

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: October 8, 2013

Reference No.: 4.20
Information

From: ANDRE BOUTROS
Executive Director

Subject: **PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2012-13
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 California Natural Resources Agency (Resources Agency) in accordance with the funding level provided in the State Budget.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-13 State Budget provided \$10 million for the EEM Program.

THE 2012-13 EEM PROGRAM:

For FY 2012-13, the Resources Agency evaluated 76 grant applications and recommends that the Commission approve 37 projects identified on the attached list of "Projects Recommended for Funding".

Specifically, the Resources Agency recommends funding 17 projects in the north for \$4,098,898 and 20 projects in the south for \$5,901,102, for a FY 2012-13 EEM Program total of \$10,000,000.

Each project recommended for funding must provide (1) evidence of environmental clearance prior to adoption and (2) potential for allocation at the December 2013 Commission meeting or the project is subject to removal from the list.

The second attachment is the Substitution List prepared by the Resources Agency. The list is divided between Northern and Southern Counties. The Northern Counties Substitution Projects section includes 6 projects displayed in priority order for substitution should any of the northern county projects on the Recommended for Funding list be unable to proceed at this time. The Southern Counties Substitution Projects section includes 3 projects displayed in priority order for substitution should any of the southern county 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

2012-13 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program

PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING (37 PROJECTS)				
CAT	CO	APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	AWARD
HLUF	SCL	Our City Forest	Green & Healthy San Jose Neighborhoods	\$ 182,160
MP	BUT	Butte County Department of Public Works	Ord Ferry Bridge Bat Colony Restoration	\$ 30,320
MP	BUT	Chico, City of	Phase III Bikeway 99 / State Route 32 Widening Interface	\$ 350,000
RL	YUB	Bear Yuba Land Trust	Yuba River: Black Swan Riparian Expansion Resources Land Acquisition	\$ 185,000
RL	CC	Contra Costa Resource Conservation District	Pinole Creek Fish Passage Enhancements at I-80 Culverts	\$ 350,000
RL	HUM	Friends of the Dunes	Coastal Habitat Conservation through Acquisition	\$ 86,820
RL	HUM	Humboldt Bay Harbor Recreation and Conservation District	Humboldt Bay Spartina Eradication	\$ 180,000
RL	MEN	Mendocino County Resources Conservation District	Denmark Creek Fish Barrier Removal and Riparian Enhancement, Phase II	\$ 84,354
RL	SHA	Pacific Forest Trust, Inc.	Hancock McCloud Working Forest Conservation Easement	\$ 350,000
RL	SON	Sonoma County Water Agency	Lower Adobe Creek Habitat Enhancement and Restoration	\$ 145,671
RL	MER	Trust For Public Land	Kelsey Ranch Conservation Easement	\$ 450,000
RL	TUO	Tuolumne County Land Trust	Ratto Ranch Conservation Easement Acquisition	\$ 350,000
RR	CC	East Bay Regional Park District	Point Pinole, Shoreline Access Improvements	\$ 304,739
RR	HUM	Humboldt Trails Council	Lacks Creek Recreational Trail System	\$ 269,834
RR	SM	San Mateo Department of Public Works and Parks, County of	Devil's Slide Trail	\$ 270,000
RR	SON	Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District	SMART Pathway - Sonoma County Southwest Blvd. to Golf Course Drive	\$ 160,000
RR	PLA	Tahoe City Public Utility District	Homewood Bike Trail Project	\$ 350,000
			SUBTOTAL - 17 NORTHERN PROJECTS (40% total funding)	\$ 4,098,898
HLUF	LA	Amigos de los Rios	Emerald Necklace Expanded Green Infrastructure Network: East County Los Angeles	\$ 350,000
HLUF	ORA	Irvine, City of	Alton Parkway Landscape Enhancement	\$ 350,000
HLUF	LA	Koreatown Youth & Community Center, Inc.	Expo Line Neighborhood Forestation	\$ 150,000
HLUF	SD	River Partners	Proctor Valley Habitat Restoration	\$ 349,361
HLUF	TUL	Visalia, City of	Growing Visalia's Urban Forest	\$ 266,437
MP	SB	Carpenteria, City of	Community Garden and Park Mitigation	\$ 350,000
RL	SD	Chaparral Lands Conservancy	Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Restoration	\$ 349,994
RL	RIV	Coachella Valley Conservation Commission	NCCP Blowsand Ecosystem Conservation	\$ 125,000
RL	SD	Friends of Famosa Slough	Acquisition of the Lichty Property at the Famosa Slough	\$ 282,825
RL	LA	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority	Malibu Creek Resource Lands Acquisition	\$ 350,000
RL	VEN	Nature Conservancy, The	Tierra Rejada Wildlife Linkage and Farm Conservation Easements	\$ 350,000
RL	LA	Santa Clarita, City of	Southern Boundary Wildlife Corridor Conservation	\$ 350,000
RL	SBD	Trust for Public Land	Coyote Valley Acquisition	\$ 317,500
RL	VEN	Ventura County Transportation Commission	Santa Clara River Riparian Enhancement	\$ 350,000
RR	SBD	Big Bear Lake, City of	Knickerbocker Channel Multi-Use Trail	\$ 350,000
RR	SLO	Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo	Roadside Recreation at the Octagon Barn Center in San Luis Obispo	\$ 263,538
RR	LA	Los Angeles Conservation Corps	Wiseburn Walking Path/Trail	\$ 349,990
RR	SD	San Diego County Public Works Dept.	Barnett Ranch Preseve Enhancement	\$ 175,000
RR	LA	San Marcos, City of	North Twin Oak Valley Urban Trail	\$ 350,000
RR	SBD	Yucaipa, City of	El Dorado Ranch Wildlands Park	\$ 121,457
			SUBTOTAL - 20 SOUTHERN PROJECTS (60% total funding)	\$ 5,901,102
			TOTAL RECOMMENDED PROGRAM	\$ 10,000,000

2012-13 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program

SUBSTITUTION LIST (9 PROJECTS)

CAT	CO	APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	AWARD
RL	HUM	Friends of the Dunes	Coastal Habitat Conservation through Restoration	\$ 310,719
RL	MEN	Mendocino County Resources Conservation District	Johnson Ranch Gully Rehabilitation Project	\$ 85,806
RR	NEV	Truckee, Town of	Truckee River Legacy Trail Phase 3B Trailhead	\$ 214,000
RR	SCL	San Jose, City of	Coyote Creek Trail (Tasman Drive Light Rail to Montague Expressway)	\$ 350,000
RR	SHA	Redding, City of	Riverside Drive Trail Connection	\$ 350,000
RR	SHA	Redding Community Services Department, City of	Henderson and Parkview Open Space Improvements	\$ 350,000
			SUBTOTAL - 6 NORTHERN SUBSTITUTE PROJECTS	\$ 1,660,525
HLUF	LA	North East Trees	Ascot Hills Park Planting Project	\$ 350,000
HLUF	LA	Los Angeles Conservation Corps	I-5 Corridor Model Community Urban Reforestation	\$ 349,487
RR	LA	Trust for Public Land	Aliso Creek Confluence Project	\$ 350,000
			SUBTOTAL - 3 SOUTHERN SUBSTITUTE PROJECTS	\$ 1,049,487
			TOTAL SUBSTITUTION LIST	\$ 2,710,012



EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
JOHN LAIRD, Secretary for Natural Resources

August 30, 2013

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



Dear Mr. Boutros:

The Natural Resources Agency has evaluated the 2012-13 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP) grant applications. These applications are listed on the attached funding recommendations lists.

Projects on the Recommended for Funding List meet the requirements of Section 164.56(d) of the Streets and Highways Code and contribute to the mitigation of the environmental effects of transportation facilities.

The Natural Resources Agency recommends that the projects on the Recommended for Funding List be authorized to receive immediate funding. These recommendations were determined by a multi-disciplined evaluation team that reviewed each application and visited each site. The list contains 37 projects with a total value of \$10 million.

There are nine eligible and fundable projects on the Substitution List this cycle, should one of the projects recommended for funding be unable to fulfill their commitment.

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,


John Laird
Secretary for Natural Resources

Enclosures