

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 May Revision includes total funding of \$8.7 billion (\$2.5 billion General Fund) for all programs included in this Agency.

CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS

The California Conservation Corps was established in 1976 by Governor Brown to provide young women and men the opportunity to work on conservation projects and respond to natural disasters. The Corps builds trails, plants trees, and implements clean energy and water conservation projects. The Corps currently serves approximately 1,622 members, including over 500 who live in residential facilities.

Significant Adjustments:

- Forest Health Improvement Projects—The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) will partner with the Corps on forest health projects that will be targeted in the highest fire risk areas of the state. These months-long projects will include tent camps near the project areas. Funding is provided in the CALFIRE budget and approximately \$5 million of work will be allocated to the Corps as projects are identified.

- Butte County Conservation Camp—An increase of \$3.1 million General Fund for CALFIRE to make necessary repairs to the Butte County fire camp that was closed in 2004. Partnering with CALFIRE, the Corps will open the Butte County Conservation Camp as a fire camp similar to the Camarillo Camp in Southern California. This will give the corpsmembers training in fire suppression and provide important fire protection resources in Northern California. It is expected that this camp will not be available until mid-2016.
- Long-Term Expansion—An increase of \$200,000 General Fund to begin a process of identifying sites for additional residential centers. The Corps will work with the Department of General Services to examine sites on existing state property to determine the feasibility of either reopening old facilities or building new ones.

SALTON SEA RESTORATION

The Salton Sea is one of the most important migratory bird flyways in North America and is threatened with reduced inflows and increased salinity. The Water Action Plan identified the protection of key habitat of the Salton Sea as a priority action.

California faces significant air quality and natural resources threats with the shrinking of the Salton Sea. Prior comprehensive plans to restore the sea are no longer feasible due to cost and decreased water availability resulting from the drought in California and in the southwestern states. The Administration is pursuing a phased strategy to restore the Salton Sea. Working with partners and utilizing existing funds already appropriated, the construction of over 1,000 acres of habitat and dust abatement projects is scheduled to begin in 2015. In addition, the Administration has formed the Salton Sea Task Force with principals from the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Agencies to develop new achievable medium and long-term restoration plans. The Task Force will develop these plans in coordination with stakeholders, and will be appointing a new position using existing resources to lead the work of the Task Force and manage expedited construction of projects that protect both wildlife habitat and air quality at the sea.