

Memorandum

To: Chair and Commissioners

Date: March 24, 2008

From: JOHN F. BARNA, JR.
Executive Director

File: Reference No. 4.3
ACTION

Ref.: ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2007-08
ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION (EEM) PROGRAM

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-08 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program.

Issue: the California Transportation Commission (Commission) is charged, per Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56(e), with the responsibility of funding an annual Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program as prioritized by the State Resources Agency in accordance with the funding level provided in the State Budget Act. The FY 2007-08 State Budget provided \$10 million for the EEM Program.

FY 2007-08 EEM Program: the Resources Agency evaluated 57 grant applications for FY 2007-08 and developed the two draft lists presented for notice at the March 12-13, 2008 Commission meeting.

In reviewing the two draft lists, it was discovered that a project on the Projects Recommended for Funding List had a lower score than a project on the Substitution List. The corrections were made to the draft lists, and the 29 projects on the final Projects Recommended for Funding List are the top-rated projects, are listed in priority order by category as determined by the evaluation teams.

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 FY 2007-08 EEM Program total of \$9,875,000.

Each project that is being recommended for funding must provide evidence of environmental clearance prior to adoption and potential allocation 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 by category for substitution should any of the northern counties projects on the Recommended for Funding list be unable to proceed.

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

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 constructing 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 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 to mitigate the loss or damage to resource lands within or near the right-of-way acquired for 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.

Attachments

California Transportation Commission

ADOPTION OF THE 2007-08 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT
AND MITIGATION PROGRAM

Resolution G-08-06

- 1.1 WHEREAS, Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56 establishes the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program; and
- 1.2 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
- 1.3 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
- 1.4 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
- 1.5 WHEREAS, the Resources Agency has prepared a Projects Recommended for Funding list totaling \$9,875,000 for twenty-nine projects, and that list has been reviewed by Commission staff and was noticed at the Commission's March 12-13, 2008 meeting.
- 2.1 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission adopts the 2007-08 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program, as indicated in the attached list of projects.
- 2.2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the intent of the Commission to allocate available Fiscal Year 2007-08 funds for these projects, and expects that funds so allocated should be expended on a timely basis, preferably by June 30, 2009; and
- 2.3 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
- 2.4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that due to the uniqueness of the individual projects in this program, the Commission hereby directs the Department of Transportation to be especially diligent in the on-site inspection and auditing of the projects included in this program.

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

NORTHERN COUNTIES				Recommended Amount
HLUF	17-01	El Cerrito, City of - Community Development Department	El Cerrito Street Tree Planting Program	\$160,000
HLUF	17-02	Our City Forest	Trees for Central San Jose	\$230,800
HLUF	17-03	San Francisco Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF)	SF 280 Landscape Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Project	\$350,000
HLUF	17-04	Monterey County Redevelopment Agency	Artichoke Avenue Phase I Roadside Landscaping Project	\$47,790
RL	17-05	Shasta Land Trust	Rickert Ranch Conservation Easement Project	\$350,000
RL	17-06	Truckee Donner Land Trust	Perazzo Meadows	\$350,000
RL	17-07	Trust for Public Land, The	Willow Canyon Protection Project	\$350,000
RL	17-08	River Partners	River Partners; Honcut Creek Acquisition Project	\$350,000
RR	17-09	California Department of Parks and Recreation	Butte City River Access	\$250,000
RR	17-10	South San Francisco, City of	Centennial Way (Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail/Linear Park): Phases 2 & 3	\$350,000
RR	17-11	Port of Richmond	Bay Trail Access to Kaiser Shipyard 3 (Rosie The Riveter WW II Home Front National Historical Park)	\$350,000
RR	17-12	Folsom, City of	Folsom Lake Trail Bike/Pedestrian Overcrossing Project	\$295,000
RR	17-13	San Mateo County Department of Parks	Coyote Point Bay Trail Project	\$350,000
RR	17-14	Monterey County Redevelopment Agency	Artichoke Avenue (Phase I) Class II Bicycle Trails Project in Castroville	\$250,000
NORTHERN TOTAL				\$4,033,590
SOUTHERN COUNTIES				Recommended Amount
HLUF	17-15	Community Services and Employment Training, Inc.	Street Trees for Visalia	\$297,200
HLUF	17-16	Los Angeles, City of - Environmental Affairs Department	Growing Livable Neighborhood - Phase II	\$250,000
HLUF	17-17	El Monte, City of - Community Services	El Monte Urban Forest Project	\$346,490
HLUF	17-18	Diamond Bar, City of	Diamond Bar Urban Reforestation Project	\$320,000
HLUF	17-19	Pasadena, City of	The Street Reforestation and Arroyo Seco Restoration Project	\$350,000
HLUF	17-20	Indio, City of	Monroe Street Beautification - City of Indio, California	\$308,896
RL	17-21	American Land Conservancy (ALC)	Avila Ranch Conservation Project	\$1,030,389
RL	17-22	Land Trust for Santa Barbara County	Midland School Conservation Easement Project	\$350,000
RL	17-23	The Nature Conservancy	Santa Clara River Acquisition Project	\$500,000
RR	17-24	San Marcos, City of	Autumn Drive Park Improvements	\$350,000
RR	17-25	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority	Ballona Creek to Parks Connection Trail	\$338,435
RR	17-26	Los Angeles, City of	Sunnynook River Park	\$350,000
RR	17-27	San Diego County, Department of Public Works	Valley Center Roadside Recreational Heritage Trail - Extension	\$350,000
RR	17-29	San Luis Obispo, City of	Bob Jones Bike Trail Enhancements	\$350,000
RR	17-28	Caltrans	Aliso Creek Vista Point Enhancement	\$350,000
SOUTHERN TOTAL				\$5,841,410
Legend:				
HLUF - Highway Landscape and Urban Forestry				
RL - Resource Lands				
RR - Roadside Recreation				
Northern and Southern Combined - GRAND TOTAL				\$9,875,000

**2007-08 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM
SUBSTITUTION LIST**

NORTHERN COUNTY SUBSTITUTION PROJECTS			Recommended Amount
HLUF	Amador County Transportation Commission	State Route 49/Sutter Hill Transit Center Highway Landscaping and Recreation Project	\$48,000
HLUF	Fairfield, City of	Fairfield Interstate 80 Urban Reforestation Project	\$90,000
HLUF	Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)	Route 87 Highway Planting Project	\$241,553
HLUF	Urban Relief	Neighborhood Street Parkways in West Oakland	\$277,771
HLUF	Resources for Humanity	Amador County Fairgrounds Landscape Improvements	\$127,000
HLUF	Salinas, City of	East Market Street	\$350,000
HLUF	Livermore, City of	City of Livermore - Isabel Avenue Environmental Enhancement (City Project No. 2004-12)	\$350,000
HLUF	California Dept. of Parks and Recreation	Montara Invasive Species Control	\$126,000
HLUF	Roseville, City of	Douglas/I-80 Interchange Landscaping	\$350,000
RR	Firebaugh, City of	Firebaugh - San Joaquin River Parkway Safety Project	\$350,000
RR	Lake, County of	LAK-020-12.2: Roadside Recreation - Public Restroom	\$300,000
RR	Redding, City of	Sacramento River Trail Enhancements	\$350,000
RR	Placer Land Trust	Canyon View Preserve Trail Project	\$329,490
RR	Sacramento County Regional Parks	Dry Creek Parkway Trail - Phase II	\$300,000
RR	California Wildlife Foundation	Salmon Viewing Plaza River Exhibit	\$350,000
RR	California State Parks	Old Marina Roadside Day Use Area Rehabilitation Project	\$250,000
RR	Clovis, City of	Nature Education and Wildlife Rehabilitation Center - Passive Recreational Improvements	\$350,000
RR	Auburn, City of	Oak Preserve Interpretive Center and Rest Stop	\$350,000
RR	East Bay Regional Park District	Big Break Park Development	\$350,000
SOUTHERN COUNTY SUBSTITUTION PROJECTS			Recommended Amount
RL	The Nature Conservancy	State Route 23 Wildlife Linkage	\$350,000
RL	Carpinteria, City of	Carpinteria Bluffs Nature Preserve Expansion Parcel	\$200,000
RL	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority	Alamos Canyon Wildlife Corridor	\$330,000
RR	Alhambra, City of	Gateway Plaza Project	\$350,000
RR	Palmdale, City of	Amargosa Creek Nature Park	\$850,000
RR	Amigos De Los Rios	Emerald Necklace / Rio Hondo River Project	\$341,300
RR	Colton, City of	Development of existing land for park on La Cadena Dr. East of Rancho Avenue	\$150,000
RR	From Lot to Spot	Vacant Lot Beatification Project - City of Hawthorne	\$130,460
RR	Anaheim, City of Department of Public Works	Santa Ana River Bikeway Rest and Interpretative Center	\$350,000
Legend:			
HLUF - Highway Landscape and Urban Forestry			
RL - Resource Lands			
RR - Roadside Recreation			

2007-08 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program



Alameda		
Alpine		
Amador		
Butte		
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	6	\$1,954,925
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	2	\$1,380,389
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	1	\$350,000
TOTAL	29	\$9,875,000