

Memorandum

To: Chairman and Commissioners

Date: July 1, 2001

From: Robert I. Remen, Executive Director

File No: K38.7
BOOK ITEM 4.3
ACTION

Ref: **ADOPTION OF THE FY 2001-02 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION (EEM) PROGRAM**

Issue: Under Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56(e) the California Transportation Commission is charged with the responsibility of funding an annual \$10 million Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program as scored and prioritized by the State Resources Agency (see attached resolution and project lists).

Recommendation: Commission staff reviewed the Resources Agency's prioritized 2001-02 EEM project list and recommends that the Commission program 38 projects: the first 16 top ranked projects in the north, at an estimated cost of \$4,000,580, and the first 22 top ranked projects in the south, at an estimated cost of \$5,999,420, for a total statewide estimated cost of \$10 million.

Background: Senate Bill 117 (Statutes of 1999, Chapter 739) established the EEM Program as a permanent program funded at \$10 million annually to provide for environmental enhancement and mitigation projects that are directly or indirectly related to transportation projects. Such projects must provide environmental enhancements and mitigation over and above that is otherwise called for under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

The general categories of EEM 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 the related transportation facility. Projects within the right-of-way, however, are not intended to supplant or augment highway landscaping that would normally be funded by the responsible public agency. Any planting within public road rights-of-way shall be limited to trees only.
- Resource Lands 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.
- Roadside Recreational acquisition and/or development of roadside recreational opportunities, including roadside rests, scenic overlooks, trails, trailheads, sno-parks, and parks.

Any local, state or federal agency or nonprofit entity may apply for and receive grants. The applicant is not required to be a transportation 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 joint project.

The statute mandates the Resources Agency adopt procedures and criteria for this program, evaluate proposals, and recommend to the Commission projects for funding. The Agency's procedures and criteria contain a detailed, quantitative scoring mechanism that is used to evaluate and rank projects in priority order by assigning point scores to each project. The statute mandates that the California Transportation Commission award grants to fund proposals recommended by the Resources Agency. An attempt to maintain a 40/60 North/South split is required in the adopted procedures and criteria.

For the FY 2001-02 EEM Program, the Resources Agency evaluated 110 projects with a total cost of over \$25.9 million, all competing for \$10 million -- the amount included in the FY 2001-02 state budget for this program. From this list of projects, the Agency recommended to the Commission 80 projects with a total cost of over \$19.3 million. Seven of these projects were in excess of the Agency's generally established limit of \$250,000. The Resources Agency provided individual written justifications for the seven projects (justifications attached). Commission staff reviewed the justifications and concurs with the Agency's action.

In the north, staff is recommending that the Commission fund the Agency's 16 highest ranked projects. In the south, staff is recommending that the Commission fund the Agency's 22 highest ranked projects. There is one project in the north with a recommended contingency. In addition, there is another project in the north with a recommended funding reduction that is necessary to stay within the \$10 million budgetary limit.

The contingency involves the first ranked project in the north, the Trust for Public Land's, Cowell Ranch property acquisition. The applicant has agreed to make available all right-of-way required for the State Route 4 Bypass project as identified in Exhibits f (Project Maps) of the Cowell Ranch Acquisition, EEM request for funding application # 43.

The funding reduction involves the last project in the north, which is recommended for funding, the Caltrans' Route 41 Lemoore Landscaping project. The reduction is from \$250,000 to \$217,222. The applicant has agreed to reduce the project's scope by \$32,778 from the original application.

The City of Roseville's, Antelope Creek Trail project was dropped from the Resources Agency's recommended project list because the applicant was unable to provide the Commission with a final approved environmental document for the project as required by CEQA. The EEM Program Procedures and Criteria state that environmental clearance documents must be submitted to the Commission for projects to be considered at the July 2001 meeting.

Attachments

01-02 EEM July Book Item 4.3

California Transportation Commission

ADOPTION OF THE 2001-02 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT
AND MITIGATION PROGRAM

Resolution G-01-

WHEREAS Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56, establishes the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program; and

WHEREAS this program provides \$10 million annually for environmental enhancement and mitigation projects which 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; and

WHEREAS the Resources Agency is charged with evaluating proposals submitted for this program and providing a list of proposals recommended for funding to the California Transportation Commission; and

WHEREAS the California Transportation Commission is responsible for awarding grants to fund proposals which are included on the list prepared by the Resources Agency; and

WHEREAS the Resources Agency has prepared such a list, and that list has been reviewed and reduced by Commission staff from just over \$19.3 million in projects to \$10 million in projects.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission adopts the 2001-02 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation program, as indicated in the attached lists of projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding for the Cowell Ranch property acquisition is contingent on making available all right-of-way required for the State Route 4 Bypass project as identified in Exhibits f (Project Maps) of the Cowell Ranch Acquisition, EEM request for funding application # 43; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the intent of the Commission to allocate available funds for these projects during State Fiscal Year 2001-02, and that all funds so allocated should be expended on a timely basis, preferably by the end of State Fiscal Year 2002-03; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for projects which include land acquisition, the Commission would encourage grant recipients to reduce overall project costs by exploring the feasibility of acquiring easements rather than fee title when appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that due to the uniqueness of the individual projects in this program, the Commission hereby directs Caltrans to be especially diligent in the on-site inspection and auditing of the projects included in this program.

Attachments

01-02 EEM Adoption Resolution

July 1, 2001

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT & MITIGATION PROGRAM
2001-02 GRANT CYCLE**

NORTHERN COUNTIES

APP NO	APPLICANT	PROJECT	SCORE	REQUESTED FUNDING	PROVIDED FUNDING	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
43	THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND	COWELL RANCH ACQUISITION	88.5	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
42	SHASTA LAND TRUST	FENWOOD PARTNERS PROPERTY	86.5	500,000	500,000	1,500,000
55	U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	ANDREW CREEK/TABLE MOUNTAIN ACQUISITION	84	245,000	245,000	1,745,000
11	DEPT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	LAKE OROVILLE SRA - NORTH FORK TRAIL	83.5	220,000	220,000	1,965,000
17	ALBANY, CITY OF	ALBANY URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM	81.5	65,250	65,250	2,030,250
36	OUR CITY FOREST	MONTEREY HIGHWAY GREENING	81	235,400	235,400	2,265,650
8	DEPT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	PERCHED DUNE TRAILS IMPROVEMENT-MACKERRICHER STATE PARK	81	170,415	170,415	2,436,065
35	MONTEREY, CITY OF	WINDOW ON THE BAY MONTEREY BAY PARK PHASE IV	79	200,000	200,000	2,636,065
18	BERKELEY, CITY OF	BERKELEY URBAN REFORESTATION	78	199,300	199,300	2,835,365
133	CONTRA COSTA, COUNTY OF	STONE VALLEY ROAD REPLANTING AND BEAUTIFICATION	77	223,863	223,863	3,059,228
20*	ROSEVILLE, CITY OF	ANTELOPE CREEK TRAIL	76	200,000	0	3,059,228
14	SACRAMENTO, COUNTY OF	AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN	75	250,000	250,000	3,309,228
110	MOTHER LODE FAIR	MOTHER LODE FAIR - GREENBELT 2001	71.5	104,000	104,000	3,413,228
92	PARTNERS FOR BASS LAKE RESOURCES	BASS LAKE TRAIL	70.5	230,720	230,720	3,643,948
120	MARIN COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT	WHITE HILL UNDERPASS TRAIL	69.5	80,000	80,000	3,723,948
90	SAN PABLO, CITY OF	AMADOR STREET FORESTATION	69.5	59,410	59,410	3,783,358
87	CALTRANS	ROUTE 41 LEMOORE LANDSCAPING	69	250,000	217,222	4,000,580
10	DEPT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	COASTAL GRASSLAND RESTORATION AT JUGHANDLE STATE RESERVE	69	215,100	0	4,000,580
2	NOVATO, CITY OF	SCOTTSDALE POND HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	68	250,000	0	4,000,580
60	COASTAL LAND TRUST	SEASIDE BEACH ENHANCEMENT	68	225,250	0	4,000,580
121	SANTA CRUZ, CITY OF	MISSION STREET / ROUTE 1 LANDSCAPING	67.5	250,000	0	4,000,580
116	CALAVERAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS	CALAVERAS COUNTY BEAUTIFICATION & LANDSCAPE	67	249,000	0	4,000,580
113	PLACER, COUNTY OF	HIGHWAY 49 LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT	65	142,256	0	4,000,580
111	U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	SAN JOAQUIN RIVER NWR WILDLIFE OBSERVATION REPLACEMENT	65	121,000	0	4,000,580
68	SALINAS, CITY OF	NATIVIDAD CREEK RESTORATION INTERPRETIVE TRAIL PROJECT	63	158,500	0	4,000,580
102	PARLIER, CITY OF	MANNING AVENUE HIGHWAY LANDSCAPE	62.5	153,000	0	4,000,580
1	EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT	STATE ROUTE 4 SCENIC CORRIDOR ACQUISITION	62	230,000	0	4,000,580
4	CLOVIS, CITY OF	PEACH / ALLUVIAL PARK	61.5	250,000	0	4,000,580
135	SAN JOAQUIN RIVER PKWY & CONS TRUST, INC	THE CHILDREN'S TRAIL	61	250,000	0	4,000,580
81	MONTEREY - SALINAS TRANSIT	TRANSIT CORRIDOR HIGHWAY LANDSCAPING	60.5	240,000	0	4,000,580
104	PARADISE, TOWN OF	SKYWAY-NEAL ROAD GATEWAY	60	200,000	0	4,000,580

* The City of Roseville, Antelope Creek Trail project was dropped because the City was unable to provide final approved environmental documentation for the project.

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT & MITIGATION PROGRAM
2001-02 GRANT CYCLE SOUTHERN COUNTIES

APP NO	APPLICANT	PROJECT	SCORE	REQUESTED FUNDING	PROVIDED FUNDING	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
40	THE BACK COUNTRY LAND TRUST	WRIGHT'S FIELD ACQUISITION PHASE III	92.5	500,000	500,000	500,000
91	NORTH EAST TREES	BUENA VISTA DE LOS ANGELES	91.5	250,000	250,000	750,000
6	THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND	MORRO BAY DUNES: POWELL II	88.5	500,000	500,000	1,250,000
29	COMMUNITY SERVICES AND EMPLOYMENT TRAINING	HIGHWAY 198 URBAN FORESTRY	88	213,430	213,430	1,463,430
118	LAND TRUST FOR SANTA BARBARA COUNTY	ARROYO HONDO PRESERVE	88	500,000	500,000	1,963,430
7	DEPT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	HOLLISTER PEAK RANCH SOUTH PARCEL ACQUISITION	86.5	500,000	500,000	2,463,430
56	LOMITA, CITY OF	URBAN REFORESTATION	84.5	190,000	190,000	2,653,430
33	LOS ANGELES, CITY OF	TREE-LINED ROUTES TO THE RIVER	83.5	250,000	250,000	2,903,430
61	MURRIETA, CITY OF	I-15 AND I-215 INTERCHANGES / TRANSITION AREAS LANDSCAPING	83	250,000	250,000	3,153,430
23	CENTER FOR NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT	WILLOW HOLE PRESERVE SAND SOURCE/TRANSPORT AREA ACQ	82	250,000	250,000	3,403,430
57	VISTA, CITY OF	ROUTE 78 CORRIDOR LANDSCAPING	80	83,790	83,790	3,487,220
97	CALTRANS	SOLSTICE CREEK FISH PASSAGE AND RIPARIAN RESTORATION	79.5	250,000	250,000	3,737,220
78	FOOTHILL / EASTERN TRANS CORRIDOR AGENCY	EASTERN TRANS CORRIDOR WEST LEG (SR261) LANDSCAPE	79	250,000	250,000	3,987,220
44	DELANO, CITY OF	DELANO TREE BEAUTIFICATION	77.5	250,000	250,000	4,237,220
25	SAN LUIS OBISPO, CITY OF	JOHNSON RANCH ACQUISITION	77.5	250,000	250,000	4,487,220
21	INYO, COUNTY OF	LOWER OWENS RIVER SALT CEDAR CONTROL	77.5	250,000	250,000	4,737,220
15	LA MESA, CITY OF	JUNIOR SEAU SPORTS COMPLEX MITIGATION	75.5	250,000	250,000	4,987,220
128	FOOTHILL / EASTERN TRANS CORRIDOR AGENCY	F/ETC INTERCHANGE (SR241 / SR133) LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS	74	250,000	250,000	5,237,220
127	ENCINITAS, CITY OF	MULTIPLE HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM ACQUISITION	74	400,000	400,000	5,637,220
76	IRVINE, CITY OF	HARVARD AVENUE SPINE LANDSCAPE	73.5	72,200	72,200	5,709,420
16	HOLLYWOOD BEAUTIFICATION TEAM	PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT URBAN FORESTRY	73	250,000	250,000	5,959,420
71	IRVINE, CITY OF	HARVARD AVENUE SPINE BIKE TRAIL	73	40,000	40,000	5,999,420
19	TREE PEOPLE	EXPOSITION RIGHT-OF-WAY GREENWAY	72.5	71,457	0	5,999,420
103	SAN DIEGO, COUNTY OF	RANCHO GUAJOME ADOBE PICNIC AREA DEVELOPMENT	72.5	250,000	0	5,999,420
5	SAN DIEGO, COUNTY OF	RUTHERFORD RANCH / VOLCAN MOUNTAIN ACQ. PHASE VII	72	500,000	0	5,999,420
72	IRVINE, CITY OF	JAMBOREE LANDSCAPING	72	54,400	0	5,999,420
22	RIVERSIDE, COUNTY OF	EAST JOHNSON RANCH CONSERVATION CORRIDOR RESOURCE ACQ	71.5	1,000,000	0	5,999,420
64	NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC	SOUTH BALDWIN LAKE WATERSHED ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE	71.5	100,000	0	5,999,420
75	IRVINE, CITY OF	BARRANCA PARKWAY LANDSCAPE	71.5	139,400	0	5,999,420
139	MONO COUNTY	JUNE LAKE ROADSIDE PARK	71	233,750	0	5,999,420
48	LOS ANGELES, COUNTY OF	DOMINGUEZ CHANNEL BICYCLE TRAIL	71	250,000	0	5,999,420
34	ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY	STATE ROUTE 91/55 INTERCHANGE SCENIC ENHANCEMENTS	69.5	155,784	0	5,999,420
80	RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CITY OF	METROLINK STATION BEAUTIFICATION	68.5	86,000	0	5,999,420
39	SOUTH GATE, CITY OF	SOUTHERN AVENUE BIKEWAY RECREATION AREA	68.5	222,321	0	5,999,420
37	LANCASTER, CITY OF	AMARGOSA CREEK PATHWAY	67.5	250,000	0	5,999,420
74	IRVINE, CITY OF	JAMBOREE / MAC ARTHUR LANDSCAPING	66.5	74,320	0	5,999,420
115	ATASCADERO, CITY OF	CURBARIL BRIDGE	66	182,500	0	5,999,420
141	BAKERSFIELD, CITY OF	LAKEVIEW PARKWAY LANDSCAPE	65.5	250,000	0	5,999,420
143	BAKERSFIELD, CITY OF	CHESTER AVENUE MEDIAN ISLANDS	65.5	250,000	0	5,999,420
82	MISSION RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT	SAN LUIS REY RIVER RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT	65	250,000	0	5,999,420
83	MISSION RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT	OSTRICH CREEK RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT	65	250,000	0	5,999,420
101	HEMET, CITY OF	STATE STREET ROADSIDE PARK	64	247,500	0	5,999,420
140	BAKERSFIELD, CITY OF	DOWNTOWN STREETScape EXPANSION PROJECT PHASE II	63.5	250,000	0	5,999,420
46	WOODLAKE, CITY OF	BRAVO LAKE BOTANICAL GARDEN	63	250,000	0	5,999,420
50	LOS ANGELES, COUNTY OF	HIGHLAND AVENUE STREETScape	62.5	211,000	0	5,999,420
136	BAKERSFIELD, CITY OF	CHESTER AVENUE STREETScape PROJECT PHASE II	62.5	250,000	0	5,999,420

93	INYO NATIONAL FOREST	LONE PINE VISITOR CENTER, PHASE III	62.5	250,000	0	5,999,420
73	IRVINE, CITY OF	WALNUT AVENUE LANDSCAPING	62	30,544	0	5,999,420
47	LOS ANGELES, COUNTY OF	BALLONA CREEK BICYCLE TRAIL BEAUTIFICATION	61	100,000	0	5,999,420

Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program~~Error! Bookmark not defined.~~

Recommended Grant Awards Exceeding \$250,000 2001-02 Grant Cycle

The EEM Procedures and Criteria provide that grants in excess of \$250,000 may be considered for resource lands acquisitions based on consideration of unique or unusual factors, including but not limited to, maximum benefits in a one-time or limited opportunity, acquisitions of considerable size, substantial leveraging of funds, and/or projects with high statewide significance. The following are land acquisition projects for which the applicant is seeking in excess of \$250k and which are potentially fundable in this grant cycle.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES:

1. Wright's Field Acquisition Phase III, \$500,000

This grant to The Back Country Land Trust of San Diego County will be matched by \$250,000 in other funds to acquire up to 133 acres of native grassland, vernal pools, woodland oaks and coastal sage scrub at Wright's Field near Alpine in eastern San Diego County. The acquisition will add to the defined multiple species conservation area which provides linkage to the Cleveland National Forest. The acquisition provides mitigation for the Interstate 8 widening and rehabilitation project in Alpine. The project is of high statewide significance and provides a substantial leverage of funds.

2. Morro Bay Dunes, Powell II, \$500,000

This grant to The Trust For Public Land will be matched by \$250,000 in other funds to acquire 20 acres of the 40-acre Powell II property in San Luis Obispo County. The property offers riparian and upland habitat and recreational resources within the Morro Bay Watershed and will be an addition to the Morro Bay State Park. The acreage is zoned for residential development. The acquisition provides mitigation for the Twin Bridges Replacement project. The project is of high statewide significance, is in danger of being lost to development, and provides a substantial leverage of funds.

3. Arroyo Hondo Preserve, \$500,000

This grant to the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County will be matched by \$6,295,000 in other funds to acquire the 782 acre Arroyo Hondo Ranch along the Gaviota Coast of Santa Barbara County. The property is a scenic and recreational resource which provides habitat for several endangered species. The acquisition provides mitigation for the construction of a new interchange at the intersection of U.S. Highway 101 and State Route 154. The project is of high statewide significance and provides a substantial leverage of funds.

4. Hollister Peak Ranch South Parcel Acquisition, \$500,000

This grant to the State Department of Parks and Recreation will be matched by

\$2,000,000 in other funds to acquire 329 acres along Chorro Creek in San Luis Obispo County as an addition to Morro Bay State Park. The property is a scenic and recreational resource which provides habitat for several threatened species found along this coastal area. The acquisition provides mitigation for the roadway and drainage rehabilitation project on State Route One from San Luisito Creek Road to Cayucos. The project is of high statewide significance, and provides a substantial leverage of funds.

5. Multiple Habitat Conservation Program Habitat Acquisition, \$400,000

This grant to the City of Encinitas will be matched by \$1,000,000 in other funds to acquire 17 acres of privately owned land within the City of Encinitas' habitat conservation plan focused planning area in San Diego County. The property which lies .75 miles east of Interstate 5 near the Batiquitos Lagoon contains significant wildlife habitat. The acquisition provides mitigation for the widening and improvements to La Costa Avenue / I-5 Interchange. The project is of high statewide significance, is in danger of being lost to development, and provides a substantial leverage of funds.

NORTHERN COUNTIES:

1. Cowell Ranch Acquisition, \$1,000,000

This grant to the Trust for Public Land will be matched by \$12,500,000 in other funding to go toward the purchase of the 3,942 - acre Cowell Ranch, adjacent to the historic John Marsh Home, in Contra Costa County . The properties offers habitat, recreation and educational opportunities and animal corridors. The acquisition provides additional mitigation for the construction of State Highway 4. This project is of high statewide significance, is in danger of being lost to development, and provides a substantial leverage of funds.

2. Fenwood Partners Property, \$500,000

This grant to the Shasta Land Trust will be matched by \$800,000 in other funds to acquire, with the assistance of the Trust for Public Land, a conservation easement on the 2,180 acre Fenwood Partners property in Shasta County. The property provides riparian habitat along the Sacramento River for a variety of important animal species, and was slated for development into a 2,000 acre planned community. The acquisition provides mitigation for the Nobles Trail Road Bridge and Road Realignment project. The project is of high statewide significance, is in danger of being lost to development, and provides a substantial leverage of funds.