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Natural Resources Agency announces awards for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Grant Program

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The California Natural Resources Agency today announced \$10 million in funding for 37 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program projects statewide. The Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program provides grants to local, state and federal governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations for projects to mitigate environmental impacts caused by new or modified state transportation facilities.

“These grants will help balance the impacts of new and improved transportation projects with our natural world,” said California Natural Resources Secretary John Laird. “The funding will go to projects that will offset vehicle emissions, provide roadside recreational opportunities, and allow for the acquisition, restoration, and enhancement of watersheds, wildlife habitat, wetlands and forests.”

For fiscal year 2012-13, the Natural Resources Agency evaluated 77 applications and recommended funding for 37 projects identified below. Specifically, the agency recommends funding 17 projects in the northern part of the state for a total of \$4,098,898 and 20 projects in the southern portion of the state totaling \$5,901,102. In addition, 10 eligible projects are recommended for the substitution list should one of the funded projects be unable to fulfill their commitment.

Grant awardees are as follows:

Amigos de los Rios will receive \$350,000 for the Emerald Necklace Expanded Green Infrastructure Network: East County Los Angeles project.

Bear Yuba Land Trust will receive \$185,000 for the Yuba River: Black Swan Riparian Expansion Resources Land Acquisition project.

City of Big Bear Lake will receive \$350,000 for the Knickerbocker Channel Multi-Use Trail project.

Butte County Department of Public Works will receive \$30,320 for the Ord Ferry Bridge Bat Colony Restoration project.

City of Carpinteria will receive \$350,000 for the Community Garden and Park Mitigation project.

Chaparral Lands Conservancy will receive \$349,994 for the Proctor Valley Vernal Pool Restoration project.

City of Chico will receive \$350,000 for the Phase III - Bikeway 99/State Route 32 Widening Interface project.

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission will receive \$125,000 for the NCCP Blowsand Ecosystem Conservation project.

Contra Costa Resource Conservation District will receive \$350,000 for the Pinole Creek Fish Passage Enhancements at I-80 Culverts project.

East Bay Regional Park District will receive \$304,739 for the Point Pinole, Shoreline Access Improvements project.

Friends of Famosa Slough will receive \$282,825 for the Lichty Property at the Famosa Slough Acquisition project.

Friends of the Dunes will receive \$86,820 for the Coastal Habitat Conservation through Acquisition project.

Humboldt Bay Harbor Recreation and Conservation District will receive \$180,000 for the Humboldt Bay Spartina Eradication project.

Humboldt Trails Council will receive \$269,834 for the Lacks Creek Recreational Trail System project.

City of Irvine will receive \$350,000 for the Alton Parkway Landscape Enhancement Project.

Koreatown Youth & Community Center, Inc. will receive \$150,000 for the Expo Line Neighborhood Forestation project.

Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo will receive \$263,538 for the Roadside Recreation at the Octagon Barn Center in San Luis Obispo project.

Los Angeles Conservation Corps will receive \$349,990 for the Wiseburn Walking Path/Trail project.

Mendocino County Resource Conservation District will receive \$84,354 for the Phase II - Denmark Creek Fish Barrier Removal and Riparian Enhancement project.

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority will receive \$350,000 for the Malibu Creek Resource Lands Acquisition project.

Our City Forest will receive \$182,160 for the Green & Healthy San Jose Neighborhoods project.

Pacific Forest Trust, Inc. will receive \$350,000 for the Hancock McCloud Working Forest Conservation Easement project.

River Partners will receive \$349,361 for the Proctor Valley Habitat Restoration project.

San Diego County Public Works will receive \$175,000 for the Barnett Ranch Preserve Enhancement project.

City of San Marcos will receive \$350,000 for the North Twin Oak Valley Urban Trail project.

San Mateo County Department of Public Works and Parks will receive \$270,000 for the Devil's Slide Trail project.

City of Santa Clarita will receive \$350,000 for the Southern Boundary Wildlife Corridor Conservation project.

Sonoma County Water Agency will receive \$145,671 for the Lower Adobe Creek Habitat Enhancement and Restoration project.

Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District will receive \$160,000 for the SMART Pathway - Sonoma County Southwest Blvd. to Golf Course Drive project.

Tahoe City Public Utility District will receive \$350,000 for the Homewood Bike Trail project.

The Nature Conservancy will receive \$350,000 for the Tierra Rejada Wildlife Linkage and Farm Conservation Easements project.

Trust for Public Land will receive \$317,500 for the Coyote Valley Acquisition project.

Trust for Public Land will receive \$450,000 for the Kelsey Ranch Conservation Easement project.

Tuolumne County Land Trust will receive \$350,000 for the Ratto Ranch Conservation Easement Acquisition project.

Ventura County Transportation Commission will receive \$350,000 for the Santa Clara River Riparian Enhancement project.

City of Visalia will receive \$266,437 for the Growing Visalia's Urban Forest project.

City of Yucaipa will receive \$121,457 for the El Dorado Ranch Wildlands Park project.

The Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program encourages projects that produce multiple benefits which reduce greenhouse gas emissions and risks associated with climate change, and demonstrate collaboration with local, state and community entities to protect and conserve natural resources.

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