

## NATURAL RESOURCES

The Natural Resources Agency consists of 26 departments, boards, commissions, and conservancies responsible for administering programs to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance the natural, historical, and cultural resources of California.

The Budget includes total funding of \$7.4 billion (\$2.1 billion General Fund and \$5.3 billion other funds) for all programs included in the Agency.

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### SALTON SEA RESTORATION

Wildlife habitat at the Salton Sea is diminishing due to salinity increases and declining water levels that are expected to accelerate when flows from the Colorado River to the Sea are ended in 2017.

Significant adjustments:

- The Budget provides \$2 million for a study of funding and restoration alternatives by the Salton Sea Authority, under the direction of the Secretary for Natural Resources. The study will update the analysis from previous restoration planning efforts and incorporate ongoing restoration projects. Through collaboration between state, federal, and local stakeholders, the study will develop feasible alternatives for inclusion in a comprehensive plan, as well as funding options to achieve restoration goals and mitigate poor air quality caused by the diminishing Sea.

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- The Budget also includes \$28.4 million for the Department of Water Resources to implement a pilot restoration project at the Sea. The design, environmental impact analysis, and permitting for the project has been completed. Between 800 and 1,200 acres of habitat will be restored through the construction of ponds at the south end of the Sea to support fish and the wildlife that depend upon them.

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### **CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS**

The Budget expands the activities of the California Conservation Corps, providing more young men and women the life, work, and academic skills to become strong workers and citizens. The Budget provides funding to employ 200 additional corpsmembers, for a total of approximately 1,550.

Significant adjustments:

- \$5 million Proposition 40 funds for the Corps to perform fuel control and fire suppression activities within sensitive watershed areas in the State Responsibility Area (SRA). These activities will be performed in accordance with the criteria and processes collaboratively developed with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The work will decrease wildfire risk in the SRA while simultaneously protecting sensitive watersheds, preventing erosion, and providing training and employment for approximately 100 corpsmembers.
- \$5 million from the Clean Energy Job Creation Fund (Proposition 39) for the Corps to perform energy surveys and other energy conservation-related activities for public schools. The energy audits, which will also employ approximately 100 corpsmembers, will help identify the highest priority energy conservation projects at public schools.