



CALEPA ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT AND TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM

2022 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.

2022 Awards

For Fiscal Year 2022-2023, the amount available in the account for distribution was \$293,964.77.

POST declined all of the funds allocated to it pursuant to Penal Code section 14314(a). The peace officer training funds were not distributed and remain in the Environmental Enforcement and Training Account.

CalEPA received five applications for discretionary grants and awarded all five applicants as follows:

- \$18,975 to **Orange County Coastkeeper**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, for the Orange County Marine Protected Area Enforcement Training Project. The project includes a one-day training session focused on Orange County Marine Protected Area regulations, boundaries and access points, areas of noncompliance, and enforcement strategies from the Orange County Deputy District Attorneys Office.

It also involves the creation and distribution of an Orange County Marine Protected Area Reference Guide for Officers. The training and reference guide are expected to address, among other things, illegal activities in marine protected areas including poaching and unlawful take, harmful take in the intertidal zone, and increased impact of heavy visitation to the coast.

- \$26,700 to the **Del Amo Action Committee**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, to partially fund the 8th Annual Environmental Justice and Enforcement Symposium Series. The symposium will be co- led by the Los Angeles Environmental Justice Network, a project of the Del Amo Action Committee. The symposium includes five half-day workshops that focus on environmental laws and practices to reduce pollution, increase protections, and create a sense of well-being in contaminated disadvantaged communities.
- \$43,339 to the **County of Mendocino Environmental Health Department** to host two trainings focused on hazardous materials and emergency response. One training will be a two-day event covering a series of topics to help first responders recognize basic hazards. The second training is a four-week course that covers a range of topics to help first responders recognize hazards and stop potential releases.
- \$27,600 to **California Safe Schools**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, to prepare and host the “Your Life is Now” Environmental Health & Enforcement Forum. The event is designed to facilitate transparency and collaboration between enforcement entities, regulatory agencies and communities. The forum is particularly focused on fostering transparency and open communication between environmental justice communities and environmental regulators.
- \$93,234 to the **Imperial County Sheriff’s Office** for a local assistance grant to provide targeted off-highway vehicle education and increased law enforcement services in the Salton City area. The awarded funds will be used to add more prominent no trespassing signage around the Salton Sea playa, to purchase and distribute educational materials and brochures to off-highway vehicle users, and to increase law enforcement activities such as patrol services in the Salton City area.

Summary of 2022 Distributions

Organization	Non-Peace Officer Training & Local Assistance
Orange County Coastkeeper	\$18,975
Del Amo Action Committee/ LAEJN	\$26,700
Mendocino County Environmental Health Dept.*	\$43,339 *
California Safe Schools	\$27,600
Imperial County Sheriff’s Office	\$93,234
Total	\$209,848

***March 2023 UPDATE:** The County of Mendocino declined their grant funding, with the awarded funds remaining in the Environmental Enforcement & Training Account for future Fiscal Year grant awards.*