewide IPM Program definition of IPM: Integrated pest management (IPM) is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the environment.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pestmgt/grants/alliance/index.htm>

## FUNDING

On July 1, 2014, a total of \$500,000 will be available for research grants.<sup>4</sup> DPR will consider proposals requesting \$50,000 to \$300,000. DPR expects to fund two to four projects. Projects that receive funding will begin when a grant agreement is executed (no earlier than July 1, 2014). All work must be completed by March 31, 2017, (sub-contract work must be completed by January 31, 2017). Extensions of any kind are not permissible under this program.

## ELIGIBILITY

Government and tribal agencies, universities, colleges, consultants, pest control businesses, commodity groups, marketing orders, and nonprofit organizations that have experience performing research and that carry out their projects in California are eligible. DPR employees are not eligible to receive funds. Members of DPR's Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC) are not eligible to receive funds unless they recuse themselves from participating in the grant review process. However, the organizations with which committee members are associated are eligible for funding. See the [PMAC Website](#)<sup>5</sup> for a list of committee members. Principal investigators cannot have outstanding fines or penalties with DPR or the County Agricultural Commissioners.

## REQUIRED REPORTS AND MEETINGS

- **Reports**
  - **Quarterly Progress Reports:** Concise quarterly reports include summaries of project activities, completed milestones, and unexpected problems or special situations. They are due every three months after the project begins.
  - **Annual Reports:** Annual reports include results to date, problems encountered, milestones achieved, and plans for the following year. They are due every 12 months after the project begins.
  - **Final Report:** The final report describes how project goals and objectives have been fulfilled, summarizes and evaluates project activities and accomplishments, and includes recommendations for outreach and/or future research. A draft of the final report is due by March 15, 2017, with the final version incorporating suggested edits due no later than March 31, 2017.
- **Meetings**
  - **Administrative Meeting:** The Grant Managers, grant administrators, principal investigator(s), and procurement, billing, and accounting staff associated with this project will meet within 30 days after the agreement is executed. At this meeting, all grant administrative processes and procedure requirements will be discussed, and any questions regarding project objectives and tasks will be addressed.
  - **Project Updates Meetings:** Project update meetings will occur at least twice annually, in person or by conference call, as requested by Grant Managers or designated representatives. Grant Managers and team must be notified of meeting dates and locations at least two weeks in advance. If requested by Grant Managers, meetings should occasionally include representation by the intended end-users of the research results (e.g., growers, marketing boards) for feedback and insights to improve effectiveness and usefulness of the results.
  - **DPR Seminar:** The principal investigator(s) will make a summary presentation at a PMAC meeting at DPR headquarters during the grant's final year. The presentation will provide information about project goals, objectives, and results.

<sup>4</sup> Pending State Budget approval and approval by DPR's Director.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/pmac/pmaclink.htm>

## FAAST

### HOW TO SUBMIT CONCEPTS & PROPOSALS

See [Questions and Answers](#) for information on where to get help with the solicitation or FAAST tool.

DPR has contracted with the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) to host the concept and proposal submission process through their Web-based Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST). In order to submit a concept or proposal, the applicant must first register with FAAST. The applicant will then be able to log on to their account and save, edit, and submit their responses.

The FAAST site is composed of a series of tabs (General Information, Project Budget, Funding, Cooperating Entities, Questionnaire, and Attachments), each with an associated list of questions and response boxes. Please read the instructions below carefully to determine how each question should be answered. Some questions that appear on the FAAST site are specific to the SWRCB and do not require a response for this grant.

FAAST can be accessed at: <https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov/>  
Open in Internet Explorer for best results.

## PHASE I, CONCEPT

### CONCEPT QUESTIONS GUIDE FOR FAAST

Log into FAAST and choose the RFP: Pest Management Research Grant Program.

Under the Status tab, it should state Phase I. The instructions below are organized to follow the structure of the FAAST system.

#### General Information Tab

- Confirm that any pre-populated information is correct. (Applicant/Survey Taker, Applicant Organization, Applicant Division, Submitting Organization, Submitting Division, etc.)
- **Project Title:** Enter a concise, descriptive title for the project. (125 character maximum.)
- **Project Description:** Enter a short descriptive summary of the project. (1000 character maximum.)
- **Project Location**
  - **Latitude:** Leave blank.
  - **Longitude:** Leave blank.
  - **Watershed:** Leave blank.
  - **County:** Select the primary county where the research will take place. If more than one county or all counties, select “Multiple counties” or “Statewide.”
  - **Responsible Regional Water Board:** Select “Statewide.”

#### Project Budget Tab

- **Funds Requested(\$):** Enter the total dollar amount requested.
- **Local Cost Match(\$):** Optional. Cost match is not required for this grant. If the proposed project is a component of a larger project funded by multiple sources, the proposed project cannot be dependent on those other sources for completion of any task or deliverable included in the proposal. A proposed project must be complete with its own goals, outcomes, and deliverables, all of which can be completed entirely with the requested dollar amount.
- **Total Budget(\$):** Enter the sum of the funds requested and the local cost match.
- **Applicant Federal Tax ID:** Required for grant submission.
- **DUNS Number:** Optional. (Not required at this time.)

**Funding Tab**

- Confirm that you wish to apply for this grant by clicking the “Apply?” box next to the Pest Management Research Grant Program description.

**Cooperating Entities Tab**

- Enter the following information for the **signatory authority**,<sup>6</sup> **principal investigator**,<sup>7</sup> and **media contact**.<sup>8</sup> (Contact information for team members and collaborators is optional.)
  - **Cooperating Entity:** Enter the contact’s organization or affiliation.
  - **Role/Contribution to Project:** Enter brief description of the contact’s role (e.g., Signatory, Principal Investigator, or Media Contact).
  - **Contact First Name:** Enter contact’s first name.
  - **Contact Last Name:** Enter contact’s last name.
  - **Contact phone:** Enter contact’s phone number, including zip code.
  - **Contact Email:** Enter contact’s email.

**Questionnaire Tab****1. Project Overview**

- 1.1. Provide an abstract of the proposed project. Include the pesticide-related problems that the project is addressing and how the project outcomes may contribute to an IPM-based solution. (Maximum of 2000 characters.)
- 1.2. Describe the goals and objectives of the project. The goal is often broader in scope than objectives, and may not be strictly measurable, tangible, or attained during the project’s timeline. The goal is a broad statement of what will be achieved. (e.g., reduce environmental risk through developing low risk practice to replace specific high risk pesticides). Objectives are specific measurable outcomes of the project. Objectives have a timetable for completion (e.g., develop effective monitoring tools or test efficacy of a specific low risk practice). (Maximum of 2000 characters.)

**2. Project Summary**

- 2.1. Briefly outline the key activities of the project. (Maximum of 2000 characters.)
- 2.2. Provide a timeline for completion of objectives and the project. Assume a start date of July 1, 2014, and an end date no later than March 31, 2017, when all work must be completed. (Billable work performed under subcontract must be completed by January 31, 2017.) (Maximum of 2000 characters.)

**3. Principal Investigators and Team**

- 3.1. List the principal investigator(s) and any key personnel involved in the research. Include their affiliations, expertise, and role in the project. (Maximum of 2000 characters.)

<sup>6</sup> **Signatory Authority:** The person duly authorized to execute all grant-related documents in the name of the applicant. In general, at academic and governmental institutions, this person is usually NOT the same as the principal investigator.

<sup>7</sup> **Principal Investigator:** An employee designated by the Grantee’s organization, responsible for the management of the technical and administrative aspects of the Grant Agreement. The Principal Investigator is ultimately responsible for the completion of the project and adhering to the terms of the agreement.

<sup>8</sup> **Media Contact:** Organization’s contact person for media inquiries. If organization does not have an official media contact, the principal investigator may be designated.

- 3.2. Combine the résumés or curricula vitae of the principal investigator(s) and any key personnel involved in the research into a single portable document format (PDF). See instructions under the [Attachments tab](#) section for directions on how to upload your attachment to the FFAST system.

#### 4. Scientific Merit

- 4.1. Briefly discuss how the project will ensure outcomes of scientific merit regarding hypotheses, experimental design, statistical analyses, and/or modeling approaches (as applicable). (Maximum of 2000 characters.)

#### Attachments Tab

- Under the Attachment Category drop down menu, select “Résumés.”
  - Use the Browse button to navigate to your saved PDF document completed in Question 3.2 containing the résumés or curricula vitae of the principal investigator(s) and any key personnel involved in the research.
  - Enter “Résumés” as the Attachment Title.
  - Click “Attach Selected File.”

#### Status Tab

- The status tab allows the user to view the progress and status of the application. This tab is for viewing only.

**UPON COMPLETION OF CONCEPT QUESTIONS, CONTINUE TO THE [SUBMISSION OF CONCEPTS AND PROPOSALS](#) SECTION FOR DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS ON THE SUBMISSION PROCESS.**

## PHASE II, PROPOSAL

*Proposals are by invitation only. You must have prior approval in the form of an invitation from DPR in order to submit a full proposal. Uninvited proposals will not be reviewed.*

#### PROPOSAL QUESTIONS GUIDE FOR FFAST

Log into FFAST and choose the RFP: Pest Management Research Grant Program. Under the Status tab, it should state Phase II.

**The following tabs were filled out during Phase I and may be edited if any information requires updating: General Information, Project Budget, Funding, and Cooperating Entities.**

#### Questionnaire Tab

##### 1. Project Background

- 1.1. Provide an abstract of the proposed project. Include the pesticide-related problems that the project is addressing and how the project outcomes may contribute to an IPM-based solution. The abstract from the Phase I concept may be cut and pasted here if there are no changes. (Maximum of 2000 characters.)
- 1.2. List the high-risk pesticide product names or active ingredients of which the project intends to replace or reduce use. (If too numerous to list in the space provided, please list important examples.) (Maximum of 2000 characters.)
- 1.3. Describe why the pesticides listed in question 1.2 are considered high-risk. (Examples: Risks to the quality of ground water, soil, surface water, or air; risks to the safety or health of workers, the general public, wildlife, or endangered species.) (Maximum of 1000 characters.)

- 1.4. Describe the mechanisms the project intends to target to reduce the risks associated with the pesticides listed in question 1.2. (Examples: Drift, runoff, leaching, volatile organic compounds [VOCs] or volatility, contact, consumption, or inhalation.) (Maximum of 1000 characters.)
  - 1.5. Describe how the project may contribute to an IPM solution and reduce the use of high risk pesticides. (Examples: Does it develop a component of an IPM system that could serve as a feasible option to conventional pest control practices? Does it analyze data to answer important questions that could assist in promoting the adoption of IPM?) (Maximum of 2000 characters.)
  - 1.6. In one page or less, describe any related research or preliminary data that supports the value of the proposed project. Save your description as a PDF document. See instructions under the [Attachments tab](#) section for directions on how to upload your attachment to the FFAST system.
- 2. Current Pest Management Practices**
- 2.1. Describe key pests and the most common practices currently used to manage them and explain how the key pests and practices are addressed by the proposed project. (Maximum of 2000 characters.)
- 3. Scope of Work and Budget**
- 3.1. Download the [Scope and Budget](#)<sup>9</sup> Form, located at the DPR website. You will need to use a computer capable of opening an Excel document with an .xlsx extension (Excel 2007 or later). Use of earlier versions of Excel may result in compatibility issues and lack of functionality. The form is an Excel workbook consisting of five worksheets, tabbed at the bottom of each page for easy navigation. Use this form to enter details about scope and budget. Each worksheet has instructions and questions regarding goals and objectives (1. Goals Objectives worksheet), tasks and deliverables (2.Tasks Worksheet), line item budget (3. Line Item Budget Worksheet), task budget (4. Task Budget Worksheet), and timeline (5. Task List Timeline Worksheet). See instructions under the [Attachments tab](#) section for directions on how to upload your attachment to the FFAST system.
  - 3.2. Describe all hypotheses to be tested by the project. (Maximum of 1000 characters.)
  - 3.3. In one page or less, briefly describe the scientific merit of the methodology that will be used to test hypotheses listed in question 3.2. Is the project an experimental or observational study? As applicable, include experimental design, experimental unit, treatments, number of replications, modeling approach, and statistical analyses. Save your description as a PDF document. See instructions under the [Attachments tab](#) section for directions on how to upload your attachment to the FFAST system.
- 4. Budget Narrative**
- 4.1. Personnel: Personnel Services consists of salaries and benefits for staff directly involved in the planning and implementation of the project. It does not include office support staff. To be considered personnel, the individual must be able to receive their grant funds (e.g., salary, travel, operating expenses, equipment) through the same organization as the applicant. If the individual cannot receive funds from the applicant's organization, they may still receive compensation through the grant provided they are listed in the line item budget under "Contracts." Do not list them under "Personnel Services." For each personnel staff receiving salary from the project, include the wage (\$/month or \$/hour), the percent time (100% = full time, 40 hour work week), and the benefits as a percentage of salary for each fiscal year of the project. Factor in any annual salary or benefit increases. Fiscal years run from July 1st to June 30th. (Example: Post doc \$3,322.22 per month with 3% increase in years 2 and 3, 48% time years 1 and 2, 100% time year 3; benefits 21%, with estimated 2% annual increase.) (Maximum of 2000 characters.)

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pestmgt/grants/research/solicitation/attach1.xlsx>

- 4.2. In-Kind and Matching Funds: Identify any sources of matching funds or in-kind services as they relate to the proposed project. (Matching funds and in-kind services are not required for receiving an award. They should be identified here if they are needed to explain how an otherwise unfunded task is accomplished.) Keep in mind that while the Pest Management Research Grant Program encourages the collaboration with and leveraging of complementary research projects, all tasks and deliverables of projects funded through this grant program must be able to be accomplished entirely on project funding alone. (Maximum of 2000 characters.)
- 4.3. Operating Expenses: Briefly describe any operating expenses the project personnel will incur. (Examples: pesticides, seeds, software licenses, and office supplies.) Any labor should be listed under personnel or contracts, not operating expenses. See definition of [personnel](#). (Maximum of 1000 characters.)
- 4.4. Travel: Briefly describe any travel expenses that will be incurred by project personnel. All travel must be within California. Identify the personnel that will be incurring the travel expenses, the types of travel, and the frequency. Include travel to meetings with the Grant Manager and project team members that might be required under the terms of the prospective grant agreement. (Example: Post doc and field assistant to make approximately 20 trips to local field sites; principal investigator and post doc to travel to biannual meetings with Grant Manager and project team.) See definition of [personnel](#). (Maximum of 1000 characters.)
- 4.5. Equipment: Equipment is defined as any one item costing more than \$500 purchased by personnel. Briefly list any equipment and justify why it is needed by the project. See definition of [personnel](#). (Maximum of 1000 characters.)
- 4.6. Contracts: List any professional and consultant services you expect will be needed to complete project tasks. Include any team members who will require funds from the grant but cannot be considered “Personnel” because they are affiliated with a different organization than the principal investigator. Briefly justify why these contracts are needed by the project. See definition of [personnel](#). (Maximum of 1500 characters.)
- 5. Principal Investigators and Team**
- 5.1. List the principal investigator(s) and key personnel involved in the research. Include their affiliations, expertise, and role in the project. (Maximum of 2000 characters.)
- 5.2. Combine the résumés or curricula vitae of the principal investigator(s) and any key personnel involved in the research into a single PDF document. You may use the same document submitted during the concept phase if there are no changes. See instructions under the [Attachments tab](#) section for directions on how to upload your attachment to the FAAST system.
- 6. References**
- 6.1. Compile a list of references cited into a single PDF document. See instructions under the [Attachments tab](#) section for directions on how to upload your attachment to the FAAST system.

### Attachments Tab

- Under the Attachment Category drop down menu, select “Related Research.”
  - Use the Browse button to navigate to your saved PDF document that you completed in Question 1.6 describing any related research or preliminary data that supports the value of the proposed

- project. (One page maximum, including any graphs, diagrams, and tables. Any information beyond one page will not be read.)
- Enter “Related Research” as the Attachment Title.
  - Click “Attach Selected File.”
- Under the Attachment Category drop down menu, select “Scope and Budget.”
    - Use the Browse button to navigate to your saved Scope and Budget Excel worksheet that you downloaded from the DPR website and completed in Question 3.1.
    - Enter “Scope and Budget” as the Attachment Title.
    - Click “Attach Selected File.”
  - Under the Attachment Category drop down menu, select “Scientific Merit.”
    - Use the Browse button to navigate to your saved PDF document completed in Question 3.3 describing the scientific merit of the methodology proposed to test hypotheses. (One page maximum, including any graphs, diagrams, and tables. Any information beyond one page will not be read).
    - Enter “Scientific Merit” as the Attachment Title.
    - Click “Attach Selected File.”
  - Under the Attachment Category drop down menu, select “Résumés.”
    - Use the Browse button to navigate to your saved PDF document completed in Question 5.2 containing the résumés or curricula vitae of the principal investigator(s) and any key personnel involved in the research.
    - Enter “Résumés” as the Attachment Title.
    - Click “Attach Selected File.”
  - Under the Attachment Category drop down menu, select “References.”
    - Use the Browse button to navigate to your saved PDF document completed in Question 6.1 containing a reference list of any citations in the proposal.
    - Enter “References” as the Attachment Title.
    - Click “Attach Selected File.”

#### Status Tab

- The Status tab allows the user to view the progress and status of the application. This tab is for viewing only.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCEPTS OR PROPOSALS

#### Preview and Submit

- To preview your application, click the “Preview/Submit” button located on all tabs except for the Status tab.
- To print your application, use the print function on your web browser to print the preview.
- The “Back to Application/Survey” button will allow you to exit the preview without submitting.
- The “Application/Survey Completion Check” button will check that all required fields have been answered. *NOTE: The Application/Survey completion check will not check for any unanswered questions in the Questionnaire tab.*
- Once the Application is complete, the “Certification and Submission Statement” will appear. To submit the Application, read the “Certification and Submission Statement”, enter your initials, and click the “Submit Application/Survey” button.

## SELECTION PROCESS

### CONCEPT REVIEW

DPR staff will review all concepts to determine which applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal. Feedback will be available on a Feedback tab that will appear on the FAAST site after the review process is completed or will be included in a letter mailed to the applicant. There is not an official ranking point system at the concept level; however concepts generally will be reviewed for strengths and weaknesses in the following areas:

- I. **OVERVIEW:** The reviewer's overall assessment of the project. Consider the following: (a) Is the project needed and will it provide significant benefits? (b) Are the risks from pesticide use clearly described, and is the project likely to contribute to an IPM-based solution to pesticide related risks? (c) Are the overall goals and objectives for the project clearly stated, important, and reasonably achievable within the grant period? (d) Does the project address the 2014/15 DPR priority area: exploring IPM solutions to pesticide-related risks associated with agricultural field fumigants for soil pests?
- II. **ADOPTABILITY:** The potential of the project to increase adoption of the IPM practices it explores. Consider the following: For a pest management practice to be voluntarily adopted on a wide scale, it needs to be economically feasible as well as effective at controlling the pest(s). Does the project plan to consider both the economic feasibility and efficacy of the IPM practices it explores?
- III. **SCOPE:** The scientific merit of project's methodology and the feasibility of the timeline. Consider the following: (a) Are hypotheses clearly stated and can they be reasonably tested within the grant period? (b) Do the experimental design, statistical analyses, and modeling approaches appear adequate to test the hypotheses? (c) Is the timeline reasonable to complete the key activities and achieve the project's objectives?
- IV. **PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S) AND TEAM:** The expertise level of the principal investigator(s) and key research personnel to complete the project successfully. Consider the following: (a) Do the principal investigator(s) and key research team members have the background and technical experience to complete the project? (b) Are the principal investigator(s) published and do they have a reputation for conducting quality research?

**PROPOSAL REVIEW**

Proposals will be reviewed by the PMAC and DPR staff. The PMAC reviewers are from diverse affiliations with expertise in pest management. The committee's role, as specified in law and regulations, is to review proposals for pest management research and recommend to DPR's director which proposals should be funded. The director then makes the final decision. Feedback will be available on a Feedback tab that will appear on the FFAST site after the review process is completed. Below is the point system that all reviewers will be asked to use to score each proposal. Each section is assigned a maximum number of points that can be received. The total points a project can receive is 100.

- I. **OVERVIEW:** The reviewer's overall assessment of the project. Consider the following: (a) Is the project needed and will it provide significant benefits? (b) Are the unanticipated impacts (at the time of registration) from pesticide use clearly described, and is the project likely to contribute to an IPM-based solution to pesticide related risks? (c) Are the overall goals and objectives for the project clearly stated, important, and reasonably achievable within the grant period? (d) Does the project address the 2014/15 DPR priority area: exploring IPM solutions to pesticide-related risks associated with agricultural field fumigants for soil pests?

The Overview section is worth a maximum of **30 points**, with 1 = poor, 15 = average, and 30 = excellent.

- II. **ADOPTABILITY:** The potential of the project to increase adoption of the IPM practices it explores. Consider the following: For a pest management practice to be voluntarily adopted on a wide scale, it needs to be economically feasible as well as effective at controlling the pest(s). Does the project plan to consider both the economic feasibility and efficacy of the IPM practices it explores?

The Adoptability section is worth a maximum of **10 points**, with 1 = poor, 5 = average, and 10 = excellent.

- III. **CURRENT PEST MANAGEMENT:** The project team's knowledge of the pests and the management methods currently being practiced. Consider the following: Are the key pests and common practices currently used to manage them identified and adequately discussed as they relate to the research topic?

The Current Pest Management section is worth a maximum of **10 points**, with 1 = poor, 5 = average, and 10 = excellent.

- IV. **SCOPE:** The scientific merit of project's methodology and the feasibility of the timeline. Consider the following: (a) Are hypotheses clearly stated and can they be reasonably tested within the grant period? (b) Are the data collection, experimental design, statistical analyses, and/or modeling approaches appropriate to investigate the research topic? (c) Are the tasks adequately described? Will the tasks achieve the project objectives? (d) Does the task timeline (5. Task List Timeline Worksheet of Scope and Budget Form) outline reasonable dates for the commencement and completion of each task, objective, and deliverable? (e) Are project outcomes and deliverables well defined and reasonably achieved within the grant period?

The Scope of Work is worth a maximum of **30 points**, with 1 = poor, 15 = average, and 30 = excellent.

- V. **PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S) AND TEAM:** The expertise level of the principal investigator(s) and key research personnel to complete the project successfully. Consider the following: (a) Do the principal investigator(s) and key research team members have the background and technical experience to complete the project? (b) Are the principal investigator(s) published and do they have a reputation for conducting quality research?

The principal investigator(s) and team section is worth a maximum of **10 points**, with 1 = poor, 5 = average, and 10 = excellent.

- VI. **BUDGET:** The likelihood that the budget will allow completion of the project and that the project's value is worth the amount of funds requested. Consider the following: (a) Is the Line Item Budget (Worksheet 3 of Scope and Budget Form) reasonable to complete the project? (b) Is the Task Budget (Worksheet 4 of Scope and Budget Form) reasonable and does it effectively link project expenses to tasks? (c) Do the answers to the budget narrative questions (personnel, supplies, travel, equipment, and contracts) successfully justify project expenses?

The budget section is worth a maximum of **10 points**, with 1 = poor, 5 = average, and 10 = excellent.

### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Pest Management Research Grant Questions:** Please see the [Questions and answers](#)<sup>10</sup> document for answers to frequently asked questions.

Or contact Kimberly Steinmann at [ksteinmann@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:ksteinmann@cdpr.ca.gov) or (916) 445-7929.

**FAAST Submission Tool Questions:** Please see the FAQ link and User Manual link available at the [FAAST](#)<sup>11</sup> website. The FAAST Help Desk can be reached at [faast\\_admin@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:faast_admin@waterboards.ca.gov) or (866) 434-1083. It is open 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

#### Conference Calls and Webinars (Voluntary)

**Research Grant:** Conference call for general questions about the Research Grant Program and Solicitation.

Time: September 17, 9:30 a.m.

Phone: 800-475-0362

Passcode: 18984

**FAAST:** Webinar for instructions on how to submit applications using the FAAST application submittal tool

Time: September 12, 10:00 a.m.

Phone: 866-631-4936

Passcode: 8892591

Go to Webinar: [CDPR FAAST Training](#)<sup>12</sup>

Webinar Password: CDPR

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pestmgt/grants/research/solicitation/q\\_and\\_a.pdf](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pestmgt/grants/research/solicitation/q_and_a.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> <https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://waterboards.webex.com/waterboards/j.php?ED=29969128&UID=58269198&PW=NODkyYzI1OGUz&RT=MIM0>