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Agency Secretary

Air Resources Board

Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Chairman

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Gray Davis
Governor

October 12, 2001

To: Prospective Grant Applicants

Re: Invitation for Grant Requests for the Rice Straw Demonstration Project Fund
Fiscal Year 2001-2002

The Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) invites you to submit a grant request to the Rice Straw Demonstration Project Grant Fund (Rice Fund). The Rice Fund provides cost-sharing grants for projects that use Sacramento Valley rice straw. To be considered, your completed application package must be received by **4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 30, 2001**. \$900,000 is available for this year's grants.

The *Program Description and Invitation for Grant Requests (Invitation)* can be obtained from the ARB web site at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/smp/rice/ricefund/ricefund.htm> or by contacting Theresa Najita by telephone at (916) 322-7297 or email at tnajita@arb.ca.gov. The Invitation describes the funding criteria, required contents of a grant request, and procedures for submitting a grant request package to the Rice Fund program. This funding criteria has been changed from criteria issued in previous years. This year the Rice Fund will be open to projects related to the development of rice straw infrastructure and marketing. This will help ensure a consistent and predictable supply of rice straw as well as enhance rice straw commercialization.

Grants will be awarded based on the selection criteria contained in this *Invitation*. A successful grant request will reflect high degrees of technical, fiscal, and administrative excellence and will show the project's likelihood to become a permanent, operating facility that uses, stores, transports, or markets significant amounts of rice straw annually.

All prospective applicants are encouraged to attend an informational workshop at the California Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters Building at 1001 Street, Training Room 1, Sacramento, California, on **October 29, 2001**, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. ARB staff will discuss the application requirements and answer questions.

Top-scoring applicants may be required to make brief presentations of their projects at a public meeting in Sacramento and may be interviewed by grant reviewers. Grants are expected to be awarded at the Board's April 2002 public meeting.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

California Environmental Protection Agency

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Information about the Rice Fund Program may be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/smp/rice/ricefund/ricefund.htm>

Applicants are encouraged to check the Rice Fund website for any changes to the schedule and for new information. Applicants are also encouraged to be on the Rice Fund e-mail list to receive notices by e-mail of any changes.

Questions about the Rice Fund program may be directed to Mr. Bruce Oulrey by telephone at (916) 322-6155 or by e-mail at **ricefund@arb.ca.gov**.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Fletcher, Chief
Planning and Technical Support Division

cc: Bruce Oulrey
Particulate Matter Analysis Section

Theresa Najita
Particulate Matter Analysis Section