

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Expenditure Record

California Conservation Corps
Training and Workforce Development Program

Authorizing legislation: Item 3340-001-0318, Item 3340-001-3228 and Item 3340-002-3228 of the Budget Act of 2024 (AB 107 (Chapter 22, Statutes of 2024) appropriate to the California Conservation Corps \$16,707,000 for the Training and Work Program.

Element (1) A description of each expenditure proposed to be made by the administering agency pursuant to the appropriation.

Agency that will administer funding:

- The California Conservation Corps (CCC), in coordination with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection when appropriate.

Amount of proposed expenditure and appropriation reference:

- The CCC total proposed expenditure is \$16.707 million, of which \$5.000 million is appropriated per Item 3340-001-0318, \$8.242 million is appropriated per Item 3340-001-3228 and \$3.465 million is appropriated per Item 3340-002-3228.

Estimated amount of expenditures for administering agency administrative costs

- The CCC total fiscal year (FY) 2024 estimated amount of expenditures is \$16.707 million. Five million dollars (\$5.000 million) are to continue funding forest health projects (via Department of Forestry and Fire Protection). Eight million and two-hundred and forty-two thousand dollars (\$8.242 million) of these funds are to continue the CCC's Energy Corps Program. As a reminder, started in 2020-21, display of Administrative costs is removed from the Budget Act. There is no provisional language that prohibits the department from incurring the appropriate administrative expenses. Administrative costs for 2024-25 are estimated at \$1.241 million.

If applicable, identify laws or regulations that govern how funds will be used

- Assembly Bill (AB) 1532, AB 1550, Senate Bill (SB) 535, SB 862 and SB 1018 established the program and provides direction on how the funds will be allocated to recipients, including requirements for project eligibility and program implementation. All funds will be allocated and managed in accordance with these laws.
- AB 398 (E. Garcia, Chapter 135, Statutes of 2017) prioritized healthy forests and urban greening.
- The Budget Act of 2024 (AB 107) provides direction on the types of projects that should be funded, as well as any restrictions imposed on such funding.
- Senate Bill (SB) 155 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 258, Statutes of 2021) continues the annual \$5.000 million funding (via Item 3340-001-0318) thru 2028-29.

Continuation of existing Expenditure Record

- This is an update to an existing Expenditure Record. The Expenditure Record elements being updated are the “Amount of proposed expenditure and appropriation references,” “Estimated amount of expenditures for administrative costs,” “Project Type(s),” “Describe projects and/or measures that will be eligible for funding,” and “percentage of total funding that will be expended for projects that are located in and benefit priority populations.”

Project Type(s)

- Energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Wetlands and watershed restoration
- Land restoration and forest health
- Urban forestry and urban greening
- Electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure
- Waste diversion

Describe the projects and/or measures that will be eligible for funding

- Forest fuel reduction treatments
- Removal of dead and dying trees
- Reforestation
- Soil stabilization (seeding, planting and other stabilization measures)
- Wetland restoration
- Riparian restoration
- Native plant gathering and propagation
- Urban forestation and urban greening
- Turf replacement
- Energy opportunity surveys
- Energy retrofit or renewable upgrades in public buildings to improve efficiency and lower emissions.
- Installation of electric vehicle charging stations
- Diversion of food/recyclable waste from landfills

Intended recipients

- CCC centers that provide work through public and non-profit entities responsible for the land/facilities requiring work in their communities.

Program structure and process for selecting projects for funding

- Solicitation, evaluation, and selection of projects according to program guidelines. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) funds are allocated to CCC centers based on availability and ability to secure project sponsors and may be moved between centers if necessary.

Element (2) A description of how a proposed expenditure will further the regulatory purposes of Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code, including, but not limited to, the limit established under Part 3 (commencing with Section 38550) and other applicable requirements of law.

How the expenditure is consistent with the Investment Plan and the Scoping Plan

- AB 1532 requires that monies from the Fund be appropriated in a manner that is consistent with the three-year Investment Plan. The “Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Investment Plan: Fiscal Years 2022-23 through 2024-25” recommends several actions to achieve positive climate benefits:
 - Improve the health and resiliency of the forest through fuel load reduction, thereby reducing the risk and severity of wildfires and the release of black carbon.
 - Remove dead and dying trees due to drought and infestation, thereby reducing the risk and severity of wildfires and the release of black carbon.
 - Promote reforestation and soil stabilization to improve forest health for long term carbon storage.
 - Promote urban forests and greening to improve carbon sequestration, air filtration, community cooling, improved storm-water runoff, and water retention.
 - Support energy efficiency and renewable projects for commercial, industrial, and public buildings.
- California’s 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan identified key strategies and recommendations to continue reducing GHG emissions and achieve the goals and purposes of AB 32 and related statutes. The recommended actions are:
 - Engage local communities and private and public landowners to implement best practices for carbon sequestration to achieve net GHG benefits by undertaking actions that improve soil and biomass carbon sequestration, restore wetlands and other natural systems, or reduce the risk of wildfire.
 - Increase the use of green infrastructure in urban areas to enhance carbon sequestration potential in a manner that also results in co-benefits of energy efficiency of the built environment and transportation systems, reduction of the urban heat island effect, and improvement of water capture and storage, and supports direct, long-lasting benefits to disadvantaged communities and public health benefits.
 - Investment in strategies that enhance energy efficiency by doubling the efficiency savings achieved at existing buildings statewide.
 - Invest in disadvantaged and low-income communities, and low-income households. A minimum of 35 percent of the proceeds are to be invested in projects to benefit disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households.

Element (3) A description of how a proposed expenditure will contribute to achieving and maintaining greenhouse gas emission reductions pursuant to Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code.

Describe how expenditures will facilitate the achievement of GHG emission reductions in the State

- Expenditures for Forest Health projects (fuels reduction, tree mortality, reforestation, watershed restoration) will achieve net GHG benefits by funding forest management projects that enhance carbon sequestration and avoid GHG emissions through: forest fuel reduction reducing the risk and intensity of wildfires, preventing spread of disease to healthy forests by selectively removing infected trees; and restoring impacted landscapes through reforestation. A net GHG benefit occurs as a result of reduced tree mortality and improved tree growth.
- Expenditures for Urban Forest projects will avoid GHG emissions by direct shading of buildings thereby reducing energy use and by sequestering carbon as the trees grow.
- Expenditures for turf replacement projects will avoid GHG emissions from lawn mowing equipment and avoided fertilizer usage and application.”
- Expenditures for energy upgrades will provide immediate and long term GHG emission reductions by reducing the direct, on-site energy consumption.
- Expenditures for the installation of EV Charging Stations will encourage clean vehicle use, resulting in the decrease of GHG through facilitation of reduced vehicle emissions.

Explain when GHG emission reductions and/or co benefits are expected to occur and how they will be maintained

- Fuels reduction treatments are an initial source of GHG emissions as biomass is removed from the treatment area. A net GHG benefit from fuel reduction activities occurs as a result of improved tree growth and avoided wildfire emissions from an expected reduction in fire severity. The time required to achieve a net GHG benefit will vary depending on site characteristics and treatments employed but are expected to be achieved between 7 and 15 years.
- Pest control activities result in an immediate net GHG benefit following implementation of the activity (2-5 years to complete) as a result of reduced tree mortality and improved tree growth. Benefits will continue over a 50 to 80 year period, during which trees protected from above normal tree mortality continue to grow and sequester carbon.
- Reforestation and watershed restoration activities can be an initial source of GHG emissions as a result of site preparation. As tree seedlings grow, however, they accumulate carbon in the form of wood and result in a net GHG benefit during the project life. The timeliness of such planting will depend on available seedling stock. The time required to achieve a net GHG benefit will vary depending on the site preparation activities and the species planted but a net benefit is expected to be achieved within 10 years of planting.
- Urban Forestry activities are expected to begin GHG reductions in the first year and continue for a period of 40+ years. As trees grow, they will accumulate carbon in the form of wood and result in a net GHG benefit during the project life.

- Turf replacement projects are expected to reduce GHG emissions in the first 1 to 2 years and continue to result in reductions from avoided equipment emissions and fertilizer use, for a period of 10 years.
- Energy upgrades are expected to reduce GHG emissions in the first 1 to 2 years and continue to result in reductions for a period of 10-25 years, depending on the measures installed.
- Job training provides corpsmembers with the skills needed to complete projects that will result in a reduction of GHG emissions, as well as providing them with experience for future careers in similar fields.

Element (4) A description of how the administering agency considered the applicability and feasibility of other non-greenhouse gas reduction objectives of Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code.

Expected co-benefits, particularly environmental, economic, public health and safety, and climate resiliency

All projects completed by the CCC will have a positive employment impact. All work will be completed by CCC corpsmembers and will provide many economic co-benefits including:

- Creation of new and maintenance of existing employment opportunities.
- Employment of individuals from disadvantaged communities.
- Provide training to work in jobs that will support a sustainable economy.

All forest health projects are expected to result in healthier, more resilient forests that provide numerous co-benefits including:

- Avoiding or reducing the impacts to forests from catastrophic wildfire.
- Maintaining or improving water quality by impeding erosive runoff that can discharge sediments into streams.
- Healthy resilient forests that are more resistant to fire and climate change.
- Well-managed forested landscapes that lessen the risk to life, public safety, and infrastructure.
- Support biodiversity and wildlife adaptation to climate change and maintain functional wildlife habitat for state and federally listed species.
- Maintenance of migration corridors for wildlife.
- Maintenance of the diversity of natural communities.
- Maintenance and improvement of air quality.
- Preservation of cultural resources.
- Enhanced recreational opportunities and tourism revenue.

The co-benefits for Urban Forest & Greening projects include:

- Energy conservation by shading existing buildings.
- Urban temperature reduction.
- Reduction of storm-water runoff.
- Improvement of air, soil, and water quality.
- Improved property values.
- Reduced water usage.

The co-benefits for wetland and riparian restoration projects include:

- Maintaining or improving water quality by impeding erosive runoff that can discharge sediments into streams.
- Support biodiversity and wildlife adaptation to climate change and maintain functional wildlife habitat for state and federally listed species.
- Maintenance of migration corridors for wildlife.
- Maintenance of the diversity of natural communities.
- Maintenance and improvement of air quality.
- Preservation of cultural resources.
- Enhanced recreational opportunities and tourism revenue.

The co-benefits for energy upgrades include:

- Energy conservation by providing more energy efficient lighting and controls and other efficiency/generation measures.
- Improvement of air quality by reducing GHG emissions.
- Reduce operational costs by reducing utility bills.

The co-benefits for the installation of EV charging stations include:

- Reduce the operational cost of driving and public transportation.
- Improvement of air quality by reducing vehicle emissions.

How the project will support other objectives of AB 32 and related statutes

- These projects will direct public and private investment towards disadvantaged communities in California by providing work programs and training for corpsmembers who are recruited from these communities.
- The Fuel Reduction and Tree Mortality projects will maximize environmental and economic co-benefits for California by reducing potential fire severity and firefighting costs.
- Reforestation, Urban Greening and Watershed Restoration projects will complement the State's efforts to improve air quality.
- Energy efficiency projects and installation of EV charging stations will provide an opportunity for public buildings and other community institutions to participate in and benefit from statewide efforts to reduce GHG emissions.
- Reducing air toxic and criteria air pollutants from stationary and mobile sources
- Low- and zero-carbon transportation alternatives
- Sustainable agricultural practices that promote the transitions to clean technology, water efficiency, and improved air quality
- Healthy forests and urban greening
- Reducing short-lived climate pollutants
- Climate adaptation and resiliency
- Climate and clean energy research

Percentage of total funding that will be expended for projects that are located in and benefit priority populations¹ per CARB guidance

- CCC will ensure that at least 40 percent of the funding for investments is in and benefitting disadvantaged communities and 40 percent of the funding for investments is in and benefitting low-income communities or benefitting low-income households statewide.

Describe the benefits to priority populations per CARB guidance

- The CCC employs the majority of its corpsmembers from disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, or low-income households to complete project work thereby meeting the work hour requirements to qualify as a benefit. They receive employment and training to help them secure more permanent jobs in the future.
- Fuel Reduction and Tree Mortality projects can significantly reduce fire risk to households within disadvantaged or low-income communities.

Explain strategies the administering agency will use to maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities

- The CCC will select projects that meet multiple benefit criteria and demonstrate that the project will meaningfully address an important community need. Priority will be given to those projects benefitting disadvantaged communities. This will help maximize benefits and support administering agency efforts to meet or exceed statutory requirements for expenditures that benefit disadvantaged communities.

Explain how the administering agency will avoid potential substantial burdens to disadvantaged communities and low-income communities or, if unknown, explain the process for identifying and avoiding potential substantial burdens

- The administering agency will consult with community representatives, project sponsors, and CalFire to identify potential burdens such as chainsaw noise, chipper noise, smoke from burning, etc. The agency will time the projects as necessary to avoid potential substantial burdens to disadvantaged and low-income communities. The administering agency will consult directly with communities through various means including workshops and public comments on program guidelines to identify potential burdens. The agency will make programmatic adjustments to eligibility criteria, and ultimately funding decisions, as necessary to avoid potential substantial burdens to disadvantaged and low-income communities.

¹ Priority populations include residents of: (1) census tracts identified as disadvantaged by California Environmental Protection Agency per SB 535; (2) census tracts identified as low-income per AB 1550; or (3) a low-income household per AB 1550. See Section VII.B Funding Guidelines for more information on the definitions of priority populations.

Element (5) A description of how the administering agency will document the result achieved from the expenditure to comply with Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 35800) of the Health and Safety Code.

How the administering agency will track / report progress to make sure projects are implemented per requirements in statute and CARB guidance

- CCC Headquarters will require individual CCC Centers to maintain records and submit monthly status reports. In addition, CCC Headquarters will conduct periodic reviews and site visits of selected projects.

Describe the approach that will be used to document GHG emission reductions and/or other benefits before and after project completion

- The CCC will calculate the GHG emission reductions expected and achieved from projects using appropriate CARB quantification methodologies.
- The CCC will work closely with CARB to refine GHG emission reduction methodologies and estimates to ensure that only projects with net quantitative GHG benefits and / or carbon sequestration benefits, or qualitative GHG benefits are funded

Type of information that will be collected to document results, consistent with CARB guidance

- CCC Centers will report all projects to CCC Headquarters in order to maintain project files. Project location, GHG emission reductions, benefits to priority populations, other co-benefits, and other data as specified in CARB guidance will be collected for all projects.
- To determine the job creation benefits, the CCC will compile data from funding recipients per CARB guidance, including: number of job-years provided, average wages and benefits, the number of people who completed job training or received industry-recognized certifications, and residence location of job / training recipients.
- For forest projects, information such as acres treated and number of trees planted will be collected and recorded.
- For urban forestry projects, information such as number of trees planted and energy savings from shade will be collected and recorded.
- For Turf replacement projects, information will be collected and recorded, such as project location, number of acres or thousands of square feet of lawn replaced, frequency of lawn mowing, lawn mowing entity, age and type of lawn mower, whether fertilizer is applied to lawn being removed, fertilizer applicator entity, and type of fertilizer being applied to lawn removed.
- For energy efficiency projects, the CCC will collect data on baseline and estimated energy usage, energy cost savings, and type of upgrade installed.
- Once operational, the administering agency will collect information on project outcomes, consistent with CARB guidance.

How the administering agency will report on program status

- The CCC will provide regular updates on expenditures, project status, and benefits in reports prepared according to CARB guidance. At a minimum, the reports will include expenditure amounts, current estimates of GHG emission reductions, quantification of other applicable co-benefits (e.g., jobs created, units retrofitted).