

**Panel Scientific and Technical Review Form**  
(Note: Review comments will be anonymous, but public.)

**Proposal number: 2001-I207**

**Short Proposal Title: Environmental Stewardship  
Educational Conferences & Tours**

**1a) Are the objectives and hypotheses clearly stated?**

*Summary of Reviewers comments:*

Yes- the educational objectives and goals of the program are enumerated in a short concise manner and achieving these objectives will allow the organization to test its hypothesis of whether farmer practices can be altered through education. Steps to achieve the objectives are clearly laid out and include 1) conference sessions which include expert presentations and facilitated discussions of new methodologies and, 2) tour sessions which allow for a hands-on direct forum for sparking new ideas for traditional growers.

*Panel Summary:*

Hypothesis is stated, however, there is no testing of the hypothesis. It is given as an all or nothing statement, with no evaluative tool to determine effectiveness.

**1b1) Does the conceptual model clearly explain the underlying basis for the proposed work?**

*Summary of Reviewers comments:*

Complete and well written.

*Panel Summary:*

Conceptual model does clearly outline the underlying basis, but again, the assumption is made that if this project is implemented, there will be a change in behavior with out any type of post event evaluation.

The evaluation will provide valuable information on whether or not this is effective, and if it is not effective, what changes could be made to make it effective.

**1b2) Is the approach well designed and appropriate for meeting the objectives of the project?**

*Summary of Reviewers comments:*

One reviewer commented that the approach was shallow and only provides farmers with information, and not other tools needed to implement change.

*Panel Summary:*

The approach would be enhanced by post conference technical support and post event evaluation.  
(See comments above)

**1c1) Has the applicant justified the selection of research, pilot or demonstration project, or a full-scale implementation project?**

***Summary of Reviewers comments:***

The conference element of the program is a full-scale implementation program and as it stands independently, it is justifiable. This criteria does not seem appropriate for an environmental education proposal but this could be either a demonstration project or a full-scale implementation project.

***Panel Summary:***

Agree with reviewers

**1c2) Is the project likely to generate information that can be used to inform future decision making?**

***Summary of Reviewers comments:***

Yes, the conference design would definitely generate information that could be used to help farmers mitigate impacts from their irrigation, pesticide application, and other efforts. The entire program model in fact is based on providing information and successful examples in order to inform and influence decision makers about what types of practices they employ on their own lands. Because growers live in communities that often share ideas and similar practices, there is an opportunity to influence larger decision making bodies in those communities, such as irrigation districts and local governments.

***Panel Summary:***

Theoretically, yes, although there is not testing. (Do I detect a theme here?)

The target audience should be broadened to include other decision makers to include, but not be limited to, county planners, county supervisors, zoning personnel, etc.

**2a) Are the monitoring and information assessment plans adequate to assess the outcome of the project?**

***Summary of Reviewers comments:***

Monitoring and assessment plans are incorporated. They do not however, assess the objectives to see if they were accomplished. The objectives identify topics such as: improving and increasing aquatic and terrestrial habitats and ecological functions; reducing pesticide laden soils and water, and increasing migratory bird habitat. These however are not assessed in the project plan to determine if they are in fact accomplished. The assessment plans do include evaluation forms on the success of the conferences. I think it would be beneficial to include a post follow-up assessment about actual changes in management that have occurred based on the information gained at the conference.

***Panel Summary:***

No. The evaluation only tests people's reaction to the conference itself. It does not measure change in behaviors as a result of the conference.

**2b) Are data collection, data management, data analysis, and reporting plans well-described, scientifically sound and adequate to meet the proposed objectives?**

***Summary of Reviewers comments:***

Reviewers feel this is adequately addressed

***Panel Summary:***

Agree,

**3) Is the proposed work likely to be technically feasible?**

***Summary of Reviewers comments:***

Yes, the Committee for Sustainable Agriculture has many years of experience in providing these types of educational experiences, they are well connected to the farming community and have access to model projects that will be shown on the tours. I believe that the implementation of the program is very feasible

***Panel Summary:***

Absolutely. This is a very reasonably priced proposal. The panel questions whether the applicant is seeking adequate funding for the project.

**4) Is the proposed project team qualified to efficiently and effectively implement the proposed project?**

***Summary of Reviewers comments:***

Yes, the staff that will be involved in administering the program appears to have the necessary qualifications and past experience (including similar already funded CalFed grants) to do a very good job of implementing the project. The project will collaborate locally with many well respected and experienced entities, including the Napa RCD, the Napa Sustainable Winegrape Growing Group, the Napa Valley Vintner's Association, NRCS in Madera, Fresno and Stanislaus Counties, California Clean Growers, CAFF, the California Integrated Waste Management Board and independent farmers and local landscape professionals. These collaborators have demonstrated their support by providing many in kind services such as speakers, farm tours, technical assistance and outreach to their own constituencies

***Panel Summary:***

Agree

## 5) Other comments

Target audience should include land planners and supervisors to help them understand what areas are appropriate (or inappropriate) for wine grapes.

Evaluative tool should demonstrate whether or not there is a definite change in behavior of participants based on involvement in this program.

### **Overall Evaluation PANEL SUMMARY COMMENTS**

There is a geographic component to this proposal that could be used to decide whether all four conferences should be held. The geographic reviewers in the respective regions may believe this conference is more important or relevant in one region than in another. The proponent displayed the costs so that any of the four conferences could be funded.

#### Summary Rating

Excellent  
Very Good   Very Good  
Good  
Fair  
Poor

Your Rating: **VERY GOOD**