



CALIFORNIA PISTACHIO RESEARCH BOARD

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 3, 2023
TO: All interested parties
FROM: Bob Klein, Manager
SUBJECT: Request for Proposals for Pistachio Research for 2024

The California Pistachio Research Board (CPRB) is requesting proposals for pistachio research to be conducted beginning in March 2024. Proposals for all aspects of commercial pistachio production are invited but the CPRB is particularly interested in production research on the biology and control of insect pests (navel orangeworm, mealy bug, leaf-footed bug) and diseases (Phytophthora), sanitation quantification, irrigation (optimize water use and stress measures), dormancy/chill, and nutrition (new cultivars, K model validation, rootstock effects). A new pest of pistachios, *Carpophilus* beetle, was detected in 2023 but little is known about its lifecycle/phenology and potential control including pesticide sensitivity and timing. Orchard sanitation is important for navel orangeworm control and likely for *Carpophilus* but the ability to economically and efficiently destroy nuts on the ground needs improvement. The potential role of the pollen parent or pollen density in the development of Internal Kernel Discoloration is of interest to growers. Research into sustainability, resilience, and regenerative agriculture has been hampered by lack of definitions and researchable hypotheses. The CPRB is interested in projects that would resolve these problems while improving productivity in pistachio orchards. The California pistachio crop is expected to increase significantly in the years ahead and research on harvest timing and optimization is needed.

The CPRB has a research budget of approximately \$3 million. Past projects have averaged about \$70,000 and ranged from less than \$10,000 to over \$285,000. While the CPRB funds projects on a yearly basis, multi-year projects are considered. Annual reapplication for multiyear projects is needed. The CPRB does not pay overhead charges on grants. We also have a supplementary budget for additional projects that can be submitted at any time for opportunistic research and a separate budget for grower education projects.

Researchers submitting proposals are encouraged to use their institutional research proposal format if applicable. Include the CPRB cover page form with your proposal. The cover page gives the Board a summary of the proposal, the total funds requested, and the information needed should your request be granted. The proposal should be no more than five pages in length. Include an introduction, materials and methods, projected results and potential economic value to California pistachio growers, as well as a detailed budget in the proposal. If the proposed project is a multi-year project, indicate how many years and projected funding needs for subsequent years. If a similar proposal is being submitted to other commodity boards, be clear about how much you are requesting from each commodity and provide contingency plans if all the boards do not agree to fund.

The deadline for proposals is **December 20, 2023**. Contact Dr. Bob Klein should you need an extension.

Submit proposals to Dr. Bob Klein, Manager of the California Pistachio Research Board via email (preferred method) to bobk@acpistachios.org and admin@acpistachios.org, or by mailing to:

Dr. Bob Klein, Manager
California Pistachio Research Board
4938 E. Yale Avenue, Suite 102
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Proposals will be reviewed by the CPRB as well as by the Pistachio Liaison Committee of the University of California. In addition to the written proposals, the CPRB is requesting that a visual presentation be sent for each proposal. **The presentations are due by December 31, 2023.** Please use a format that is readily accessible for the CPRB such as PowerPoint. The CPRB does not intend to share these slide/video presentations unless instructed to do so by the researcher.

The CPRB Members and Alternates will view the presentations at their convenience in January and will make preliminary funding decisions based on the presentation. The CPRB expects to separate the proposals into three categories: fund, do not fund, and need additional information. Researchers with proposals falling into the last category will be asked to make a presentation to the CPRB with a question/answer period. The review date is currently scheduled for January 30-31 at the Kearney Agricultural Research Center in Parlier, CA.

Address any questions to Bob Klein (bobk@acpistachios.org or 559 255 6480).