



**2013 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
Technical Review Committee**

Public Meeting Notice

**May 23, 2013
11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

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

- I. Introduction and Opening Remarks** **11:00 am**
Sandra Schubert, Undersecretary, CDFA

- II. Specialty Crop Block Grant Subcommittees reports** **11:15 am**
 - A) Market Enhancement
 - B) Agriculture Education
 - C) Nutrition
 - D) Environmental Stewardship and Conservation
 - E) Plant Health and Invasive Species Impact Mitigation

- III. Action Item:** Submission of final consensus score to CDFA **11:30 am**
Chair, Specialty Crop Technical Review Committee

Public Comment will be accepted after each agenda item.

Members of the public are limited to three minutes. Agendas, meeting, summaries and additional program information is posted on CDFA's website at: www.cdfa.ca.gov/grants

Questions about the meeting may be directed to: Federal Funds Management Office at (916) 657-3231 or via email at grants@cdfa.ca.gov.

**California Department of Food and Agriculture
2013 Specialty Crop Technical Review Committee
Sacramento, CA
May 23, 2013**

Public Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present

Joel Kimmelshue
John Beck
Ganesan Srinivasan
Joanne Neft
Andrew Breksa

CDFA Staff

Crystal Myers
Sue Ichiho
Monica Aguirre
Carrie James

Faye Ison
Marco Coelho
Sarah Smith
Jacqueline Castro

Mari McNeill
Nicole Takehara Martucci
James Spencer

Introductions and Opening Remarks

Sandra Schubert, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Undersecretary, welcomed all those in attendance. Undersecretary Schubert gave brief remarks on the importance and focus of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) to California, Farm Bill update and potential increase in funding. Undersecretary Schubert introduced the 2013 SCBGP Technical Review Committee (TRC) Chair, Joel Kimmelshue.

Joel Kimmelshue presented himself as the Chair of the 2013 SCBGP TRC. Kimmelshue stated this is his fifth year participating in the review process and shares how much he enjoys and appreciates the process.

Kimmelshue briefly described the SCBGP review process. Kimmelshue also indicated that in Phase I CDFA received nearly 295 concept proposals totaling \$74 million and in Phase II received 140 grant proposals totaling \$36.6 million. CDFA has approximately \$17 million available to be awarded under the 2013 SCBGP. He described the process for the public meeting and stated that a representative from each of the subcommittees would present their recommendations to CDFA.

Specialty Crop Block Grant Subcommittees Reports

Each subcommittee presented a brief summary, commented on the review process and submitted the following Subcommittee Grant Proposal recommendations to the Technical Review Committee Chair.

- Market Enhancement – Joanne Neft stated this is her first year as a reviewer and thanks the staff for being professional and helpful throughout the process. There were a total of 19 Market Enhancement reviewers. Neft stated that the subcommittee reviewed 74 concept proposals totaling \$17.4 million and 32 grant proposals totaling \$8.1. Neft made a motion to submit the Market Enhancement recommendations. Motion was seconded by John Beck. Motion was opened for discussion. Motion passed.
- Agriculture Education & Outreach – Ganesan Srinivasan states it is his first year as a reviewer and understands the importance of the SCBGP to California. There were a total of 13 Ag Ed

reviewers with a diverse range of proposals from organizations representing the specialty crop industry from Northern, Central and Southern California, different counties, different organizations and different proposals. Srinivasan stated that the subcommittee reviewed 66 concept proposals totaling \$15.3 million and 31 grant proposals totaling \$6.6 million. Srinivasan made a motion to submit the Agriculture Education and Outreach recommendations. Motion was seconded by Joanne Neft. Motion was opened for discussion. Motion passed.

- Nutrition – Andrew Breksa discussed the great diversity in proposals. Breksa stated that the subcommittee reviewed 67 concept proposals totaling \$17.9 million and 37 grant proposals totaling \$10.7. Breksa made a motion to submit the Nutrition recommendations. Motion was seconded by John Beck. Motion was opened for discussion. Motion passed.
- Environmental Concerns and Conservation – Joel Kimmelshue stated that there were a wide range of proposals submitted under Environmental Concerns and Conservation funding category. Kimmelshue stated that the subcommittee reviewed 52 concept proposals totaling \$14 million and 26 grant proposals totaling \$7.1 million. Kimmelshue made a motion to submit the Environmental Concerns and Conservation recommendations. Motion was seconded by Andrew Breksa. Motion was opened for discussion. Motion passed.
- Plant Health & Invasive Species Mitigation Pest Challenges – John Beck stated there were an extraordinary group of reviewers. Beck stated that the committee was well represented by industry members. The subcommittee reviewed 36 concept proposals totaling \$9.4 million and 14 grant proposals totaling \$4.4 million. Beck made a motion to submit the Plant & Health Challenges recommendations. Motion was seconded by Ganesan Srinivasan. Motion was opened for discussion. Motion passed.

Public Comment

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

Final Motion

Joel Kimmelshue motioned to submit the entire SCBGP TRC recommendations to CDFA. The motion was seconded by Joanne Neft. Motion was opened for discussion. Motion passed vote.

Closing Remarks

Undersecretary Schubert closed the meeting by commenting on the broad representation of agriculture and interests of the TRC. Undersecretary Schubert thanked all reviewers and CDFA staff for their time, commitment and hard work in ensuring specialty crops are promoted.