

# 2021 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program





## Agenda

- Purpose and Authority
  - Funding Availability
- Statutory and Program Requirements
  - Evaluation and Scoring
- Project Proposal Submission
  - Timeline
- Questions and Answers

# Purpose and Authority

Projects to mitigate the environmental impacts caused by new or modified public transportation facilities.

- Senate Bill 99 – created 1989
- Assembly Bill 101 – amended 2013



# FUNDING AVAILABILITY

- \$13.4 million
- Individual projects generally limited to **\$500,000** each.
- Acquisition projects up to **\$1,000,000** may be awarded.
- Match funds not required; *however ...*



# GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION GOAL

- Southern County - 60%
- Northern County - 40%



# **STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

# ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- State
- Local
- Federal
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations

Not eligible? Partner up!



# Related Transportation Facility (RTF)

Every EEM project must mitigate the environmental impacts of the modification of an *existing* Transportation Facility, or the environmental impacts of the construction of a *new* Transportation Facility.



# Related Transportation Facility Continued

- **After January 1, 1990; or**
- **If not yet under construction**, it must be included in
  - An adopted State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) ; or
  - A locally adopted Regional Transportation Improvement Program; and
  - a Certified Capital Outlay Program

# Related Transportation Facility Continued

- Environmental compliance (CEQA ) must be completed *for the RTF* at the time of project proposal.



**MUST DO**

# Public Street or Highway



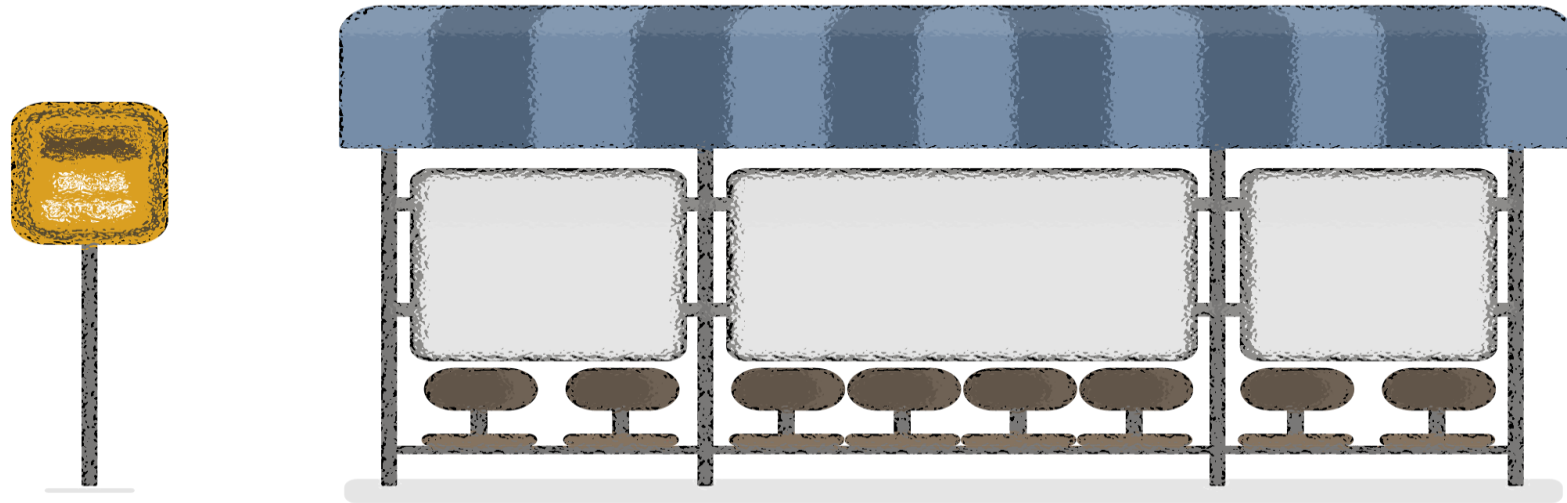
# Mass Transit Guideway

(e.g., trains, ports, light rail lines, bus lines, airports, etc.)



# Accompanying Features

(e.g. park and ride facilities, high-occupancy vehicle lanes, on-ramps, off-ramps, overpasses, transit stations, etc.)



# Related Transportation Facility

The RTF cannot be

- Maintenance (pavement resurfacing, painting bridges, replanting)
- Mitigation (sound walls or bike lanes)



# Find eligible RTFs through your

- City or County Transportation Departments
- Regional Transit Agencies
- Metropolitan Transit Authorities
- Councils of Local Governments
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Caltrans District Office



# What's the Relationship to the Project?

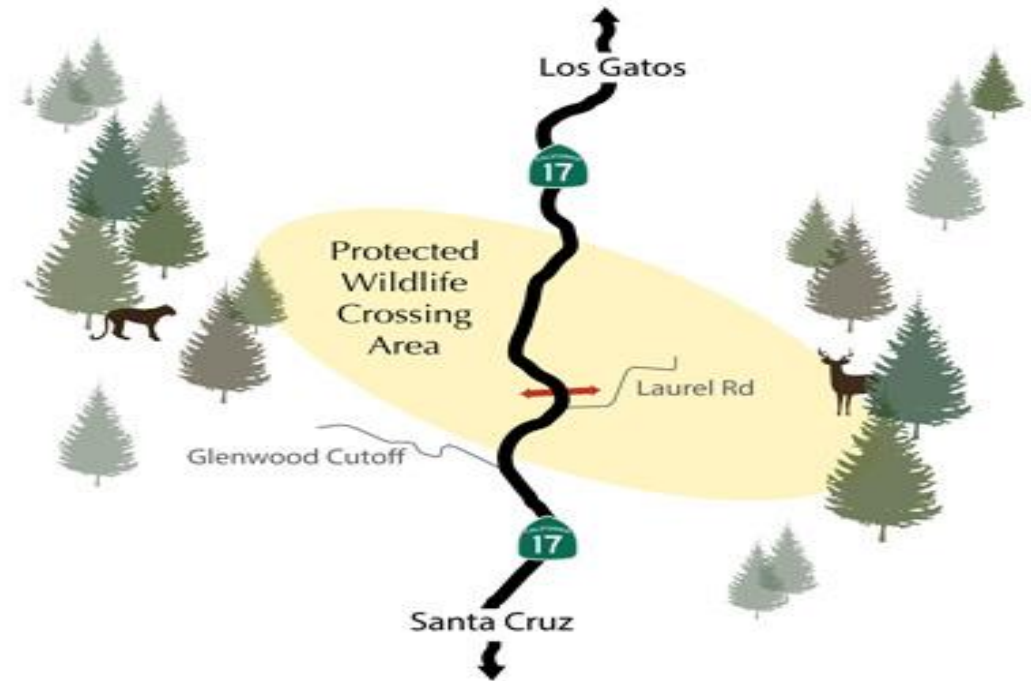
**Must** mitigate adverse environmental impacts either directly OR indirectly

# DIRECT BENEFIT

## The Problem



## The Solution - Future Corridor



# INDIRECT BENEFIT

**Stated Problem**



**Proposed Solution**



# **ELIGIBLE PROJECT CATEGORIES**

# EEM Project Categories

**Urban Forestry** projects to offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide

**Resource Lands** projects to acquire or enhance resource lands to mitigate the loss of, or the detriment to, resource lands, lying within or near the right-of-way acquired for transportation improvements.

**Mitigation Projects Beyond the Scope of the Lead Agency** projects to mitigate the impact of the RTF where the mitigation or enhancement measures are beyond the scope of the lead agency's ability to effectuate.

# Urban Forestry

Designed to offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide through the planting of trees and other suitable plants.

- urban streets and medians
- school campuses and urban parks
- vacant lots and abandoned sites
- restore urban creeks and develop nature trails with corresponding amenities and/or interpretive elements



# Urban Forestry Example

## Wiseburn Walking Path/Trail



# Resource Lands

Acquisition, restoration or enhancement of resource lands to mitigate the loss or detriment to, resource lands by the RTF.

- inland wetlands
- forests
- oak woodlands
- mountain meadows
- coastal estuaries
- grazing land
- grasslands
- creeks and streams with riparian or riverine fish
- wildlife habitat
- wildlife corridors
- fish passages

# Resource Lands Example

## Denmark Creek Fish Barrier Removal & Riparian Enhancement Project



# Mitigation Projects Beyond the Scope of the Lead Agency

Projects to mitigate the impact of the RTF where the mitigation or enhancement measures are beyond the scope of the lead agency's ability to effectuate.

Projects in this category must be consistent with the type of projects eligible under Urban Forestry or Resource Lands.



# WHAT PROJECTS ARE INELIGIBLE?



# EXAMPLES

- ▷ Projects with no clear connection between environmental impact of RTF and proposed EEM project
- ▷ Projects with ineligible RTF
- ▷ Planning only, or operation and maintenance projects
- ▷ Commuter trail projects
- ▷ Projects that include trees larger than 15 gallon
- ▷ Projects that create or improve roads for motorized use
- ▷ Projects contingent on future acquisition for project implementation

# **EVALUATION AND SCORING CRITERIA**

# Questions - General Criteria

- Describe the RTF
- Adverse environmental impacts
  - Required mitigation

# General Criteria – Statewide Project Goals

- Decrease in air and/or water pollution
- Reduce the consumption of natural resources and energy
- Increase adaptability to climate change
- Increase the reliability of local water supplies
- Increase biodiversity



# General Criteria – Readiness/Organizational Capacity

- Design and Permits
- CEQA
- Willing Seller (if acquisition)
- Site Control
- Fiscal Capacity



**Martin Slough Restoration Project**

# Questions - Project Criteria

- Describe the EEM project
- Connection to impacts of the RTF

# Project Criteria - Continued

- Operations & maintenance
- Water use efficiencies
- Plantings
- Cost effectiveness
- Other benefits
- Community participation

# THE PROCESS

# SOAR






## *System for Online Application Review*

- Create user account (new users only)
- Select RFP (Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program)
- Fill out information and upload required documents
- Regularly save your work
- Submit

<http://resources.ca.gov/grants/environmental-enhancement-and-mitigation-eem/>

# SOAR

## *System for Online Application Review*

COMPATIBLE	NOT COMPATIBLE
	   

# SOAR

## *System for Online Application Review*

### PROJECT PROPOSALS

MUST BE SUBMITTED IN SOAR

BEFORE **5 PM, March 5, 2021**

# SELECTION PROCESS

**A FRIENDLY  
COMPETITION**

# SUBMITTAL AND SELECTION PROCESS

Step One: Project Proposal



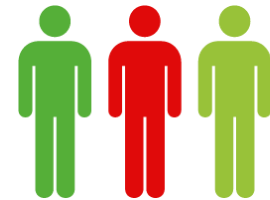
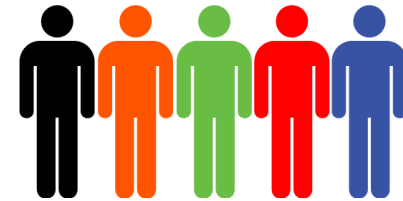
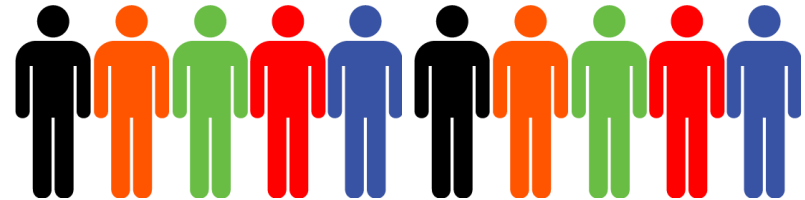
Step Two: On-Site Field Visit



Step Three: Supporting Documentation



Funding Awards to Most Competitive Projects



# STEP 1: OVERVIEW

## PROJECT PROPOSAL EVALUATION

### General Criteria

0-45

- Mitigation and Enhancement (0-15)
- Statewide Project Goals (0-10)
- Other Sources of Funds/Local Cash Contributions (0-5)
- Project Readiness/Organizational Capacity (0-15)

### Project Criteria

0-55

- **Urban Forestry**
  - Suitability (0-20)
  - Sustainability (0-20)
  - Cost Effectiveness (0-10)
  - Other Benefits and Community Participation (0-5)
- **Resource Lands**
  - Resource Value of Lands Lost or Inured by the RTF (0-10)
  - Resource Value of EEM Project Lands (0-20)
  - Sustainability (0-10)
  - Cost Effectiveness (0-10)
  - Other Benefits and Community Participation (0-5)
- **Mitigation Project Beyond the Scope of the Lead Agency**
  - Suitability (0-5)
  - Elements of Mitigation (0-20)
  - Sustainability (0-15)
  - Cost Effectiveness (0-10)
  - Other Benefits and Community Participation (0-5)

## **STEP 1: PROJECT SUMMARY / QUESTIONS**

- Summarize discrete project (brief description of deliverables)
- Relationship to the RTF
- Mitigates for environmental damage
- Current site conditions
- Public access, if applicable
- Answer ALL questions. NA? Explain.

**Clear, Concise, Pertinent**

# STEP 1: REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

## FOR ALL PROJECTS

1. Project Proposal Form Signature Page
2. Letter from the Lead Agency Responsible for the RTF
3. CEQA for the EEM *Project*
4. Photos
5. Cost Estimate
6. Community Engagement Plan
7. Location Map
8. Assessor's Parcel Map

# **STEP 1: REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

## **FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

### **1. Site Plan**

# SITE PLAN - EXAMPLE



# **STEP 1: REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

## **FOR ACQUISITION PROJECTS**

1. Willing Seller Letter

# Cost Estimate (Development)

- Shows all funding sources
- 10% withholding
- Discrete line items
- 25% cap non-construction
- 10% cap contingency
- Proof read



# Cost Estimate (Acquisition)

- Shows all funding sources
- Assessors' parcel numbers
- Acreage
- Fee or Easement?
- 10% withholding
- Budget \$10,000 for DGS Review



# Helpful Hints

## Clear

- What, why, & how much
- Clear nexus to program requirements

## Concise

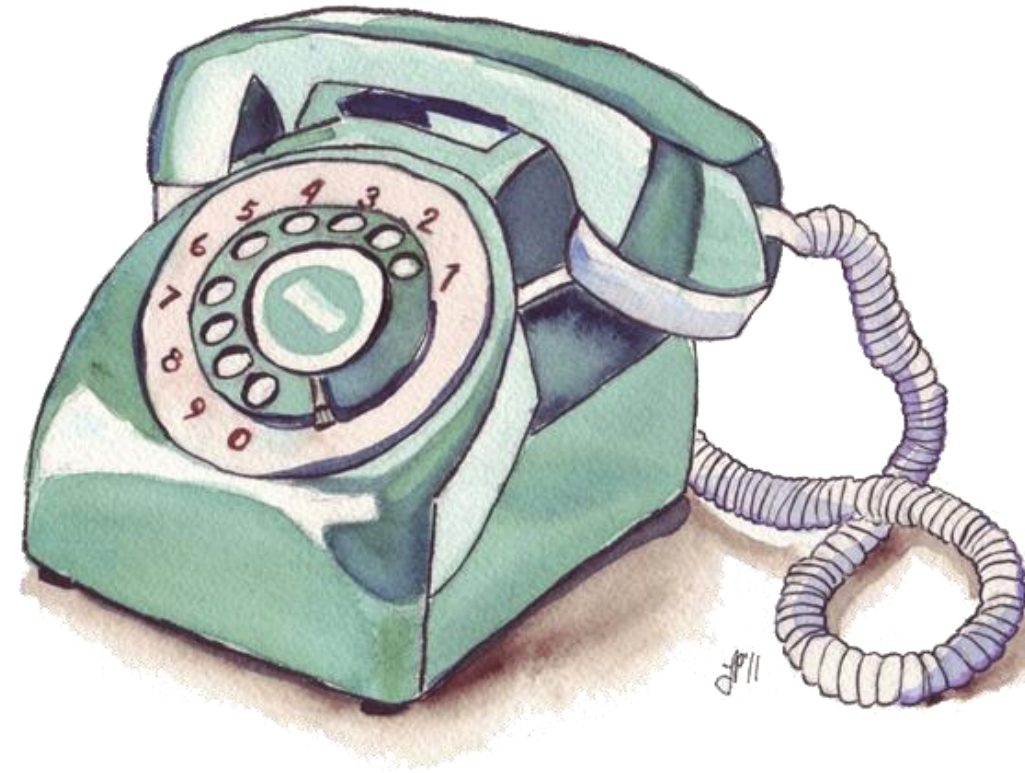
- Be deliberate

## Cohesive

- Carry the same message

## Complete

- Compare the documents submitted to the checklist provided.



**CALL US!**

# **STEP 2**

# **FIELD INSPECTION**

# STEP 2 – FIELD INSPECTION



**Reist Ranch Site Visit, Mendocino County**

# **STEP THREE: Supporting Documentation**

## **Qualifying Projects Only**



# Supporting Documentation – ALL PROJECTS



- Signed Resolution
- Eligibility for nonprofits
- Timeline
- Property Data Sheet
- Funding Plan

# Supporting Documentation- DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

- Plant Palette
- Operation and Maintenance
- Project Permit Approval Status
- Site Control/Land Tenure
  - Provide evidence of ownership OR
  - Demonstrate from each property owner (e.g., Caltrans, Utility, Railroad etc.

# STEP 3 –SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Conservation Easement
- Appraisal
- Preliminary Title Report

ACQUISITION



# ANTICIPATED TIMELINE



Solicitation for Project Proposals	January 2021
Technical Assistance Workshops	January 2021
Project Proposal Deadline	March 5, 2021
Field Inspections	July – August 2021
CTC Approval/Grant Awards Announced	January 2022

# Final Tips

Cold Read

Coordinate with partners

Know who has jurisdiction

Don't say N/A without an explanation

Don't miss opportunities with your answers

Know the project is doable (e.g., due diligence)

When in doubt, call

# Additional Funding Opportunities

- Youth Community Access Program
- Statewide Grants Portal

# QUESTIONS?

## **Contact us at:**

eemcoordinator@resources.ca.gov

(916) 653-2812

## **Website:**

<http://resources.ca.gov/grants/environmental-enhancement-and-mitigation-eem/>

## **SOAR Questions:**

Email: soar.admin@resources.ca.gov