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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 \$6.7 million in funding for 15 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.

“It is imperative that California invest in projects that will help the state preserve and protect natural resources while mitigating the negative impacts of vital transportation infrastructure,” said California Natural Resources Secretary John Laird. “This year’s funded projects reflect an impressive level of hard work and commitment by many people.”

For fiscal year 2015-16, the Natural Resources Agency evaluated 44 applications and recommended funding for 15 projects identified below. Specifically, the Agency recommends funding 5 projects in the northern part of the state for a total of over \$2.55 million and 10 projects in the southern portion of the state totaling over \$4.15 million. Money for the grants comes from fuel taxes distributed to the Natural Resources Agency by the California Department of Transportation.

Grant awardees include:

- **Amigos de los Rios:** \$400,000 – Peck Road Water Conservation Park Urban Greening Project
- **Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy:** \$450,000 – Cottonwood Canyon Acquisition Project
- **Buena Vista Audubon Society:** \$700,000 – Acquisition of the Cheatham Property
- **City of Carpinteria:** \$450,000 – Carpinteria Bluffs III Acquisition Project
- **City of Visalia:** \$237,309 – City of Visalia Urban Forest Expansion Project
- **Hollywood Beautification Team:** \$415,211 – Creating Healthy Play Yards for Children
- **Humboldt County Department of Public Works:** \$500,000 – McKay Community Forest Phase II
- **Koreatown Youth and Community Center, Inc.:** \$195,000 – Greening Industrial Downtown Los Angeles
- **Mojave Desert Land Trust:** \$510,000 – Juniper Canyon Acquisition Project
- **Northcoast Regional Land Trust:** \$397,500 – Panther Creek Conservation Easement
- **Pacific Forest Trust:** \$500,000 – McCloud Soda Springs Working Forest Conservation Easement
- **San Mateo County Parks Department:** \$450,000 – Coyote Point Eastern Promenade Rejuvenation Project
- **The Chaparral Lands Conservancy:** \$444,980 – Otay Mesa Habitat Restoration Project
- **The Nature Conservancy:** \$700,000 – Reef to Ridge Coastal Protection: Ten Mile River Watershed

Acquisition

- **The Regents of the University of California Santa Barbara: \$350,000 – North Campus Open Space Coastal Habitat Enhancement 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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