



## CALEPA ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT AND TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM

### 2024 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.

### 2024 Awards

For Fiscal Year 2024-25, the total amount available in the account for distribution was \$1,518,801.97. POST declined all of the funds allocated to it pursuant to Penal Code section 14314(a). POST-declined peace officer training funds were not utilized in the 2024 awards, and the balance of these funds reverts to the Environmental Enforcement and Training Account for encumbrance in future years. The fund also received two settlements, totaling \$575,000, earmarked for circuit prosecutor grants. The balance of the fund (\$843,801.97) was available for discretionary grants to be awarded for any of the statutorily permissible purposes identified above.

CalEPA received eight applications and recommended full or partial funding of all applicants as follows:

- \$552,000 over two years to **Placer County District Attorney's Office** to further efforts on 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.

- \$75,600 to the **California Hazardous Materials Investigators Association**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, to fund the California Specialized Training Institute's 2025 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.
- \$22,400 to the **California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA)**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, to fund an in-person Air Quality Enforcement Symposium in 2025 for air quality regulators, primarily air district enforcement and compliance staff and managers, from across California. Funds would be used to host the event at a central location and provide scholarships to selected students from air districts with limited training and travel resources.
- \$88,614.05 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.
- \$11,000 to the **Glendale Fire Department** to create an inspector-specific Formal Enforcement/Administrative Enforcement Order (AEO) training. The training will be an 8-hour course designed for Southern California CUPA personnel and will be promoted through the Southern California Region CUPA Forum. It will be presented to a maximum of 50 participants and be held at a training room/location provided by Glendale Fire. The course will be designed to give inspectors the knowledge and confidence needed to prepare and navigate the Formal Enforcement process.
- \$35,000 to **Madera County Environmental Health** to send Environmental Health Division and Code Enforcement inspection/field staff to necessary trainings to provide a basic understanding of issues involved in the investigation of hazardous materials incidents and environmental enforcement procedures. Trainings may include: the First Responders Awareness (FRA), First Responders Operations (FRO), 40 Hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) that includes hands-on instructions, and any relevant California Hazardous Materials Investigators Association (CHMIA) courses.
- \$75,021.57 to **Trinity County Environmental Health** to assist law enforcement on criminal search warrants for environmental crimes with illicit cannabis cultivation activities, including assisting in investigation, taking laboratory samples, analyzing data, writing reports, and testifying in court.

TCEH leads the Environmental Crimes Task Force for Trinity County and attempts for a multi-prong approach towards environmental crimes enforcement, by working both the criminal and civil elements to gain compliance. TCEH has participated in hundreds of criminal search warrants, and has exhausted previous enforcement funding that would aid with staff time and training for enforcement.

- \$49,044 to **Valley Improvement Projects (VIP)**, with their fiscal sponsor Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, to sustain and expand the Valley Improvement Projects Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) as well as host a series of workshops and events where regulators, enforcement personnel, and agency representatives present to community members and leaders on local rules and enforcement strategies. In addition, VIP will begin to conduct initial research on the feasibility of expanding the Task Force’s outreach beyond Stanislaus County into parts of San Joaquin, and Merced counties. By the commencement of this grant period VIP envisions having launched an expanded “EJTF209” and a plan for increased outreach and more effective responsiveness.

#### Summary of Awards

Organization	Amount	Grant Type
Placer County District Attorney’s Office	\$552,000	Circuit Prosecutor Project earmarked funds
California Hazardous Materials Investigators Association	\$75,600	Discretionary – Enforcement Training Grant
California Air Pollution Control Officers Association	\$22,400	Discretionary – Enforcement Training Grant
Imperial County Sheriff’s Office	\$88,614.05	Discretionary – Local Assistance Grant
Glendale Fire Department	\$11,000	Discretionary – Enforcement Training Grant
Madera County Environmental Health	\$35,000	Discretionary – Local Assistance Grant
Trinity County Environmental Health	\$75,021.57	Discretionary – Local Assistance Grant
Valley Improvement Projects/Social & Environmental Entrepreneurs	\$49,044	Discretionary – Enforcement Training Grant
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$908,679.62</b>	