

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: March 23-24, 2011

Reference No.: 4.8
Action

From: 
BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

Subject: ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2010-11
ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION (EEM) PROGRAM
RESOLUTION G-11-03

ISSUE

The Commission has the statutory responsibility to fund the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program, as prioritized by the California Natural Resources Agency (Resources Agency), in accordance with the annual funding level provided in the State Budget. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11 State Budget provided \$10 million for the EEM Program.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the FY 2010-11 EEM Program.

The Resources Agency received 65 grant applications for FY 2010-11. Of those, 4 applications were disqualified due to insufficient data to determine eligibility. The remaining 61 eligible applications were evaluated and used to develop a Recommended for Funding List (35 projects) and a Substitution List (26 projects). The draft lists were presented for notice at the Commission's January 19-20, 2011 meeting.

The 35 projects on the final Projects Recommended for Funding List are the top-ranked projects, and are listed in priority order by category, as determined by the evaluation teams.

The Resources Agency recommends funding the 16 projects in the north for \$4,721,276, and the 19 projects in the south for \$5,278,724, for a FY 2010-11 EEM Program total of \$10,000,000.

As permitted in the Guidelines for acquisitions, one of the projects on the draft Recommended for Funding list exceeds the generally established limit of \$350,000.

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 according to 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 17 projects displayed in priority order according to category for substitution should any of the southern counties projects on the Recommended for Funding list be unable to proceed.

BACKGROUND

Under EEM statutes, Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56(d), 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

2010-11 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM

PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING (35 PROJECTS)				
	CO	APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	
NORTHERN COUNTIES (16 PROJECTS)				
HLUF	ED	El Dorado County Department of Transportation	US 50/Missouri Flat Road Interchange Landscaping Enhancements	\$ 220,000
HLUF	SCL	Our City Forest	The Greening of San Jose International Airport Neighborhoods	\$ 298,480
HLUF	SM	City of Menlo Park	Highway 84 Carbon Offset Project: Creating a Natural Carbon Sink at Bedwell Bayfront Park	\$ 350,000
HLUF	ALA	City of Berkeley - Parks Department	City of Berkeley Urban Reforestation Project	\$ 248,600
RL	SON	Sonoma County Water Agency	Rohnert Park/Cotati Highway 101 Widening: Laguna De Santa Rosa Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Project	\$ 239,116
RL	HUM	Humboldt County Resource Conservation District	Riverside Ranch Restoration	\$ 350,000
RL	SON	Sonoma County Water Agency	Rohnert Park/Cotati Highway 101 Widening: Copeland Creek Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Project	\$ 345,580
RL	PLU	Feather River Land Trust	Quincy Learning Landscape Acquisition Project	\$ 293,500
RL	CAL	The Trust for Public Land	Rodden Ranch Resource Lands Conservation Easement Project	\$ 350,000
RR	SCL	City of Cupertino	Stevens Creek Corridor Park & Restoration Project, Phase 2	\$ 245,000
RR	YUB	South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)	Yuba River Wild Salmon and Wildlife Interpretation and Recreation Facilities	\$ 231,000
RR	SON	Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit District	Regional SMART Pathway- Sonoma County Hearn/Bellevue Segment	\$ 350,000
RR	PLU	Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council	The White Sulphur Ranch Roadside Recreation Facility	\$ 350,000
RR	SCL	City of San Jose	Coyote Creek Trail (Highway 237 Bikeway to Tasman Drive Light Rail)	\$ 350,000
RR	MRN	Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit District	Regional SMART Pathway- Marin County N. San Pedro to Civic Center Segment	\$ 350,000
RR	NEV	American Rivers	Deer Creek: Restoration, Recreation, and Education	\$ 150,000
			SUBTOTAL - NORTHERN COUNTIES	\$ 4,721,276
SOUTHERN COUNTIES (19 PROJECTS)				
HLUF	LA	Hollywood Beautification Team	Tree Plantings Associated with Interstate 5 HOV Lanes in LA County	\$ 151,410
HLUF	LA	Hollywood Beautification Team	Native Habitat Restoration on Public Road Right of Ways Highway 101 in Los Angeles	\$ 92,125
HLUF	TUL	City of Visalia	Valley Oak Reforestation Project	\$ 311,250
HLUF	SLO	City of Pismo Beach	Hwy 101 Beautification	\$ 125,220
HLUF	SD	Urban Corps of San Diego	EEMP 905/805	\$ 330,500
HLUF	LA	City of Pasadena	Urban Forestry Revitalization Project	\$ 350,000
HLUF	LA	Koreatown Youth and Community Center	Greening the Expo Line- Continuation	\$ 100,000
HLUF	SD	Urban Corps of San Diego	EEMP 94	\$ 330,585
HLUF	LA	North East Trees	La Brea Greenbelt Urban Forestry Project	\$ 350,000
RL	RIV	Coachella Valley Conservation Commission	NCCP Acquisitions and Conservation of Desert Sand Dune Ecosystem	\$ 300,000
RL	KER	The Nature Conservancy	Rudnick Ranch Acquisition	\$ 500,000
RL	SD	California Chaparral Institute	Carmel Mountain Habitat Restoration Project	\$ 349,784
RL	SD	San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy	Continued Restoration and Enhancement of San Elijo Lagoon through Improved Tidal Circulation	\$ 167,900
RL	LA	Los Angeles Conservation Corps	Audubon Habitat Restoration Project	\$ 345,810
RL	INY	Eastern Sierra Land Trust	Dirty Socks Spring Acquisition and Protection Project	\$ 74,140
RL	SLO	City of El Paso de Robles	Charolais Corridor Multi-Use Trail and Restoration Project	\$ 350,000
RL	SB	The Trust for Public Land	Ocean Meadows Resource Lands Acquisition Project	\$ 350,000
RR	LA	Amigos De Los Rios	Emerald Necklace Multi-Benefit Park & Greenway Project- Upper San Gabriel River	\$ 350,000
RR	LA	Amigos De Los Rios	Emerald Necklace Expanded Multi-Benefit Park & Greenway	\$ 350,000
			SUBTOTAL - SOUTHERN COUNTIES	\$ 5,278,724
			TOTAL RECOMMENDED PROGRAM	\$10,000,000

2010-11 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM

SUBSTITUTION LIST (26 PROJECTS)				
	CO	APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	REQUEST
NORTHERN COUNTIES (9 PROJECTS)				
HLUF	MRN	FireSafe Marin	Highway 101 Restoration and Planting Project	\$ 350,000
HLUF	PLA	City of Rocklin	Sierra College Boulevard/I-80 Interchange	\$ 245,000
HLUF	FRE	Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District	Basin "II4" & "JJ" Landscaping	\$ 306,509
HLUF	ALA	City of Livermore	Isabel Avenue Environmental Enhancement Project	\$ 225,000
HLUF	SAC	City of Galt	Central Galt Interchange Landscape Improvement	\$ 308,602
RL	SCR	The Trust for Public Land	King Property Resource Lands Acquisition	\$ 350,000
RL	SCR	City of Santa Cruz	Implementation of the Resource Management Plan of the Arana Gulch Master Plan	\$ 350,000
RL	MON	Elkhorn Slough Foundation	Wetland Enhancement in Whistlestop Lagoon, Elkhorn Slough, CA	\$ 348,589
RR	SHA	City of Redding	Buenaventura Blvd Bike Lane Connector	\$ 300,000
SOUTHERN COUNTIES (17 PROJECTS)				
HLUF	SLO	City of Atascadero	El Camino Real Urban Forestry Project	\$ 350,000
HLUF	ORA	City of Irvine	MacArthur Boulevard Landscaping Enhancement	\$ 151,946
HLUF	ORA	City of Costa Mesa	Newport Boulevard Greening Project	\$ 274,475
HLUF	ORA	City of Irvine	Warner Avenue Landscaping Enhancement Project	\$ 142,525
HLUF	ORA	City of Irvine	Irvine Boulevard Median Landscaping Enhancement	\$ 78,317
HLUF	ORA	City of Garden Grove	Harbor Boulevard Environmental Enhancement	\$ 350,000
HLUF	LA	City of Industry	State Route 60 Azusa Avenue Interchange Environmental Enhancement	\$ 350,000
HLUF	LA	City of Santa Clarita	Railroad Avenue Tree Planting Project	\$ 143,275
RL	SLO	The Trust for Public Land	Righetti Ranch Resource Lands Acquisition Project	\$ 350,000
RL	SD	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
RL	SLO	City of Atascadero	Stadium Park Entry Acquisition Project	\$ 270,000
RL	VEN	Resource Conservation Partners, Inc. (RCP)	Los Padres Open Space Oak Woodland Enhancement Projects	\$ 183,770
RL	LA	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority	Ramirez Canyon Acquisition Project	\$ 350,000
RR	SBD	City of Yucaipa	El Dorado Heritage Trails and Resource Center	\$ 225,002
RR	SD	Sweetwater Valley Civic Association	Bonita Meadows Entry Monument Gates/Proctor Valley Road Multiple Use Trail Conversion	\$ 315,000
RR	LA	City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation	Manchester Neighborhood Greenway Project	\$ 350,000
RR	SBD	City of Rialto	Rails to Trails	\$ 350,000

INELIGIBLE PROJECTS (4 PROJECTS)				
	CO	APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	REQUEST
HLUF	LA	Tree Musketeers	Hometown Forest	\$ 63,106
RL	SB	City of Goleta	Mathilda Drive Parcel Acquisitions	\$ 80,000
RR	FRE	City of Firebaugh	San Joaquin River Parkway Bicycle Trail- Phase IV	\$ 350,000
RR	FRE	City of Fresno PARCS Department	Martin Ray Reilly Roadside Park	\$ 350,000