



Hobbling the Environmental Protection Agency would threaten California's health, families, jobs and economy

Support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is essential to protecting California's air, water, and land. From safeguarding waterways from dangerous runoff to cleaning up toxic sites, EPA grants provided the state with more than \$1.53 billion in funding from FY2012-2016. Unfortunately, the Trump Administration and many Members of Congress are working to hollow out the EPA and cut its budget to its lowest level since the 1970s, posing threats to millions of Californians who depend on the agency to protect their health and the state's tourism and business climate.

EPA's budget will be negotiated in a backroom by a President and EPA Administrator who have laid out a roadmap to cripple the EPA, along with many Congressional leaders who have shown little interest in protecting the environment. The EPA's budget could be bargained away in the blink of an eye, and Californians could be the losers.

Environment and public health are at risk

More dangerous runoff in the water

Program at Risk: Nonpoint source pollution program grants. Proposed cut: Eliminated

Runoff, sometimes called "Nonpoint Source Pollution," is the leading cause of water quality problems in the United States. It comes when rainwater washes over areas containing contaminants such as industrial waste, agricultural pesticides or lawn-treatment chemicals, and gets into surface-water, ground water, or soil.

From FY2012-2016, EPA has provided California with \$44.8 million to protect the state's water – with many success stories to show for it. For years, runoff from fertilizers and sewage fueled excess algae levels in the Napa River, which starved out nutrients that plants and animals, such as the Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Trout, need. To date, the EPA invested at least \$3.75 million through nine separate projects along the Napa River to significantly improve water conditions.

The enemy underground: leaking underground storage tank grants

Program at Risk: Leaking underground storage tank categorical grants. Proposed cut: Eliminated

Across the country, thousands of underground storage tanks and accompanying pipes – many of them made from older corroding steel – hold and carry a variety of fuels and chemicals. When tanks leak harmful chemicals such as oil, gas, benzene and toluene into soil and ground water, drinking water and soil are fouled, community health is jeopardized, and economic development is crippled. Preventing and addressing spills from these backlogs is a major environmental priority.

EPA support is essential to California programs to monitor underground storage tanks, detect leaks of petroleum products, address the causes, repair any damage to soil or groundwater and hold polluters accountable to pay their fair share of cleanup costs. California's underground storage tank program received more than \$14 million in EPA grant funding from 2012 to 2016.

* FY12-16 funding totals obtained from <https://www.usaspending.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>

More Code Red days

Program at Risk: State and Local Air Quality Management Grants/Tribal Air Quality Management Grants
Proposed cut: 33% | 30%

For decades, the Clean Air Act and EPA grants have helped states and communities make historic strides in reducing air pollution, with EPA grants covering almost 30 percent of state and local air monitoring costs. Cleaner air means fewer Code Red and other alert days when parents must keep kids indoors; fewer attacks for the nearly 3 million Californians with asthma; and fewer health threats to workers.

In 2008, asthma attacks were the cause of 87,273 pediatric emergency room visits and over \$6.4 billion in associated medical costs. This grim reality is especially true for African American and Latino communities where children are much likelier to suffer from asthma than non-minorities. Recognizing these facts, the EPA has provided more than \$121 million in grants from FY2012-2016 to local governments to support their air pollution control efforts, including monitoring of harmful particulates, ozone, lead and other pollutants. Yet Trump and Pruitt want to cut back on the environmental and health justice efforts that protect the most vulnerable among us.

Fewer cleanups and less economic development at polluted properties

Program at Risk: Brownfield grants. Proposed cut: 28%

Brownfield sites are properties where contamination prevents economic development and threatens public health and safety. But they have the potential – once cleaned up – to generate new jobs. Research has shown that residential property values near restored brownfield sites around the country have increased between 5 and 15 percent and can increase property values in a 1.24-mile radius of that site. A study analyzing data near 48 brownfield sites shows an estimated \$29 million to \$97 million in additional tax revenue was generated for local governments in a single year after cleanup (two to seven times more than the \$12.4 million EPA contributed to cleaning up those brownfield sites). EPA brownfield grants have even greater positive impacts on communities with higher poverty rates, large minority populations, and lower-than-average incomes.

California has more than 1,400 sites where pollutants threaten public health and prevent economic development. For two decades, EPA brownfield grants have helped California counties and communities clean up polluted properties to protect people's health and to spark job-creating economic redevelopment. These grants, which totaled \$18.5 million from FY2012-2016, have helped catalyze private sector loans and other funding to clean up contamination from leaking petroleum tanks, metals, and other hazardous substances.

Dirtier water and destroyed habitats in the Bay

Program at Risk: San Francisco Bay Geographic Initiative. Proposed cut: Eliminated

The Trump Administration budget would eliminate the EPA's San Francisco Bay Geographic Initiative, which for 20 years has been working to restore the Bay's water and wetlands. One of the Initiative's key jobs is to monitor the flow of toxic substances like mercury and polluted runoff into the bay. Since 1998, over 20,000 acres of wetlands are on their way to being restored—with water quality being improved and habitats being restored.

San Francisco Bay is one of 28 estuaries in EPA's National Estuary Program. Studies have shown that cleaning up these areas have already returned big dividends—fish stocks are improving, tourism is on the rise, real estate values are increasing, and cleanup efforts have employed hundreds of state and local employees. The move by the Trump Administration to cut the San Francisco Bay Geographic Initiative represents a callous neglect of their responsibility to protect California's health, natural beauty, and economy.

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