

Memorandum

To: Chair and Commissioners

Date: February 27, 2008

From: JOHN F. BARNA, JR.
Executive Director

File: Book Item 4.5
Information

**Ref.: PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT FY 2007-08 ENVIRONMENTAL
ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION (EEM) PROGRAM**

Under Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56(e) the California Transportation Commission (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.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-08 State Budget provided \$10 million for the EEM Program.

The 2007-08 EEM Program

For FY 2007-08, the Resources Agency evaluated 57 grant applications and recommends that the Commission approve the 29 projects on the attached Projects Recommended for Funding list.

The projects are the top-rated projects, are listed in priority order as determined by the evaluation teams, and the Resources Agency recommends funding the 14 projects in the north for \$4,033,590, and 15 projects in the south for \$5,841,410, for a 2007-08 EEM Program total of \$9,875,000.

Two of the projects contained on the draft Projects Recommended for Funding list are in excess of the Resources Agency's generally established limit of \$350,000. The Resources Agency will provide individual written justifications for the two projects.

Each project that is being recommended for funding must provide evidence of environmental clearance prior to adoption and potential allocation at the April 2008 Commission meeting or the project would be subject to removal from the list.

The second attachment is the Substitution List. The list is divided into Northern Counties and Southern Counties sections.

The Northern Counties Substitution Projects section includes 19 projects displayed in priority order for substitution should any of the northern counties projects on the Recommended for Funding list be unable to proceed at this time.

The Southern Counties Substitution Projects section includes 9 projects displayed in priority order for substitution should any of the southern counties projects on the Recommended for Funding list be unable to proceed at this time.

Background

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 the 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.

Attachments

**2007-08 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM
PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING**

NORTHERN COUNTIES			Recommended Amount
HLUF	El Cerrito, City of Community Development Dept.	El Cerrito Street Tree Planting Program	\$160,000
HLUF	Our City Forest	Trees for Central San Jose	\$230,800
HLUF	San Francisco Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF)	SF 280 Landscape Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Project	\$350,000
HLUF	Monterey County Redevelopment Agency	Artichoke Avenue Phase I Roadside Landscaping Project	\$47,790
RL	Shasta Land Trust	Rickert Ranch Conservation Easement Project	\$350,000
RL	Truckee Donner Land Trust	Perazzo Meadows	\$350,000
RL	Trust for Public Land, The	Willow Canyon Protection Project	\$350,000
RL	River Partners	River Partners; Honcut Creek Acquisition Project	\$350,000
RR	California Department of Parks and Recreation	Butte City River Access	\$250,000
RR	South San Francisco, City of	Centennial Way (Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail/Linear Park): Phases 2 & 3	\$350,000
RR	Port of Richmond	Bay Trail Access to Kaiser Shipyard 3, Rosie The Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park	\$350,000
RR	Folsom, City of	Folsom Lake Trail Bike/Pedestrian Overcrossing Project	\$295,000
RR	San Mateo County Department of Parks	Coyote Point Bay Trail Project	\$350,000
RR	Monterey County Redevelopment Agency	Artichoke Avenue (Phase I) Class II Bicycle Trails Project in Castroville	\$250,000
NORTHERN TOTAL			\$4,033,590
SOUTHERN COUNTIES			
HLUF	Community Services & Employment Training, Inc.	Street Trees for Visalia	\$297,200
HLUF	Los Angeles, City of Environmental Affairs Dept.	Growing Livable Neighborhood - Phase II	\$250,000
HLUF	El Monte, City of - Community Services	El Monte Urban Forest Project	\$346,490
HLUF	Diamond Bar, City of	Diamond Bar Urban Reforestation Project	\$320,000
HLUF	Pasadena, City of	The Street Reforestation and Arroyo Seco Restoration Project	\$350,000
HLUF	Indio, City of	Monroe Street Beautification - City of Indio, California	\$308,896
RL	American Land Conservancy (ALC)	Avila Ranch Conservation Project	\$1,030,389
RL	Land Trust for Santa Barbara County	Midland School Conservation Easement Project	\$350,000
RL	The Nature Conservancy	Santa Clara River Acquisition Project	\$500,000
RR	San Marcos, City of	Autumn Drive Park Improvements	\$350,000
RR	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority	Ballona Creek to Parks Connection Trail	\$338,435
RR	Los Angeles, City of	Sunnynook River Park	\$350,000
RR	San Diego County of, Dept. of Public Works	Valley Center Roadside Recreational Heritage Trail - Extension	\$350,000
RR	Caltrans	Aliso Creek Vista Point Enhancement	\$350,000
RR	Alhambra, City of	Gateway Plaza Project	\$350,000
SOUTHERN TOTAL			\$5,841,410
Northern and Southern Total			\$9,875,000

2007-08 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM SUBSTITUTION LIST

NORTHERN COUNTY SUBSTITUTION PROJECTS

		Recommended Amount	Avg Score
HLUF	Amador County Transportation Commis	State Route 49/Sutter Hill Transit Center Highway Landscaping and R	\$48,000 63.5
HLUF	Fairfield, City of	Fairfield Interstate 80 Urban Reforestation Project	\$90,000 61.5
HLUF	Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)	Route 87 Highway Planting Project	\$241,553 61.5
HLUF	Urban Relief	Neighborhood Street Parkways in West Oakland	\$277,771 58
HLUF	Resources for Humanity	Amador County Fairgrounds Landscape Improvements	\$127,000 50
HLUF	Salinas, City of	East Market Street	\$350,000 50
HLUF	Livermore, City of	City of Livermore - Isabel Avenue Environmental Enhancement Projec	\$350,000 49.5
HLUF	California Dept. of Parks and Recreation	Montara Invasive Species Control	\$126,000 47
HLUF	Roseville, City of	Douglas/I-80 Interchange Landscaping	\$350,000 43.5
RR	Firebaugh, City of	Firebaugh - San Joaquin River Parkway Safety Project	\$350,000 75
RR	Lake, County of	LAK-020-12.2: Roadside Recreation - Public Restroom	\$300,000 74
RR	Redding, City of	Sacramento River Trail Enhancements	\$350,000 74
RR	Placer Land Trust	Canyon View Preserve Trail Project	\$329,490 73.5
RR	Sacramento County Regional Parks	Dry Creek Parkway Trail - Phae II	\$300,000 73
RR	California Wildlife Foundation	Salmon Viewing Plaza River Exhibit	\$350,000 72.5
RR	California State Parks	Old Marina Roadside Day Use Area rehabilitation Project	\$250,000 71.5
RR	Clovis, City of	Nature Education and Wildlife Rehabilitation Center - Passive Recreat	\$350,000 69.5
RR	Auburn, City of	Oak Preserve Interpretive Center and Rest Stop	\$350,000 68
RR	East Bay Regional Park District	Big Break Park Development	\$350,000 68

SOUTHERN COUNTY SUBSTITUTION PROJECTS

RL	The Nature Conservancy	State Route 23 Wildlife Linkage	\$350,000 61.5
RL	Carpinteria, City of	Carpinteria Bluffs Nature Preserve Expansion Parcel	\$200,000 52.5
RL	Mountains Recreation and conservation	Alamos Canyon Wildlife Corridor	\$330,000 42.5
RR	San Luis Obispo, City of	Bob Jones Bike Trail Enhancements	\$350,000 75.5
RR	Palmdale, City of	Amargosa Creek Nature Park	\$850,000 72.5
RR	Amigos De Los Rios	Emerald Necklace / Rio Hondo river Project	\$341,300 71
RR	Colton, City of	Development of existing land for park on La Cadena Dr. East of Rancl	\$150,000 61.5
RR	From Lot to Spot	Vacant Lot Beatification Project - City of Hawthorne	\$130,460 59.5
RR	Anaheim, City of Department of Public W	Santa Ana River Bikeway rest & Interpretative Center	\$350,000 41

2007-08 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program



Alameda		
Alpine		
Amador		
Butte	1	\$350,000
Calaveras		
Colusa		
Contra Costa	2	\$510,000
Del Norte		
El Dorado		
Fresno		
Glenn	1	\$250,000
Humboldt		
Imperial		
Inyo		
Kern		
Kings		
Lake		
Lassen		
Los Angeles	7	\$2,304,925
Madera		
Marin		
Mariposa		
Mendocino		
Merced		
Modoc		
Mono		
Monterey	2	\$297,790
Napa		
Nevada		
Orange		
Placer		
Plumas		
Riverside	1	\$308,896
Sacramento	1	\$295,000
San Benito		
San Bernardino		
San Diego	3	\$1,050,000
San Francisco	1	\$350,000
San Joaquin		
San Luis Obispo	1	\$1,000,000
San Mateo	2	\$700,000
Santa Barbara	1	\$350,000
Santa Clara	1	\$230,800
Santa Cruz	1	\$350,000
Shasta	1	\$350,000
Sierra	1	\$350,000
Siskiyou		
Solano		
Sonoma		
Stanislaus		
Sutter		
Tehama		
Trinity		
Tulare	1	\$297,200
Tuolumne		
Ventura	1	\$500,000
Yolo		
Yuba		
TOTAL	29	\$9,844,611