

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY [NON-CONFIDENTIAL, NON-TECHNICAL ABSTRACT FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION OR PROGRAM PROMOTION]: State the application's broad, long-term objectives and specific aims, making reference to the potential public benefits of the project relevant to California. Do not include proprietary or confidential information. This may be distributed before the funding decision has been finalized.

We need to better prepare our students for entry into biotechnology-related fields, including molecular approaches to ecology, microbiology and genetics. Exposure to modern software tools for genetic analysis is critically important in our students preparation in many fields broadly related to biotechnology, including those in organismal or ecological fields. This proposal will introduce students to Lasergene, an industry-standard software package for genetic analysis and bioinformatics, and better prepare students for California's biotech job market, as well as studying the impacts of genetic engineering and bioinformatics on California's ecology and native species.