

# Memorandum

**To:** Chairman and Commissioners

**Date:** May 21, 2001

**File No:** K38.7

BOOK ITEM 4.7

INFORMATION

**From:** Robert I. Remen, Executive Director

**Ref:** **PRESENTATION BY RESOURCES AGENCY OF PROJECT EVALUATIONS FOR  
FY 2001-02 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM**

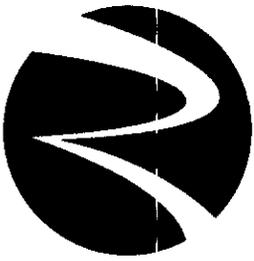
**Issue:** Attached is the list of projects recommended by the Resources Agency for funding from the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program Fund. The Resources Agency list consists of 31 projects in the northern counties, totaling \$7.2 million and 49 projects in the southern counties, totaling \$12.2 million. The Commission will select projects from this list to be awarded grants, in accordance with the funding level provided in the 2001-02 Budget Act. Resources Agency staff will be at the June meeting to discuss how this list was developed. The Commission is responsible for awarding grants to projects recommended by the Resources Agency. Commission staff expects to bring a final recommendation of projects for Commission action at the July meeting.

**Background:** The Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Demonstration Program was established as part of the 1989 Transportation Blue Print Legislation. It was the intent of the Legislature, commencing July 1, 1991, to allocate \$10 million annually for 10 years to the EEM Demonstration Program Fund. Senate Bill 117 (Statutes of 1999, Chapter 739) transformed the 10-year EEM Demonstration Program to a permanent EEM Program funded at \$10 million a year. The proposed 2001-02 State Budget currently contains \$10 million for the EEM Program. Under the EEM Program, the Resources Agency is responsible for: developing and adopting procedures and criteria (attached); evaluating grant proposals; submitting a list of projects recommended for funding; and finding that those projects are eligible for funding under Article XIX of the State Constitution. In accordance with the provisions of Section 187 and 188 of the Streets and Highway Code, an attempt is made to allocate 40% of the total amount recommended to projects in northern counties and 60% of the total amount to projects in southern counties.

The EEM Program is designed to undertake "environmental enhancement and mitigation projects that are directly or indirectly related to the environmental impact of modifying existing transportation facilities or for the design, construction, or expansion of new transportation facilities." Eligible projects may include:

- highway landscaping and urban forestry projects to offset carbon dioxide emissions;
- acquisition or enhancement of resource lands to mitigate the loss or detriment of resource lands within transportation rights-of-way;
- roadside recreational opportunities, including roadside rests, trails, trailheads, and parks;
- environmental mitigation or enhancements for transportation projects beyond the scope of the lead agency

Local, state, and federal agencies and non-profit entities are eligible to pursue grants under this program. The statute sets a maximum limit of \$5 million for any one grant. However, the Resources Agency has administratively restricted the maximum grant to \$250,000, with a few exceptions for particularly important and well-qualified projects.



# resources

## A G E N C Y

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GRAY DAVIS, Governor  
MARY D. NICHOLS, Secretary

April 11, 2001

Robert I. Remen, Executive Director  
California Transportation Commission  
1120 N Street, Room 2233  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Remen:

Pursuant to provisions of Section 164.56 of the Street and Highways Code, the Resources Agency hereby submits a list of projects recommended for funding from the 2001-02 appropriation to the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program Fund (EEMP). Pursuant to Section 164.56(d) of the Street and Highways Code, we have found that each project on the list will contribute to the mitigation and enhancement of the environmental effects of transportation facilities as provided by Section 1 of Article XIX of the California Constitution.

The recommended list consists of 31 projects in the northern counties, totalling \$7,167,464 and 49 projects in the southern counties, totalling \$12,158,396. It is understood that the California Transportation Commission will select projects from this list to be awarded grants, in accordance with the funding level provided by the 2001-02 fiscal year Budget Act.

If you have any questions about any of the listed projects, please contact William Borden, EEMP Coordinator, at 653-5656.

Yours sincerely,

Mary D. Nichols  
Secretary for Resources

Enclosure

**CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY  
ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT & MITIGATION PROGRAM  
2001-02 GRANT CYCLE**

**RECOMMENDED PROJECTS - SOUTHERN COUNTIES**

APP NO	APPLICANT	PROJECT	SCORE	RECOMMENDED FUNDING	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
40	THE BACK COUNTRY LAND TRUST	WRIGHT'S FIELD ACQUISITION PHASE III	92.5	500,000	500,000
91	NORTH EAST TREES	BUENA VISTA DE LOS ANGELES	91.5	250,000	750,000
6	THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND	MORRO BAY DUNES: POWELL II	88.5	500,000	1,250,000
29	COMMUNITY SERVICES AND EMPLOYMENT TRAINING	HIGHWAY 198 URBAN FORESTRY	88	213,430	1,463,430
118	LAND TRUST FOR SANTA BARBARA COUNTY	ARROYO HONDO PRESERVE	88	500,000	1,963,430
7	DEPT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	HOLLISTER PEAK RANCH SOUTH PARCEL ACQUISITION	86.5	500,000	2,463,430
56	LOMITA, CITY OF	URBAN REFORESTATION	84.5	190,000	2,653,430
33	LOS ANGELES, CITY OF	TREE-LINED ROUTES TO THE RIVER	83.5	250,000	2,903,430
61	MURRIETA, CITY OF	I-15 AND I-215 INTERCHANGES / TRANSITION AREAS LANDSCAPING	83	250,000	3,153,430
23	CENTER FOR NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT	WILLOW HOLE PRESERVE SAND SOURCE/TRANSPORT AREA ACQ	82	250,000	3,403,430
57	VISTA, CITY OF	ROUTE 78 CORRIDOR LANDSCAPING	80	83,790	3,487,220
97	CALTRANS	SOLSTICE CREEK FISH PASSAGE AND RIPARIAN RESTORATION	79.5	250,000	3,737,220
78	FOOTHILL / EASTERN TRANS CORRIDOR AGENCY	EASTERN TRANS CORRIDOR WEST LEG (SR281) LANDSCAPE	79	250,000	3,987,220
44	DELANO, CITY OF	DELANO TREE BEAUTIFICATION	77.5	250,000	4,237,220
25	SAN LUIS OBISPO, CITY OF	JOHNSON RANCH ACQUISITION	77.5	250,000	4,487,220
21	INYO, COUNTY OF	LOWER OWENS RIVER SALT CEDAR CONTROL	77.5	250,000	4,737,220
15	LA MESA, CITY OF	JUNIOR SEAU SPORTS COMPLEX MITIGATION	75.5	250,000	4,987,220
128	FOOTHILL / EASTERN TRANS CORRIDOR AGENCY	FIETC INTERCHANGE (SR241 / SR193) LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS	74	250,000	5,237,220
127	ENCINITAS, CITY OF	MULTIPLE HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM ACQUISITION	74	400,000	5,637,220
76	IRVINE, CITY OF	HARVARD AVENUE SPINE LANDSCAPE	73.5	72,200	5,708,420
16	HOLLYWOOD BEAUTIFICATION TEAM	PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT URBAN FORESTRY	73	250,000	5,958,420
71	IRVINE, CITY OF	HARVARD AVENUE SPINE BIKE TRAIL	73	40,000	5,998,420
19	TREE PEOPLE	EXPOSITION RIGHT-OF-WAY GREENWAY	72.5	71,457	6,070,877
103	SAN DIEGO, COUNTY OF	RANCHO GUAJOME ADOBE PICNIC AREA DEVELOPMENT	72.5	250,000	6,320,877
5	SAN DIEGO, COUNTY OF	RUTHERFORD RANCH / VOLCAN MOUNTAIN ACQ. PHASE VII	72	500,000	6,820,877
72	IRVINE, CITY OF	JAMBOREE LANDSCAPING	72	54,400	6,875,277
22	RIVERSIDE, COUNTY OF	EAST JOHNSON RANCH CONSERVATION CORRIDOR RESOURCE ACQ	71.5	1,000,000	7,875,277
64	NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC	SOUTH BALDWIN LAKE WATERSHED ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE	71.5	100,000	7,975,277
75	IRVINE, CITY OF	BARRANCA PARKWAY LANDSCAPE	71.5	139,400	8,114,677
139	MONO COUNTY	JUNE LAKE ROADSIDE PARK	71	233,750	8,348,427
48	LOS ANGELES, COUNTY OF	DOMINGUEZ CHANNEL BICYCLE TRAIL	71	250,000	8,598,427
34	ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY	STATE ROUTE 91/55 INTERCHANGE SCENIC ENHANCEMENTS	69.5	155,784	8,754,211
80	RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CITY OF	METROLINK STATION BEAUTIFICATION	68.5	86,000	8,840,211
39	SOUTH GATE, CITY OF	SOUTHERN AVENUE BIKEWAY RECREATION AREA	68.5	222,321	9,062,532
37	LAMCASTER, CITY OF	AMARGOSA CREEK PATHWAY	67.5	250,000	9,312,532
74	IRVINE, CITY OF	JAMBOREE / MAC ARTHUR LANDSCAPING	66.5	74,320	9,386,852
115	ATASCADERO, CITY OF	CURBARIL BRIDGE	66	182,500	9,569,352
141	BAKERSFIELD, CITY OF	LAKEVIEW PARKWAY LANDSCAPE	65.5	250,000	9,819,352
143	BAKERSFIELD, CITY OF	CHESTER AVENUE MEDIAN ISLANDS	65.5	250,000	10,069,352
82	MISSION RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT	SAN LUIS REY RIVER RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT	65	250,000	10,319,352
83	MISSION RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT	OSTRICH CREEK RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT	65	250,000	10,569,352
101	HEMET, CITY OF	STATE STREET ROADSIDE PARK	64	247,500	10,816,852
140	BAKERSFIELD, CITY OF	DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE EXPANSION PROJECT PHASE II	63.5	250,000	11,066,852
46	WOODLAKE, CITY OF	BRAVO LAKE BOTANICAL GARDEN	63	250,000	11,316,852
50	LOS ANGELES, COUNTY OF	HIGHLAND AVENUE STREETSCAPE	62.5	211,000	11,527,852
136	BAKERSFIELD, CITY OF	CHESTER AVENUE STREETSCAPE PROJECT PHASE II	62.5	250,000	11,777,852
93	INYO NATIONAL FOREST	LONE PINE VISITOR CENTER, PHASE III	62.5	250,000	12,027,852
73	IRVINE, CITY OF	WALNUT AVENUE LANDSCAPING	62	30,544	12,058,396
47	LOS ANGELES, COUNTY OF	BALLONA CREEK BICYCLE TRAIL BEAUTIFICATION	61	100,000	12,158,396
				<b>Totals, Southern Counties</b>	<b>\$12,158,396</b>

**CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY  
ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT & MITIGATION PROGRAM  
2001-02 GRANT CYCLE**

**RECOMMENDED PROJECTS - NORTHERN COUNTIES**

APP NO	APPLICANT	PROJECT	SCORE	RECOMMENDED FUNDING	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
43	THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND	COWELL RANCH ACQUISITION	88.5	1,000,000	1,000,000
42	SHASTA LAND TRUST	FENWOOD PARTNERS PROPERTY	86.5	500,000	1,500,000
55	U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	ANDREW CREEK/TABLE MOUNTAIN ACQUISITION	84	245,000	1,745,000
11	DEPT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	LAKE OROVILLE SRA - NORTH FORK TRAIL	83.5	220,000	1,965,000
17	ALBANY, CITY OF	ALBANY URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM	81.5	65,250	2,030,250
36	OUR CITY FOREST	MONTEREY HIGHWAY GREENING	81	235,400	2,265,650
8	DEPT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	PERCHED DUNE TRAILS IMPROVEMENT-MACKERRICHER STATE PARK	81	170,415	2,436,065
35	MONTEREY, CITY OF	WINDOW ON THE BAY MONTEREY BAY PARK PHASE IV	79	200,000	2,636,065
18	BERKELEY, CITY OF	BERKELEY URBAN REFORESTATION	78	198,300	2,835,365
133	CONTRA COSTA, COUNTY OF	STONE VALLEY ROAD REPLANTING AND BEAUTIFICATION	77	223,863	3,059,228
20	ROSEVILLE, CITY OF	ANTELOPE CREEK TRAIL	77	200,000	3,259,228
14	SACRAMENTO, COUNTY OF	AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN	76	250,000	3,509,228
110	MOTHER LODE FAIR	MOTHER LODE FAIR - GREENBELT 2001	75	104,000	3,613,228
92	PARTNERS FOR BASS LAKE RESOURCES	BASS LAKE TRAIL	71.5	230,720	3,843,948
120	MARIN COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT	WHITE HILL UNDERPASS TRAIL	70.5	80,000	3,923,948
90	SAN PABLO, CITY OF	AMADOR STREET FORESTATION	69.5	59,410	3,983,358
87	CALTRANS	ROUTE 41 LEMOORE LANDSCAPING	69.5	250,000	4,233,358
10	DEPT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	COASTAL GRASSLAND RESTORATION AT JUGHANDLE STATE RESERVE	69	215,100	4,448,458
2	NOVATO, CITY OF	SCOTSDALE POND HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	68	250,000	4,698,458
60	COASTAL LAND TRUST	SEASIDE BEACH ENHANCEMENT	68	225,250	4,923,708
121	SANTA CRUZ, CITY OF	MISSION STREET / ROUTE 1 LANDSCAPING	67.5	250,000	5,173,708
116	CALAVERAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS	CALAVERAS COUNTY BEAUTIFICATION & LANDSCAPE	67	249,000	5,422,708
113	PLACER, COUNTY OF	HIGHWAY 49 LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT	65	142,256	5,564,964
111	U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	SAN JOAQUIN RIVER NWR WILDLIFE OBSERVATION REPLACEMENT	65	121,000	5,685,964
68	SALINAS, CITY OF	NATIVIDAD CREEK RESTORATION INTERPRETIVE TRAIL PROJECT	63	158,500	5,844,464
102	PARLIER, CITY OF	MANNING AVENUE HIGHWAY LANDSCAPE	62.5	153,000	5,997,464
1	EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT	STATE ROUTE 4 SCENIC CORRIDOR ACQUISITION	62	230,000	6,227,464
4	CLOVIS, CITY OF	PEACH / ALLUVIAL PARK	61.5	250,000	6,477,464
135	SAN JOAQUIN RIVER PKWY & CONS TRUST, INC	THE CHILDREN'S TRAIL	61	250,000	6,727,464
81	MONTEREY - SALINAS TRANSIT	TRANSIT CORRIDOR HIGHWAY LANDSCAPING	60.5	240,000	6,967,464
104	PARADISE, TOWN OF	SKYWAY-NEAL ROAD GATEWAY	60	200,000	7,167,464
<b>Totals, Northern Counties</b>				<b>\$7,167,464</b>	

**ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM  
PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA  
2001-2002 Grant Cycle**

**1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

**1-1. Purpose and Authority**

These procedures and criteria guide the evaluation and selection of projects under the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) program. This program, as provided by Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56, authorizes the allocation of \$10 million each year for grants to State, local and federal governmental agencies and non-profit organizations to mitigate the environmental impacts of modified or new public transportation facilities.

In the EEM program the Resources Agency prescribes procedures and criteria to evaluate grant proposals. Based on its evaluation, the Agency prepares and submits a list of proposals recommended for funding to the California Transportation Commission (CTC). The CTC annually awards grants to fund proposals from the Agency's list.

**1-2. Eligible Applicants**

Any State, local or federal agency or 501(c)(3) non-profit entity may apply for and receive grants. The agency or entity is not required to be a transportation or highway related organization, but must be able to demonstrate adequate charter or enabling authority to carry out the type of project proposed. Two or more entities may participate in a project with one designated as the lead agency.

**1-3. Implementation Timeline**

**Applications for funding in the 2001-02 fiscal year (July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002) must be postmarked no later than Friday, November 17, 2000 or delivered to the Resources Agency by 5 p.m. that day.**

The Resources Agency will send a list of recommended projects and funding amounts to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) by April 15, 2001. All project applicants will be notified of the status of their application at that time.

In July 2001, it is anticipated that the CTC will give preliminary approval to projects to be funded, with funding allocations to be considered at a subsequent Commission meeting upon contract approval. The Department of Transportation (Caltrans) administers contracts for approved grant projects.

Environmental clearance documents for Agency recommended projects are required by the CTC, and must be submitted to the CTC in May 2001 for projects to be considered at the July 2001 meeting. Projects without environmental clearance documents will not be considered for funding.

Grant funds should be expended as soon as possible after the grant is awarded by the CTC (second funding allocation vote), preferably within the first fiscal year. However, all expenditures must be made within three fiscal years.

#### 1-4. Project Magnitude

Grants for individual project are generally limited to \$250,000. However, the Resources Agency may recommend awards exceeding the \$250,000 guideline for acquisition projects only, based on the consideration of unique or unusual factors, including, but not limited to, maximum benefits in a one-time or limited opportunity, acquisition of resource lands of a considerable size, substantial leveraging, and/or projects with high statewide significance.

#### 1-5. North/South Split

In accordance with the provisions of Section 187 and 188 of the Streets and Highways Code, an attempt will be made to allocate 40 percent of the total amount recommended to projects in northern counties and 60 percent of the total amount to projects in southern counties. The southern counties are: San Luis Obispo, Kern, Mono, Tulare, Inyo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial. For purposes of this north/south split, all other counties are considered northern counties.

## **2. PROJECT GUIDELINES**

### **2-1. Eligible Projects**

The categories of environmental enhancement and mitigation projects eligible for funding are:

Highway Landscape and Urban Forestry -- Projects designed to offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide through the planting of trees and other suitable plants. Projects may be within or outside the right-of-way of a related transportation facility. However, reimbursement for the cost of vegetation planted within the public road right-of-way is limited to trees.

Resource Lands -- Projects for the acquisition, restoration or enhancement of resource lands to mitigate the loss of, or the detriment to, resource lands lying within or near the right-of-way acquired for proposed transportation improvements. Resource lands include natural areas, wetlands, forests, woodlands, meadows, streams or other areas containing fish or wildlife habitat. Enhancement of resource lands may include the restoration of wildlife corridors and fish passages. Additionally, resource lands may contain features of archaeological or historical value.

Roadside Recreation -- Projects which provide for the acquisition and/or development of roadside recreational opportunities, including parks and greenways, roadside rests, scenic overlooks, trails, and sno-parks.

### **2-2. Related Transportation Facility**

To be eligible for consideration, each environmental enhancement and mitigation project must be directly or indirectly related to the environmental impact of the modification of an existing transportation facility (CA Constitution, Art. XIX, Sec. 1) or construction of new transportation facility.

For purposes of this program, a transportation facility is defined as a public street, highway, mass transit guideway or their appurtenant features (e.g. park and ride facilities, high-occupancy vehicle lanes, transit stations, etc.) Additionally, the related transportation facility must be 1) a project where construction began after January 1, 1990; or 2) a project which is not yet under

construction, but is included in an adopted State transportation program or in a locally adopted and certified capital outlay program.

If a transportation facility is to be constructed in separate and distinct phases, each phase may be considered a separate project for purposes of this definition, provided that each phase creates an operable transportation improvement.

### 2-3. Minimum Project Requirements

Projects which fail to meet these minimum requirements will not be considered further:

- a. All projects must demonstrate a direct or indirect relationship with the environmental impact of modifying an existing transportation facility or construction of a new transportation facility.
- b. All projects must provide mitigation or enhancement in addition to the mitigation required as part of the transportation project to which they are related. The EEM project cannot supplant mitigation required of the transportation project.
- c. The mitigation, if in or near the right-of-way, must be compatible with and not interfere with the operation or safety of the transportation facilities.
- d. The mitigation must not limit currently planned or anticipated future improvements to the transportation facility.

### **3. PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA**

All projects will be evaluated by the Resources Agency using the following criteria and assigning values based on a point system within the ranges indicated. A maximum of 100 points may be assigned to any one project. Projects will be evaluated on the General Criteria (up to 55 points) and the appropriate Project Category Criteria (up to 45 points) In summary, the scoring allocation is as follows:

**General Criteria (55 points)**

- Increased Mitigation and Enhancement (0-20 points)
- Statewide Project Goals and Local Cash Contributions (0-20 points)
- Project Readiness (0-15 points)

**Project Category Criteria (45 points)**

**I. Highway Landscape and Urban Forestry**

- Suitability and Sustainability (0-20 points)
- Cost Effectiveness (0-20 points)
- Other Benefits and Community Participation (0-5 points)

-OR-

**II. Resource Lands**

- Important Resource Values (0-30 points)
- Sustainability (0-10 points)
- Other Benefits and Community Participation (0-5 points)

-OR-

**III. Roadside Recreation**

- Need for the Project (0-30 points)
- Sustainability (0-10 points)
- Other Benefits and Community Participation (0-5 points)

**3-1. General Criteria**

All projects will be evaluated on the following general criteria:

**a. Increased Mitigation and Enhancement (0-20 points)**

Projects that will provide the greatest and most appropriate degree of mitigation or enhancement over and above that required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will be rated the highest. Consideration will be given to the degree the project reinforces, complements, or fills a deficiency

or need in a larger area, complex, or system, or has been identified as a statewide priority in plans, policies, or other pronouncements.

For example, a project that preserves wildlife habitat lands adjacent to other protected wildlife habitat lands, may provide greater protection than a smaller, separate habitat lands project. Also, for example, an addition to an existing greenbelt or trail system may provide greater mitigation benefits than a smaller, separate urban forestry or recreation project.

Applicants must provide a concise, but complete explanation of the mitigation which will be undertaken as part of the related transportation project and the additional mitigation or enhancement to be funded under the EEM program.

**b. Statewide Project Goals and Local Cash Contributions (0-20 points)**

Consistent with the intent of the program, the Resources Agency seeks to fund projects that serve the largest number of people in the widest area possible. Consequently, projects that demonstrate their relevance to larger planning processes (i.e. regional, city, county, State) and have obtained outside financial support will be given priority in this category.

**Statewide Resource Priorities:** Projects that contribute the most to statewide resource priorities – comprehensive, regional, and preventive initiatives to protect and enhance the State's natural heritage – will be rated the highest. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

Habitat/Ecosystem Restoration and Protection, including conservation of agricultural lands  
Wetlands Protection and Acquisition  
Recreational Access  
State Park Stewardship – enhancement, expansion, and maintenance of the State Park System

**Local Cash Contributions:** Projects that include the greatest proportion of other sources of monetary funding to project development will be rated the highest. Contributions made prior to Commission approval of the EEM project, as well as contributions to on-going project maintenance will not be given credit. To be evaluated and given appropriate credit, the value of cash contributions

must be estimated and included in the project cost estimate and budget. If a project is ultimately approved for funding, the ratio of EEM funds to "Other Sources of Funding" specified in the project application budget will be used by Caltrans for the purposes of reimbursement.

**c. Project Readiness (0-15 points)**

EEM program funds must be expended within a three-year period. Therefore, projects which can most readily be started and completed will be given higher ratings. Key items in the evaluation of this criteria include:

- Are project designs completed?
- Have funds been specifically appropriated for the related transportation facility?
- Are matching funds readily available?
- Will the proposed mitigation project require any permits or lengthy environmental clearance?
- Is the project consistent with State, regional, and local plans?

**4. PROJECT CATEGORY CRITERIA**

**4-1. Highway Landscape and Urban Forestry Projects**

Projects in the Highway Landscape and Urban Forestry category will be evaluated on the following criteria:

**a. Suitability and Sustainability (0-20 points)**

Projects that demonstrate the ability to provide maximum environmental benefits over the long term will be ranked the highest. Projects that serve the greatest area, and are consistent with statewide resource priorities, regional habitat management, and/or regional conservation objectives will be given priority in this category.

An important consideration is whether plantings, once established, will thrive without the need for supplemental irrigation. Other considerations for sustainability and suitability are:

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Will trees and other plants be environmentally tolerant to drought, smog, soil compaction, frost, wind, etc.?

Will the project be designed in such a manner as to provide for species diversity to reduce the effects of insects and diseases? For aesthetic reasons, one variety of tree may be planted along a certain street provided that other varieties are planted on other nearby street, thus providing an adequate mix.

Will the trees and other plant species selected be ecologically and physically appropriate for the function to be performed in the planting space available, and will the initial size selected for the planting area have a good chance for survival and growth on the project site?

Will the largest crowning trees possible be used to provide maximum environmental benefits for mitigating heat islands, ultra-violet light, the greenhouse effect, and pollution problems, while saving energy by providing shade?

What are the environmental benefits of the species selected?

Have adequate provisions been made for plant establishment and long-term maintenance? If maintenance is to be performed by another entity, please include evidence of concurrence from that entity.

Will the project use recycled or reclaimed water?

Does the project have a tracking system for required maintenance?

What provisions have been made for plantings that fail (e.g. a budget for removal and/or replacement of plants and trees that die)?

**b. Cost Effectiveness (0-20 points)**

Projects that provide the greatest number of trees and plants and yield the greatest potential for long-term carbon dioxide uptake at the least cost, will be ranked highest under this criteria. However, reimbursement for the cost of vegetation planted in public road right-of-way is limited to trees.

Other cost effectiveness considerations include:

How many trees will be planted in how much space?

What species of trees and plants will be used? (Please include both the scientific and common names)

What will be the size and cost for each of the trees and plants proposed?

If trees larger than 15-gallon container size are used, what is the justification?

What type of irrigation system will be installed? What is the water source and cost?

What will be the establishment cost per tree, considering species and installation over the first five years following planting?

Does the project require costly construction (e.g. metal grates)?

**c. Other Benefits and Community Participation (0-5 points)**

Projects that provide other benefits (i.e. benefits of other categories -- Roadside Recreation and Resource Lands) and/or demonstrate community support will receive points under this criteria. Other benefits include, but are not limited to, increased public access and recreational opportunities, preservation of wildlife habitat, and active citizen participation in planning and/or maintenance of the project. For example:

If the project is outside the right-of-way of the related transportation project, will the trees and other plants be planted in an area that provides reasonable public access or recreational opportunities?

Will the project provide for enhanced wildlife habitat?

If the project is outside of the related transportation facility right-of-way, will the project maximize citizen involvement in project planning and implementation and provide stewardship opportunities for long-term maintenance of the trees?

In addition, volunteer labor and/or donated materials, will be viewed favorably as further demonstration of local and community support of the project. If volunteer services or donated items will be used, please provide a description of what will be provided, including value (listed separately from cash contributions) if possible.

4-2. Resource Lands Projects

Projects in the Resource Lands category will be evaluated on the following criteria:

**a. Important Resource Values (0-30 points)**

Resource lands that protect or enhance ecosystems, watersheds, and/or other statewide natural resource priorities will be rated the highest. Important natural resource values include, but are not limited to, lands containing rare, threatened, or endangered species and their habitats, lands containing special wildlife values such as wildlife corridors, nesting and breeding areas, wetlands, woodlands, and riparian habitat, and agricultural lands.

**b. Sustainability (0-10 points)**

Projects which provide the most reasonable assurance that the resource lands to be acquired or enhanced will be maintained and protected will be ranked the highest under this criteria. If maintenance is to be performed by another entity, please include evidence of concurrence from that entity.

**c. Other Benefits and Community Participation (0-5 points)**

Projects that provide other benefits (i.e. benefits of other categories -- Highway Landscape and Urban Forestry and Roadside Recreation) and/or demonstrate community support will receive points under this criteria. Other benefits include, but are not limited to, increased public access and recreational opportunities, increased opportunities for interpretive and/or environmental education, and active citizen participation in planning and/or maintenance of the project.

In addition, volunteer labor and/or donated materials, will be viewed favorably as further demonstration of local and community support of the

project. If volunteer services or donated items will be used, please provide a description of what will be provided, including value (listed separately from cash contributions) if possible.

4-3. Roadside Recreation Projects

Projects in the Roadside Recreation category will be evaluated on the following criteria:

**a. Need for the Project (0-30 points)**

Applications that demonstrate the greatest need for the particular recreational facility will be ranked the highest. Projects with statewide significance, such as State Park Stewardship, will be given priority in this category. For example:

Will current or potential recreational opportunities be impacted by the modified or proposed transportation facility?

Why should this particular project be funded?

Is there a deficiency of similar opportunities?

Who will be served by this project, and what is the estimated visitor use?

Does the project connect to or complement other recreation areas or facilities?

Are there any barriers to public access?

**b. Sustainability (0-10 points)**

Entities that demonstrate the greatest ability to operate and maintain the proposed recreational facility will be given the highest ranking under this criteria. For example:

What is your experience in operating/maintaining this type of project or other recreation project?

How do you propose to maintain and operate the project? If maintenance is to be performed by another entity, please include evidence of concurrence from that entity.

How will materials and equipment be resistant to or protected from vandalism?

**c. Other Benefits and Community Participation (0-5 points)**

Projects that provide other benefits (i.e. benefits of other categories -- Highway Landscape and Urban Forestry and Resource Lands) and/or demonstrate community support will receive points under this criteria. Other benefits include, but are not limited to, the use of plants and trees to offset vehicular emissions, preservation of wildlife and natural habitat, increased opportunities for interpretive and/or environmental education, and active citizen participation in planning and/or maintenance of the project. Examples that address this criteria might include:

Self-guided nature walks utilizing interpretive signs and displays at the project entrance and/or key viewing points.

Litter abatement and beverage container recycling opportunities.

Involvement of volunteers or citizen organizations in interpretive and educational activities, litter cleanup, and maintenance.

In addition, volunteer labor and/or donated materials, will be viewed favorably as further demonstration of local and community support of the project. If volunteer services or donated items will be used, please provide a description of what will be provided, including value (listed separately from cash contributions) if possible.

**5. COSTS AND ACCOUNTING**

**5-1. Eligible EEM Project Costs**

The Resources Agency may recommend projects to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) with unallocated reductions in grant funding or with specific line item reductions. In such cases, the applicant may elect to

use non-grant sources of funding if it is deemed necessary to complete the project as planned.

Only project-related costs incurred during the project performance period specified in the project budget and grant agreement will be eligible for reimbursement. All such costs are funded on a reimbursement basis, and will be held to the ratio of EEM funds to Other Sources of Funding designated in the budget and grant agreement, which is generally the ratio specified by the applicant in the original project proposal. All costs submitted for reimbursement must be supported by appropriate invoices, purchase orders, canceled warrants, and other records.

Costs incurred in advance of a signed contract with the State and approval by the Commission are not eligible for reimbursement. All State requirements must be met and an agreement signed and approved between the State and applicant before any costs are incurred against the grant in order to be assured of reimbursement.

Only direct costs are eligible. General program administrative costs, general overhead costs (i.e., costs calculated as a percentage of other direct costs, such as telephone, fax, and space rental, etc), and ongoing project maintenance are not eligible for reimbursement.

## 5-2 Specific EEM Project Costs

### **a. Preliminary Project Costs**

Preliminary project costs (e.g. construction plans, appraisals, acquisition negotiations, etc.) are eligible for reimbursement. However, costs incurred prior to both the execution of an agreement between the State and the applicant and the allocation vote by the California Transportation Commission will not be reimbursed.

### **b. Personnel and Employee Services**

Services of the applicant's employees directly engaged in project execution are eligible costs. These costs must be computed according to the applicant's prevailing wage or salary scales and may include fringe benefit costs such as vacations, sick leave, social security contributions, etc. that are

customarily charged to the applicant's projects. Costs charged to the project must be computed on actual time spent on the project and be supported by time and attendance records describing the work performed on the project. Overtime costs may be allowed under the applicant's established policy, provided that the regular work time was devoted to the same project.

Salaries and wages claimed for employees working on State grant funded projects must not exceed the applicant's established rates for similar positions.

**c. Consultant Services**

The costs of consultant services necessary for the project are eligible. Consultants must be paid by the customary or established method and rate of the applicant. No consultant fee may be paid to the applicant's own employees without prior approval or unless specifically agreed to by the State.

**d. Construction Equipment**

The following conditions apply to the allocation of costs for construction equipment:

Equipment owned by the applicant may be charged to the project for each use. Equipment use charges must be made in accordance with the applicant's normal accounting practices. The equipment rental rates published by the State Department of Transportation may be used as a guide.

If the applicant's equipment is used, a report or source document must describe the work performed, indicate the hours used, and relate the use to the project. This document must be signed by the operator and supervisor.

Equipment may be leased, rented, or purchased, whichever is most economical. If equipment is purchased, its residual market value must be credited to the project costs on completion.

**e. Construction Costs**

The cost of all necessary construction activities from site preparation (including excavation, grading, etc.) to the completion of a structure or facility is

eligible. Also eligible are contract costs for tree planting and irrigation systems.

**f. Trees, Supplies, and Materials**

Trees, supplies, and materials, including irrigation equipment may be purchased for a specific project or may be drawn from a central stock, provided that they are claimed at a cost no higher than that paid by the applicant. However, reimbursement for the cost of vegetation planted within public road right-of-way is limited to trees.

**g. Acquisition Costs**

The costs of acquiring real property are eligible and may include the purchase price of the property, appraisals, surveys, preliminary title reports, escrow fees, and title insurance fees. Grant applicants are encouraged to explore the feasibility of acquiring easements rather than fee title when appropriate.

**h. Other Expenditures**

In addition to the major categories of expenditures, reimbursements may be made for miscellaneous costs necessary for execution of the project. Some of these costs are:

Premiums on hazard and liability insurance to cover personnel and/or property.

Work performed by another section or department of the applicant's agency.

Transportation costs for moving equipment and/or personnel.

**6. Additional Information on the Program and Procedures**

Accounting procedures and eligible costs for this program are established by Caltrans and any needed additional information can be obtained from the local Caltrans, District Local Assistance Office, (see the attached list and map for specific locations and contact persons).

EEM Program Procedures and Criteria  
August 2000  
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Completed applications and questions regarding the EEM program  
Procedures and Criteria should be directed to the EEMP Coordinator, California  
Resources Agency, 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Sacramento 95814,  
916-653-5656.

**Checklist for Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program Applications**

The following items, as applicable, are required for the EEM program application. Submit a total of four copies of all materials (original plus three copies.) Please assemble your application in the order listed below.

**Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program**

1. **Signed Application Face-Sheet and Assurances (see attached)**
2. **Table of Contents (with page number references)**
3. **Environmental Project Summary**

Brief description of project scope, location, and purpose, and amount of request

Explanation for grant request that exceeds the specified funding limitation, if applicable

4. **Agency Eligibility**

Authorizing resolution to apply for grant, required for local agencies and nonprofit organizations. (sample attached)

Statement of related prior experience for local agencies and nonprofit applicants (include IRS determination letter of Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, if applicable)

5. **Related Transportation Project**

Discussion of related transportation project and required mitigation, and the additional mitigation proposed by the EEM project.

Transportation project lead agency form letter (provided in this application package)

**6. General Criteria**

Narrative and quantitative explanations for each of the General Criteria

**7. Project Category Criteria**

Narrative and quantitative explanations for each of the Project Category Criteria  
– for the category of grant project being proposed

**8. Exhibits**

- a. Statement of project consistency with local, State, and/or federal plans, and list of permits and approvals needed and applications filed with involved agencies.
- b. Project cost estimate (by line item-object of expense).
- c. Proposed project development budget showing sources of cash funding. If volunteer services or donated items will be used, do not include these in this budget document. (You may discuss their value separately from monetary contributions under the Other Benefits and Community Participation criteria.)
- d. Project completion schedule.
- e. Quarterly project development cash expenditure plan.
- f. Project location map.
- g. Project site photos.
- h. Project designs or concept drawings.
- i. Acquisition schedule, if applicable.
- j. Acquisition map, if applicable (boundaries and parcel numbers).
- k. Certification for projects involving tree planting by a certified arborist, registered professional forester, or registered landscape architect, including:

appropriateness of species for location and carbon dioxide uptake capability  
optimal initial tree size for survival  
proper planting and maintenance ensured  
compliance with local ordinances  
compliance with specified nursery stock standards

- l. For all projects involving plantings, a description of the number of plantings, species, size, density, and locations
- m. All other exhibits (e.g. agreements with other involved agencies, etc.)
- n. Lastly, letters of endorsement (if any – not required)

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM APPLICATION
(Enter Grant Project Information under Section A and Transportation Project Information under Section B.)
See reverse side for additional instructions.

PROGRAM CATEGORY (check one category, only, below)

- Highway Landscape and Urban Forestry
Resource Lands
Roadside Recreation

A. GRANT PROJECT (Name)
AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUEST \$
ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST \$
GRANT APPLICANT (Agency - Address - ZIP code)
GRANT PROJECT LOCATION
Nearest Cross Street
County Nearest City
Senate District No. Assembly District No.

Grant Applicant's Representative Authorized in Resolution (Please indicate if address differs from that of Grant Applicant.)

Name Title Phone
Person with day-to-day responsibility for project (if different from authorized representative)

Name Title Phone

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF GRANT PROJECT (scope, location, purpose - not to exceed 60 words)

ANTICIPATED CONSTRUCTION START AND COMPLETION DATES:

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE FOR GRANT PROJECT (check proposed type and status)

Type Exempt Negative Declaration Categorical Exemption Environmental Impact Report
Status Complete In Progress Not Started

Name of Lead Agency

NOTE: Final environmental documents must be submitted to the CTC before it may approve project for funding.

B. RELATED TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

District City County Route Number/Name

Location

Description of Related Transportation Project

Name of Transportation Agency Date Construction Began or Scheduled

Name of Approved/Certified Capital Outlay Program for Related Transportation Project

I certify that the information contained in this project application form, including required attachments, is accurate and that I have read and understand the important information and agree to the assurances on the reverse of this form.

Signed (Grant Applicant's Authorized Representative, as shown on the Resolution) Date

**ASSURANCES**

Applicant possesses legal authority to apply for the grant and to finance, acquire, and construct the proposed project; and by formal action (e.g., a resolution) the applicant's governing body authorized the filing of the application, including all understandings and assurances contained therein, and authorized the person identified as the official representative of the applicant to act in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as may be required.

Applicant will manage and maintain any property acquired, developed, rehabilitated, or restored with grant funds in the future. With the granting agency's prior approval, the applicant or its successors in interest may transfer the management and maintenance responsibilities in the property. If the property is not managed and maintained for the purposes stated in the project agreement, the state shall be reimbursed an amount at least equal to the amount of the grant award or, for real property, the pro rata fair market value of the property, including improvements, at the time of sale, whichever is higher.

Applicant will give the state's authorized representative access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the grant.

Applicant will cause work on the project to be commenced within a reasonable time after receipt of notification from the state that funds have been approved and that the project will be carried to completion with reasonable diligence.

Applicant will comply where applicable with provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and the California Relocation Assistance Act, and any other state, and/or local laws, rules and/or regulations.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Grant Applicant's Authorized Representative)