

Memorandum

TAB 56

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: February 24-25, 2010



From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

File: Reference No. 4.6
INFORMATION

Ref.: **PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT FY 2009-10 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) 2009-10 State Budget provided \$10 million for the EEM Program.

The 2009-10 EEM Program

For FY 2009-10, the Resources Agency evaluated 68 grant applications and recommends that the Commission approve the 32 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 15 projects in the north for \$4,558,258, and 17 projects in the south for \$5,317,001, for a 2009-10 EEM Program total of \$9,875,259.

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 justification for the projects.

Each project that is being recommended for funding must provide evidence of environmental clearance prior to adoption and potential allocation at the April 2010 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 14 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 22 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.

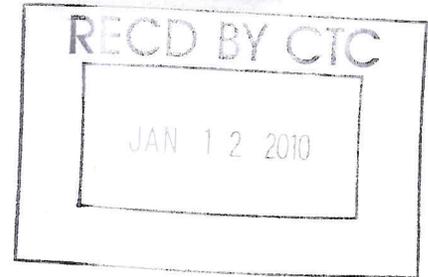
The EEM Program is designed to undertake "environmental enhancement and mitigation projects that are directly or indirectly related to the environmental impact of modifying existing transportation facilities or for the design, construction, or expansion of new transportation facilities". EEM projects 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



January 7, 2010

Barna
John Barna
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Barna, *John*

As provided in Section 164.56 of the Streets and Highways Code, the Natural Resources Agency has evaluated the 2009/10 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP) grant applications. These applications are listed on the attached Funding Recommendations List, Substitution List and Ineligible List.

Projects on both the Funding Recommendations List and the Substitution List meet the requirements of Section 164.56(d); they contribute to the mitigation of the environmental effects of transportation facilities. Projects on the attached Ineligible List do not meet the criteria of Section 164.56(d).

The Natural Resources Agency recommends that the projects on the Funding Recommendations List be authorized to receive immediate funding. These projects are displayed in priority order within each category, as determined by the evaluation team that reviewed each application. The list contains 32 projects with a total value of \$9,875,259. The Natural Resources Agency recommends that these top-rated projects receive priority approval.

For northern counties, the Natural Resources Agency recommends immediate funding for 15 projects with a total grant value of \$4,558,258. The 14 projects listed on the Substitution List are also displayed in priority order within each category, should any of the top-rated projects in the northern counties be unable to proceed at this time.

In like manner, there are 17 projects recommended for immediate funding for southern counties, with a total grant value of \$5,317,001. The 22 projects listed on the Substitution List are also listed in priority order within each category, should any of the top-rated projects in the southern counties be unable to proceed at this time.

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John Barna
January 7, 2010
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If you have any questions about the recommended projects or the process used to evaluate them, please call Laurie Heller, EEMP Coordinator, at (916) 651-7593 or contact her by email at laurie.heller@resources.ca.gov .

Sincerely,



Mike Chrisman
Secretary for Resources

Enclosures

2009/10 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM
FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING (32 PROJECTS)

NORTHERN COUNTIES (15 PROJECTS)

HLUF	Our City Forest	Trees for East San Jose	\$ 236,900
RL	Trust for Public Land, The	Yuba Highlands Conservation Easement Acquisition Project	\$ 350,000
RL	Trust for Public Land, The	Bruin Ranch Conservation Project	\$ 350,000
RL	American River Conservancy	Cameron Park Rare Plant Habitat Acquisition	\$ 350,000
RL	East Bay Regional Park District	San Pablo Creek Marsh Property Acquisition	\$ 300,000
RL	Arcata, City of	Arcata Community Forest Expansion - Morris Property Acquisition	\$ 350,000
RL	San Pablo, City of	Wildcat Creek Restoration	\$ 350,000
RL	Coastal Conservation & Research (CCR)	Eelgrass Restoration & Hydrologic Improvements in the Elkhorn Slough Watershed Bennett & Parsons Sloughs	\$ 333,375
RL	Eureka, City Of	PALCO Marsh Enhancement Project	\$ 350,000
RL	Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation	Duer Creek Riparian Restoration Project	\$ 135,445
RL	California Land Stewardship Institute	Suisun Creek Riparian Enhancement Project	\$ 297,938
RR	Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council	White Sulphur Springs Ranch Roadside Recreational Facility	\$ 500,000
RR	California State Parks - Northern Buttes District	Trail and Day Use Improvements at Lake Oroville SRA at Potter's Ravine and at Rattlesnake Hill Trail	\$ 99,600
RR	San Jose, City of	Highway 237 Bikeway Trail System	\$ 350,000
RR	American River Conservancy	South Fork American River Trail Completion	\$ 205,000
			\$ 4,558,258

SOUTHERN COUNTIES (17 COUNTIES)

HLUF	Visalia, City of	Trees for Visalia	\$ 309,750
HLUF	Los Angeles, City of - Environmental Affairs Department	Heat Re-Leaf for LA: Carbon to Canopy	\$ 350,000
HLUF	Hollywood Beautification Team	San Fernando Valley Trees & Native Habitat Restoration	\$ 175,000
HLUF	Urban Corps of San Diego County	EEMP Tree Planting at the SR-78 and I-15 Interchange	\$ 350,000
HLUF	Koreatown Youth and Community Center	Street Tree Planting Project	\$ 57,750
HLUF	California Department of Transportation - District 11	Caltrans District 11 EEMP	\$ 297,000
HLUF	Urban Corps of San Diego County	EEMP Tree Planting Project at the I-5 Interchanges @ E Street, H Street and J Street	\$ 350,000
RL	Lakeside's River Park Conservancy	Hanson El Monte Pond Revegetation Project	\$ 350,000
RL	Nature Reserve of Orange County	Cactus Wren Habitat Linkage Enhancement Restoration and Creation Project	\$ 303,325
RL	Friends of Famosa Slough	Acquisition of the Dees/Pierce Property	\$ 350,000
RL	Back Country Land Trust of San Diego County	Klein-Hugh Land Acquisition	\$ 350,000
RR	North East Trees	Glendale Riverwalk Project	\$ 350,000
RR	Amigos de los Rios	Emerald Necklace Greening	\$ 350,000
RR	Fullerton, City of	Union Pacific Trail - Phase II	\$ 350,000
RR	Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA)	Duck Farm Restoration	\$ 446,496
RR	San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority	Horsepark Trail	\$ 349,670
RR	Los Angeles Conservation Corps	Encanto Nature Walk Extension Project	\$ 228,010
			\$ 5,317,001
			\$ 9,875,259

2009/10 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM
FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

SUBSTITUTION LIST (36 PROJECTS)

NORTHERN COUNTIES (14)

HLUF	Rocklin, City of	Sierra College Blvd/I-80 Interchange Landscape Enhancement Project	\$ 245,000
HLUF	El Dorado, County of - Department of Transportation	US 50/Missouri Flat Road Interchange Landscaping Enhancements	\$ 350,000
HLUF	Stockton, City of - Public Works Department	State Route 99 Sound wall Enhancement	\$ 318,000
HLUF	Livermore, City of - Engineering Division	Isabel Avenue Environmental Enhancement Project- Livermore, CA	\$ 210,000
HLUF	Merced, City of - Redevelopment Agency	East 16th Street Beautification	\$ 337,797
HLUF	Plumas, County of - Department of Public Works	Trees & Irrigation Lines in East Quincy	\$ 51,112
RL	Trust for Public Land, The	King Nature Preserve	\$ -
RL	Contra Costa, County of - Public Works	Vasco Road Safety Improvement Project	\$ 350,000
RL	Tuolumne County Resource Conservation Board	Sullivan Creek Enhancement Project	\$ 44,875
RL	Santa Rosa, City of	Colgan Creek Restoration Project	\$ 350,000
RL	Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Environmental Enhancement for the Truckee/Lake Tahoe I-80 Interchange	\$ 349,913
RL	Creative Environmental Conservation	Restoration and Enhancement of Wetland Corridors in the Prunedale Hills Drainage	\$ 328,000
RL	Western Shasta Resource Conservation District	Dana to Downtown Riparian Forest Planting	\$ 209,002
RR	Morgan Hill, City of	West Little Llagas Creek Trail	\$ 300,000

SOUTHERN COUNTIES (22)

HLUF	Urban Corps of San Diego County	EEMP Tree Planting at the I-805 and SR-905 Interchange	\$ 350,000
HLUF	Santa Clarita, City of	Railroad Avenue Tree Planting	\$ 349,450
HLUF	Culver City, City of - Public Works Department	West Washington Boulevard Tree Planting	\$ 342,867
HLUF	Diamond Bar, City of	Diamond Bar Urban Forestation Project	\$ 350,000
HLUF	Bakersfield, City of	Median Landscape Improvements Chester Avenue from W. Columbus Street to Beardsley Avenue	\$ 430,000
HLUF	Bellflower, City of	Environmental Improvements for Modification Project for Downtown Bellflower Blvd.	\$ 340,000
HLUF	Gardena, City of	City-wide Tree and Landscaping Planting Project	\$ 450,000
HLUF	Coronado, City of	Toll Plaza Improvements Project	\$ 350,000
RL	San Diego, County of - Department of Parks & Recreation	San Luis Rey River Park Land Acquisition	\$ 1,000,000
RL	Nature Conservancy, The	Habitat Protection & enhancement Project for Proctor Valley	\$ 350,000
RL	Escondido Creek Conservancy, The	Acquisition of the MJM Ranch	\$ 350,000
RL	Coachella Valley Conservation Commission	Thousand Palms NCCP Acquisitions	\$ 350,000
RL	San Diego, County of - Department of Parks & Recreation	San Luis Rey River Park Land Acquisition	\$ 1,000,000
RL	Escondido Creek Conservancy, The	Acquisition of the University Heights Property	\$ 500,000
RL	Inyo/Mono Counties Ag. Commissioner	Independence Area Watershed Protection and Enhancement Project	\$ 266,593
RL	Reservation Transportation Authority	Los Coyotes Road Project Phase I	\$ 345,000
RL	Friends of Famosa Slough	Acquisition of the Lichty Property	\$ 350,000
RL	San Bernardino International Airport Authority (SBIAA)	City Creek Alabama Street Drainage Improvements Mitigation	\$ 350,000
RR	Culver City, City of	Ballona Creek Bikeway	\$ 349,911
RR	Sweetwater Valley Civic Association	Bonita Meadows Entry Monument Gates/Proctor Valley Road Multiple Use Trail Conversion	\$ 315,000
RR	Yucaipa, City of	Five Winds Restroom and Public Parking Project	\$ 250,000
RR	Mammoth Lakes, The Town of	Waterford Gap Multi-Use Bike Path Project	\$ 149,221

2009/10 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM
 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

INELIGIBLE (13 PROJECTS)

RL	Antelope Valley Conservancy	Gorman Hills Preservation	0
HLUF	Brentwood, City of	Sunset Road Urban Forestry Project	0
RR	Echo Park Improvement Association	SR2 Terminus Land Acquisition Grant	0
RL	Escondido Creek Conservancy, The	Acquisition of the Council Springs Ranch	0
RL	Fallbrook Land Conservancy	84.3-Acre Davies Acquisition Project	0
RL	Fallbrook Land Conservancy, The	184 Acre Durling Acquisition Project	0
RL	Gardena, City of	Willows Wetlands Improvements	0
	Los Angeles, City of -- Department of Public	Mar Vista Parkway Greening Stormwater Best	
RL	Works, Bureau of Sanitation	Management Practices Project	0
HLUF	Pasadena, City of	Trees and Native Plant Project in Pasadena	0
	Resources for Humanity	Amber County Fair & Elementary School	
HLUF		Landscape Improvements	0
RR	Rialto, City of	Cactus Trail	0
	Sacramento, County of - Department of Regional	Dry Creek Parkway Trail - Phase I	
RR	Parks		0
HLUF	Vista, City of	SR-78 Corridor Landscaping Project Phase II	0