

Memorandum

To: Chair and Commissioners

Date: July 1, 2002

From: Diane C. Eidam, Executive Director

Reference Number 4.3
Action

Ref: **Adoption of the FY 2002-03 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program**

Issue: Under Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56(e) the Commission is charged with the responsibility of funding an annual Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program as scored and prioritized by the State Resources Agency in accordance with the funding level provided in the State Budget Act (see attached resolution and project lists).

Recommendation: Commission staff reviewed the Resources Agency's prioritized 2002-03 EEM project list and recommends that the Commission program 45 projects: the first 19 top ranked projects in the north, at an estimated cost of \$4,725,200, and the first 26 top ranked projects in the south, at an estimated cost of \$7,074,800, for a total statewide estimated cost of \$11,800,000 the amount proposed in the 2002-03 State Budget Act for the EEM Program.

Background: The EEM Program is a statutorily mandated program funded at a minimum of \$10 million a year. The proposed 2002-03 State Budget currently contains \$11.8 million for the EEM Program. Under EEM statutes, the Resources Agency is responsible for: developing and adopting procedures and criteria; evaluating grant proposals; submitting a list of ranked projects recommended for funding; and finding that the projects are eligible for funding under Article XIX of the State Constitution. The Resources 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. 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". EEM projects must provide environmental enhancements and mitigation over and above what 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 under the EEM Program. 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.

For the FY 2002-03 EEM Program, the Resources Agency evaluated 131 projects with a total cost of over \$37.2 million, all competing for \$11.8 million -- the amount included in the FY 2002-03 State Budget for this program. From this list of projects, the Agency recommended to the Commission 69 projects for funding with a total cost of over \$19.1 million. Eight of these projects are in excess of the Agency's generally established limit of \$250,000. The Resources Agency provided individual written justifications for the eight 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 19 highest ranked projects. In the south, staff is recommending that the Commission fund the Agency's 26 highest ranked projects. In addition, one project in the south has a recommended funding reduction that is made necessary so the program stays within the \$11.8 million budget limit for the program.

The funding reduction involves the last project in the south, which is recommended for funding, the City of Pismo Beach Dinosaur Caves Park Improvements project. The reduction is from the \$183,232 requested by the city to \$87,827, so the overall EEM program will stay within the \$11.8 million budget limit. The applicant has agreed to reduce the project's scope by \$95,405 from the original application or to secure other funding to make the project whole.

Sacramento County's, Northern Bikeway Extension 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 2002 meeting.

Attachments

California Transportation Commission

ADOPTION OF THE 2002-03 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT
AND MITIGATION PROGRAM

Resolution G-02-

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

WHEREAS this program provides a minimum of \$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 \$19.1 million in projects to \$11.8 million in projects the amount proposed in the 2002-03 State Budget Act for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission adopts the 2002-03 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation program, as indicated in the attached lists of projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the intent of the Commission to allocate available funds for these projects during State Fiscal Year 2002-03, and that all funds so allocated should be expended on a timely basis, preferably by the end of State Fiscal Year 2003-04; 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

02-03 EEM Adoption Resolution

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT & MITIGATION PROGRAM
2002-03 GRANT CYCLE

NORTHERN COUNTIES

APP NO	APPLICANT	PROJECT	REQUESTED		PROVIDED	CUMULATIVE
			SCORE	FUNDING	FUNDING	TOTAL
11	PARKS AND RECREATION, STATE DEPT OF	WILLIAM B. IDE ADOBE SHP FACILITIES ENHANCEMENT	87	245,000	245,000	245,000
84	EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT	SR 4 GAP CLOSURE CARQUINEZ STRAIT REGIONAL SHORELINE HALLISSY ACQUISITION	87	300,000	300,000	545,000
72	PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO	DOWNTOWN FERRY TERMINAL PUBLIC PIER	86.5	200,000	200,000	745,000
76	OAKLAND, CITY OF	CYPRESS FREEWAY MEMORIAL SITE	85	250,000	250,000	995,000
79	OUR CITY FOREST	TREES FOR INTERSTATE 880 NEIGHBORHOODS	82	186,200	186,200	1,181,200
12	PARKS AND RECREATION, STATE DEPT OF	BUTTERMILK BEND TRAIL IMPROVEMENT	81	135,000	135,000	1,316,200
78	SANTA CLARA COUNTY	MONROE STREET TRAIL STAGING AREA	80	250,000	250,000	1,566,200
2	NOVATO, CITY OF	SCOTTSDALE POND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS	79	250,000	250,000	1,816,200
10	CLOVIS, CITY OF	PEACH / ALLUVIAL PARK	77.5	250,000	250,000	2,066,200
83*	SACRAMENTO COUNTY	SACRAMENTO NORTHERN BIKEWAY EXTENSION, M STREET TO ELVERTA ROAD	76.5	250,000	0	2,066,200
52	MOUNTAIN VIEW, CITY OF	STEVENS CREEK ENHANCEMENT PLANTING, REACH 4, SEGMENT 1	75.5	150,000	150,000	2,216,200
51	MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY	BAHIA ACQUISITION	75.5	500,000	500,000	2,716,200
9	CLOVIS, CITY OF	BASIN "S" PARK	74.5	250,000	250,000	2,966,200
82	SACRAMENTO VALLEY OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY	DEER CREEK HILLS ACQUISITION, PHASE 1	74.5	500,000	500,000	3,466,200
128	PARADISE, TOWN OF	PARADISE GATEWAY	74.5	125,000	125,000	3,591,200
22	SAN PABLO, CITY OF	TREE PLANTING ALONG SAN PABLO DAM ROAD (EASTERN SECTION)	73.5	60,000	60,000	3,651,200
19	BRENTWOOD, CITY OF	STATE ROUTE 4, BRENTWOOD BLVD, LANDSCAPING	73	250,000	250,000	3,901,200
129	CALAVERAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS	CALAVERAS COUNTY LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT	71.5	249,000	249,000	4,150,200
41	SAN MATEO COUNTY	SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN PARCEL ACQUISITION	71	325,000	325,000	4,475,200
32	ROCKLIN, CITY OF	ROCKLIN ROAD-INTERSTATE 80 LANDSCAPE	71	250,000	250,000	4,725,200
95	MUIR HERITAGE LAND TRUST	MC HARRY RANCH EASEMENT ACQUISITION	70.5	250,000	0	4,725,200
90	MUIR HERITAGE LAND TRUST	BEESON RANCH ACQUISITION	70.5	250,000	0	4,725,200
54	EL CERRITO, CITY OF	EL CERRITO STREET TREE PLANTING	70	160,000	0	4,725,200
124	PARKS AND RECREATION, STATE DEPT OF	SCHALLENBERGER RIDGE PROPERTY ACQUISITION	68	500,000	0	4,725,200
8	SOUTHGATE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT	TILLOTSON PARKWAY BIKEWAY EXTENSION	67.5	250,000	0	4,725,200
13	PARKS AND RECREATION, STATE DEPT OF	WEST CREEK ROAD REMOVAL, PRAIRIE CREEK REDWOODS SP	67.5	198,000	0	4,725,200
35	STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY	STORNETTA BROTHERS COASTAL RANCH ACQUISITION	67	500,000	0	4,725,200
86	PLACER COUNTY	HIGHWAY 49 LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT	66.5	212,986	0	4,725,200
91	MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY	SIMMONS SLOUGH WILDLIFE CORRIDOR ACQUISITION	66.5	1,000,000	0	4,725,200
56	MARIPOSA COUNTY FAIR	MARIPOSA FAIRGROUNDS LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENTS	66	152,000	0	4,725,200
123	US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	BUENA VISTA PROPERTY ACQUISITION	66	500,000	0	4,725,200

* The Sacramento County, Northern Bikeway Extension, M Street to Elverta Road project was dropped because the County was unable to provide final approved environmental documentation for the project.

July 18, 2002

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT & MITIGATION PROGRAM
2002-03 GRANT CYCLE**

SOUTHERN COUNTIES

APP NO	APPLICANT	PROJECT	REQUESTED		PROVIDED	CUMULATIVE
			SCORE	FUNDING	FUNDING	TOTAL
49	MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY	ZANJA MADRE PARK	89.5	250,000	250,000	250,000
118	LOS ANGELES COUNTY	DOMINGUEZ CHANNEL BICYCLE TRAIL	84.5	250,000	250,000	500,000
126	LANCASTER, CITY OF	AMARGOSA CREEK PATHWAY	82.5	250,000	250,000	750,000
112	SANTA BARBARA COUNTY	ISLA VISTA BLUFFTOP PARCEL ACQUISITIONS	81	250,000	250,000	1,000,000
127	SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY	BIG TUJUNGA WASH - VERDUGO MOUNTAINS WILDLIFE CORRIDOR	81	128,000	128,000	1,128,000
18	SAN DIEGO, CITY OF	EAST ELLIOTT ACQUISITION	80.5	250,000	250,000	1,378,000
125	PARKS AND RECREATION, STATE DEPT OF	EL CAPITAN RANCH ACQUISITION	80	500,000	500,000	1,878,000
122	SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY	SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAINS - SIMI HILLS WILDLIFE CORRIDOR	79.5	199,000	199,000	2,077,000
47	PORTERVILLE, CITY OF	TULE RIVER PARKWAY PHASE III	77.5	250,000	250,000	2,327,000
59	COVINA, CITY OF	COVINA'S URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM	76.5	45,000	45,000	2,372,000
53	RIVERSIDE COUNTY	FRENCH VALLEY CONSERVATION CORRIDOR RESOURCE ACQUISITION	76.5	250,000	250,000	2,622,000
89	THE FALLBROOK LAND CONSERVANCY	EXPANSION OF MONSERATE MOUNTAIN PRESERVE	76	248,000	248,000	2,870,000
3	IRVINE, CITY OF	JAMBOREE ROAD LANDSCAPING	75.5	54,000	54,000	2,924,000
69	LA MESA, CITY OF	BRIERCREST PARK MITIGATION	75	250,000	250,000	3,174,000
15	PARKS AND RECREATION, STATE DEPT OF	MAGGIO RANCH ACQUISITION	74.5	500,000	500,000	3,674,000
4	IRVINE, CITY OF	BARRANCA PARKWAY LANDSCAPING	74	148,600	148,600	3,822,600
81	SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK JPA	ACQUISITION OF BERNARDO MOUNTAIN	73	1,000,000	1,000,000	4,822,600
93	MISSION RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT	OSTRICH CREEK RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT	73	250,000	250,000	5,072,600
68	VISALIA, CITY OF	REFOREST VISALIA	72.5	224,373	224,373	5,296,973
17	PARKS AND RECREATION, STATE DEPT OF	VALLECITOS RANCH ACQUISITION	72	500,000	500,000	5,796,973
66	RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CITY OF	RANCHO CUCAMONGA METROLINK STATION BEAUTIFICATION	72	190,000	190,000	5,986,973
46	BAKERSFIELD, CITY OF	STATE ROUTE 178 AT FAIRFAX ROAD LANDSCAPING	71.5	250,000	250,000	6,236,973
107	TEMECULA, CITY OF	OLD TOWN SOUTHERN GATEWAY LANDSCAPING / ROTARY PARK EXPANSION	71	250,000	250,000	6,486,973
14	PARKS AND RECREATION, STATE DEPT OF	TULLOCH RANCH PHASE I ACQUISITION	71	250,000	250,000	6,736,973
77	LOS ANGELES, CITY OF	GREENWAYS TO SCHOOLS	71	250,000	250,000	6,986,973
36	PISMO BEACH, CITY OF	DINOSAUR CAVES PARK IMPROVEMENTS	70.5	183,232	87,827	7,074,800
131	IRON MOUNTAIN CONSERVANCY	IRON MOUNTAIN RIDGE PRESERVATION	70	500,000	0	7,074,800
104	THE TREE PEOPLE	PICO BLVD BEAUTIFICATION & FREEWAY MITIGATION	69.5	250,000	0	7,074,800
28	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY	SOUTH MOUNTAIN ACQUISITION	69	250,000	0	7,074,800
16	PARKS AND RECREATION, STATE DEPT OF	MASON VALLEY ACQUISITION	69	250,000	0	7,074,800
45	BAKERSFIELD, CITY OF	DOWNTOWN STREETScape EXPANSION PHASE II	68.5	250,000	0	7,074,800
92	SAN LUIS OBISPO, CITY OF	AHEARN PROPERTY ACQUISITION	68.5	250,000	0	7,074,800
50	URBAN CORPS OF SAN DIEGO	SIGNALIZATION TREE PLANTING	68	248,129	0	7,074,800
94	MISSION RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT	SAN LUIS REY RIVER RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT	68	250,000	0	7,074,800
48	SHAFTER, CITY OF	SHAFTER LANDSCAPING AND BEAUTIFICATION	67.5	250,000	0	7,074,800
111	NORTH EAST TREES	ARROYO SECO URBAN FORESTRY AND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT	67	250,000	0	7,074,800
44	BAKERSFIELD, CITY OF	CHESTER AVENUE MEDIAN ISLAND	67	250,000	0	7,074,800
97	SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CITY OF	ORTEGA HIGHWAY (SR74) TREE INSTALLATION / REPLACEMENT	67	20,000	0	7,074,800

**Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program
2002-03 Grant Cycle**

Grant Awards Exceeding \$250,000

The EEM Procedures and Criteria provide that grants in excess of \$250,000 may be considered for land 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 we are recommending grants in excess of \$250k and which are potentially fundable in this grant cycle.

NORTHERN COUNTIES:

**1. SR 4 Gap Closure Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline
Hallissy Acquisition, \$300,000**

This grant to the East Bay Regional Park District will be matched by \$245,000 in other funds to acquire 97 acres at Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline in Contra Costa County. This property will complete a link in the Bay Area Ridge Trail connecting the Shoreline to the Franklin Hills open space. The acquisition provides additional mitigation for the State Route 4 Gap Closure project. The project is of high recreational significance.

2. Bahia Acquisition, \$500,000

This grant to the Marin Audubon Society will be matched by about \$18 million in other funds to acquire the 654-acre site at the mouth of the Petaluma River in Novato, in Marin County. The property will be preserved for migratory species habitat with its fresh water streams, and blue oak woodlands. The acquisition provides additional mitigation for the widening and safety barrier installation on Highway 37 and Sonoma and Novato Creek bridge retrofits. The project is of high statewide interest and offers a substantial leveraging of funds.

3. Deer Creek Hills Acquisition, \$500,000

This grant to the Sacramento Valley Open Space Conservancy will be matched by approximately \$10,873,600 in other funds to acquire 4,062 acres in east Sacramento County. The property will be preserved for wildlife habitat, with the secondary purposes as passive recreation, education, and managed grazing. The acquisition provides additional mitigation for the reconstruction of the Prairie City Road Interchange. This

project is of high interest and considerable size, and offers a substantial leveraging of funds.

SOUTHERN COUNTIES:

1. El Capitan Ranch Acquisition, \$500,000

This grant to the State Department of Parks and Recreation will be matched by \$9,500,000 in other funds to acquire approximately 2,500 acres of critical habitat, recreation lands, and scenic viewshed along Highway 101 in Santa Barbara County. The property will be added to the El Capitan State Beach and managed for recreational use, habitat and watershed protection. The acquisition provides additional mitigation for the Route 101/154 north interchange project. This project is of high statewide interest and provides a substantial leveraging of funds.

2. Maggio Ranch Acquisition, \$500,000

This grant to the State Department of Parks and Recreation will be matched by \$2,350,000 in other funds to acquire the 107 acre Maggio Ranch in San Diego County. The property will be added to the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park to provide equestrian facilities and protect approximately 20 acres of natural habitat. The acquisition provides additional mitigation for the straightening of curves and widening of State Route 76. The project is a one-time opportunity of high statewide significance with a substantial leveraging of funds.

3. Acquisition of Bernardo Mountain, \$1,000,000

This grant to the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority will be matched by \$3,500,000 in other funds to acquire 232 acres in San Diego County. The property contains coastal sage scrub, habitat for gnatcatchers and cactus wrens. This acquisition provides additional mitigation for the I-15 Managed Lane and HOV project. The project is of high statewide significance and provides a substantial leveraging of funds.

4. Vallecitos Ranch Acquisition, \$500,000

This grant to the State Department of Parks and Recreation will be matched by \$500,000 in other funds to acquire the 832 acre ranch in San Diego County. The property contains scenic and natural resources including a wildlife corridor and habitat for a large number of animal and plant species. This project provides additional mitigation for the widening of State Route 76 from Airport Road to Jeffries Rancho Road. The project is of high statewide significance and provides a substantial leveraging of funds.