2019 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
Technical Review Committee

Public Meeting

March 27, 2019
10:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Auditorium
1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Committee Members Present
Jill Scofield
Martha Montoya
Cathy Carlon
James Prince
Steve Shaffer

Committee Members Absent
N/A

CDFA Staff

Stacy Arlidge	Annika Paulson	James Spencer
Shayon Konjkav	Chang Ha	Erica Swan
Sheila Morco	Stephen Tachiera	Nicole Martucci
Crystal Myers	Nadine Scarbrough	Kristi Duprey
Satoshi Okuno	Anna Shkrabak	Diane Varley

Introductions and Opening Remarks
Joshua Eddy – Executive Director, Office of Public Affairs CDFA
Steve Shaffer, Chairman, Specialty Crop Technical Review Committee (TRC)

Joshua Eddy introduced himself and welcomed the audience and celebrated the 13th year of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program with the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Subsequently, Mr. Eddy thanked the dedication of the Technical Review Committee, stressing the time and work it takes to go through the process.

California is the largest recipient of The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) and the USDA looks to California as a model for the process and the success of the program. The USDA is anticipating distributing $72.4 million of grant funds for the 2019 SCBGP, with California due to receive roughly $22.9 million of that. California has awarded 683 grants through the SCBGP program since its inception to increase the competitiveness of California's specialty crops, which equates to roughly $194.6 million in funding.

Mr. Eddy continued to elaborate briefly on the value that this program has brought to the state and highlighted CDFA's role in providing assistance to applicants looking to expand and

increase available specialty crops. He specifically thanked Steve Schaffer for his work and commitment to the program.

Reviewers were a part of the two-step process that consisted of an initial Concept Proposal followed by a formal Grant Proposal. Both steps were given an administrative review by the Solicitation Team before going to the Technical Review Committee subcommittees for review and response.

Mr. Shaffer thanked Mr. Eddy and CDFA staff for their work and then proceeded to describe the review process for the participants and audience. Mr. Shaffer also noted a couple of feedback remarks on the overall process asking for expanded outreach, a section to be included within the proposals for literature review/background information, and finally better reporting on results of grant funding.

Specialty Crop Block Grant Subcommittee (SCGBP) Reports
Each subcommittee representative presented a brief summary, commented on the review process, and submitted the following Subcommittee Grant Proposal recommendations to the TRC Chair:

- **California Grown Promotion –** Jill Scofield introduced herself as the subcommittee chair for the California Grown Promotion funding category. The subcommittee reviewed 32 Concept Proposals totaling $9.4 million, and 16 Grant Proposals totaling $5.3 million. **Motion to submit the California Grown Promotion subcommittee recommendations to the Chairman of the 2019 SCGBP Technical Review Committee made by Mr. Shaffer. Seconded by Dr. Prince. Motion is unanimous.**

- **Specialty Crop Access and Nutrition Education –** Ms. Montoya introduced herself as the subcommittee chair for the Specialty Crop Access and Nutrition Education funding category. The subcommittee reviewed 52 concept proposals totaling $14 million, and 26 grant proposals totaling $7.6 million. **Motion to submit the Specialty Crop Access and Nutrition Education subcommittee recommendations to the Chairman of the 2019 SCGBP Technical Review Committee made by Mr. Shaffer. Seconded by Ms. Carlson. Motion is unanimous.**

- **Equipping Current and Next Generation Specialty Crop Farmers –** Ms. Cathy Carlson introduced herself as the subcommittee chair for the Equipping Current and Next Generation Specialty Crop Farmers funding category. The subcommittee reviewed 40 concept proposals totaling $10.6 million, and 21 grant proposals totaling $5.9 million. **Motion to submit the Equipping Current and Next Generation Specialty Crop Farmers subcommittee recommendations to the Chairman of the 2019 SCGBP Technical Review Committee made by Mr. Shaffer. Seconded by Ms. Scofield. Motion is unanimous.**

- **Environmental Stewardship and Conservation** - Mr. Shaffer introduced himself as the subcommittee chair for the Environmental Stewardship and Conservation funding category. The subcommittee reviewed 67 concept proposals totaling $21.5 million, and 30 grant proposals totaling $10.1 million. **Motion to submit the Environmental Stewardship and Conservation subcommittee recommendations to the Chairman of the 2019 SCGBP Technical Review Committee made by Mr. Shaffer. Seconded by Ms. Carlson. Motion is unanimous.**

- **Plant Health and Pest Management –** Dr. Prince introduced himself as the subcommittee chair for the Plant Health and Pest Management funding category. The subcommittee reviewed 50 concept proposals totaling $14.8 million, and 27 grant proposals totaling $7.6 million. **Motion to submit the Plant Health and Pest Management subcommittee recommendations to the Chairman of the 2018 SCGBP Technical Review Committee made by Mr. Shaffer. Seconded by Ms. Montoya. Motion is unanimous.**

Final Motion
Motion to submit the SCGBP Technical Review Committee recommendations from the five subcommittees to California Department of Food and Agriculture via Secretary Ross for review and eventual submission to United States Department of Agriculture was made by Mr. Shaffer. The motion was seconded by Dr. Prince. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment
The meeting was opened for public comments. No comments were voiced.

Closing Remarks

Mr. Eddy accepted the recommendations of the TRC subcommittees and once again thanked the TRC and CDFA staff for their efficacious work in this program.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Shaffer, second by Dr. Prince. Unanimously approved.