



# **Policy Considerations: Balancing Research & Action**

**Vegetation & Near-Roadway Air Quality  
June 2, 2015**

**Cindy Blain  
Executive Director**





# What would a perfect roadway look like?

***Hurley looking west near Greer Elementary School***



**Steve Price**  
*Urban Advantage*

Thanks to Teri Duarte  
WALKSacramento



# What would a humane roadway look like?

***Hurley looking west near Greer Elementary School***



**Steve Price**

Urban Advantage

Thanks to Teri Duarte  
WALKSacramento





# Why aren't our roadways humane?

- Human health
- Safety
- Community
- **MANY Co-Benefits**



- "Cost"
- "Space"
- "Lack of research"
- ***Priorities***



# Ongoing Discussion



# Disbenefits vs Benefits

- Trap polluted air
- Gaps -> higher concentrations
- *Pollen production*
- *Water demand*
- *Invasive species*
- *Fire threat*
- *Visibility obstruction*
- *Tree failure threat*
- *Expanded urban footprint*



- Increased air mixing
- PM capture
- Carbon sequestration
- UHI reduction (heat stress)
- Energy savings
- Rainwater capture
- UV Protection
- Noise reduction
- Stress reduction
- Social cohesion increase
- Self-efficacy improvement
- Worker productivity increase
- Walkability improvement



# Biggest Health Threat

## Chronic Disease:

- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Hypertension



# **Howard Frumkin, MD, DrPH**

## **American Journal of Preventive Medicine 2013**

“What threshold of evidence should we reach before we draw tentative conclusions?”

“In contrast, the downside risk of nature contact is often no worse than a few bee stings and poison ivy rashes.”





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## American Journal of Preventive Medicine 2013

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# The Perfect Tree?



# **Thinking Beyond the Box: How to prioritize trees?**

**Caltrans:** Aesthetics & Habitat / 30 ft rule

**Prop 39/AHSC:** Included - not incentivized

**Active Trans:** Light on green infrastructure

**Cities:** Traditional priorities & designs







**\$10,000/ light/ year  
- first 10 years  
\$200/year next 10 yrs  
40,000: \$408M / 20 yrs**



**\$54/ tree/ year**

**100,000: \$108M / 20 yrs**



# Not If – But How





# Good Policy News

## GHG Reduction Fund

- Reduce & Sequester CO2 Emissions
- ***Bring Co-Benefits to Communities***
  - 2014-15: \$17.8M for Urban Forests
  - 2015-16: \$37.8M Projected

## Prop 1 – Water Bond

- Stormwater Management Grants \$100M



# Good Policy News

## What made it happen?

- Solid Science
- Policy Building Blocks
- Coalitions



### SUPPORT PRIORITY GGRF INVESTMENTS THAT



May 28, 2015

The Honorable Mark Leno, Conferee  
Senate and Assembly Joint Budget Conference Committee  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: May Revise for Urban Forestry and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Leno:

We are writing to urge the Conference Committee to continue its commitment to CAL FIRE's Urban and Community Forestry Program through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund by supporting the proposed allocation and language for this Program in the Governor's May Revise. The revised proposal directly addresses two major recommendations from stakeholders that we believe will further strengthen the program by creating more opportunities for transformative investments in California's communities.

#### 1. Augments the proposed 2015-16 allocation to \$37.8 million

CAL FIRE's call for concept proposals to its Urban and Community Forestry Program in late 2014 yielded \$107 million in requests for \$15.7 million in available local assistance grants funding – leaving the program oversubscribed by 600%. The proposed \$37.8 million in the revised 2015-16 Expenditure Plan for this Program represents a milestone investment in this important urban natural resource, and will significantly move the Program closer to closing this funding gap.

### 2015-16 BUDGET

multiple coalitions and  
mentation and cap-and-trade  
e Conference Committee to  
either the Legislature or

### SUPPORT MAY REVISE

SUPPORT SENATE VERSION  
DACS

omposting and recycled com  
VERSION

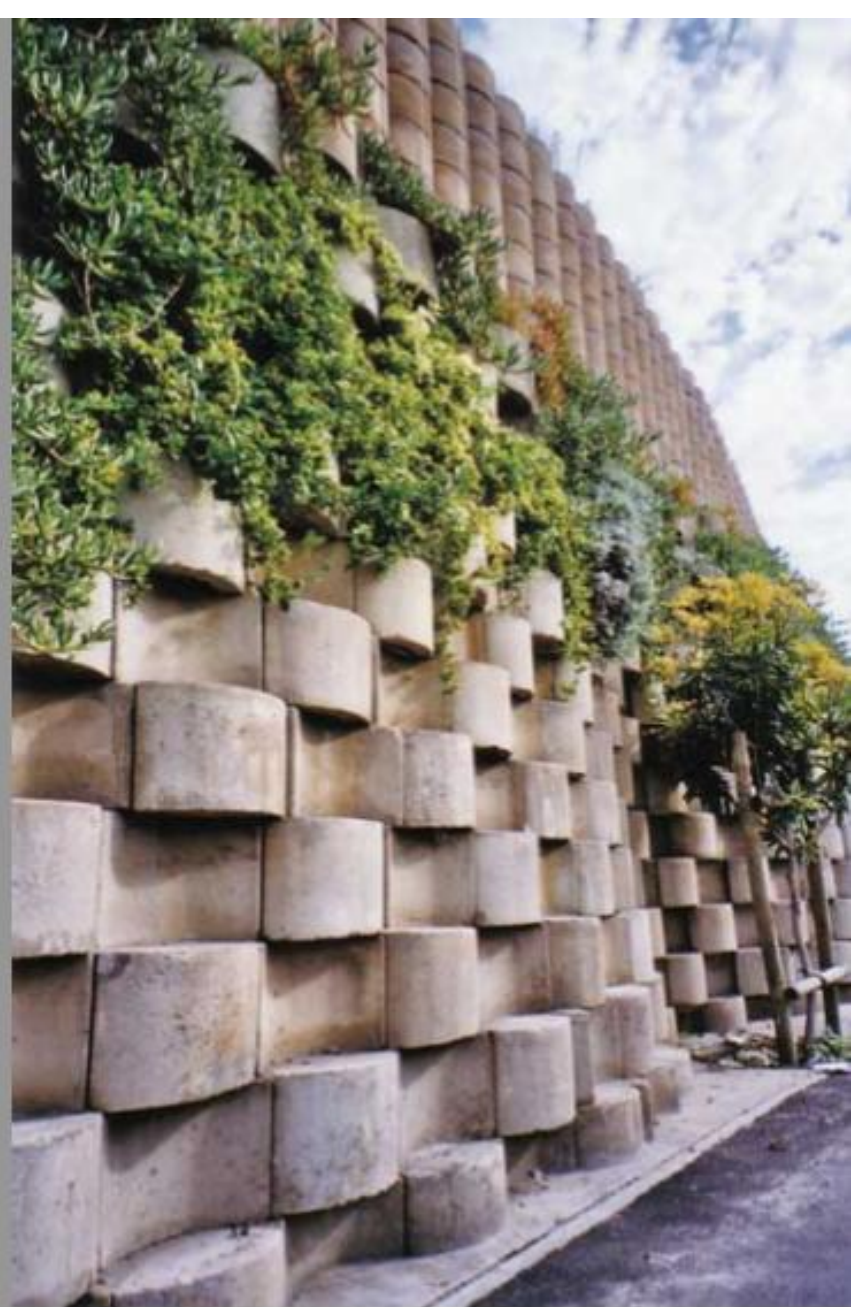








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Cape Town, South Africa



# Thank you!...Questions?

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