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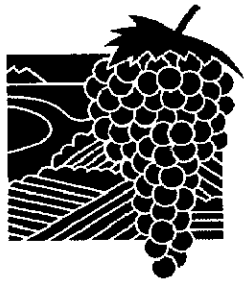

LODI·WOODBRIDGE
WINEGRAPE COMMISSION

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28 July 1997

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Program Manager,

Please find enclosed 10 copies of our Inquiry Submittal for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Request for Proposals, 1997 Category III. I look forward to your comments on this Inquiry Submittal because I would like to submit a formal proposal in the November funding cycle.

If you maintain a mailing list for sending out the RFP's I would appreciate it if you would add my name and mail me a copy for the November funding cycle.

Sincerely,

Clifford P. Ohmart
Research/IPM Director

Crush District 11, Local Commission
1420 South Mills Ave., Suite K • Lodi, California 95242 • 209/367-4727 • Fax 209/367-0737

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**Project Title:** Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission's Biologically Integrated Farming System Program

**Applicant Name:** Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission
Dr. Clifford P. Ohmart, Research/IPM Director
Mark Chandler, Executive Director
1420 South Mills Ave, Suite K, Lodi, CA 95242 Ph 209 367 4727



**Biological/Ecological Objectives:**

1. Reduce non-point source pollution of the Mokelomne and Cosumnes Rivers, which are tributaries of the San Joaquin River, that results from agricultural runoff contaminated with pesticides and fertilizers. This will be accomplished by encouraging winegrape growers to adopt integrated farming practices which result in lower pesticide and fertilizer inputs.
2. Undertake habitat restoration around winegrape vineyards; particularly adjacent to water courses.
3. Optimize water use in winegrape vineyards in San Joaquin and Sacramento Counties.

**Project Description:**

In 1991 the 650 winegrape growers in the Lodi region voted to form the Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission (LWWC). Funded by growers through mandatory assessments the Commission funds viticultural research to solve local vineyard management problems and markets the district as a premier winegrape growing region. In 1992 LWWC initiated the winegrape industry's only district-wide integrated pest management program (IPM) to reduce the reliance on environmentally disruptive pesticides and to implement more sustainable farming practices. During the last 2 years LWWC has been a participant in the Biologically Integrated Farming Systems program (BIFS) which emphasizes soil building, optimizing water use and fertilizer applications in vineyards as well as IPM strategies. The BIFS program is funded by US EPA and California State Department of Pesticide Regulation.

The LWWC BIFS program is divided into two components: grower outreach and education, and implementation. The grower outreach component is directed at all LWWC growers and pest control advisors (PCAs) and provides information on the theory and practice of BIFS. It consists of monthly breakfast meetings, semi-annual research seminars, field days and workshops, a bi-monthly IPM newsletter, and a neighborhood grower meeting program. The implementation component involves growers selecting one or more of their vineyards in which to try one or more BIFS strategies. These vineyards also act as 'lighthouse' vineyards for other growers to observe.

A point has been reached where the level of BIFS education and implementation of LWWC growers and PCAs is best viewed as a continuum from those who have been the most involved and have a high level of BIFS education and implementation to those who have so far been minimally involved. At this stage different groups require meetings and workshops that are tailored to their different levels of IPM skills and education. Based on our experience working with small groups of growers in our neighborhood grower meeting program, we propose to set up BIFS 'teams' of 10 to 15 growers, using team building techniques, each being lead by a grower trained in facilitation. The BIFS team approach provides flexibility to work with growers at these different stages of BIFS development since the teams are self-directed and can proceed at a pace that suits them. Teams will meet on a regular basis to set goals and agendas based on reduced pesticide and fertilizer inputs and to learn new BIFS techniques through facilitated discussion and on farm research trials. The long-term goal of the program is to form many teams throughout the district such that every grower and PCA will have the opportunity to be a member of one.



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Moreover, a network of IPM teams will engage LWWC growers, PCAs, farm advisors, and winegrape buyers in a creative, pro-active effort to explore reduced-risk alternatives to the current conventional pest management practices being used in many vineyards. Building teams and engaging farmers in developing their own goals has been carried out elsewhere with great success, both outside the US as well as locally in California. Experience with team building in other regions shows that in the long term these groups tend to remain as active problem-solving bodies, often going beyond strictly pest management-related issues to deal with issues related to soil quality and water use.

**Approach/Tasks/Schedule**

Jan.-March 1998: Recruit full-time person with experience in team-building to coordinate the BIFS team program.

March-Nov. 1998: Recruit grower team leaders and have them undergo facilitation training.

Nov. 1998 - Jan. 1999: Form 10 grower teams, have teams develop biologically integrated farming system mission statements and team goals and tasks which focus on non-point source pollution reduction in agricultural run-off such as reduced use of pre-emergent herbicides, reduced use of organophosphate pesticides, developing optimum nutritional management to reduce fertilizer inputs, and undertake habitat restoration around vineyards.

Jan. - Nov. 2000: Grower teams work on tasks. New teams formed with other interested growers and PCAs.

Jan. 1998 - Dec. 2000: Encourage cross fertilization of ideas, discussions, and research results among BIFS teams and remainder of LWWC members to encourage grower and PCA movement along the BIFS continuum and encourage the formation of additional teams. This will be accomplished through LWWC's grower outreach and education program.

**Justification for Project Funding by CALFED:**

LWWC's BIFS program is an area-wide program that has the potential to influence the majority of the growers in the East Side Delta Tributaries. The program's goal is to reduce one of the stressors, water quality as affected by agricultural runoff, affecting priority species and habitats. LWWC has a proven track record for accomplishing its goals.

**Budget Costs:**

| | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Salaries (Grower Team Director, IPM Director, Summer interns) | $75,000 | $110,000 | $110,000 |
| Program operating funds (eg. Overhead, supplies and expenses) | 45,000 | 45,000 | 45,000 |
| Facilitation Training | 30,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Totals | $150,000 | $170,000 | $170,000 |

**Applicant Qualifications:**

LWWC's BIFS program is known nationally and internationally for its success and innovations. Dr. Clifford Ohmart has been project manager for the very successful LWWC Biologically Integrated Farming System project which is funded by US EPA and administered through the University of California Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program. This funding sunsets in September of 1998.