

AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE
PROJECT FUNDING CONTRACT

BACKGROUND:

In late October, 1977, State Lands Commission Staff applied to the Employment Development Department (EDD) for Title II, Round 2 funds for watershed and forest rehabilitation. The concept was approved by EDD with the stipulation that "labor for reforestation will be furnished by California Conservation Corps (CCC) under the supervision of the Department of Forestry and the State Lands Commission".

On November 18, 1977, EDD and the Department of Finance approved \$500,172 for an 18-month period which commenced January 1, 1978. In late December of 1977, the "Section 28" application was approved by the Legislature. The draft EDD contract for the first 6 months (expiring June 30, 1978), for approximately \$128,514 is the subject of this agenda item. The balance of this 18-month period, fiscal year 1978-79, will be under a separate EDD contract which will be submitted prior to the termination of the proposed subject contract. Also, the contracts with Department of Forestry and California Conservation Corps as well as approval of the 3 planting sites will be before the Commission in succeeding months for consideration.

PROJECT GOALS:

This is a 3½-year project to plant, an estimated 5,000 acres of non-productive and under-productive State-owned school lands with commercial, and/or soil-stabilizing species. Trial plantings on 2 or 3 separate parcels this spring will be initiated.

Due to last year's drought and extensive forest fires, the demand for seedlings has limited the supply available for the spring planting season to 35,300 seedlings. This will plant approximately 90 acres. Three tentative parcels of State-owned

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school land have been selected in Mendocino and Glenn Counties for trial plantings of approximately 30 acres each. The remainder of the project, some 5,000 acres, will be selected (in the near future) according to capability for supporting reforestation, location and planting stock availability.

IMPLEMENTATION: In order to accomplish the above-stated goal, 3 agencies and their expertise will be required. These are: the State Lands Commission, the California Department of Forestry, and the California Conservation Corps. The basic functions of each is outlined below.

State Lands Commission

The Staff of the State Lands Commission will organize and control this project in conjunction with expertise of the California Department of Forestry on a contract basis. The State Lands Commission Staff will make preliminary site inspections of selected State school land parcels which appear to be feasible for reforestation or afforestation. This involves analysis of access, soil and vegetation data on available sites, evaluation of proposed reforestation species and methods, drafting contracts and inter-agency agreements, and preparation and processing of environmental and access right documents. The above is presently being undertaken for the first 18 months. This will be repeated annually for the following planting seasons. State Lands personnel will, on a continuing basis throughout the program, provide the coordination, supervision and inspection in all phases of planting as well as site inspections for acceptance of the finished work.

California Department of Forestry

On a contractual basis with State Lands Commission, California Department of Forestry will provide one "service forester" full-time for the life of the project. The Service Forester will perform the role of consultant as well as site inspector, setting criteria for each phase of the reforestation project. He will train California Conservation Corps

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crew leaders, ensure proper handling of seedlings, and monitor the project at all phases for quality control and survival of planted stock. He will have direct supervision of site preparation and planting operations.

California Conservation Corps

The California Conservation Corps' main contribution will be in the form of labor for planting on specific sites. Labor also may include selected site preparation, erosion control, and related reforestation work, as prescribed by State Lands Commission or California Department of Forestry.

PLANTING STOCK: Stock for the first planting effort (Spring of 1978), will be provided by California Department of Forestry from existing stock which has been reserved for State lands. If arrangements for donation cannot be successfully completed, State Lands will provide payment in the amount of approximately \$1,700 from the existing budget. Arrangements for planting stock for the remainder of the project, approximately 2,000,000 seedlings, may be provided by California Department of Forestry, California Conservation Corps or by other means, grown under contract as a part of this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Since the parcels chosen for this contract (trial plantings) require little or no vegetation disturbance for site preparation, and in view of the nature of the effort, the staff advises that Categorical Exemption Class 7 applies, and no LIR will be required for this project. Subsequent year projects, however, may require CEQA processing.

This project is situated on school lands not identified as possessing significant environmental values. A staff review of available environmental information indicates no reason to identify the subject school land parcels as having such values at this time.

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IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. DETERMINE THAT AN EIR HAS NOT BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS ACTIVITY AS SUCH REPORT IS NOT REQUIRED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF PRC 21085, 14 CAL. ADM. CODE 15100 ET SEQ., AND 2 CAL. ADM. CODE 2907.
2. AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF A 6-MONTH CONTRACT WITH EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, COVERING THE INITIAL 6-MONTH PHASE OF A 3½ YEAR REFORESTATION PROJECT FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNF 30, 1978.