

Memorandum

To: Chair and Commissioners

Date: February 23, 2009

From: JOHN F. BARNA, JR.
Executive Director

File No: Agenda Item 4.5
Information

Ref: **PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT FY 2008-09 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) 2008-09 State Budget provided \$10 million for the EEM Program.

The 2008-09 EEM Program

For FY 2008-09, the Resources Agency evaluated 66 grant applications and recommends that the Commission approve the 36 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 18 projects in the north for \$4,424,014, and 18 projects in the south for \$5,575,986, for a 2008-09 EEM Program total of \$10,000,000.

One of the projects contained on the draft Projects Recommended for Funding list is in excess of the Resources Agency's generally established limit of \$350,000. The Resources Agency will provide individual written justification for the project.

Each project that is being recommended for funding must provide evidence of environmental clearance prior to adoption and potential allocation at the April 2009 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 11 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 Highways 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

**2008-09 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM
PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING**

NORTHERN COUNTIES (18 Projects)			
HLUF	Amador County Transportation Commission	State Route 49/Sutter Hill Transit Center Highway Landscaping and Receptions Project	\$48,000
HLUF	Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District	S.R. 49/Stockton Road - Forest Road Ailanthus Eradication and Restoration Project	\$16,125
HLUF	Berkeley, City of	Berkeley Urban Reforestation Project	\$201,700
HLUF	Morgan Hill, City of	Butterfield Oak Grove Project: Sequestering Carbon Dioxide Using Urban Forestry	\$205,753
HLUF	Turlock, City of	Christoffersen Park/Walnut Basin Tree Mitigation	\$25,373
RL	Muir Heritage Land Trust	Franklin Canyon Acquisition	\$350,000
RL	Truckee Donner Land Trust	Billy Mack Canyon - Property Acquisition	\$350,000
RL	Sacramento, County of	Dry Creek Parkway Acquisition FY 08/09	\$350,000
RL	Trust for Public Land, The	Middle Yuba River - Rice's Crossing Resource Lands Acquisition Project	\$350,000
RL	Trust for Public Land, The	Yuba River Excelsior Resource Lands Acquisition Project	\$350,000
RL	Arcata, City of	Strombera Forest Acquisition (Sunny Brae Forest Addition)	\$350,000
RL	Sotoyome Resource Conservation District	Arundo Removal & Riparian Enhancement - Russian River	\$245,763
RL	Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works	California Tiger Salamander Wildlife Corridor (Road Crossing) Enhancement	\$150,350
RL	Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation	Duer Creek Riparian Restoration Project	\$232,950
RR	Redding, City of	Sacramento River Trail Enhancements	\$350,000
RR	Madera County RMA	Watering Hole Exhibit - Fossil Discovery Center	\$298,000
RR	Transportation Agency for Monterey Co.	Lower Hatton Canyon Trail	\$200,000
RR	Belmont, City of	US Highway 101/Ralston Avenue Pedestrian/Bik Bridge Project	\$350,000
			\$4,424,014
SOUTHERN COUNTIES (18 Projects)			
HLUF	Caltrans	SR-94 Casa de Oro Tree Planting	\$350,000
HLUF	Visalia, City of	Reforest Visalia	\$311,400
HLUF	Simi Valley, City of	118 Freeway Interchange Landscape Enhancement	\$350,000
HLUF	Caltrans	SR-54 Sweetwater Greenbelt Bike Path Tree Planting	\$350,000
HLUF	Tree Musketeers	El Segundo Hometown Forest	\$55,000
RL	Eastern Sierra Land Trust	Centennial Ranch Easement Addition (CREA)	\$522,100
RL	Coachella Valley Conservation Commission	NCCP Acquisitions and Sand Dune Ecosystem Conservation	\$350,000
RL	River Partners	Otay Delta Habitat Restoration Project	\$350,000
RL	Pasadena, City of	Native Plant Restoration of the Arroyo Seco	\$350,000
RL	San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy	Restoration and Enhancement of San Elijo Lagoon through Improved Tidal Circulation	\$269,400
RL	Land Trust for Santa Barbara Co.	Lower Refugio Creek Restoration Project	\$110,000
RL	Atascadero Land Preservation Society	Atascadero Creek Resource Lands Acquisition Project	\$206,786
RR	Big Bear Lake, City of	Boulder Bay Improvements- Phase 2	\$350,000
RR	Amigos De Los Rios	Emerald Necklace/Rio Hondo River Project	\$341,300
RR	San Dieguito River Park, JPA	Lake Hodges Bikeway Access Phase 2: West Bernardo Bike Path and Cantilever	\$350,000
RR	Town of Mammoth Lakes	Sherwin Street Bridge Project	\$260,000
RR	San Marcos, City of	South Lake Community Park: Phase 1	\$350,000
RR	Indio, City of	Monroe Street Multi-Purpose Trail	\$350,000
			\$5,575,986
			\$10,000,000

**2008-09 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM
PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING**

SUBSTITUTION LIST			
NORTHERN COUNTIES (19 Projects)			
HLUF	Rocklin, City of	Sierra College Blvd./I-80 Interchange Landscape Enhancement Project, Rocklin, CA	\$350,000
HLUF	Merced, City of	East 16th Street Beautification	\$158,678
HLUF	Amador County Fair	Amador County Fair and Elementary School Landscape Improvements	\$237,000
HLUF	CCSF-Airport Commission and SFCC		\$100,000
HLUF	Urban Releaf	Neighborhood Street Parkways in West Oakland	\$277,771
HLUF	Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority	Route 237 / 880 Interchange Highway Planting	\$217,055
HLUF	San Joaquin Regional Transit District	Transit Station Environmental Enhancement Project	\$150,000
RL	Trust for Public Land, The	Yuba River: Blue Point Resource Lands Acquisition	\$350,000
RL	Chico, City of	Iron Fish Passage Project	\$350,000
RL	Placer Land Trust	Oest Ranch	\$350,000
RL	American River Conservancy	Cameron Park Rare Plant Habitat Acquisition	\$350,000
RL	California State Parks	Montara Mountain Invasive Species Control	\$185,000
RL	California Land Stewardship Institute	Suisun Creek Riparian Enhancement Project	\$289,440
RL	Plumas Corporation	Sulphur-Barry Creek Restoration	\$309,510
RL	Solano Land Trust	Acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement on Jameson Canyon Ranch, Solano County	\$500,000
RL	Sierra Foothill Conservancy	Topping Ranch Conservation Easement	\$350,000
RL	River Partners	Great Valley Grasslands Habitat Restoration	\$350,000
RL	Creative Environmental Conservation	Reclamation of Fresh Water Ecosystems in the Gabilan Watershed	\$350,000
RR	American Rivers	Deer Creek Tribute Trail: Pedestrian Bridge	\$295,000
SOUTHERN COUNTIES (11 Projects)			
HLUF	Mono, County of	Streetscape for Lee Vining	\$176,416
HLUF	Vista, City of	SR-78 Corridor Landscaping Project Phase II	\$113,890
HLUF	Korea town Youth and Community Center	KYCC'S "Greeting the Expo Line"	\$138,000
HLUF	Caltrans	SR-111/Cole Road Landscape Enhancement in Calexico	\$350,000
RL	Reservation Transportation Authority	Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Grant - Culvert Slope Erosion Mitigation Project, Los Coyotes Road Project Phase 1	\$345,000
RL	Inyo Mono Agricultural Commissioner, County of	Owens River Riparian Enhancement Project	\$210,804
RL	Gardena, City of	Willows Wetlands Improvements	\$350,000
RR	University of California, Davis	Mono Basin Scenic Area Vegetation Enhancement	\$349,995
RR	Los Angeles Conservation Corps	Encanto Nature Trail Extension	\$218,010
RR	Rialto, City of	Rails to Trails	\$350,000
RR	Rialto, City of	Cactus Trail	\$350,000