



CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY ANNOUNCES \$34 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR CALIFORNIA'S RIVER PARKWAYS

Awards Ceremony Planned for Wednesday, Nov. 28 in Sacramento

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - The California Natural Resources Agency today announced over \$34 million in funding for 33 proposed river parkway projects statewide. These projects will create recreation opportunities for families, restore fish and wildlife habitat, provide flood management, and enhance California's river parkways.

"Our river parkway grants help communities connect children with nature, promote public health by providing families with greater outdoor recreational opportunities, and protect the rivers that provide us with clean water," said Secretary for Natural Resources John Laird. "The river parkways program is a great example of local agencies working together with the state to create increasingly sustainable communities in California."

The city of Sacramento was awarded nearly \$1.5 million to develop and enhance a section of the American River Parkway at Sutter's Landing Park. This project will create a three-quarter mile multi-use trail, restore more than three acres on the banks of the American River with native understory vegetation, and provide interpretive signage. The project will serve as an historic gateway to the 31.5-mile American River Parkway, which sees about eight million visitor days per year.

The Natural Resources Agency also announced grant awards for 32 other river parkway projects that will benefit communities throughout the state. The grants will be used to acquire, restore, protect and develop areas along rivers, streams and creeks to conserve natural resources and improve public access. In total, the grants will fund more than 31 miles of trails and more than 7,500 acres of wildlife habitat restoration and land acquisition.

An award ceremony for all 33 projects is planned for Wednesday, Nov. 28 at 10:00 a.m. at the Byron Sher Auditorium in the Cal/EPA Building in downtown Sacramento.

In 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act, which authorized the Legislature to appropriate funds to benefit river parkway projects.

The California River Parkway Program, a competitive grant program administered by the secretary for natural resources, awards funds to public agencies and non-profit organizations to develop river parkways in their communities.

All proposed projects awarded funding must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Funding for proposed project implementation is contingent upon satisfactory evidence of compliance with CEQA. To be approved by lead agency decision makers, the proposed projects may change as a result of the CEQA process. However, any changes to the proposed projects must continue to meet all the objectives of the River Parkway Program and be consistent with the intent cited in the original applications.

A list of the selected proposed projects can be found here <http://resources.ca.gov/bond/RP_Awards_2012.Final.pdf>.

Media Event Information:

WHAT: Announcement of \$34 million in River Parkway Program grant awards benefitting 33 river parkways throughout California.

WHEN: Wednesday, Nov. 28, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: Cal/EPA Building
Byron Sher Auditorium
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

Paid parking is available across the street from the Cal/EPA building. Enter from 10th or 11th street.

WHO: John Laird, California Secretary for Natural Resources
Angelique Ashby, Vice Mayor, City of Sacramento
Steve Cohn, Sacramento City Council - District 3