

Range of Alternatives for Amending Land and Resources Management Plans, Modoc, Lasser, Plumas, Tahoe, Eldorado, Stanislaus, Sequoia, Sierra, Inyo and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests, and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Several Counties, CA and NV, Comment Period Ends: September 12, 2003, Contact: Kathleen Morse (707) 562-8822. Revision of FR Notice Published on 6/13/2003: Correction to Contact Telephone Number.

Dated: June 24, 2003.

**Joseph C. Montgomery,**

Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-2003-0141; FRL-7304-5]

### Region III Strategic Agricultural Initiative Grants; Notice of Availability

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** EPA is soliciting proposals to help implement the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) and to support "transition" to using less and lower risk pesticides in food production. The program supports innovative efforts that enable growers to decrease reliance on agricultural pesticides while maintaining economical outcomes, by developing, demonstrating and/or applying reduced risk alternatives and ecologically based integrated approaches to pest management. This grant program encourages "systems" approaches that integrate pest, soil, and crop management practices. Although the focus is on reducing dependency on pesticides and developing alternatives to pesticides targeted under FQPA, a broader approach to problem solving is encouraged in the development of project proposals under FQPA and section 20 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) as amended.

**DATES:** Proposals must be postmarked/received by 5 p.m. eastern standard time, July 31, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Proposals may be submitted electronically, by mail, or through hand delivery/courier to John Butler at the address/e-mail listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Butler, Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, Mail code 3WC32,

Waste & Chemicals Management Division, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029; telephone number: (215) 814-2127; fax number: (215) 814-3113; e-mail address: [butler.john@epa.gov](mailto:butler.john@epa.gov).

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### I. General Information

#### A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

This action is directed to the public in general. This action may, however, be of interest to eligible applicants who primarily operate out of and will conduct the project in one of the following Region III States: Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia or the District of Columbia. Since other entities may also be interested, the Agency has not attempted to describe all the specific entities that may be affected by this action. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

#### B. How Can I Get Additional Information, Including Copies of this Document and Other Related Documents?

1. *Docket.* EPA has established an official public docket for this action under docket identification (ID) number OPP-2003-0141. The official public docket consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, any public comments received, and other information related to this action. Although a part of the official docket, the public docket does not include Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. The official public docket is the collection of materials that is available for public viewing at the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA. This docket facility is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The docket telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

2. *Electronic access.* You may access this **Federal Register** document electronically through the EPA Internet under the "**Federal Register**" listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>. Additional information is available on EPA's PESP website at [http://www.epa.gov/oppbppd1/PESP/regional\\_grants.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppbppd1/PESP/regional_grants.htm).

An electronic version of the public docket is available through EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, EPA Dockets. You may use EPA

Dockets at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket/> to submit or view public comments, access the index listing of the contents of the official public docket, and to access those documents in the public docket that are available electronically. Once in the system, select "search," then key in the appropriate docket ID number.

3. *By mail or in person.* Contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

### II. Purpose of this Request

EPA's, Waste & Chemicals Management Division, Pesticides/Asbestos Programs & Enforcement Branch, Region III, is requesting proposals which will help implement requirements of FQPA, and to support the transition to using less and lower risk pesticides in food production. The program supports innovative efforts that enable growers to decrease reliance on agricultural pesticides while maintaining economical outcomes, by developing, demonstration and/or applying reduced risk alternatives and ecologically based integrated approaches to pest management. This program is included in the catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under number 66.716.

### III. High Priority Areas for Consideration

EPA will award Food Quality Protection Act Strategic Agricultural Initiative grants under the authority of section 20 of FIFRA as amended by FQPA, for projects involving research, development, monitoring, public education, training, demonstrations and studies that enable growers to decrease reliance on agricultural pesticides while maintaining economical outcomes, by developing, demonstration and/or applying reduced risk alternatives and ecologically based integrated approaches to pest management. These proposals should incorporate the following techniques:

1. Utilize demonstration projects, outreach and/or education to increase the adoption of integrated or sustainable agricultural production practices which provide alternatives to pesticides impacted negatively by FQPA decisions.

2. Work collaboratively with producers, commodity groups, and other stakeholders by making the best use of expert field consultants, USDA research, EPA's safer substitutes, and university technical support on alternatives and integrated pest management practices.

3. Actively engage scientists, farmers, industry, and local, State and Federal