

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: January 29-30, 2026

From: TANISHA TAYLOR, Executive Director

Reference Number: 2.5c.(4), Action

Prepared By: Naveen Habib
Associate Deputy Director

Published Date: January 16, 2026

Subject: Allocations for the California Natural Resources Agency's
2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Programs,
Resolution FP-25-79

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve four separate allocations totaling \$18,835,000 for individual segments of the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing Project included in the 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Programs, as provided in Attachment A.

Specifically, the allocations would be the following:

- Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing - Stage 2A, allocated \$5,000,000 in available 2025 funds.
- Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing - Stage 2B, allocated \$5,000,000 in advanced 2026 funds.
- Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing - Stage 2C, allocated \$5,000,000 in advanced 2027 funds.
- Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing - Stage 2D, allocated \$3,835,000 in advanced 2028 funds.

Issue:

Reference Number 4.24 on this agenda requests the Commission's approval of the partial 2025, and partial advanced 2026, 2027, and 2028 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Programs containing program funding for four segments of Stage 2 of the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing project totaling \$18,835,000 in Los Angeles County. This agenda item, Reference Number 2.5c.(4), requests the Commission allocate funds for the segments of this project as programmed under Reference Number 4.24.

As the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency, the California Department of Transportation completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration and filed a Notice of Determination in compliance with CEQA.

The allocations are available to the California Natural Resources Agency from the following sources: \$5,000,000 from the Budget Act of 2025, \$5,000,000 from the Budget Act of 2026, \$5,000,000 from the Budget Act of 2027, and \$3,835,000 from the Budget Act of 2028. Funds available in a future fiscal year will be contingent upon the passage of that year's Budget Act.

Following adoption of this item, Commission staff will work with California Natural Resources Agency staff to identify additional funding and projects available for programming the remainder of the 2025 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program, as well as future program cycles, resulting in an additional programming action at a future Commission Meeting. Furthermore, the Commission will work with the California Natural Resources Agency annually to identify project savings from prior years to ensure that each subsequent programming cycle captures the extent of available funding.

Background:

The Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program was established by the state Legislature in 1989 to fund environmental enhancement and mitigation projects directly or indirectly related to the environmental impact of modifying new or existing transportation facilities. Pursuant to Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56, seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) is appropriated to the program from the State Highway Account. The Commission awards annual grants to fund projects as recommended by the California Natural Resources Agency.

The California Natural Resources Agency develops and adopts procedures to determine eligibility, evaluate project proposals, recommend projects for funding to the Commission, and manage the grants post award. Any local, state, or federal agency, or nonprofit entity may apply for and receive funding to undertake environmental enhancement and mitigation projects. Eligible projects must fit at least one of the following three categories:

1. **Urban Forestry** - projects designed to offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide.
2. **Resource Lands** - projects for acquisition or enhancement of resource lands to mitigate the loss of, or the detriment to, resource lands lying within the right-of-way acquired for proposed transportation improvements.
3. **Mitigation Projects Beyond the Scope of the Lead Agency** - projects to mitigate the impact of proposed transportation facilities or to enhance the environment, where the ability to effectuate the mitigation or enhancement measures is beyond the scope of the lead agency responsible for assessing the environmental impact of the proposed transportation improvement.

Financial Resolution:

Resolved that \$18,835,000 be allocated for Stage 2 of the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing project included in the 2025 and advanced 2026, 2027, and 2028 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Programs, as identified in Attachment A. Funds for this allocation are available to the California Natural Resources Agency from the following sources: \$5,000,000 from the Budget Act of 2025, \$5,000,000 from the Budget Act of 2026, \$5,000,000 from the Budget Act of 2027, and \$3,835,000 from the Budget Act of 2028. Funds available in a future fiscal year will be contingent upon the passage of that year's Budget Act.

Attachment:

- Attachment A: California Natural Resources Agency's Proposed Partial 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program - List of Projects for Allocation



GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
WADE CROWFOOT, Secretary for Natural Resources

January 14, 2026

Tanisha Taylor
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Taylor:

Many thanks for your continued partnership and support for implementing the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Grant Program. As provided in Section 164.56 of the Streets and Highways Code, the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) provides the attached funding recommendation for the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing Project (Project). The Project meets EEM statutory requirements and contributes to the mitigation of the environmental effects of transportation facilities.

CNRA recommends four phases of EEM funding for the Project be authorized: \$5 million from FY 2025 and advance allocations of \$5 million from FY 2026, \$5 million from FY 2027, and \$3.835 million from FY 2028. Advance allocations would be contingent upon appropriation in the Budget Acts of 2026, 2027, and 2028.

If you have any questions about this recommendation for funding the Project, please contact Jen Metes, Program Manager, at (916) 524-3555 or by email at jennifer.metes@resources.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wade Crowfoot". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Wade Crowfoot
Secretary for Natural Resources

Enclosures

715 P Street, 20th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 Ph. 916.653.5656 www.resources.ca.gov



**Partial 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028 Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation
Grant Program Funding Recommendation**

Applicant	Project Name	County	FY Funding	Recommended	Cumulative	Project Description	30 x 30
Caltrans	Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing - Stage 2A	Los Angeles	2025 (available)	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ 5,000,000	Project to fund Stage 2 construction of the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, a safe and sustainable passage for wildlife across US-101 at Liberty Canyon Rd. in Agoura Hills to facilitate regional wildlife movement and genetic exchange of the area's cougar population. The crossing will be the first of its kind in California. *	No
Caltrans	Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing - Stage 2B	Los Angeles	2026 (contingent upon approval of the Budget Act of 2026)	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ 10,000,000		
Caltrans	Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing - Stage 2C	Los Angeles	2027 (contingent upon approval of the Budget Act of 2027)	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ 15,000,000		
Caltrans	Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing - Stage 2D	Los Angeles	2028 (contingent upon approval of the Budget Act of 2028)	\$ 3,835,000.00	\$ 18,835,000		
SOUTHERN PROJECTS (100% OF TOTAL FUNDING)				\$ 18,835,000.00			

* A \$500,000 EEM grant (E13927-0) was awarded in the 2021 grant cycle to National Wildlife Federation to fund a portion of Stage 1, the construction of the crossing over Highway 101. These awards will fund Stage 2, which continues the crossing over a section of Agoura Road adjacent to the highway.