



CALEPA ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT AND TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM

2023 Distribution Report

CalEPA administers the Environmental Enforcement and Training Account Grant Program as authorized by Penal Code sections 14300-14315 and California Code of Regulations, title 27, sections 10014-10016. This grant program provides financial assistance for environmental enforcement, investigation, education, and training to enhance statewide enforcement of environmental laws. The grant program is a key component of the state's efforts to support coordinated and uniform environmental enforcement by providing funding to ensure effective prosecution of environmental laws in all regions of California, including rural areas. While funding may come from public and private sources, most funding for the program comes from judgments in local, state, and federal environmental law enforcement actions, often referred to as Supplemental Environmental Projects or SEPs. For more information on SEPs, click [here](#).

The account funds are allocated as follows:

- 25%, up to \$100,000, to the Commission on Peace Officer Standards & Training (POST) to be used for the training of peace officers consistent with the program's requirements. POST may decline all or part of the funds allocated, with any funds declined going to CalEPA for reallocation through discretionary grants for the environmental training of peace officers.
- The remaining 75% is available for discretionary grants to be awarded for circuit prosecutor projects or to public agencies or private nonprofit organizations for the purposes of (1) supporting statewide environmental enforcement education and training programs for peace officers, investigators, state and local environmental regulators, and prosecutors or (2) the enhancement of local environmental enforcement efforts.

2023 Awards

For Fiscal Year 2023-24, the total amount available in the account for encumbrance was \$822,448.30. POST declined all of the funds allocated to it pursuant to Penal Code section 14314(a). A portion of these peace officer training funds were awarded as described below, and the balance reverts to the Environmental Enforcement and Training Account for encumbrance in future years. CalEPA received four applications and recommended full or partial funding of the four applicants as follows:

- \$552,000 over two years to **Placer County District Attorney's Office** to create an Environmental Circuit Prosecutor Project. Many rural counties struggle with the time and resources needed to prosecute environmental crimes. The Circuit Prosecutor Project is the first of its kind proposed by a district attorney's office and will meet significant unmet environmental enforcement needs in rural communities and fill the vacuum created since the termination several years ago of the circuit prosecutor project previously sponsored by the California District Attorney's Association. The project will focus on rural counties located in Northern California such as Amador, Butte,

Colusa, Lake, and Sierra counties but will endeavor to assist any rural county in California with a demonstrated need.

- \$72,600 (comprising \$36,300 in unrestricted funds and \$36,300 in funds earmarked for peace officer training) to the **California Hazardous Materials Investigators Association**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit to fund the California Specialized Training Institute’s 2024 Hazardous Materials Investigations (HMI) Course. The HMI course is a 40-hour course designed to provide a basic understanding of the issues involved in the investigation of hazardous materials incidents and consists of lectures and discussions, demonstrations, classroom activities, and a functional exercise. The target audience for the training includes State and local environmental health regulators, peace officers, public prosecutors and their inspectors and investigators, California Fish and Wildlife wardens, firefighters and hazardous materials specialists. Twelve out of 24 positions in the course will be allocated for qualified peace officers.
- \$46,049 to the **Tuolumne County Community Development Department** for a local assistance grant for up to 12 County personnel to attend enforcement trainings such as Western States Project’s Introduction to Environmental Enforcement, Introduction to Environmental Crimes, and Advanced Environmental Crimes Training Program. The target personnel to attend these trainings include Environmental Health Specialists, Deputy County Counsel and various types of inspectors. The grant will ensure the Tuolumne County Community Development Department, which already has a limited operating budget and has suffered further budget cuts in recent years, can adequately train its staff to provide adequate enforcement related to hazardous materials.
- \$86,038 to the **Imperial County Sheriff’s Office** to engage personnel in targeted law enforcement activities to enforce off-highway vehicle laws in the Salton City area, which hosts several major off-highway vehicle events which create concerns by the local community over diminished air quality, increased noise, and litter.

Summary of Awards

Organization	Grant Type	Amount
Placer County District Attorney’s Office	Discretionary – Circuit Prosecutor Project	\$552,000
California Hazardous Materials Investigators Association	Discretionary – Enforcement Training Grant	\$36,300
California Hazardous Materials Investigators Association	POST-declined Funds for the Training of Peace Officers	\$36,300
Tuolumne County	Discretionary – Local Assistance Grant	\$46,049
Imperial County Sheriff’s Office	Discretionary – Local Assistance Grant	\$86,038
TOTAL		\$756,687