
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

**Request for Proposals (RFP)****Prevention, Early Detection, and
Eradication of Noxious and Invasive
Weeds in California****September 15, 2006**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is requesting proposals generated by Weed Management Areas (WMAs) to implement noxious weed control projects in California. The funding available in this RFP (\$1,050,000) comes from CDFA's general fund budget and is intended to address the cooperative prevention, early detection, and eradication of noxious weed populations in California. As not all proposals will be funded, a scoring system will be used to evaluate proposals as objectively as possible based on criteria described below.

Who is eligible:

Proposals must be submitted on behalf of a recognized county-based California WMA. Projects within the proposal work plan can be conducted by any signatory(s) of the WMA, but the lead agency for contracting purposes must be a County Agricultural Department, Resource Conservation District or other governmental agency. CDFA will contract with only one entity per county, except by special request. WMAs that have proposals that involve compensated work by more than one WMA member will need to rely on sub-contracting with the lead contracting entity.

When proposals are due:

Proposals must be submitted by **5pm, Monday, October 23, 2006** by email to: sschoenig@cdfa.ca.gov. **Late proposals will not be accepted!**

What a proposal must include:

Each proposal shall include the following three documents which **must** be created using the electronic templates (will be distributed on September 19th):

- 1) Proposed work plan;
- 2) Proposed budget;
- 3) Digital map image(s) (GIF, TIFF, or JPG—or hard copy maps on 8 ½" x 11" paper if **received** in the mail by October 19th).

Proposals that do not follow the work plan and budget format as provided in the templates will not be accepted.

What a proposed project must address:

Proposed projects must fall within one of the Priority Topic Areas listed below. Weeds to be addressed are those either rated by CDFA as A, B, or C or rated by Cal-IPC as High or Moderate. Detection, mapping Outreach efforts can be included as a component of any of the Priority Topic Areas to support or extend the success of the project, but these may not be proposed as stand-alone projects.)

1) **Eradication.** These projects will treat pioneer, outlier populations. A regional map of these populations in relationship to other populations in the county and region must be supplied to establish the limited distribution and strategic importance of the populations to be treated.

2) **Containment.** These projects will define a leading edge of invasion, and treat populations outside of this no-spread line. A regional map of known populations with a defined no-spread lines and outliers must be supplied to establish the intent of the project.

3) **Regional collaborations.** These projects will add support to existing control projects that bring collaborators together to control weeds in a focused contiguous region. These funds will be awarded in situations where receiving these funds will (a) allow control on lands not currently being addressed, and (b) greatly contribute to the overall success of the regional project. A regional map of the project must be supplied to describe the project.

4) **High-value sites.** These projects will control damaging weeds that are not necessarily rare in a region but that occur in an area of high value. Value is not necessarily measured economically; it can also include threats to rare and endangered species, important recreational resources, or areas prone to extensive spread where taking action would make a measurable difference for the values being affected or threatened. A regional map of the infestation and the high-value resources at risk must be submitted to describe the project.

Time period project funding covers:

We are soliciting proposals for projects to be conducted during the **2007 AND 2008 calendar years**. As you will see when completing your project budget using the template, the budget needs to be broken out between the portion which falls in the state's 2006/2007 Fiscal Year (January 1 - June 30); the portion which falls in the state's 2007/2008 Fiscal Year. (July 1 –June 30); and 2008/2009 Fiscal Year (July 1 –Dec 31).

It may be somewhat difficult to have all contracts in place by Jan 1st, 2007. Please let us know when you submit your plan when you really need to start work.

How much cost-share is required:

Proposals must provide as a minimum a 50:50 cost-share. Cost-share is counted as local resources (monetary or in-kind) contributed to help carry out the project for which CDFA funding is being requested in this proposal. Having more than a 50:50 match can increase the score for your proposal (up to 10 points).

How much funding you can request:

Because of limited funding not all proposals will be selected for funding. Each Weed Management Area can request up to **\$50,000.00** per county per year for one or two calendar years.

Administrative Costs:

The agency that acts as the contracting agent with CDFA is eligible to budget up to 10% of the contract for administrative costs.

How projects will be scored:

Points listed are the maximum potential for that category. Proposals will be scored by CDFA with input from the program's advisory committee.

Importance of the project

How well does the project fit one or more of the Priority Topic Areas?	30 points
How strong is the strategic justification for the project?	10 points
Does the project have long-term benefits or wide regional positive impacts?	10 points

Quality of the proposal/projects

Clarity of goals	10 points
Feasibility of goals	10 points
Clear milestones and performance measures (simple monitoring)	10 points

Qualifications of the WMA

Strength of the WMA collaboration	5 points
Past performance of WMA or County in weed control	5 points

Matching funds

Does the project go beyond 50:50 cost-share requirement?	<u>10 points</u>
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Total	100 points
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Questions and comments should be directed to:

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