

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: March 26, 2015

Reference No.: 4.5
Action

From: WILL KEMPTON
Executive Director

Subject: **ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2013-14
ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION (EEM) PROGRAM
RESOLUTION G-15-03**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the attached resolution and approve the FY 2013-14 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program. The Commission has the statutory responsibility to fund the EEM Program, as prioritized by the California Natural Resources Agency (Resources Agency), in accordance with the funding levels provided in the State Budget.

ISSUE

The FY 2013-14 EEM Program includes the 35 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation projects on the Recommended for Funding List as prioritized by the Resources Agency.

The Resources Agency reviewed 67 grant applications for 2013-14. The Agency's procedures and criteria contain a scoring mechanism to evaluate and rank projects in priority order by assigning point scores to each project. For projects making the initial cut, site visits were conducted for further vetting. The eligible applications were evaluated and used to develop the Recommended for Funding List (35 projects).

The Resources Agency Secretary submitted the FY 2013-14 EEM Program to the Commission for approval in a letter dated February 18, 2015, with the following enclosures: Recommendations Memorandum, the Recommended for Funding List and the Not Recommended for Funding List.

The Recommended for Funding List includes the 35 eligible projects, as determined by the evaluation teams, and are shown in North/South sections listed in alphabetical agency order.

The Resources Agency recommends funding the 18 projects in the north for \$7,898,000 and the 17 projects in the south for \$8,349,000, for a FY 2013-14 EEM Program total of \$16,247,000.

The Projects Not Recommended for Funding List includes 11 projects in Northern counties and 21 projects in Southern counties. The multi-discipline evaluation team used the Program's procedures and criteria to determine that these 32 projects could not be recommended for funding.

Each project being recommended for funding must provide evidence of environmental clearance prior to adoption and potential allocation at the March 2015 Commission meeting or the project would be subject to removal from the list.

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:

- 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 projects for 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.
- Mitigation Projects Beyond the Scope of the Lead Agency for projects to mitigate the impact of proposed transportation facilities or to enhance the environment, where the ability to effectuate the mitigation or enhancement measures is beyond the scope of the lead agency responsible for assessing the environmental impact of the proposed transportation improvement.

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.

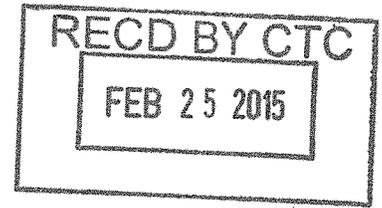
Attachments

California Transportation Commission

ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2013-14
ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM

Resolution G-15-03

- 1.1 WHEREAS, Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56 establishes the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program; and
- 1.2 WHEREAS, this program provides funding 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 \$16,247,000 for thirty-five projects, and that list has been reviewed by Commission staff.
- 2.1 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission adopts the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14 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 funds for these projects, and expects that funds so allocated should be expended on a timely basis; 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 recommends to the Resources Agency to be especially diligent in the on-site inspection and auditing of the projects included in this program.



February 18, 2015

Will Kempton
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 942874, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001

Dear Mr. Kempton:

As provided in Section 164.56 of the Streets and Highways Code, the Natural Resources Agency has evaluated the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) program grant applications. These applications are listed on the attached Funding Recommendations List.

Projects on the Recommended for Funding List meet statutory requirements and contribute to the mitigation of the environmental effects of transportation facilities.

The California Natural Resources Agency recommends that the projects be approved. These recommendations were determined by a multi-disciplined evaluation team that reviewed each application and visited each site. The list contains 35 projects with a total value of \$16.2 million.

If you have any questions about the recommended projects or the process used to evaluate them, please call Carol Carter, EEMP Coordinator, at (916) 651-7588 or contact her by email at carol.carter@resources.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

John Laird
Secretary for Natural Resources

Enclosures

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814 Ph. 916.653.5656 Fax 916.653.8102 <http://resources.ca.gov>



PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL AND MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION

Approve grants to 35 entities totaling \$16.2M. See attached list.

BACKGROUND

Under Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56(a), 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 California Natural Resources Agency (Agency) in accordance with the funding level provided in the State Budget.

The EEM Program awards grants to 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.

California Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56 (as amended in 2013, SB 99) provides for Grants to be awarded in three categories -

- Urban Forestry: Projects designed to offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide
- Resource Lands: Acquisition or enhancement of resource lands to mitigate the loss of, or the detriment to, resource lands lying within the right-of-way acquired for proposed transportation improvements.
- Mitigation Projects Beyond the Scope of the Lead Agency: Projects to mitigate the impact of proposed transportation facilities or to enhance the environment, where the ability to effectuate the mitigation or enhancement measures is beyond the scope of the lead agency responsible for assessing the environmental impact of the proposed transportation improvement.

(Previously the program included projects for roadside recreation and commuter bicycle trails.)

Agency is responsible for developing and adopting guidelines (procedures and criteria) and determining eligibility, evaluating proposals, submitting a list of projects recommended for funding, and managing the grants post awards. The Agency's procedures and criteria contain a scoring mechanism to evaluate and rank projects in priority order by assigning point scores to each project. Projects making the initial cut are then visited for further vetting. 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 percentages vary slightly year to year dependent on the pool of applications and competitiveness.

AVAILABLE FUNDING

Due to the timing to update the guidelines reflecting legislative changes, funds are available from two fiscal years, totaling \$13.4M. Funds were also available from a general fund repayment in the sum of \$4.4 which allowed additional awards. The balance of \$1.6M is available for next cycle (these funds are available for allocation until June 30, 2016.)

Each project recommended for funding provided evidence of CEQA compliance.

2013-14

Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program

Recommended for Funding (35)					
Applicant	Project Name	N/S	County	Cat	Rec \$
American River Conservancy	Salmon Falls Ranch Recreational Trail	N	El Dorado	RL	\$ 297,000
American River Conservancy	Wakamatsu Community Farm & Accessible Trail	N	El Dorado	RL	\$ 337,000
Benicia Tree Foundation	Benicia Urban Forestry	N	Solano	UF	\$ 6,000
Berkeley, City of, Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department	Berkeley Urban Reforestation	N	Alameda	UF	\$ 340,000
Border Coast Regional Airport Authority	Bay Meadows Mitigation	N	Del Norte	RL	\$ 380,000
Cache Creek Conservancy	Cache Creek Riparian Enhancement	N	Yolo	RL	\$ 286,000
California Trout	Hat Creek Restoration Project Expansion	N	Shasta/ Siskiyou	RL	\$ 356,000
Feather River Land Trust	Anderson Ranch Conservation Easement	N	Lassen	RL	\$ 1,000,000
Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of Stewarts Point Rancheria	Richardson Ranch Resource Lands Acquisition	N	Sonoma	RL	\$ 502,000
Pacific Forest Trust, Inc., The	Butte Creek Meadows Working Forest Conservation Easement	N	Siskiyou	RL	\$ 500,000
Redwood Community Action Agency	Chah-GAH-cho Enhancement	N	Humboldt	RL	\$ 144,000
River Partners	Jelly's Ferry Habitat Restoration	N	Tehama	RL	\$ 500,000
Sacramento Tree Foundation	Bear River Habitat Trail	N	Yuba	RL	\$ 469,000
Sierra Foothill Conservancy	Bean Meadow Restoration	N	Mariposa	RL	\$ 414,000
Truckee Donner Land Trust	Coppins Meadow Property Acquisition	N	Sierra	RL	\$ 590,000
Trust for Public Land	Ryan Creek Conservation Easement Acquisition	N	Humboldt	RL	\$ 500,000
Western Rivers Conservancy	Blue Creek Preserve: A Sanctuary for Fish and Wildlife	N	Humboldt/ Del Norte	RL	\$ 1,000,000
Zen Foundation	Green Gulch Creek Habitat Enhancement	N	Marin	RL	\$ 277,000
18 NORTHERN PROJECTS (49% total funding)					\$ 7,898,000
California Department of Transportation	Wildlife Passage Modifications on State Route 118 in Ventura County	S	Ventura	RL	\$ 350,000
California State Parks	Red Rock Canyon State Park Habitat Restoration	S	Kern	RL	\$ 90,000
Chaparral Lands Conservancy, The	Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Restoration Project II	S	San Diego	RL	\$ 197,000
El Paso de Robles, City of	Riverside Corridor Restoration & Enhancement	S	San Luis Obispo	MP	\$ 500,000
Hollywood Beautification Team, The	Tree Planting & Community Greening (Berendo)	S	Los Angeles	UF	\$ 712,000
Lakeside's River Park Conservancy	Caster/Cactus Pond Acquisition along the San Diego River	S	San Diego	RL	\$ 445,000
Mojave Desert Land Trust	Quail Wash Acquisition	S	San Bernardino	RL	\$ 300,000
Pasadena, City of	Carbon Offset through Tree Planting	S	Los Angeles	UF	\$ 400,000
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District	Alamos Canyon Acquisition	S	Ventura	RL	\$ 1,000,000
River Partners	Daley Preserve Habitat Restoration	S	San Diego	RL	\$ 396,000
Santa Clarita, City of	Valley Vista Acquisition	S	Los Angeles	RL	\$ 500,000
Trust for Public Land	Arroyo Burro Creek Riparian Corridor Acquisition	S	Santa Barbara	RL	\$ 500,000
Trust for Public Land	Ramirez Canyon Phase III Acquisition	S	Los Angeles	RL	\$ 500,000
Trust for Public Land	San Luis Rey River Acquisition	S	San Diego	RL	\$ 500,000
Tulare, City of	State Route 99-Cartmill Ave. Interchange Landscaping	S	Tulare	UF	\$ 459,000
Ventura Hillside Conservancy	Walker-Hearne Ranch Acquisition	S	Ventura	RL	\$ 1,000,000
Visalia, City of	City of Visalia Urban Forest Expansion	S	Tulare	UF	\$ 500,000
17 SOUTHERN PROJECTS (51% total funding)					\$ 8,349,000
Total Projects Recommended for Funding (35)					\$ 16,247,000

2013-14
Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program

Projects not recommended for funding (32)					
Applicant	Project Name	N/S	County	Cat	Rec \$
Redding, City of - Community Services Dept.	Henderson and Parkview Open Space Improvements	N	Shasta	RL	\$0
Anaheim, City of	Kraemer Pocket Park Urban Forestry Project	S	Orange	UF	\$0
Los Angeles, County of, Department of Public Works	Edwards Middle School Urban Forestry Project	S	Los Angeles	UF	\$0
North East Trees	Sennett Creek Park Planting Project	S	Los Angeles	UF	\$0
Pacific Forest Trust, Inc., The	McCloud Working Forest Conservation Easement Project - Phase II (River Block)	N	Siskiyou	RL	\$0
San Diego, County of, Dept. of Parks and Recreation	San Luis Rey River Park Expansion	S	San Diego	RL	\$0
Trust for Public Land	Red Car Acquisition Project	S	Los Angeles	RL	\$0
Los Angeles Conservation Corps	Gaffey Street Pedestrian Path & Environmental Enhancement Project	S	Los Angeles	UF	\$0
Big Bear Lake, City of	Happy Hill Trail Restroom & Parking Facility Project	S	San Bernardino	MP	\$0
Creative Environmental Conservation, Inc.	Restoration of Shorebird Nesting & Feeding Habitat in the Moss Landing Wildlife Area	N	Monterey	RL	\$0
CA State Coastal Conservancy	Piedras Blancas Motel & Campground Water Storage Facilities	S	San Luis Obispo	MP	\$0
Coastal Conservation & Research, Inc.	Erosion Control Habitats to Prevent Marine Wetland Loss around Moss Landing	N	Monterey	RL	\$0
Urban Corps of San Diego County	State Route 94 Lemon Grove Tree Planting Project	S	San Diego	UF	\$0
Lassen Land & Trails Trust	Barry Pond Acquisition	N	Lassen	MP	\$0
Bear Yuba Land Trust	Sanford Ranch & Little Wolf Creek Conservation Easement	N	Nevada	RL	\$0
Urban Releaf	Trees For Oakland Flatlands	N	Oakland	UF	\$0
Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation	Hot Springs Valley Wetlands	S	Kern	RL	\$0
Koreatown Youth and Community Center	Koreatown Trees for Active Transit Project	S	Los Angeles	UF	\$0
California Land Conservancy, The	Chino Hills 400	S	San Bernardino	RL	\$0
Goleta, City of	Ekwill Street & Fowler Road Extensions Mitigation Project	S	Santa Barbara	MP	\$0
Urban Corps of San Diego County	Otay Valley Regional Park Habitat Enhancement Project	S	San Diego	RL	\$0
Dana Adobe Nipomo Amigos	DANA's Preservation & Education Project	S	San Luis Obispo	RL	\$0
Tree Musketeers	Clutter's Bluff Wildlife Habitat	S	Los Angeles	RL	\$0
Bear Yuba Land Trust	Garden Bar Preserve Riparian & Wetland Habitat Restoration Plan	N	Nevada	RL	\$0
CA Department of Transportation, District 7	El Marino Language School Urban Forestry Project	S	Los Angeles	UF	\$0
Friends of the Dunes	Coastal Habitat Conservation through Restoration	N	Humboldt	RL	\$0

2013-14
Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program

Projects not recommended for funding (32)					
Truckee, Town of	Truckee River Legacy Trail Phase 3B Trailhead	N	Nevada	RL	\$0
Citrus Heights, City of	Parkoaks Drive Creek Bank Restoration Project	N	Sacramento	UF	\$0
Amigos De Los Rios	Phase 2 Emerald Necklace Expanded Green Infrastructure Network-East Los Angeles County	S	Los Angeles	MP	\$0
Sierra Foothill Conservancy	Beechinor Ranch Conservation Project	S	Madera	RL	\$0
San Marcos, City of	Discovery Street Urban Trail	S	San Diego	UF	\$0
Yucaipa, City of	Dunlap Park	S	San Bernardino	UF	\$0