

**MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT STAFF REPORT**

**BOARD MEETING:** April 03, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Monthly Staff Report

**PRESENTER:** Dr. Rafael Payan, General Manager

**REPORT:** The following briefly summarizes some of the key tasks and projects the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) staff undertook from mid-February 2024 through mid-March 2024 in addition to performing MPRPD's regular business.

**ADMINISTRATION DIVISION**

**1. Auction**

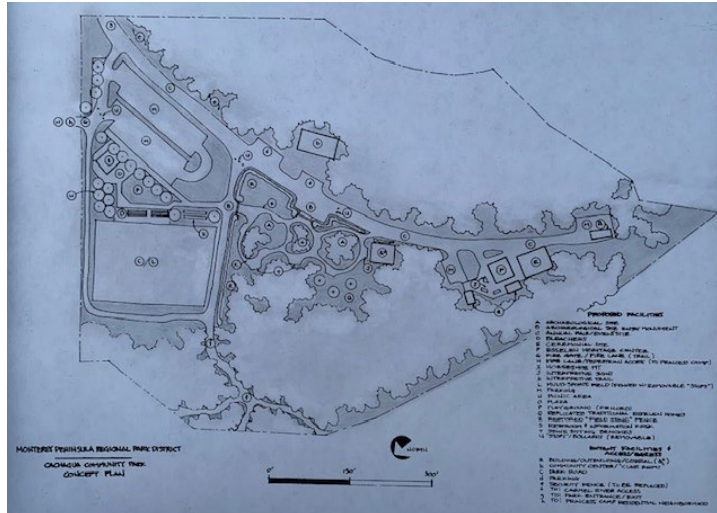
Staff continue researching options to eliminate the growing stash of furniture, fixtures, and equipment stored under the Administration office building.

**2. Biologist**

The USFWS, state agencies, and environmental consultants stress MPRPD's need for this position to ensure compliance with statutes and support the Planning and Conservation Management Division at all MPRPD properties. Staff are using other organization's job descriptions for the Wildlife Biologist and Natural Resource Ecologist positions.

**3. Cachagua Community Park**

Esellen Tribal Chairman Tom Little Bear Nason and staff met to discuss the current Graphic Concept Plan for this park and will work with MPRPD's divisions to refine this plan and explore options to advance construction of the park's improvements.



**4. CalPERS Actuarial Pension Evaluation and Staffing Increases**

Staff met with the District’s CalPERS actuary to discuss the effects on pension costs if the District were to add the requested number of employees to staffing. At this time, it is expected that costs would notably increase monthly, but the long-term effect would be somewhat less than anticipated. Staff will continue discussions with the actuary to determine the feasibility and impacts of significant staffing increases.

**5. FEMA – Winter 2023 Storm Damage Compilation**

Administration and Operation divisions’ staff continued working on FEMA’s Damages Reporting Requirements and Requests for Additional Information. To date, the District has received \$108,086 in funding towards the 2023 winter storm damages. Updates will be presented to the Board as additional information becomes available.

**6. Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget**

Staff have begun preparations for the FY2024-25 Budget and will be meeting with the Finance Committee to review the draft document in May. The final proposed document shall be presented to the Board at the June meeting.

**7. Grant Management and Writing**

Regional Government Services and MPRPD staff continue an extensive review of all active MPRPD grants, developing protocols as needed, and maintaining files. Staff have evaluated two known grant management software solutions and received demonstrations. While providing some benefits, these did not meet the full suite of needs and were not affordable for the District at this time. In addition to monthly subscription costs in the thousands of dollars, these solutions would also require that either staff be available as a super user, or we pay a consultant as a super user. Staff will remain alert to other software options that may exist or become available.

**8. Joyce Stevens Monterey Pine Preserve (JSMPP)**

Staff met with Ms. Joyce Stevens, AIA onsite to discuss her vision for public access and natural resource conservation at the JSMPP. Staff will meet to formulate a plan for this site’s operation, and subsequently provide the Board staff’s recommendation.



## 9. Legislation

Staff have been tracking numerous legislative items that may, have, or will affect MPRPD including, but not limited to:

**AB 334** - Blanca Rubio. Public contracts: conflicts of interest.

Existing law prohibits members of the Legislature and state, county, district, judicial district, and city officers or employees from being financially interested in any contract made by them in their official capacity, or by any body or board of which they are members. Existing law authorizes the Fair Political Practices Commission to commence an administrative or civil action against persons who violate this prohibition, as prescribed, and includes provisions for the collection of penalties after the time for judicial review of a commission order or decision has lapsed, or if all means of judicial review of the order or decision have been exhausted. Existing law identifies certain remote interests in contracts that are not subject to this prohibition and other situations in which an official is not deemed to be financially interested in a contract. Existing law makes a willful violation of this prohibition a crime.

This bill would establish that an independent contractor, who meets specified requirements, is not an officer for purposes of being subject to the prohibition on being financially interested in a contract. The bill would authorize a public agency to enter into a contract with an independent contractor who is an officer for a later phase of the same project if the independent contractor did not engage in or advise on, as specified, the making of the subsequent contract.

This bill would establish that a person who acts in good faith reliance on these provisions is not in violation of the above-described conflict-of-interest prohibitions and would prohibit them from being subject to criminal, civil, or administrative enforcement under those prohibitions if the initial contract includes specified language and the independent contractor is not in breach of those terms. The bill would provide that it is a complete defense in any criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding if the person acts in good faith reliance on these provisions, and meets specified conditions, but fails to include the specified language in the initial contract.

**AB 338** - Aguiar-Curry. Fuel reduction work.

This bill would, commencing July 1, 2026, require fuel reduction work, done under contract and paid for in whole or in part out of public funds, as specified, to meet several standards, including that all workers performing work within an apprenticeable occupation in the building and construction trades be paid at least the general prevailing rate of per diem wages. The bill would authorize the Labor Commissioner to enforce the requirement to pay prevailing wages. The bill would exempt from these requirements, among other things, contracts in the amount of \$500,000 or less.

**H.R. 7525** – According to the California Special District’s Association, “the bill, sponsored by the National Special Districts Coalition (NSDC) represents the coalition’s top federal legislative priority to codify in federal law a first-ever, formal definition of “special district.”

In addition to defining “special district” in federal law, the NSDC-sponsored legislation would direct federal agencies to recognize special districts as local governments for the purpose of ensuring that districts are eligible to receive appropriate forms of federal assistance, including funding and resources through key grant programs.

Despite the significant presence of special districts in the U.S., federal law lacks a consistent definition and reference to special purpose units of local government. As a result, until Congress enacts a definition in federal law, special districts:

- May have difficulties directly accessing funding opportunities;
- Sometimes are unintentionally omitted as eligible in the definitions of “local government” for proposed legislation and laws intended to assist all local governments;
- Have been mistaken for small businesses or nonprofit corporations; or
- Lack official population figures, as they are not federally recognized as “geographic units of government.”

Staff will continue collaborating with legal counsel on any changes to contract language required as a result of legislative action.

**10. Locke-Paddon Community Park**

A City of Marina Council Member and MPRPD staff met with ACOM (Asian Community) members to discuss the City’s proposal and plans for improvements at Locke-Paddon Community Park. Improvements may include the Asian-American Garden, site enhancements, and city facilities.

The City of Marina has secured the services of a consultant to obtain public input and advance concepts, in anticipation of constructing these community supported improvements. In coordination with the City of Marina, a joint presentation will be given to the Board in the coming months.

## **11. Records Retention**

Staff are focusing on records retention and are in the process of creating the required electronic copies of paper records. The electronic copies must be made prior to disposal of hard paper copies. The respective revised policy shall soon be presented for Board review.

## **12. State Controller's Report**

Staff compiled the payroll data and completed the required annual Special Districts – Government Compensation Report – Calendar Year 2023. The report is due no later than April 30, 2024.

Staff also prepared the report in Public Records (PRA) format, as a request is made annually by firms requesting annual pay information by employee name. Staff have learned after many years of receiving these annual requests that it is easier to prepare ahead of time and have the report ready to distribute.

## **13. Strategic Plan Update**

Staff continue to schedule meetings with Board members to discuss their thoughts and obtain direction on a ward-by-ward basis to ensure this plan represents each ward's specific needs while also integrating District-wide considerations.

## **14. Training**

Staff attended the annual California Society of Municipal Finance Officer's (CSMFO) Conference. This is one of two key annual conferences where staff can obtain, among many other government finance topics, updated GASB information, and accounting and financial management guidance.

While at the conference, staff met with the District auditor and discussed new grant management software offered by CLA and the CSDA Finance Corporation. This software will help MPRPD regarding grant anticipation loans necessary to manage cash flow during the Rancho Canada Unit Floodplain Restoration Project.

District staff also completed workplace harassment prevention training from the CJPIA.

## **15. Transparency Certificate**

Staff continue efforts to renew the SDLF Transparency Certificate. Staff and Board Members have been requested to complete or have completed certain required training items, such as harassment training for supervisory and non-supervisory employees, as well as ethics training for all Board Members. Staff are updating the website with current required documentation.

Staff need sufficient time for the volunteer reviewers to review and check the items off the list. This takes considerable time on the part of the reviewer, so staff need to allow several weeks for this process. The sooner staff can present the completed

checklist for review, the more likely MPRPD will be able to renew our certificate before it expires this spring.

## **16. Wildlife Conservation Board \$13M Grant**

In partnership with MPRPD's Planning and Conservation Division, staff proudly announced receipt of a WCB grant and other funding for the Rancho Canada Unit's Floodplain Restoration Project, which is anticipated to break ground in summer 2025.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH (EECO)**

### **1. Blue Zones Project Monterey County**

#### **A. ParkRx Monterey County (<https://parkrxmontereycounty.org/>)**

This program went live in coordination with the release of the *Let's Go Outdoors (LGO!)* guide. The program provides neighbors in the tri-county region an online interactive map of parks to visit and encourages them to get active, enjoy nature, and improve their health by spending time outside.

The launch of the website is the first step in a multi-level, community program urging people to explore new places, enjoy beautiful landscapes, and learn about natural and cultural history while moving their body. Going forward, staff and healthcare providers will use selected diagnosis codes and direct patients to *ParkRx Monterey County* in their after-visit summaries.

#### **B. Middlebury Institute for International Studies (MIIS)**

MIIS has selected *ParkRx Monterey County* to be the project of focus this summer, thanks to the inspiration from Big Sur Land Trust.

#### **C. Monterey Bay Parent Magazine**

This magazine is interested in getting more families outdoors through a Parks Passport program. Thanks to MPRPD for the connection. This is another great opportunity for *ParkRx MC* promotion.

### **2. California Wildlife Day (CWD) | Sunday, March 24, 2024, 11 am-3 pm**

In cooperation with the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy, staff issued a joint press release and ran several ads in the *Carmel Pine Cone* and *MC Weekly*. This annual event celebrates California's diverse and amazing wildlife.

### **3. Social Media Posts (February 16, 2024 - March 15, 2024)**

For this reporting period, post topics included upcoming *LGO!* programming, California Wildlife Day (CWD) promotion, Volunteer Orientation, CWD Species on the Edge campaign, and educational content about the flora and fauna of MPRPD parks.

The followings of MPRPD social media accounts grew in February and March.

**i. Facebook stats - @MPRegionalParkDistrict (1) Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) | Carmel CA | Facebook**

- a. March 15 Follower Count: 2,700 (+101)
- b. Facebook Page Reach (number of accounts that viewed a piece of content at least once): 10,619 (↑ 2.3%)
- c. Top 3 posts for likes/reactions (February 16 – March 15):
  - March 6: Upcoming “Field Naturalist Training” at PCR/psprey picture (2,700 reach) (125 likes/reactions)
  - February 28: CWD Species on the Edge California red-legged frog highlight (2,100 reach) (73 likes/reactions)
  - March 6: CWD Species on the Edge steelhead trout (1,600 reach) (55 likes/reactions)

**ii. Instagram stats - @mprpd\_lgo: Monterey Peninsula Park (@mprpd\_lgo) • Instagram photos and videos**

- a. March 15 Follower Count: 1,466 (+36)
- b. Instagram Page Reach (number of accounts that viewed a piece of content at least once): 900 (↓ 8.9%)
- c. Top 3 posts for likes/reactions (February 16 - March 15):
  - March 6: Upcoming “Field Naturalist Training” at PCR/psprey picture (369 reach) (72 likes/reactions)
  - February 25: Monterey Bay Coastal Trail (431 reach) (63 likes/reactions)
  - February 21: CWD Species on the Edge announcement/Smith’s blue butterfly highlight (238 reach) (41 likes/reactions)


**Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)**  
 Published by Let's Go Outdoors • February 17 at 2:27 PM

The next time you fly a kite think of the amazing hunting behavior of the white-tailed kite (Elanus leucurus). These graceful hawks hover over grasslands as if they're attached to your kite string, with their body facing into the wind, rapidly beating wings, and head pointed downward in search of a small mammalian meal. This skillful bird can hover up to 80 feet above the ground before it drops down swiftly to catch prey with its talons!

Palo Corona Regional Park is a great MPRPD spot to view these amazing creatures as they hover and hunt over the grasses throughout the Community Trail.

Image of a white-tailed kite with a rodent catch in talons.

#carmelriverwatershed #naturetherapy #montereybay #montereycounty #montereycalifornia #carmelbythesea #monterey #mprpdandme #carmel #nature #PaloCorona



**Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)**  
 Published by Let's Go Outdoors • February 21 at 6:03 PM

This California Wildlife Day, join us as we embrace the theme "Species on the Edge" - spotlighting the delicate balance of our ecosystem and the urgent need for conservation. Dive deep into the stories of the Smith's blue butterfly, California red-legged frog, steelhead trout, western snowy plover, and the tricolored blackbird.

Today we're highlighting the Smith's blue butterfly. These species, each unique and vital to our biodiversity, are on the brink and need our help. Let's come together to protect their habitats and ensure a future where they thrive, not just survive. Learn more about how you can make a difference at California Wildlife Day, on Sunday, March 24th at Palo Corona Regional Park. 🦋🌿

#SpeciesOnTheEdge #californiawildlifeday2024 @carmelriverwatershed Carmel River Watershed Conservancy

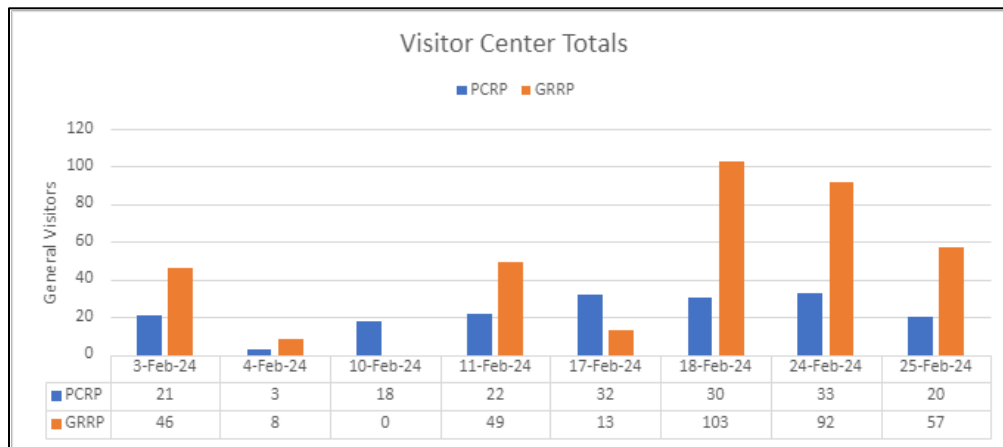
 <b>CA WILDLIFE DAY</b> PALO CORONA REGIONAL PARK <small>March 24, 2024</small>		 <b>CA WILDLIFE DAY</b> PALO CORONA REGIONAL PARK <small>March 24, 2024</small>	
<p>MPRPD parks help protect vulnerable species by preserving sensitive habitats.</p>			
<b>SPECIES ON THE EDGE</b>	 <p><b>Smith's Blue Butterfly</b>  <i>Euphilotes enoptes smithi</i>          Federally Listed Endangered Species</p>	 <p><b>Smith's Blue Butterfly</b>  <i>Euphilotes enoptes smithi</i></p> <p><b>Where am I?</b>          I'm only found on the Central Coast of California.</p> <p><b>Why am I a species on the edge?</b>          I rely on buckwheat plants. They are often trampled and get out-competed by invasive plants.</p> <p><b>How can you help me?</b>          Protect my dune habitat and stay on trail at your local beach.</p>	
	 <p><b>California Red-legged Frog</b>  <i>Rana draytonii</i>          Federally Listed Threatened Species</p>		
	 <p><b>South-Central California Steelhead</b>  <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>          Federally Listed Threatened Species</p>		
	 <p><b>Western Snowy Plover</b>  <i>Charadrius nivosus nivosus</i>          Federally Listed Threatened Species</p>		
	 <p><b>Tricolored Blackbird</b>  <i>Agelaius tricolor</i>          State Listed Threatened Species</p>		
<small>www.calwildlifeday.net   @mprpd_lgo</small>		<small>www.calwildlifeday.net   @mprpd_lgo</small>	



**4. Visitor Center Totals**

Staff are continuing to record visitation during weekends, 10 am-4 pm, at both the PCRP Discovery Center (DC) and the GRRP Visitor Center (VC). One or both centers have also been opened on select holidays. Expanded hours of operation for both centers will go into effect in April 2024.

The chart below summarizes weekend and holiday visitor contacts with staff and volunteers in February 2024. Winter weather events impacted park visitation on multiple weekends this month. Dates with 0 contacts recorded (2/10/24 at the VC) indicate that the center remained closed; the DC was also only open for a half shift (10 am-1 pm) on 2/10/24.



**Visitor contacts at the PCR P DC and GRRP VC in February 2024**

**5. Education and Interpretation**

**A. MPRPD Transportation Grant**

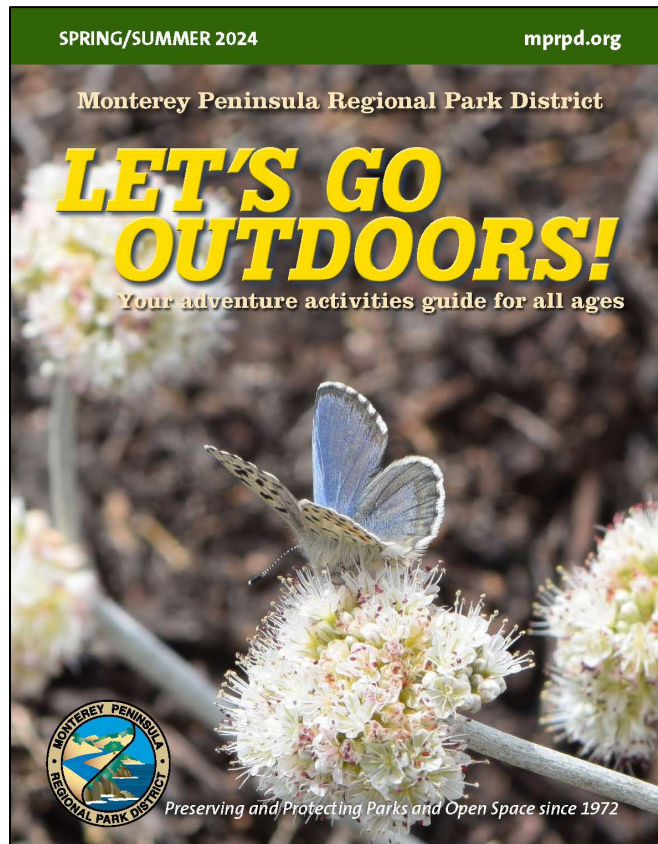
Staff is providing support to interested MPRPD Transportation Grant applicants in partnership with Maria Parker, STEAM Coordinator for the Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE), who has targeted outreach to educators and administrative representatives within MCOE, informing them about the MPRPD Transportation Grant funding availability.

**B. Let’s Go Outdoors!**

Staff mailed approximately 66,000 printed *Let’s Go Outdoors! Adventure and Activity Guides* to District residents. An additional 20,000 copies will be inserted into the *Monterey County Weekly* during the last week of May. A limited number of copies will be available at the free libraries within and near the District, in April.

This Spring/Summer 2024 publication’s season runs from April through September and has two new sections: “In the Know” focuses on current and upcoming District projects or projects supported by the District, and in the “Paid Camps, Programs, & Events” section, community organizations can pay to feature their fee-based opportunities that align with the MPRPD mission. This season features nearly 150 total sessions with 39 different programs and four (4)

MPRPD supported special events. New programs have been brought to Laguna Grande Regional Park in partnership with the cities of Monterey and Seaside.



## 6. Environmental Education Programs

### A. Monterey Military Homeschool: *Healthy Habitats* Program

Staff has completed a 4-lesson curriculum for teaching homeschooled students via an indoor-outdoor field program about “Grassland Healthy Habitats”:

**Lesson 1:** Introduction to Palo Corona and grassland organisms

**Lesson 2:** How to use a dichotomous key to identify grasses, wildflowers, trees, bushes, forb, sedges, and rushes, and how to estimate outdoor abundance of plants

**Lesson 3:** “Species on the Edge,” which focuses on California red-legged frog and steelhead trout. Students compare these organisms’ point of view of the park, and how they differ from a human perspective.

**Lesson 4:** Food webs and human impacts

These homeschooled students returned to California Wildlife Day to build and run an obstacle course representing the challenges steelhead trout take from their nursery gravel beds to the ocean.



**Monterey Military Homeschool students participate in the *Healthy Habitats* program, building food webs and learning about the transfer of energy**

**B. San Benancio Middle School 6th Grade - Washington Union School District**  
 Staff is partnering with the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History to provide programming focused on climate, water quality, and habitats to 90 6<sup>th</sup> graders from San Benancio Middle School on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, at Palo Corona Regional Park. This group has applied for transportation funding through the MPRPD Transportation Grant.

**C. Frank Ledesma Elementary 5th Grade - Soledad Unified School District**  
 Staff is providing habitat-focused plant and animal identification programming to 90 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Frank Ledesma Elementary School on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, at Palo Corona Regional Park. This group is planning to use transportation funding through the MPRPD Transportation Grant.

**7. GRRP Visitor Center Wildflower Exhibit**

Spring blooms are already underway along our trails. Volunteer Laurie Benner has been hiking in GRRP and finding fantastic wildflower blooms to display in an interpretive exhibit at the Garland Visitor Center.



**An evolving exhibit at the GRRP Visitor Center educates the public on the diversity of wildflowers seen along trails in late winter/early spring**

#### **8. Marina Dunes Preserve Dead Bird Report**

Staff received a call from a concerned citizen about 8 medium-sized dead birds along the high tide line (wreck) at Marina Dunes Preserve on March 6<sup>th</sup>. EECO Staff surveyed the site and found 7 carcasses: 5 common murre, one cormorant, and an unidentified smaller sea bird. They were all in various stages of decay and not recent deaths. Staff also used the survey time to educate visitors about the western snowy plover nesting season; many had questions regarding the trail and dune access.



**CDFW are researching the cause of dead common murre along the beach in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties**

**9. Middlebury Institute for International Studies Walk: Marina Dunes Preserve**

On March 4th, Mayor Bruce Delgado and staff led an interpretive walk through the Monterey Dunes Preserve for the MIIS class “Changing California Coastal Ecosystems” to discuss native plants, special status species, the old CEMEX plant, and site restoration.

Staff raised awareness about the western snowy plover and Smith’s blue butterfly while discussing the importance of the coastal dune habitat. The group also found the first recorded western snowy plover nest of the season in the Monterey Bay region. State Parks staff were notified, and the nesting area has since been protected with symbolic fencing and signage.

**10. Special Use Permits (SUP)**

Staff prepared and issued the following SUPs and Encroachment Permits during this reporting period:

**A. Encroachment Permit - Bierman**

As part of the Floodplain Restoration Project, the permittee will survey and video-log the “driving ranger well” at PCRFP to confirm the condition of the well.

**11. Rumsen-Ohlone Tribal Dance**

The Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe shall perform a traditional ceremonial dance on Sunday, July 14, from 11am-1pm, at Garland Ranch Regional Park near the Visitor Center.

## **12. Volunteer Program**

### **A. Volunteer Recognition: Saturday, April 6**

Just in time for April's "National Volunteer Month" MPRPD's Board and staff are pleased to recognize the dedication and hard work that district volunteers contribute toward protecting and preserving our parks and open spaces, and making our society environmentally literate through the many wonderful programs they provide. We look forward to Board members joining staff at the recognition dinner and awards ceremony to celebrate their efforts!

For more information, please contact Debbie Wyatt at [wyatt@mprpd.org](mailto:wyatt@mprpd.org) or (831) 238-2622.

### **B. Volunteer Enrichment**

Naturalist Partick Furtado gave an introductory class at PCRPD on birding, bird behavior, how to use binoculars, bird identification, bird songs, and how to use free online birding apps.

### **C. New Volunteer Orientation**

EECO staff, Ranger Joe Narvaez, and Volunteer Christie Turano teamed up to present "About MPRPD's Volunteer Program" to 6 prospective volunteers at the GRRP Visitor Center on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE DIVISION**

### **1. FEMA Assistance Projects Delayed**

The FEMA-funded storm recovery projects, for damage incurred during January 2023's winter storms, have been delayed. FEMA's Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) team has requested MPRPD postpone projects currently underway until EHP can conduct additional analysis of the projects' environmental compliance. This delay may require MPRPD to seek an extension of the deadline for project completion.

### **2. Frog Pond Wetland Preserve Maintenance**

Rangers, with assistance from the Gabilan Conservation Camp Crew, conducted seasonal maintenance activities at the Frog Pond Wetland Preserve, including removing a dead-standing oak tree, trail brushing, and service road maintenance.



**Gabilan Crew falling dead oak tree at Frog Pond Preserve**

**3. Garland Park Trail Maintenance & Storm Recovery**

A Gabilan Conservation Camp Crew spent several days at Garland Park clearing drain dips, brushing trails, and improving trail tread along River Trail and Laureles Trail. This time of year, moisture conditions are ideal for projects that involve movement of soil. Rangers will continue to prioritize projects that require soil relocation and compaction until moisture conditions diminish.



**River Trail - Before**



**River Trail - After**



**River Trail Rock Wall**



**Laureles Trail Drain Dip**

#### **4. Sinkholes at Garland Ranch Regional Park**

Several large sinkholes that developed over the winter on Snively's Ridge Trail and the Sherar Property were addressed. Rangers utilized District equipment to harvest soil on-site, backfill the sinkholes, and provide compaction.



**Snively's Ridge Trail**



**Sherar Property**



## 5. Storm-damaged Gate Replaced

The gate at the entrance into the Palo Corona backcountry was replaced. The previous gate was severely damaged as a result of a fallen pine tree during the atmospheric river and wind event of February 4, 2024.



**New Gate at PCRP Backcountry Entrance**

## 6. Tractor/Loader Purchase

Rangers will be seeking approval from the Board at the April meeting to issue a Request for Proposals for purchase of a 4WD tractor with front loader and box scraper attachments. If approved, Rangers will bring a purchase proposal to the Board for approval at the May Board meeting.

## 7. Violations at Palo Corona Regional Park

Spring is upon us, and increased visitation is the by-product thus, Rangers have been addressing an increase in violations of park rules and regulations. These violations include a hiker contacted in a closed area of Palo Corona Regional Park, and two incidents of bicycles on trails – a use that is not authorized at Palo Corona.



**Rangers issuing Violation Notice**



**Bicyclist contacted in PCRP Backcountry**

## **PLANNING AND CONSERVATION DIVISION**

### **1. Fiscal Year 2024-25 Work Plan and Budget**

Staff are working to identify project priorities, staffing needs, and budget needs for the FY24-25 that will be brought to the Board for review and approval by the June Board meeting.

### **2. FORTAG at Laguna Grande Regional Park**

Staff are scheduled to attend a coordination meeting with the Transportation Agency of Monterey County, the Cities of Monterey and Seaside, and representatives of the Fort Ord Regional Trail & Greenway (FORTAG) project to discuss opportunities to seek grant funding for construction of a FORTAG segment through Laguna Grande Regional Park.

### **3. Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Mitigation Projects**

The State Coastal Conservancy issued an 18-month extension for its ~\$575k Wildfire Resilience Grant to MPRPD, allowing MPRPD to be reimbursed for work through December 2025.

Staff are working to secure remaining permits from California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Monterey Peninsula Water Management District and pending Board approval to release a request for bid document, are on track to secure a contractor to implement the eucalyptus removal project and East Garzas Road shaded fuel break later this summer. Staff will provide a summary and schedule for project outreach and education plans once a project implementation schedule is confirmed.

### **4. Low-effect Habitat Conservation Plan (LEHCP) for the Rancho Cañada Unit of Palo Corona Regional Park**

Staff and MPRPD's consultant, SWCA, met with USFWS personnel and received preliminary feedback on draft report sections and submittals. The detailed project schedule has not yet been updated, but staff expect the LEHCP to be completed and an Incidental Take Permit to be issued to MPRPD by Fall/Winter 2024.

### **5. Marina Dunes Preserve Coastal Dunes Restoration and Enhancement Project**

Staff continues to work with Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) to negotiate an agreement that outlines how MST will provide MPRPD with funding in exchange for MPRPD implementing restoration activities at Marina Dunes Preserve that mitigate for offsite impacts associated with MST's SURF! Busway and Rapid Transit Project. Staff expect to bring a funding agreement to the board for review and consideration during the May Board meeting.

### **6. Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project**

Staff continue to work on final permitting and design for the Floodplain Restoration Project.

MPRPD was awarded two additional grants. Awarded grant funding now totals \$35 million.

The project team has also hired a subconsultant that is conducting field

investigations to reactivate and improve a dormant water well that could become the primary source of well water on the property to provide irrigation for the Floodplain Restoration Project.

**END OF REPORT**