## Biological Control of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Biotype G in Micronesia

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#### 1. Project Description

This grant proposal is a request for funds to hire a post doctoral entomologist for 2 years to work on an existing project to implement effective biological control for the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) which is rapidly killing palm trees in Guam and Palau. Without significant population suppression of CRB in Guam and Palau, it is likely that Guam and Palau will lose most of their palms and it is just a matter of time before other Micronesian Islands are invaded by CRB.

#### 1.1. Background

The coconut rhinoceros beetle, *Oryctes rhinoceros*, is a major pest of coconut palm, oil palm and other palm species. Palms are damaged when adult beetles bore into the crowns of palms to feed on sap. Tree mortality occurs when beetles destroy the growing tip (meristem). Immature beetles (grubs) do no damage. They feed on dead, decaying vegetation in breeding sites. Preferred breeding sites are dead, standing coconut stems, and piles of decaying vegetation such those left behind by typhoons or after replanting of oil palm plantations. If a CRB population is not suppressed, it is possible for a positive feed-back cycle to initiate whereby adult beetles kill massive numbers of palms, thereby generating more food for even more grubs which turn into adults which kill even more palms. An outbreak following this scenario occurred in the Palau Islands during the late 1940s resulting in about 50% coconut palms being killed by CRB throughout the archipelago and 100% mortality on some of the smaller islands [1]. A similar outbreak is currently impacting Guam.

Following 40 years of no geographical range expansion, CRB is again "on the move" in the Pacific. CRB was recently detected for the first time at several Pacific Island locations including Saipan (2006), Guam (2007), Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (2010), Oahu, Hawaii (2013), and Honiara, Solomon Islands (2015). Eradication of CRB has been attempted many times but is extremely difficult, having been achieved only once, on Niuatoputapu (formerly known as Keppel Island), a tiny island belonging to Tonga, with an area of only 16 km² (3% the area of Guam)[2]. Failing eradication, the usual response to CRB infestations during the second half of the 20th century was introduction of *Oryctes* nudivirus (OrNV), the biological control agent of choice for this pest [3]. OrNV attacks only CRB, typically reducing damage by up to 90% with population suppression lasting indefinitely [4]. OrNV is auto-disseminated, meaning the pathogen is carried between feeding and breeding sites by CRB adults. Like many biocontrol agents, OrNV is density-dependent, working best at high population densities. After release, OrNV suppresses CRB populations to levels that result in only minor damage.

Current invasions of Pacific Islands by CRB involve a new invasive biotype that has escaped from biological control by OrNV. Discovery of OrNV nudivirus in the 1960s enabled the successful management of CRB populations in Pacific Island Countries [5]. Augmentative release of OrNV continues to be an important mechanism for CRB

management in both coconut and oil palm growing regions. For ~40 years after adoption of this biocontrol strategy, no new outbreaks of CRB were reported from uninfested palm growing islands in the Pacific ensuring continuity of palm based village economies.

However, the situation has recently changed. For the first time in 40 years, CRB invasion into completely new areas has been reported. Additionally, Pacific areas with established CRB populations (e.g. Palau) have reported increased severity and frequency of CRB damage. Common to all these areas is the high incidence of severe palm damage by beetles not seen since the introduction of OrNV.

Initial attempts to introduce OrNV into the Guam CRB population were unexpectedly unsuccessful, raising the possibility that the population that invaded Guam is tolerant or resistant to the commonly applied OrNV isolates. Subsequent DNA analysis showed that the Guam population is genetically different from other populations in the region. On the basis of distinct genetics and tolerance to currently available OrNV isolates, the Guam population has been designated a new biotype, CRB-Guam (CRB-G) [6, 7].

Recent analysis of DNA from an ongoing survey has detected CRB-Guam in Guam, Hawaii, Palau, Port Moresby (PNG) and Honiara (Solomon Islands). Thus, current invasions in the Pacific involve the CRB-Guam biotype and it is expected that these populations are tolerant to all available isolates of OrNV.

Uncontrolled infestations of CRB-G may kill most palms within a few years and risk of accidental spread to other islands is high. A worse case scenario may be triggered by a massive outbreak of adult CRB emerging from abundant breeding sites made by large amounts of decaying vegetation left in the wake of a typhoon (such as Typhoon Dolphin which visited Guam in May, 2015). Very high feeding activity will kill mature coconut palms, leaving standing dead coconut trunks that are ideal breeding sites for subsequent generations of beetles.

During a CRB outbreak, there will be an increased risk of further spread to uninfested islands throughout the Pacific. Palms are important on Pacific Islands for various reasons: as a cash crop for nuts, oil and lumber, as an ornamental tree appreciated by residents and tourists. On some of the smaller, more traditional islands the coconut palm is referred to as the tree of life. Here, this species is an essential natural resource providing income, housing, food, oil, soap, clothing, mats, baskets, and other containers. The smaller, poorer Pacific islands will suffer the most if the spread of CRB-Guam cannot be controlled. If CRB-G infests islands and atolls where the coconut palm is the tree of life, islanders may have to migrate to larger population centers.

Recommended response to CRB-G outbreaks. Entomologists working on the CRB-G problem agree that the most feasible way to prevent massive palm mortality during outbreaks is establishment of biological control using an isolate of OrNV which is highly pathogenic to CRB-G [8, 9, 10]. In a special meeting on CRB-G at the XXVth International Congress of Entomology [11], the following strategic plan was suggested:

A coordinated regional project should be organized and adequately staffed and funded to accomplish 3 objectives:

- 1. Survey CRB populations throughout the Asian/Pacific region to delimit the geographical distribution of CRB-G and identify its center of origin.
- 2. Survey CRB-G populations from the cent re of origin to find isolate(s) of OrNV (or other pathogens) that are highly pathogenic for the CRB-G biotype.
- 3. Implement *in vivo* or *in vitro* propagation of selected OrNV isolates for auto-dissemination on islands infested with CRB-G.

Once an outbreak has been suppressed by OrNV biocontrol, it is essential to preform sanitation (destruction of active or potential breeding sites) to prevent local resurgence of rhino beetle populations [12].

**Recent progress.** A regional CRB-G biocontrol project has not yet been established because funding sources have not been identified. However, a USDA-APHIS funded collaboration between the University of Guam and AgResearch New Zealand has made progress on all 3 objectives:

- 1. DNA samples from CRB populations collected in Asia indicate the presence of the CRB-G biotype in the Philippines and Indonesia.
- 2. During a UOG/AgResearch expedition to Negros Island, Philippines in January 2017, about 100 DNA samples from a known CRB-G population were collected.
- 3. Lab tests in at AgResearch New Zealand indicated that all sampled beetles belonged to the CRB-G biotype and that one of these was infected with OrNV. The OrNV from this beetle was isolated and propagated insect cell culture.

We are hoping that this new OrNV isolate will kill CRB-G adults, to be determined in bioassays to be performed on Guam. We are currently waiting for APHIS to issue an import permit to allow shipment of a sample of the new isolate from New Zealand to Guam. If the isolate proves pathogenic for CRB-G, we will immediately start *in vivo* propagation and auto-dissemination.

If OrNV biocontrol is successful, palm mortality will stop, the virus will sustainably suppress CRB damage to tolerable levels, and risk of accidental spread to other islands will be significantly reduced. This scenario is based on reports of successful implementation of CRB biocontrol using OrNV on all Pacific Islands on which the virus was released prior to discovery of the OrNV resistant biotype, CRB-G, on Guam [13].

#### 1.2. Statement of Need

This proposal requests funds to hire a post doctoral entomologist for 2 years to implement effective biocontrol for CRB. Technical/scientific assistance in the form of a post doc is necessary because professional capacity to handle major entomological problems in Micronesia is inadequate. During the past 2 decades the number of PhD level entomologists practicing in Micronesia decreased from 9 (5 in Guam, 3 in CNMI, 1 in Palau) to 3 (all in Guam). During this same period the workload increased, mainly because

the detection rate for invasive species went up by almost an order of magnitude. The three remaining PhD level entomologists in Micronesia do not have time and resources to adequately respond to concurrent invasions of coconut rhinoceros beetle, little fire ant, Asian cycad scale, and several major agricultural pest insects. Teaching and administrative responsibilities do not allow enough time to be dedicated to finding solutions to the major entomological problems currently impacting Micronesia. The post doctoral entomologist will work under supervision of the PI within an existing CRB biocontrol program funded by USDA-APHIS.

Funding of the current proposal will enable immediate extension of benefits from the Guam biocontrol project to Palau. Island leaders are worried about the high risk of CRB-G spreading within Micronesia. A regional project with the objective of developing effect biological control for CRB was identified as an urgent need by Micronesian Governors and Presidents at the 22nd Micronesian Islands Forum which took place on Guam during May, 2017 (Appendix B). Hiring a post doc entomologist will partially address this urgent need.

#### 1.3. Goals and Objectives

The post doctoral entomologist will work on an existing project to implement effective biological control for the coconut rhinoceros beetle, Guam biotype (CRB-G) which is rapidly killing palm trees in Guam and Palau. The overall objective of this project is establish a self-sustaining biological control which will stop palm tree mortality and eventually suppress the CRB to minimize damage to tolerable levels.

Details for the following goals can be found in the approved APHIS project work plan attached as Appendix A.

# 1.3.1. Perform lab bioassay to determine pathogenicity of the new OrNV isolate from Negros Island, Philippines

If the new OrNV isolate is not pathogenic for CRB-G, further foreign exploration will be necessary.

#### 1.3.2. Establish an island-wide coconut palm health survey

A semiannual health survey will be established to quantify CRB damage to coconut palms on an island-wide basis. This survey needs to be started prior to auto-dissemination of OrNV or other control tactic is implemented so that results, in terms of reduction in CRB palm damage, can be quantified.

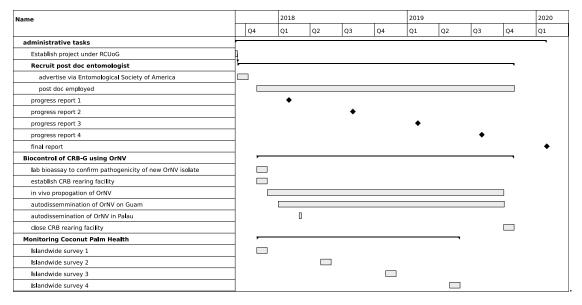
#### 1.3.3. Establish a CRB rearing facility to provide adults

Field collected CRB will be reared in environmental rearing cabinets for use in bioassays, in vivo propagation of OrNV and auto-dissemination. One rearing cabinet has been ordered. Two more will be ordered with FY17 Farm Bill funds.

## 1.3.4. Establish biological control of CRB-G by auto-dissemination of OrNV in Guam and Palau

CRB-G adults will be used to autodisemminate OrNV in Guam and Palau.

#### 1.4. Timeline



#### 1.5. Potential Benefits

- This project will directly benefit Guam and the Republic of Palau. Both of these jurisdictions are infested with CRB-G. Without implementation of effective biological control, it is likely that 50% or more coconut palms will be killed by CRB-G. If the OrNV biocontrol project is successful, palm mortality will be stopped and the virus will sustainably suppress CRB damage to tolerable levels.
- This project will indirectly benefit all other islands in Micronesia. With very high populations of CRB-G in Guam and the Republic of Palau, risk of accidental introduction to other islands is extremely high. CRB-G has already been intercepted twice on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. If CRB-G infests islands and atolls where the coconut palm as the tree of life, islanders may have to migrate to larger population centers. If the OrNV biocontrol project is successful, the risk of accidental transport of CRB-G to other islands will be significantly reduced.

#### 2. Budget

Item	Details	Cost
Personnel		
Salary	2  yrs *  \$60 k per yr	\$120,000
Benefits	18% * Salary	\$21,600
Travel		
Relocation expenses (incoming)		\$6,000
Relocation expenses (outgoing)		\$5,000
Trip to Palau		\$6,298
SUBTOTAL		\$158,898
Administrative fee	10% of total	\$17,655
TOTAL		\$176,553

Salary and Benefits are for employment of a PhD.D. level entomologist to work exclusively on biological control of coconut rhinoceros beetle biotype G in Micronesia under supervision of the PI.

**Relocation expenses** include airfare, shipment of household items, and other associated expenses such as immigration fees. \$1,000 is allotted for short-term hotel accommodation upon arrival.

**Trip to Palau** The purpose of this trip by the PI and postdoc is to perform the initial release an effective isolate of OrNV in Palau for biocontrol of coconut rhinoceros beetle. Airfare: Guam-Palau return; 2\*\$769=\$1538. Per diem (US State Dept. rate): 2\*7d\*\$340=\$4760. Total trip estimate=\$1538+\$4760=\$6,298

**Administrative fee** A fee equal to 10% of the total grant award is charged by the Research Corporation of the University of Guam for services provided.

#### 3. Contact Information

#### 3.1. Grant Recipient

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#### 3.2. Grant Manager

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#### 3.3. Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP)

ASAP Location Code 14010001

**ASAP ID** 6637846

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- 4. APPENDICES
- A. Work Plan for CRB-G Biocontrol Project Funded by USDA-APHIS

#### Farm Bill Work Plan - Fiscal Year 2017

Cooperator:	Universi	University of Guam									
State:	Guam										
Project:				l of the Gu	am Biotype of the						
	Coconut	Rhinocero	s Beetle								
Project funding source:	Farm Bi	Farm Bill Section 10007									
<b>Project Coordinator</b> :	Aubrey Moore										
Agreement Number	17-8515	-2058-CA									
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This Work Plan reflects a cooperative relationship between the University of Guam (the Cooperator) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ). It outlines the mission-related goals, objectives, and anticipated accomplishments as well as the approach for conducting a project entitled **Oryctes Nudivirus for Biocontrol of the Guam Biotype of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle** and the related roles and responsibilities of the parties [e.g., APHIS role(s) and Cooperator role(s)] as negotiated.

#### I) OBJECTIVES AND NEED FOR ASSISTANCE

The population of coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB) recently established on Guam is genetically distinct from other populations of this major palm pest and it is being referred to as the CRB-G biotype. CRB-G is resistant to Oryctes nudivirus (OrNV), which is the major biocontrol agent for CRB, and it appears to have other characteristics, which make it more invasive and harder to control than other CRB biotypes. While there were no range expansions of CRB for a quarter of a century (1980 to 2005), CRB is now on the move with the invasion of Guam in 2007, the Port Moresby area of Papua New Guinea in 2009, Oahu, Hawaii in 2013, and the Honiara area of Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands in 2015. It is significant that all of these new invasions involve CRB-G. Thus, CRB-G is a regional problem, with Guam currently experiencing massive mortality of coconut palms as the result of a CRB population explosion triggered by abundant larval breeding sites left in the wake of a recent typhoon.

The objective of this project is to stop an uncontrolled outbreak of coconut rhinoceros beetle biotype G which is rapidly killing palms on Guam. Entomologists working on this problem agree that the most feasible solution is establishment of biological control using an isolate of OrNV which is highly pathogenic to CRB-G.

#### Financial assistance will facilitate:

- 1. continued support of an international collaborative project with the goal of discovering a strain of OrNV or other microbial biocontrol agent which is highly pathogenic for CRB-Guam
- 2. continued support for a graduate research assistant at the University of Guam
- 3. continued support for operating an insect pathology laboratory at the University of Guam to evaluate candidate biocontrol agents discovered during foreign exploration
- 4. support for a semiannual island-wide coconut palm health survey for Guam

Items 1, 2 and 3 are currently supported by my FY2016 Farm Bill (performance period: August 1, 2016 through July 30, 2017). Item 4, which establishes a semiannual coconut palm tree health survey, is a new activity.

This project is aligned with FB goal 6: Enhance Mitigation and Rapid Response.

#### II) RESULTS OR BENEFITS EXPECTED

- Foreign exploration leading to discovery of a highly pathogenic strain of OrNV or other microbial biocontrol agent for CRB-Guam could lead to implementation of self-sustaining population suppression and tolerable damage levels on Guam and other islands invaded by CRB-G.
- Loss of 50% or more of Guam's palms may be prevented if an effective biocontrol agent is found and released quickly.
- Reduction in CRB population levels on Guam will reduce the risk of accidental introduction of the highly invasive CRB-Guam biotype to other Pacific islands and elsewhere.
- Development of image analysis methods may lead to a small, inexpensive, automated CRB damage detector which could be mounted on a drone or a conventional vehicle. This device could be used for early detection or monitoring of CRB damage.

#### III) APPROACH

#### 1. "Witch's Brew" Bioassays

In previous years, we tested several isolates of OrNV from AgResearch New Zealand and some from virus-infected beetles in Fiji. We did not observe significant mortality during many bioassays, leading us to the conclusion that CRB-G is resistant to OrNV. However, to confirm that we do not have OrNV pathogenic for CRB-G, we have started a series of "witch's brew" bioassays. Frozen, dead beetles from all previous bioassays were added to one liter of water and made into an aqueous slurry using a blender. Vials containing remnants of virus samples from AgResearch New Zealand were agitated in 500 ml of water, and this suspension was added to the blender. The slurry was poured into a small pail and forty beetles were made to swim in this for thirty minutes. A control group of beetles was made to swim in water for thirty minutes. Beetles were kept in a large container filled with moist, commercially blended steer manure and soil. All beetles were checked weekly. Dead beetles were recorded and frozen.

We found a significantly higher mortality in beetles which swam in the slurry as opposed to beetles which swam in water. We made a fresh "witch's brew" by blending all dead beetles from this assay, and again observed mortality significantly higher than that of the control group. After 4 cycles of this experiment, mortality in the treatment group continues to increase. We will continue these witch's brew experiments and send beetle tissue samples to AgResearch New Zealand to test for OrNV.

#### 2. Regional Collaboration on CRB-G Management

Moore will continue to work with collaborators at AgResearch New Zealand and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to put together a regional collaboration with the objective of finding an effective biocontrol agent for CRB-G.

#### 3. Foreign Exploration for an Effective Biocontrol Agent for CRB-G

During January, 2017, Moore, Iriarte and Marshall did field work on Negros Island, Philippines, were CRB-G coexists with other CRB biotypes. The major objective was to find an effective biocontrol agent for CRB-G and a secondary objective was to develop and test protocols for further foreign exploration. DNA analysis of CRB and OrNV from rhino beetle gut samples collected during the trip is being done by Dr. Sean Marshall in his lab at AgResearch New Zealand. Bioassays of any detected OrNV will be done at the University of Guam.

Further foreign exploration for an effective biocontrol agent for CRB-G is contingent on results from this first expedition. One additional trip to the Philippines by Moore, Marshall and Iriarte is planned. Moore and Iriarte will travel to Marshall's AgResearch lab in Christchurch for training in propagation of OrNV.

#### 4. Coconut Palm Health Survey

The CRB-G outbreak on Guam is currently unmonitored on an island-wide basis. An island-wide pheromone trapping system, using about 1500 traps, was operated by the University of Guam

from 2008 to 2014. This monitoring system was transferred to the Guam Department of Agriculture which abandoned the effort at the end of February, 2016. Currently, many coconut palms are being killed by CRB-G. But, in the absence of a monitoring system, we do not have an estimate of tree mortality or whether or not the damage is increasing or decreasing.

Clearly, establishment of a monitoring system is necessary if we want to evaluate success of the proposed biocontrol project, or any other mitigation efforts. We intend to establish a semiannual coconut tree health survey rather than re-establish pheromone trapping.

#### 4.1 Survey Method

The Coconut Palm Health Survey will use the following methodology to track changes in levels of damage caused by CRB-G.

- The survey will monitor at least 1,000 palms located throughout the island. An aluminum tag with a unique identifier will be affixed to each palm on the initial visit.
- The free smart phone app, EpiCollect+ will be used to georeference each palm, record a digital image, and record damage data. (We have successfully used this free app for several localized palm health surveys.)
- The survey will be performed twice per year.
- CRB damage will be recorded in 3 boolean data fields:
  - Mortality: 1 if palm is dead; 0 otherwise
  - New damage: 1 if any of the 4 youngest fronds have V-shaped cuts; 0 otherwise
  - Old damage: 1 if any other fronds have V-shaped cuts; 0 otherwise

#### **4.2 Digital Image Analysis**

We propose to add a methods development component to the survey. CRB damage symptoms in the form of V-shaped cuts in fronds are distinctive and easy to see in digital images. Digital imagery has been used for detection and monitoring of CRB. For example, Soloman Sar in Papua New Guinea has developed a Rapid Damage Assessment System in which geotagged images of palms are rated for damage severity.

It may be possible to automate detection and monitoring of CRB damage by training a computer to detect V-shaped cuts in digital images of coconut palms. We will test this idea using human classified image libraries as training sets. If successful, we will program a Raspberry Pi 3 equipped with a camera to detect and quantify CRB damage in real time. This small, inexpensive CRB damage detector could be mounted on a drone or a conventional vehicle for automated detection and monitoring of CRB and damage caused by this pest.

#### A. The Cooperator will:

#### 1. By function, what work is to be accomplished?

The cooperator will perform activities outlined above.

#### 2. What is the quantitative projection of accomplishments to be achieved?

This project is based on contingencies which preclude projection of an exact timeline.

- The first goal of this project is to find an effective biological control agent for CRB-G. This will most probably be an isolate of OrNV either discovered during foreign exploration or selected for within the "Witch's Brew" bioassays.
- The PI will apply for renewal of an existing APHIS-PPQ permit to import and release OrNV so that candidate isolates can be released soon after discovery and completion of initial lab bioassays.

**b**. What criteria will be used to evaluate the project? What are the anticipated results and successes?

The semiannual coconut palm health survey will be initiated during the first 6 months of the project so that a reduction in tree mortality and defoliation in response to biocontrol agent releases can be measured.

Success of the project will be evaluated by large reductions in tree mortality and defoliation by CRB-G.

# 3. What numbers and types of personnel will be needed and what will they be doing?

The PI and his grad student will perform biocontrol work and damage surveys on Guam. Dr. Sean Marshall, under a contract between UOG and Ag Research New Zealand, will perform DNA analysis of CRB and OrNV. He will also propagate candidate OrNV isolates in insect cell culture.

**4.** What equipment will be needed to perform the work? Include major items of equipment with a value of \$5,000 or more.

The project will require a service vehicle for the island-wide coconut palm health survey. This vehicle will be provided by the University of Guam.

Two incubators with temperature and humidity control will be purchased for rearing coconut rhinoceros beetles for bioassays and auto-dissemination. We will purchase the same units that are being used for CRB rearing at the

University of Hawaii so that we can share methodology. These Percival Scientific Biological Incubators Model I-41LLVL. These units are quoted at \$17,500 each, including shipping to Guam.

**Identify information technology equipment, e.g., computers, and their ancillary components.** All information technology supplies (e.g., small items of equipment, connectivity through air cards or high speed internet access, GPS units, radios for emergency operations etc.) should be specifically identified.

- Android smart phones will be used for the island-wide coconut palm health survey.
- Raspberry PI 3 computers equipped with HD cameras will be used for digital image analysis. Five units will be required for the project.
  - Computers: Raspberry atteryPi 3 (RPi3) Model B Quad-Core 1.2
     GHz 1 GB RAM, On-board WiFi and Bluetooth Connectivity
  - Cameras: 5 megapixel native resolution sensor-capable of 2592 x 1944 pixel static images
  - Accessories: battery pack, realtime clock, case, microSD cards

#### 5. What supplies will be needed to perform the work?

Supplies will include containers and rearing media for CRB to be used in laboratory bioassays.

6. What procurements will be made in support of the funded project and what is the method of procurement (e.g., lease, purchase)?

(Cooperator procurements shall be in accordance with OMB Circulars A-102 or A110, as applicable.)

Two Android smart phones will be used for the island-wide coconut palm health survey. These will be leased under a service plan from a local telecommunications provider.

Two incubators with temperature and humidity control will be purchased for rearing coconut rhinoceros beetles for bioassays and auto-dissemination. We will purchase the same units that are being used for CRB rearing at the University of Hawaii so that we can share methodology. These Percival Scientific Biological Incubators Model I-41LLVL. These units are quoted at \$17,500 each, including shipping to Guam.

#### 7. What are the travel needs for the project?

• Local travel for coconut palm health surveys

- Foreign exploration for an effective biocontrol agent for CRB-G will be done in the Philippines where a population of the CRB-G biotype has been located.
- Progress on this project will require the PI and his grad student to visit Dr. Sean Marshall's lab in Christchurch, New Zealand to learn OrNV propagation technique.

#### 8. Reports:

Submit all reports to the APHIS Authorized Department Officer's Designated Representative (ADODR). Reports include:

- **a.** Narrative accomplishment reports in the frequency and time frame specified in the Notice of Award, Article 4.
- **b.** Federal Financial Reports, SF-425 in the frequency and time frame specified in the Notice of Award, Article 4.

#### Are there any other contributing parties who will be working on the project?

- The Guam Department of Agriculture will be recruited to assist with the island-wide coconut palm damage survey.
- Dr. Sean Marshall, AgResearch New Zealand will perform DNA analysis of CRB and OrNV and he will characterize and propagate isoltes which are candidates for CRB-G biocontrol.

#### **B. APHIS Will:**

#### 1. Outline the Agency's (USDA APHIS PPQ) substantial involvement.

- a. Include any significant Agency collaboration and participation
- Provide input and oversight in the development and execution of the survey to ensure it meets national program goals and APHIS mission needs.
- Provide funds to the cooperator to cover costs as outlined in the financial plan.
- Provide additional guidance and/or technical assistance to the project coordinator, as requested.
- Assist in clarifying survey methods and detection, as well as, identification resources, as needed.
- Support the work and financial plan development by the cooperator.

#### **b.** Project oversight and performance management

- Notify the project coordinator of reporting deadlines.
- Provide guidance in the compilation and submitting of reports and other administrative matters.
- Maintain data spreadsheets showing due dates for reports, requests for allocation, forms submitted, tracked by the survey specialist.
- Provide general oversight and quality assurance of the program.
- c. Provide the equipment requested by the cooperator in 4.b. & c.
- **d.** Provide the supplies requested by the cooperator in 6.b. & c.

#### IV) GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF PROJECT

Laboratory work will be done at the University of Guam, Mangilao, Guam and at AgResearch, Christchurch, New Zealand. Foreign exploration for an effective biological control agent for CRB-G will be done in the Philippines and possibly other locations. Coconut palm health surveys will be performed on Guam.

#### V) DATA COLLECTION AND MAINTENANCE

All data and technical reports generated by this project will be immediately available on-line in an Open Science Framework project entitled "CRB-G Management" at <a href="https://osf.io/5js9z/">https://osf.io/5js9z/</a>.

#### VI) TAXONOMIC SUPPORT

Taxonomic support is not required for this project.

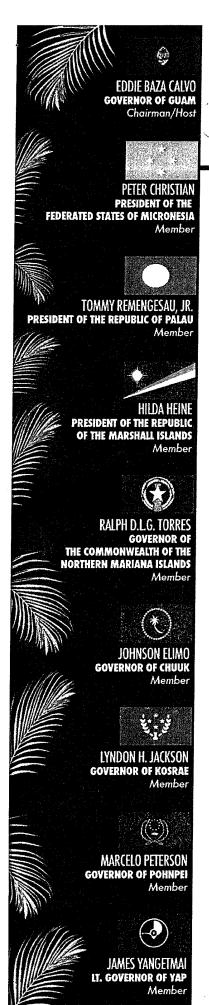
#### VII) SURVEY SUMMARY FORM

Not applicable because this project does not include a pest survey.

#### VIII) SIGNATURES

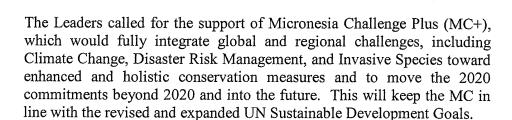
Dean Lee S. Yudin, ROAR Date Corner Hurrington 09/24/17

B. Extracts from the 22nd Micronesian Islands Forum Joint Communique



# 22nd Micronesian Islands Forum

MAY 01, 2017 ~ MAY 03, 2017 I GUAM



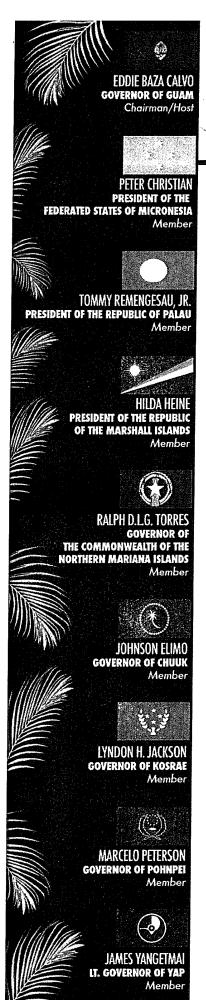
#### 2. Regional Invasive Species Council (RISC)

The Regional Invasive Species Council (RISC) reported on progress since the 21<sup>st</sup> MIF. RISC identified and discussed two major issues needing supporting action from the Leaders, and an additional two developments in the United States which needed to be brought to the attention of the Leaders. RISC also met with the MC SC to discuss ways that RISC can support the MC.

The first and most urgent issue is the need for regional coordination of invasive species activities in Micronesia, including implementation of the Regional Biosecurity Plan (RBP). RISC recommended the creation of a Regional Invasive Species Coordination Office to be staffed by a Regional Coordinator and to be housed in the Micronesia Center for a Sustainable Future (MCSF). The Regional Coordinator would be responsible to coordinate implementation of the RBP across the region, as well as to coordinate other activities and initiatives.

The second very urgent issue is the growing threat of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) to the region. CRB is devastating coconut trees in Guam, Palau, and other Pacific Islands. There is a high risk of their spread to other islands in Micronesia, and there is currently no effective control. A regional project is therefore urgently needed to develop an effective biological control for CRB.

RISC met with the MC SC to discuss ways that RISC can support the MC in their efforts to minimize the impacts of invasive species in terrestrial and marine conservation sites throughout the region as an integral component of effective conservation. Together, they identified the critical need to work together to establish baselines of invasive species in conservation sites. RISC will continue to assist the MC as they work to effectively conserve natural resources by protecting conservation sites from invasive species.



# 22nd Micronesian Islands Forum

MAY 01, 2017 ~ MAY 03, 2017 I GUAM

# > Regional Coordination for Implementation of the Regional Biosecurity Plan (RBP)

The Leaders supported the establishment of a Regional Coordinator position in the to be established Regional Invasive Species Coordination Office housed in the MCSF. The Leaders committed themselves, through the MCSF, to provide initial funding support for the first two years to help ensure the effective implementation of the RBP.

# > US Presidential Executive Order on Promoting Agriculture and Rural Prosperity in America

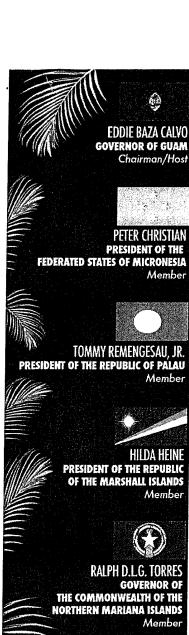
The Leaders signed a joint letter to the Secretary of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) welcoming the Executive Order signed by President Donald Trump on April 25, 2017, listing accomplishments of the Micronesian Region in the battle against invasive species and outlining needs for further progress. The Leaders look forward to working closely with the USDA and the Interagency Task Force to promote rural agricultural opportunity, food security and rural prosperity in the islands of Micronesia.

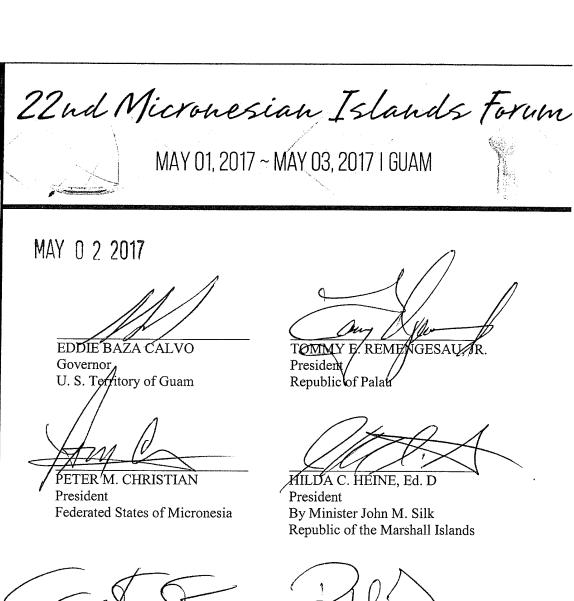
#### Regional biocontrol project for Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB)

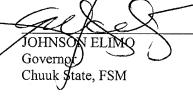
In recognition of the urgent need for a Pacific-wide project to find an effective biological control agent for the CRB, the Leaders instructed RISC to seek financial support for such a project, to be conducted with partners at the University of Guam, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, New Zealand, the USDA and others, as appropriate.

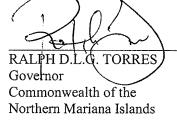
#### > RISC/MC SC cooperation – capacity building for baseline surveys

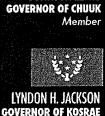
The Leaders recognized the value of the collaboration between RISC and the MC SC and the progress they have made toward integrating invasive species prevention and management into effective conservation. The Leaders support the plan for RISC to work with the MC Measures Working Group to develop a capacity-building project to enable all jurisdictions to conduct baseline surveys for invasive plants, including development of a regional MC invasive species database for use in planning and decision-making. The Leaders expect that this will





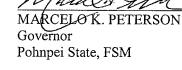


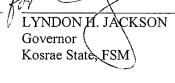




Member

JOHNSON ELIMO









JAMES YANGETMAI

LT. GOVERNOR OF YAP

Member

## C. Cover Letter



Aubrey Moore, PhD College of Agriculture and Life Sciences University of Guam Magilao, Guam 96923

July 5, 2017

Nikolao Pula, Director Office of Insular Affairs U.S. Department of the Interior 1849 C Street, N.W. Mail-Stop 2429 Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Pula,

I am pleased to submit a grant proposal for consideration under the little fire ant/coconut rhinoceros beetle funding opportunity you announced to Governor Calvo on June 15.

This grant proposal is a request for funds to hire a post doctoral entomologist for 2 years to work on an existing, funded project to implement effective biological control for the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) which is rapidly killing palm trees in Guam and Palau. Without significant population suppression of CRB in Guam and Palau, it is likely that Guam and Palau will lose most of their palms and it is just a matter of time before other Micronesian Islands are invaded by CRB. There is a consensus among Pacific-based entomologists that biological control is the best, and possibly the only way, to stop palms from being killed on an island-wide basis. In addition, there is an urgency to suppress CRB populations in Guam and Palau to reduce the risk of accidental transport to other islands in Micronesia and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

Aubrey Moore, PhD

## D. Letters of Support

D.1. Regional Invasive Species Council



## Micronesia Regional Invasive Species Council

Tamdad Sulog
Chairman
Regional Invasive Species Council
P.O. Box 463
Colonia Yap FSM 96943

July 06, 2017

Nikolao Pula, Director Office of Insular Affairs U.S. Department of the Interior 1849 C Street, N.W. Mail-Stop 2429 Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Pula,

As Chair of the Regional Invasive Species Council for the Western Pacific, I am pleased to submit a letter of support for Dr. Moore's grant proposal to support his work towards biological control of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) on Guam and Palau.

Without a reducing the high populations of CRB on these islands, it is just a matter of time before this pest spreads within Micronesia. If it gets onto the smaller islands and atolls where coconut is the "tree of life" this will be a humanitarian tragedy.

RISC has been asked, via a communique from the recent Micronesian Forum, which is a meeting of all the Micronesian Governors, to help find a solution to the rhino beetle problem. Dr. Moore is offering a promising solution, and I urge your office to fund his proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Chief, Yap Agriculture and Forestry



### D.2. Republic of Palau

To be sent separately.

## E. Administrative Forms

#### E.1. SF-424

OMB Number: 4040-0002 Expiration Date: 01/31/2019

APPLICATION FOR FEDE	PAL ASSISTANCE SE-42	24 - MAND	ATORY								
			1.d. Version:	50 - 400 BL 170 - 300 CFVC							
1.a. Type of Submission:	1.b. Frequency:		☐ Resubmission	Revision Update							
Application	Annual	H	2. Date Received:	STATE USE ONLY:							
Plan	Quarterly	- Ir	7/7/2017								
Funding Request	Other	ľ	3. Applicant Identifier:	5. Date Received by State:							
Other											
Other (specify):	Other (specify):	\		6. State Application Identifier:							
			4a. Federal Entity Identifier:								
				[							
	<u> </u>		4b. Federal Award Identifier:								
1.c. Consolidated Application/P											
Yes No X Explai	nation										
7. APPLICANT INFORMATION:											
a. Legal Name:											
College of Natural and Ap	oplied Sciences, Univers	ity of Gua	m								
b. Employer/Taxpayer Identifica	tion Number (EIN/TIN):		c. Organizational DUNS:								
98-00329	33	8.31	779908151								
d. Address:											
Street1:			Street2								
303 Campus Drive				-							
		_	County / Parish:								
City:											
Mangilao			Paralles 2								
State:			Province:								
GU: Guam											
Country:			Zip / Postal Code:								
USA: UNITED STATES			96923								
e. Organizational Unit:											
Department Name:			Division Name:								
f. Name and contact information	n of person to be contacted o	on matters in									
Prefix:	First Name:	7	Middle Name:								
Dr.	Aubrey										
			Suffix:								
Last Name:			Sullix:								
Moore											
Title: Entomologist											
Organizational Affiliation:											
College of Natural and Applied Sciences, University of Guam											
			Fax Number:								
	86-5664										
Email: aubreymoore@guam	.net										

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE SF-424 - MANDATORY	ľ
8a. TYPE OF APPLICANT:	
H: Public/State Controlled Institution of Higher Education	1
Other (specify):	
b. Additional Description:	
	_
9. Name of Federal Agency:	
Department of the Interior	3 1
10. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:	
CFDA Title:	
As a State William of Acadianata Dunianta	3
11. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:  Biological Control of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Biotype G in Micronesia	
Biological Control of Cocondt Killiocerus Beetze Brodge o th Marketine	
12. Areas Affected by Funding:	7:1
Guam, Republic of Palau	
Guan, Republic of talan	
13. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:	- 8
a. Applicant: b. Program/Project:	- 1
Guam	_
Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.	
Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment	╛
14. FUNDING PERIOD:	110
a. Start Date: b. End Date:	
Sep 1, 2017	
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING:	4.
a. Federal (\$):  b. Match (\$):	7
\$176,553	
16. IS SUBMISSION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?	
a. This submission was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on:	
b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by State for review.	, 8
☐ C. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.	

	RAL ASSISTANCE SF-424 - MANDATORY
17. is The Applicant Delinquent (	on Any Federal Debt?
	planation
are true, complete and accurate resulting terms if I accept an awa criminal, civil, or administrative	certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any ard. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)
** I Agree	urances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific
** This list of certifications and assinstructions.	grances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the disserted site of the
Authorized Representative:	
Prefix:	First Name:
Dr.	Lee
Middle Name:	
Last Name:	
Yudin	
Suffix:	Title:
	Dean / Director
Organizational Affiliation:	
College of Natural and Ag	oplied Sciences, University of Guam
Telephone Number:	
(671) 735-2001	
Fax Number:	
Email:	
lyudin@triton.uog.edu	
Signature of Authorized Refreser	lative:
Date Signed:	
July 6, 2017	
Attach supporting documents as	
Add Attachments Delete	Attachments View Attachments

### E.2. SF-424A

#### **BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs**

OMB Number: 4040-0006 Expiration Date: 01/31/2019

#### SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

	SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY								
Grant Program Catalog of Federal Function or Domestic Assistance			Estimated Unobl	ligated Funds		New or Revised Budget			
	Activity	Number	Federal	Non-Federal	Federal	Non-Federal	Total		
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)		
1.	Biological control of coconut rhinoceros beetle	10.025	\$	\$	\$ 176,553	\$ 0	\$ 176553		
2.									
3.									
4.									
5.	Totals		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		

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#### SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES

		SECTIO	IN E	B - BUDGET CATEGO	'INIL	-3		
6. Object Class Categories					ICTION OR ACTIVITY		Total	
_	(1	)	(2	2)	(3)	(4	4)	(5)
			1					
a. Personnel	\$	120000	\$		\$	\$		\$
b. Fringe Benefits		21600						
c. Travel		17298	Ι		I			
d. Equipment		0	ı		l			
e. Supplies		0			I			
f. Contractual		0	ĺ					
g. Construction		0						
h. Other		17655						
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)								\$
j. Indirect Charges		0						\$
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$		\$		\$	\$	;	\$
	_		Т		_			
7. Program Income	\$	0	\$		\$	\$		\$

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Prescribed by OMB (Circular A -102) Page 1A

			SECTION	C -	NON-FEDERAL RESO	UR	CES							
		(a) Grant Program			(b) Applicant		(c) State		(d) Other Sources		(e)TOTALS			
8.	Biological con	trol of coconut rhinoceros bee	tle	\$	0	\$		\$		\$				
9.	).													
10.														
11.														
12. 7	TOTAL (sum of	ines 8-11)		\$		\$		\$		\$				
				D -	FORECASTED CASH	NE								
			Total for 1st Year		1st Quarter	١,	2nd Quarter	١.	3rd Quarter	١,	4th Quarter			
13. I	Federal		\$	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	35455			
14. ľ	Non-Federal		\$		0		0		0		0			
15. 7	TOTAL (sum of	lines 13 and 14)	\$	\$		\$		\$[		\$				
		SECTION E - BUD	GET ESTIMATES OF FE	DE	RAL FUNDS NEEDED	FOI	R BALANCE OF THE	PR	OJECT					
		(a) Grant Program			FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (YEARS)									
				(b)First			(c) Second	(d) Third			(e) Fourth			
16.	2018			\$	23998	\$	17700	\$	17700	\$	17700			
17.	2019				17700		17700		17700		10900			
18.														
19.														
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16 - 19)						\$		\$		\$				
	SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION													
21. I	21. Direct Charges: 176553 22. Indirect Charges: 0													
23. F	Remarks:													

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#### E.3. SF-424B

OMB Number: 4040-0007 Expiration Date: 01/31/2019

#### **ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS**

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

- Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
- Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
- Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
- Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
- Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
- 6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C.§§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation

- Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U. S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee-3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
- 7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
- Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

- Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
- 10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
- 11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-
- Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

- Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
- 14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
- 15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
- 16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
- 17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
- Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
- 19. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF TH	TITLE
SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED PERTIFYING OFFICIAL	
Harley Left	Dean / Director
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED

Standard Form 424B (Rev. 7-97) Back