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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 \$8.2 million in funding for 21 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) projects statewide. EEM 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.

“Investment in these projects will help California preserve and protect natural resources while mitigating the negative impacts of vital transportation infrastructure,” said California Natural Resources Secretary John Laird. “The projects funded represent an impressive level of hard work and commitment by many people.”

For fiscal year 2014-15, the Natural Resources Agency evaluated 39 applications and recommended funding for 21 projects identified below. Specifically, the Agency recommends funding 10 projects in the northern part of the state for a total of nearly \$3.9 million and 11 projects in the southern portion of the state totaling over \$4.3 million. Money for the grants comes from fuel taxes distributed to the Natural Resources Agency by Caltrans.

Grant awardees include:

- **Amigos de los Rios:** \$499,055.00 - Whittier Narrows Urban Tree Canopy
- **California State Coastal Conservancy:**
 - \$206,074.04 - Klamath River Estuary Wetlands Conservation Project
 - \$500,000.00 - White Slough Restoration Project
- **California State Parks:** \$203,862.62 - Carpinteria State Beach Dune Restoration Project
- **Cities:**
 - *Arcata:* \$90,000.00 - Jolly Giant Creek (Lima) Arcata Community Forest Expansion
 - *Los Angeles, Dept. of Recreation and Parks:* \$500,000.00 - Runyon Canyon Park Addition
 - *Norwalk:* \$416,260.00 - Median & Side Panel Turf Replacement With Drought Tolerant Plants Project
 - *San Luis Obispo:* \$500,000.00 - Irish Hills Natural Reserve Addition
 - *Torrance:* \$500,000.00 - Torrance Southern Tarplant Preserve
- **Dana Adobe Nipomo Amigos:** \$416,368.92 - DANA's Preservation & Education Project
- **Koreatown Youth and Community Center:** \$235,000.00 - Koreatown Trees to Green the Purple Line
- **Land Trust of Santa Cruz County:** \$600,000.00 - Highway 17 Wildlife Connectivity Project
- **Los Angeles County, Dept. of Public Works:** \$140,000.00 - Torrance Urban Tree Project

- **Mojave Desert Land Trust:** \$460,000.00 - Joshua Tree Foothills
- **Northcoast Regional Land Trust:** \$500,000.00 - Lost Coast Redwood and Salmon Initiative Phase 2 Conservation Easement
- **Save the Redwoods League:**
 - \$348,750.00 - Twin Trees Conservation Easement Acquisition Project
 - \$500,000.00 - Mailliard West Ranch Conservation Easement Acquisition Project
- **The Trust For Public Land:**
 - \$500,000.00 - Montesol Ranch Protection Project
 - \$500,000.00 - Temescal Ranch Protection Project
- **Truckee Donner Land Trust:** \$500,000.00 - Carpenter Valley Acquisition, Phase I
- **Waldo Holt San Joaquin Wildlife Conservancy:** \$145,500.00 - Waldo Holt San Joaquin Wildlife Conservancy Mokelumne River Giant Garter Snake and Multi-Species Habitat Acquisition

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.

This is the fourth year of California's drought. To learn about the actions the state has taken to manage our water systems and cope with the drought's impacts, visit Drought.CA.Gov. Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at SaveOurWater.com.

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