



California Pistachio Research Board

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 11, 2024

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Stephen Vasquez, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Request for Proposals for Pistachio Research for 2025

The California Pistachio Research Board (CPRB) is requesting proposals for pistachio research that will commence March 2025. Proposals for all aspects of commercial pistachio production are invited but the CPRB is particularly interested in research focused in the following areas:

- **General production:** Irrigation (e.g. water stress), plant nutrition, tree training, weed management, harvest optimization, advanced technologies (e.g. AI, robotics, mechanization), etc.
- **Plant physiology:** Climate, dormancy/chill, flower biology, pollen health and receptivity, carbohydrate production and synthesis throughout the season
- **Genetics:** New cultivars and rootstocks, improved nut quality (e.g. size, taste)
- **Entomology:** Biology, ecology and management of insect pests (e.g. navel orangeworm, mealybug, leaf-footed bug and invasive pests like *Carpophilus* beetle, orchard sanitation)
- **Plant Pathology:** Biology, ecology and management of diseases (*Phytophthora*, *Aspergillus Alternaria*, etc.)
- Other projects related to growing, harvesting and storing pistachios (e.g. food safety, organics)

The CPRB has a research budget of approximately \$1.5 million. Past projects have averaged between \$50-75K with some reaching \$250K. The CPRB funds projects on an annual basis, however, multi-year projects are considered based on industry need and merit. Please note that annual reapplication for multiyear projects is required and CPRB does not pay overhead charges on grants.

Researchers submitting proposals are encouraged to use their institutional research proposal format if applicable. The proposal should not exceed five (5) pages and include the following information: Introduction, Materials & Methods, Projected results, Economic value to California pistachio industry, Number of years for the project, and a detailed budget for the proposal year and projected funding 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 a contingency plan if all the boards do not agree to fund.

Please include the CPRB cover page form with your proposal, which should include a summary of the proposal, total funds requested, and contracts and grants contact information should your proposal be funded.

The proposal submission deadline is **December 16, 2025**.

Late proposals will not be accepted after this date.

Contact Stephen Vasquez, Executive Director, should you have questions.

Submit proposals to Cindy Dean, Office Manager and Stephen Vasquez, Executive Director, California Pistachio Research Board via email to admin@acpistachios.org and stephenv@acpistachios.org