

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: January 19-20, 2011

Reference No.: 4.13
Information

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

Subject: **PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT FY 2010-11 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) 2010-11 State Budget provided \$10 million for the EEM Program.

The 2010-11 EEM Program

For FY 2010-11, the Resources Agency evaluated 61 grant applications and recommends that the Commission approve the 35 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 16 projects in the north for \$4,721,276, and 19 projects in the south for \$5,278,724, for a 2010-11 EEM Program total of \$10,000,000.

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

Each project being recommended for funding must provide evidence of environmental clearance prior to adoption and potential allocation at the March 2011 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 9 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 17 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



December 27, 2010

Bimla Rhinehart
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Rhinehart:

As provided in Section 164.56 of the Streets and Highways Code, the Natural Resources Agency has evaluated the 2010/2011 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 California 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 35 projects with a total value of \$10 million. The Agency recommends that these top-rated projects receive priority approval.

For northern counties, the Agency recommends immediate funding for 16 projects with a total grant value of \$ 4,721,276. The 9 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 19 projects recommended for immediate funding for southern counties, with a total grant value of \$5,278,724. The 17 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.

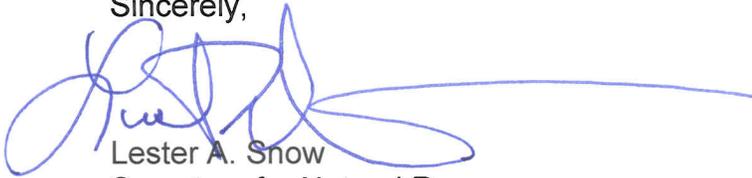
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814 Ph. 916.653.5656 Fax 916.653.8102 <http://resources.ca.gov>



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.

As a member of the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), the California Natural Resources Agency is charged with furthering policies, programs, and strategies which advance healthy communities and promote sustainability goals statewide. To that end, we look forward to expanding the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program Guidelines in FY 2011-12, by incorporating the SGC's objectives to assist state and local entities in the planning of sustainable communities and meeting AB 32 goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lester A. Snow", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lester A. Snow
Secretary for Natural Resources

Enclosures

2010-11 EEMP FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

	B	C	D	E
1	NORTH: 16 Projects Recommended for Funding			
2	RL	Sonoma County Water Agency	Laguna De Santa Rosa Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Project	\$ 239,116
3	RR	Cupertino, City of	Stevens Creek Corridor Park & Restoration Project, Phase 2	\$ 245,000
4	RR	South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)	Yuba River Wild Salmon and Wildlife Interpretation and Recreation Facilities	\$ 231,000
5	RL	Humboldt County Resource Conservation District	Riverside Ranch Restoration	\$ 350,000
6	RL	Sonoma County Water Agency	Copeland Creek Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Project	\$ 345,580
7	HLUF	El Dorado Department of Transportation, County of	US 50/Missouri Flat Road Interchange Landscaping Enhancements	\$ 220,000
8	HLUF	Our City Forest	The Greening of San Jose International Airport Neighborhoods	\$ 298,480
9	RR	Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit District	Regional SMART Pathway- Sonoma County Hearn/Bellevue Segment	\$ 350,000
10	RL	Feather River Land Trust	Quincy Learning Landscape Acquisition Project	\$ 293,500
11	RR	Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council	The White Sulphur Ranch Roadside Recreation Facility	\$ 350,000
12	HLUF	Menlo Park, City of	Highway 84 Carbon Offset Project: Creating a Natural Carbon Sink at Bedwell Bayfront Park	\$ 350,000
13	RR	San Jose, City of	Coyote Creek Trail (Highway 237 Bikeway to Tasman Drive Light Rail)	\$ 350,000
14	RR	Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit District	Regional SMART Pathway- Marin County N. San Pedro to Civic Center Segment	\$ 350,000
15	RL	Trust for Public Land, The	Rodden Ranch Resource Lands Conservation Easement Project	\$ 350,000
16	RR	American Rivers	Deer Creek: Restoration, Recreation, and Education	\$ 150,000
17	HLUF	Berkeley- Parks Department, City of	City of Berkeley Urban Reforestation Project	\$ 248,600
18	Total Funding (North)			\$ 4,721,276
19	SOUTH: 19 Projects Recommended for Funding			
20	HLUF	Hollywood Beautification Team	Tree Plantings Associated with Interstate 5 HOV Lanes in LA County	\$ 151,410
21	HLUF	Hollywood Beautification Team	Native Habitat Restoration on Public Road Right of Ways Highway 101 in Los Angeles	\$ 92,125
22	RL	Coachella Valley Conservation Commission	NCCP Acquisitions and Conservation of Desert Sand Dune Ecosystem	\$ 300,000
23	HLUF	Visalia, City of	Valley Oak Reforestation Project	\$ 311,250
24	RL	Nature Conservancy, The	Rudnick Ranch Acquisition	\$ 500,000
25	HLUF	Pismo Beach, City of	Hwy 101 Beautification	\$ 125,220
26	HLUF	Urban Corps of San Diego	EEMP 905/805	\$ 330,500
27	RL	California Chaparral Institute	Carmel Mountain Habitat Restoration Project	\$ 349,784
28	HLUF	Pasadena, City of	Urban Forestry Revitalization Project	\$ 350,000
29	RR	Amigos De Los Rios	Emerald Necklace Multi-Benefit Park & Greenway Project- Upper San Gabriel River	\$ 350,000
30	HLUF	Koreatown Youth and Community Center	Greening the Expo Line- Continuation	\$ 100,000
31	HLUF	Urban Corps of San Diego	EEMP 94	\$ 330,585
32	RL	San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy	Continued Restoration and Enhancement of San Elijo Lagoon through Improved Tidal Circulation	\$ 167,900
33	HLUF	North East Trees	La Brea Greenbelt Urban Forestry Project	\$ 350,000
34	RL	Los Angeles Conservation Corps	Audubon Habitat Restoration Project	\$ 345,810
35	RR	Amigos De Los Rios	Emerald Necklace Expanded Multi-Benefit Park & Greenway Project	\$ 350,000
36	RL	Eastern Sierra Land Trust	Dirty Socks Spring Acquisition and Protection Project	\$ 74,140
37	RL	El Paso de Robles, City of	Charolais Corridor Multi-Use Trail and Restoration Project	\$ 350,000
38	RL	Trust for Public Land, The	Ocean Meadows Resource Lands Acquisition Project	\$ 350,000
39	Total Funding (South)			\$ 5,278,724
40	Total Funding Recommendations			\$ 10,000,000
41	Substitution List (North) - 9 Projects			
42	HLUF	FireSafe Marin	Highway 101 Restoration and Planting Project	\$ 350,000
43	HLUF	Rocklin, City of	Sierra College Boulevard/I-80 Interchange	\$ 245,000
44	HLUF	Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District	Basin "II4" & "JJ" Landscaping	\$ 306,509

	B	C	D	E
45	HLUF	Livermore, City of	Isabel Avenue Environmental Enhancement Project- Livermore, CA	\$ 225,000
46	RL	Trust for Public Land, The	King Property Resource Lands Acquisition Project	\$ 350,000
47	RR	Redding, City of	Buenaventura Blvd Bike Lane Connector	\$ 300,000
48	RL	Santa Cruz, City of	Implementation of the Resource Management Plan of the Arana Guich Master Plan	\$ 350,000
49	HLUF	Galt, City of	Central Galt Interchange Landscape Improvement Project	\$ 308,602
50	RL	Elkhorn Slough Foundation	Wetland Enhancement in Whistlestop Lagoon, Elkhorn Slough	\$ 348,589
51	Substitution List (South) - 17 Projects			
52	RR	Yucaipa, City of	El Dorado Heritage Trails and Resource Center	\$ 225,002
53	HLUF	Atascadero, City of	El Camino Real Urban Forestry Project	\$ 350,000
54	RL	Trust for Public Land, The	Righetti Ranch Resource Lands Acquisition Project	\$ 350,000
55	HLUF	Irvine, City of	MacArthur Boulevard Landscaping Enhancement Project	\$ 151,946
56	RR	Sweetwater Valley Civic Association	Bonita Meadows Entry Monument Gates/Proctor Valley Road Multiple Use Trail Conversion EEMP Project	\$ 315,000
57	HLUF	Costa Mesa, City of	Newport Boulevard Greening Project	\$ 274,475
58	HLUF	Irvine, City of	Warner Avenue Landscaping Enhancement Project	\$ 142,525
59	RR	Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation, City of	Manchester Neighborhood Greenway Project	\$ 350,000
60	HLUF	Irvine, City of	Irvine Boulevard Median Landscaping Enhancement Project	\$ 78,317
61	RR	Rialto, City of	City of Rialto, Rails to Trails	\$ 350,000
62	HLUF	Garden Grove, City of	Harbor Boulevard Environmental Enhancement Project	\$ 350,000
63	RL	Lakeside River Park Conservancy	Bostonia House Research Field Station: Supporting Research and Education in the San Diego River Watershed and its MSCP Lands	\$ 350,000
64	RL	Atascadero, City of	Stadium Park Entry Acquisition Project	\$ 270,000
65	RL	Resource Conservation Partners, Inc. (RCP)	Los Padres Open Space Oak Woodland Enhancement Projects	\$ 183,770
66	HLUF	Industry, City of	State Route 60 Azusa Avenue Interchange Environmental Enhancement Project	\$ 350,000
67	HLUF	Santa Clarita, City of	Railroad Avenue Tree Planting Project	\$ 143,275
68	RL	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority	Ramirez Canyon Acquisition Project	\$ 350,000
69	FOUR (4) INELIGIBLE PROJECTS			
70	HLUF	Tree Musketeers	Hometown Forest	\$ 63,106
71	RL	Goleta, City of	Mathilda Drive Parcel Acquisitions	\$ 80,000
72	RR	Firebaugh, City of	Firebaugh- San Joaquin River Parkway Bicycle Trail- Phase IV	\$ 350,000
73	RR	Fresno PARCS Department, City of	Martin Ray Reilly Roadside Park	\$ 350,000