

# AGENDA ITEM NO. 7-B

## MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT MID-MONTH STAFF REPORT

<b>BOARD MEETING:</b>	April 2, 2025
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Monthly Staff Report
<b>PRESENTER:</b>	Shuran Parker, Interim General Manager
<b>REPORT:</b>	The following briefly summarizes some of the key tasks and projects the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) Staff undertook from mid-February through mid-March 2025, in addition to performing MPRPD's regular business.

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### ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

#### 1. Joint Meeting between the City of Marina and Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

The joint meeting between the District and City of Marina has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 7:00-9:00pm at the Marina Library. City and District staff are working on developing the agenda.

#### 2. Recruitment

After interviewing for the Wildlife Biologist and Resource Conservation Specialist positions, staff concluded that based on the selected candidate's experience, to hire two Resource Conservation Specialists with biologist experience. The two selected candidates were Jacqueline Brenton and Joshua Carpenter. While Jacqueline finishes school and Jonathan relocates back to the area, they are expected to start in May and June, respectively. We've also hired a new Environmental Education Specialist, Alina Marzano who will start with the District in April. The remaining open positions for Ranger and Procurement and Contracting Technician will now become the focus and these are now being advertised as regular instead of contract positions. We hope that this change will increase interest in the positions and that we will be able to fill them within the next couple of months.

Staff and the *ad hoc* committee met with representatives from Bob Murray & Associates on March 19 to discuss the General Manager recruitment process. The draft job description was shared, and a rough timeline was developed with the goal of negotiating with the candidate of choice after 14 weeks (mid-June).

**3. Strategic Plan**

Staff is continuing to revise the draft document based on Board feedback at the March meeting. We plan to present the final draft for Board consideration in May.

**4. Training**

Admin staff participated in the following training: LCW Public Employment Relations Board Academy.

**5. Salary and Benefits Analysis**

Staff is working on recommendations to changes as a result of the salary and benefits survey and scheduling a meeting with the Finance committee to present those recommendations.

**6. Big Sur Marathon Foundation Executive Director**

Interim General Manager Shuran Parker met with the Big Sur Marathon Foundation's new Executive Director Jennifer Edwards. The 2025 cross country schedule was discussed in light of the upcoming restoration project and the District advised that a determination about this year's meets would soon be decided and shared with the Foundation.

**7. Board Compensation**

Board member compensation has been updated, retroactive to January 1, 2025. If Directors think that any meetings were missed, please let staff know. We're also reminding Directors to notify the Board Clerk of attendance at all eligible meetings by month-end, so that it can be included in payroll on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**8. CFD Oversight Committee**

All Oversight Committee members were notified of the Board appointment and staff is working on scheduling a meeting with the new group.

**9. Administrative Office Workstation Changes**

On March 27, to accommodate additional incoming staff, the District purchased and had installed, new office cubicles. The new setup will accommodate 6 staff members (including the new Planning and Administration positions) compared to the previous 4. Staff will still be looking into more permanent workspace planning for future hiring and staff who will become displaced.

**10. CalPERS Pension Review and Recommendations**

Staff are currently working with the CalPERS actuary to effectuate the staff recommended mid-year budget adjustments and Additional Discretionary Payments in the following amounts:

1. A PEPPRA plan payment of (\$50,547), will save the District approximately \$38,050;
2. A Miscellaneous Tier 1 payment of (\$800,000), we'll save approximately \$645,970;

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH DIVISION

### 1. Community Outreach

#### A. Western Snowy Plover Roundtable Meeting

MPPRPD staff hosted a roundtable meeting on March 11 to discuss the challenges facing western snowy plover (WSP) conservation along the shoreline of Monterey Bay, current actions various groups are involved in towards WSP protection, and how to work together on alignment of messaging and shared needs. Sixteen representatives from federal, state, city, non-profit, scientific, and educational groups were in attendance.

Representatives from US Fish and Wildlife (USFW), Point Blue, CA State Parks, Audubon, Sierra Club, Marina city council, and local community members discussed a phased approach prioritizing the messaging, signage, and coordination with area hotels to produce brochures for their visitors.

Staff responded to an immediate request for interpretive signage reinforcing “Dogs Must Be on Leash” with a design modeled after signs presented at the USFW and Virginia Tech “Community-Based Social Marketing” webinars. The sign reinforces appreciation of wildlife from a distance, emphasizes practices that promote and build community pride, and evokes a positive shift to the desired behaviors.



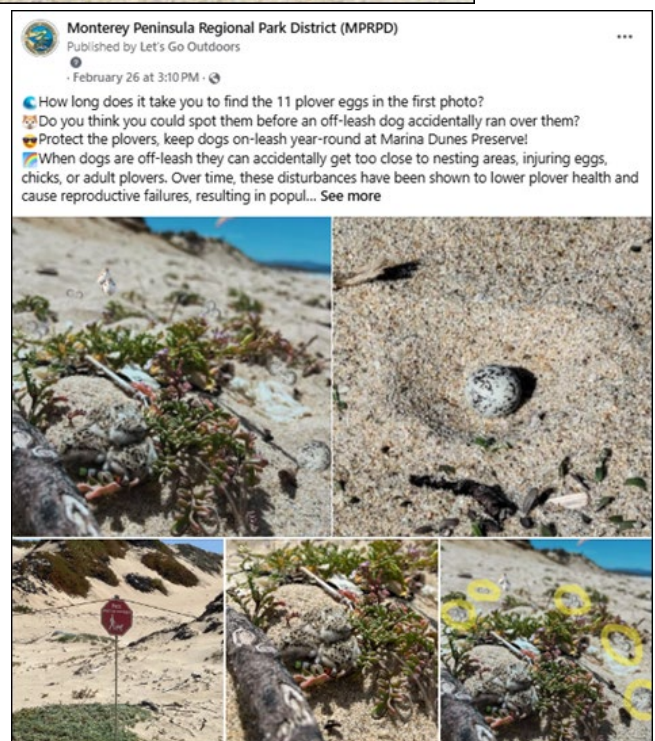
***Draft Marina Dunes Preserve “dogs must be on leash” signage***

**B. Social Media Posts (February 16 – March 15, 2025)**

For this reporting period, posts consisted of District news, promotion of upcoming LGO! programming, snowy plover awareness, California Wildlife Day (CWD) promotion, and educational content about the flora and fauna of MPRPD parks.

The following of the MPRPD Facebook and Instagram accounts grew during this period. The statistics below are presented relative to the previous reporting period.

- i. Facebook stats - @MPRegionalParkDistrict: [\(1\) Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District \(MPRPD\) | Carmel CA | Facebook](#)
  - c) March 15th Follower Count: 3,294 (+3)
  - c) Facebook Page Reach (number of accounts that viewed a piece of content at least once): 7,792 (↓ 15.9%)
  - c) Top 3 posts for likes/reactions: Feb 16 – March 15
    - March 1: CWD (2,310 reach) (101 likes/reactions)
    - Feb. 26: Plover Eggs (2,222 reach) (72 likes/reactions)
    - March 8: CWD Nature Walks (1,632 reach) (55 likes/reactions)
  
- ii. Instagram stats - @mprpd\_lgo: [Monterey Peninsula Parks \(@mprpd\\_lgo\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)
  - c) March 15th Follower Count: 1,661 (+5)
  - c) Instagram Page Reach (number of accounts that viewed a piece of content at least once): 1,777 (↓ 18.7%)
  - c) Top 3 posts for likes/reactions: Feb 16 – March 15
    - March 1: CWD (1,093 reach) (70 likes/reactions)
    - March 8: Fern Falls GRRP video (385 reach) (59 likes/reactions)
    - Feb. 26: Plover Eggs (360 reach) (59 likes/reactions)



Screenshots of MPRPD Facebook posts

C. Visitor and Discovery Center Totals

Recording of visitor contacts at the PCRP Discovery Center (DC) and the GRRP Visitor Center (VC) is ongoing. Currently, operating hours are 10 am-4 pm at the DC on Fri-Sun, and at the VC on Thurs-Sun. The DC is open during additional days of the week on an *ad hoc* basis, subject to staff availability. Both centers also continue to be open on most Monday holidays in 2025.

The charts below are based on total recorded contacts with staff or volunteers at each center in FY23-24 and so far in FY24-25. We continue to see higher trail traffic and increased use of both centers on weekends during favorable weather. While this year's January totals were considerably higher than last year's, February saw much lower numbers, perhaps due to a few severe weather events.



**PCRPC DC and GRRP VC monthly totals of visitor contacts, FY23-24 and FY24-25**

## 2. Education

### A. Let's Go Outdoors! (LGO!)

#### Winter Programs

The Fall/Winter *LGO!* programs for this reporting period were well attended when the weather was pleasant. The most popular programs continue to be San Jose Creek hikes and tours. The Star Party this reporting period was also well attended, which we attributed to the additional outreach sandwich board that is posted and managed by the cooperating organization, Monterey Institute of Research in Astronomy (MIRA).

#### Spring/Summer Programs

The Spring/Summer 2025 season of activities has been released and will run from April through September. This season features iconic wildflower-focused activities, Tribal presentations, plant and animal identification workshops, and so much more.

The Spring/Summer 2025 *LGO!* guides are anticipated to have reached your mailbox by the release of this report.

## B. Upcoming Special Events

In partnership with the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy, the **California Wildlife Day** event will be held on Sunday, April 6 at Palo Corona Regional Park, 11 am-3 pm, both indoors and outdoors. There will be featured presentations on America's waterways, and the Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project.

Exhibitors hosting outreach booths will be focusing on this year's theme, "Working Together to Create Healthy Habitats," by highlighting local wildlife and how their organizations contribute to protecting animals and their homes.



**California Wildlife Day**

**SUNDAY APRIL 6TH 2025** **PALO CORONA REGIONAL PARK**

**This Year's Theme:** "Working Together to Create Healthy Habitats"

Celebrate California's incredible wildlife and ecosystems at the 6th annual California Wildlife Day. This FREE, family-friendly event is all about conservation, collaboration, and community featuring over 37 nature and wildlife based vendors and local food vendors.

**Keynote Speaker:** Erica Gies National Geographic Explorer and author of *Water Always Wins*.

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[californiawildlifeday.org](https://www.californiawildlifeday.org)

HOSTED BY THE CARMEL RIVER WATERSHED CONSERVANCY & MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

The **Marina Earth Day** event at Locke-Paddon Community Park, led by Citizens for Sustainable Marina this event will be held on Saturday, April 12 at the Oak Woodland Community Garden next to the Marina Library from 10 am-2 pm. The event features stewardship projects in and around the garden area, children's activities, lunch, and various exhibitors.

**C. New Brochure: Reptiles and Amphibians of Carmel Valley**

Volunteer Reese McDonald and staff member Megan Mach updated the District's old handout regarding Garland Ranch's reptiles and amphibians. Revised based on comments from staff and the board of Directors, the new version contains color images to help with identification, generate interest, and highlight noteworthy trails for viewing wildlife at District parks. This brochure has now been finalized and is set to be printed on high-quality paper. Its style will serve as a template for additional interpretive handouts in the future.

**REPTILES**

- Cold-blooded vertebrates
- Usually lay eggs, sometimes give live birth, on dry land
- Eggs fertilized internally
- Born with lungs
- Dry, scaly, or plated skin

**AMPHIBIANS**

- Cold-blooded vertebrates
- Lay eggs in water, fertilized externally
- Born with gills, later develop lungs
- Thin, moist skin without scales
- Live in both water and on land
- Webbed feet

**Become a Wildlife Spotter!**  
How many reptiles and amphibians can you find today?

- A basking lizard
- A snake in the grass
- A frog near water
- A turtle on a log

Share your sightings with us at @mprpd\_igo

**Discover New Habitats Across Carmel Valley**

**PALO CORONA**

- Animas Pond - Teeming with aquatic life and a haven for birdwatching enthusiasts.
- Animas Creek - A seasonal creek winding through lush vegetation.
- San Jose Creek - Redwood-lined stream rich in wildlife and serene hiking.

**GARLAND RANCH**

- Fern Trail - Check under leaves in the shade.
- Mesa Pond - A seasonal pond on the Mesa Trail.
- Near the Carmel River - Amphibians thrive in the consistent water and rich vegetation.

**KAHN RANCH**

- Fern Falls Trail - Breeding habitat in the spring.
- Hitchcock Loop - River walk habitat year-round.
- Manzanita Loop - Challenging and steep trail with scenic views, and frequent snake sightings.

**CACHAGUA COMMUNITY PARK**

- The park loop is dry and hot; look out for snakes.

Please stay on designated trails, walk softly, take only memories, and leave only footprints.

**Ranger-on-Duty**  
831-659-4488 ext. 1

A part of nature, not apart from nature.

**Carmel Valley Reptiles and Amphibians**

**Carmel Valley's Regional Parks**  
Palo Corona  
Garland Ranch  
Kahn Ranch  
Cachagua













**Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District**

www.mprpd.org  
mprpd\_igo  
mprpd

831-372-3196

Garland Ranch Regional Park  
Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District  
700 W Carmel Valley Rd, Carmel Valley, CA 93924



REPTILES		AMPHIBIANS			
<p><b>WESTERN RATTLESNAKE</b> <i>Crotalus oreganus</i></p> <p>Native to western North America, this venomous pit viper grows 3-4 ft long. With a stout body, triangular head, and tail rattle, its brown-gray blotched coloring camouflages in grasslands and forests. It preys on mammals, birds, and reptiles, defending itself when threatened.</p>		<p><b>CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG</b> <i>Rana draytonii</i></p> <p>A threatened species native to California, 2-5 in, with reddish legs, a brown to green back, and dark spots. Found in wetlands, streams, and ponds, it feeds on insects and small animals. Habitat loss and invasive species have put it at risk.</p>			
<p><b>PACIFIC GOPHER SNAKE</b> <i>Pituophis catenifer</i></p> <p>Non-venomous western US snake, 3-7 ft long, with a tan body and dark blotches. Found in grasslands, woodlands, and deserts. It preys on rodents, birds, and small mammals. Harmless to humans, it mimics rattlesnakes when threatened.</p>		<p><b>AMERICAN BULLFROG</b> <i>Lithobates catesbeiana</i></p> <p>Bullfrogs have gold eyes and can be up to one foot in length. They have eardrums as large as eyes! Invasive to California, bullfrogs feed on insects, young water birds, and native amphibians, like the red-legged frog.</p>			
<p><b>COAST GARTER SNAKE</b> <i>Thamnophis elegans terrestris</i></p> <p>A non-venomous snake from California's coast, 1.5-3.5 ft long, with a slender body, brown, gray, or black coloring, a light stripe, and sometimes red and black patterns. It inhabits forests, grasslands, and wetlands, feeding on amphibians, fish, invertebrates, and small mammals.</p>		<p><b>PACIFIC TREEFROG</b> <i>Pseudacris regilla</i></p> <p>Also known as the Pacific Chorus Frog, this 1-2 in native varies in color from green to brown with a dark eye stripe. Found near water, it feeds on insects. Its loud call signals spring's arrival.</p>			
<p><b>CALIFORNIA KINGSSNAKE</b> <i>Lampropeltis californiae</i></p> <p>Active day and night, this non-venomous California native measures 2.5-3.5 ft, with black or brown and white bands. It thrives in diverse habitats, preys on rodents, birds, and venomous snakes, and is popular among reptile enthusiasts for its adaptability and striking appearance.</p>		<p><b>WESTERN FENCE LIZARD</b> <i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i></p> <p>At 4-6 in with rough scales, brown or gray coloring, and a blue belly in males. Found in grasslands and forests, it eats insects and reduces Lyme disease by killing bacteria in ticks. This lizard is also known for its "push-up" displays.</p>			
		<p><b>WESTERN POND TURTLE</b> <i>Actinemys marmorata</i></p> <p>A small, semi-aquatic turtle typically 4-8 in long with brown to olive shell and a low, smooth profile. Found in ponds, rivers, and marshes, it eats insects, fish, and plants and is considered vulnerable due to habitat loss and competition.</p>			
		<p><b>CALIFORNIA NEWT</b> <i>Taricha torosa</i></p> <p>A 5-8 in native to California with a rough, orange-brown back and bright yellow-orange underside. Found in woodlands, grasslands, and near water, it feeds on small invertebrates. Its skin secretes a potent toxin as a defense against predators.</p>			
		<p><b>CALIFORNIA SLENDER SALAMANDER</b> <i>Batrachoseps attenuatus</i></p> <p>A 3-5 in lungless salamander with a long tail and smooth, dark brown to black skin marked with reddish or tan stripes. Found in moist woodlands and grasslands, it feeds on small invertebrates and relies on damp environments to breathe through its skin.</p>			
		<p><b>SANTA CRUZ LONG-TOED SALAMANDER</b> <i>Ambystoma macrodactylum croceum</i></p> <p>A rare, endangered amphibian from Santa Cruz and Monterey counties, 4-6 in long with a dark body, yellow or orange markings, and a long fourth toe. It lives in ponds and moist woodlands, feeding on small invertebrates, but faces threats from habitat loss and limited range.</p>			
		<p><b>LARVAL DIFFERENCES</b></p> <p>Frogs and salamanders exhibit distinct characteristics during their larval stages:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td> <p><b>Pacific Treefrog Tadpole</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eyes on sides</li> <li>• Small mouth</li> <li>• Round tail tip</li> <li>• Round leg buds, hidden until metamorphosis</li> </ul> </td> <td> <p><b>Long-toed Salamander Larvae</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Front-facing eyes</li> <li>• Large mouth</li> <li>• Tapered tail</li> <li>• Tentacle-like balancers</li> <li>• Legs develop early</li> <li>• External gills</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>		<p><b>Pacific Treefrog Tadpole</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eyes on sides</li> <li>• Small mouth</li> <li>• Round tail tip</li> <li>• Round leg buds, hidden until metamorphosis</li> </ul>	<p><b>Long-toed Salamander Larvae</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Front-facing eyes</li> <li>• Large mouth</li> <li>• Tapered tail</li> <li>• Tentacle-like balancers</li> <li>• Legs develop early</li> <li>• External gills</li> </ul>
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**Front and back of draft reptile and amphibian 3-panel brochure with enlarged images (8.5" x 11")**

### 3. Meetings and Training

#### A. California Wildlife Day Event Preparation

Staff led Ventana Wildlife Society's (VWS) bilingual staff on a pre-California Wildlife Day event tour of the Wedgewood facilities, Discovery Center, and park trails. Using the MPRPD transportation grant through the Community Foundation for Monterey County, Monterey County, VWS staff will be bringing approximately 150 people from Salinas, south Monterey County, and Santa Cruz County. The majority of these folks are Spanish-speaking and will be visiting the park for the first time.



***California Wildlife Day advertisement banner at the entrance to PCRP***

## **OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE DIVISION**

### **1. Dampierre Park Vandalism Incident**

Ranger staff is coordinating with the Monterey County Sheriff's Office and the Carmel Youth Baseball league to investigate an incident that occurred on the evening of Friday, March 14 at Dampierre Park, involving illegal after-hours access by four subjects driving a golf cart, and causing significant damage to multiple playing fields.



**Dampierre Ballfield Damage**

### **2. Facility Repairs @ GRRP**

Ranger staff completed multiple facility repairs at Garland Ranch Regional Park this month, including replacing a section of fence enclosure around the propane tank at Dampierre Park, repairing wooden steps on the upper crossing along Garza's

Canyon Trail, and coordinating replacement of the water heater serving the Dampierre Park snack shack and restrooms.



**Rangers rebuilding propane screen      GWP replacing water heater**

### **3. Flood Mitigation Measures and Community Meeting**

On February 28 Monterey County Water Resources Agency and the Monterey County Regional Fire District completed installation of a flood prevention measure, known as a “muscle wall”, along the northern levy of the Carmel River at Dampierre Park, in preparation of any future significant rain events, and in hopes of preventing inundation of the Park and the adjacent Paso Hondo neighborhood should such an event occur.

Supervisor Kate Daniels has invited MPRPD to participate as a panelist at a community meeting on March 27 to discuss flood preparedness. Other panelists will include staff members from the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, and Supervisor Daniels.



**Muscle Wall along Carmel River levy**

#### **4. Fuel Reduction Habitat Management at MDP**

Ranger staff, with assistance from an inmate crew from Gabilan Conservation Camp, removed dead/down vegetation and debris from the closed southern entrance at Marina Dunes Preserve. This project not only reduced fire severity and risk by removing a significant amount of the combustible ladder fuels, it reduced the amount of vegetative ground cover that provides shelter for homeless encampments and Western Snowy Plover predator species.



**Gabilan Crew removing dead/down debris at MDP**

#### **5. GRRP Canine Enforcement**

Ranger staff continue to increase their presence at the Garland Ranch Regional Park Vehicle Bridge to address the increase in violations related to MPRPD Ordinance 3, Section 701-Dogs. As a result of increased canine enforcement at Marina Dunes Preserve, Ranger staff has reduced the amount of time dedicated to GRRP canine enforcement to 6 hours per weekend (3 hours each day). This effort has generated many positive comments from the community, who appreciate the Rangers' presence and vigilance.

#### **6. GRRP Visitor Center Patio Repairs**

Ranger staff recently addressed an issue at the Garland Park Visitor Center, involving a section of the concrete patio "lifting". Rangers removed the bordering pavers, reestablished grade, and grinded them down to eliminate the hazard.



## Ranger staff grinding down pavers

### 7. MDP Lockable Garbage/Recycle Enclosures

Ranger staff recently replaced the garbage/recycle receptacles at Marina Dunes with a customized locking enclosure. This unit, modified by Ranger staff, will prevent the theft of trash can liners, which has been experienced by multiple municipalities within the Marina city limits.



**Custom locking garbage/recycle enclosures at MDP**

### 8. PCRP Backcountry Road Work

Ranger staff completed repairs to entrenched access roads throughout the Palo Corona Front Ranch and Backcountry. Utilizing ideal soil conditions, this project greatly improved emergency vehicle access in the PCRP backcountry, particularly for wildland fire engines. Cal Fire has reached out to the District to offer road grading services in the PCRP backcountry free-of-charge, which the District appreciates, and will gladly accept.



**SWECO repairing damaged road segment**

### 9. Plover Patrol at MDP

Ranger staff have been delivering on their proposal to double the minimum number of weekly patrols at Marina Dunes Preserve. As of March 1, Ranger staff are visiting and patrolling MDP a minimum of four times per week, with the intent of educating the public and enforcing the dog on-leash rule. Additional signage was also posted advising the public that dogs must remain on leash at all times.

## 10. Gabilan Crew Trail Work at GRRP

With the assistance of a Gabilan inmate crew, Rangers completed trail maintenance on Gabilan, Acorn, and Spring Trails. This included a large Bay Laurel tree on Spring Trail, which prevented passage by equestrian riders.



**Gab Crew on Gabilan Trail**



**Gab Crew on Acorn Trail**

## 11. Administrative Office Furniture Relocation

Ranger staff recently contacted and scheduled a professional moving company, Cardinale Moving and Storage, to rearrange desks, filing cabinets, and furniture within the MPRPD Administration Office. Ranger staff modified the tabletop to accommodate the new location of the file cabinetry.



**Ranger staff installing modified tabletop**

## 12. MDP Symbolic Fence Relocation and Iceplant Removal

Ranger staff recently coordinated with Point Blue Conservancy to relocate the symbolic fencing at Marina Dunes Preserve which encircles the Western Snowy Plover (WSP) nesting habitat. This year, an additional section of symbolic fencing

was installed around an area where WSP were discovered to be nesting, where they hadn't in previous years.



**Ranger Niewenhuis relocating symbolic fence at MDP**

Ranger staff also worked with a Gabilan inmate crew to remove encroaching iceplant along the northern entrance trail that was forcing the wire fence away from the posts. The iceplant was hauled to the landfill and the wire reattached.



**Gabilan Crew removing iceplant at MDP entrance trail**



**Finished MDP entrance trail**

### **13. Southbank Trail Fence Repairs**

A section of the Southbank Trail fence recently suffered multiple broken posts. Ranger staff removed the broken posts, jackhammered out the old concrete, and installed new posts.



**Ranger Martens jackhammering old concrete**



## **14. Oakview Trail Reconstruction**

Ranger staff recently began trail reconstruction along Oakview Trail at Garland Ranch Regional Park. These improvements include outsloping entrenched segments of trail, cleaning and reshaping drain dips, and slough removal. This project will continue until soil conditions become unsuitable, likely sometime in May or June.



**Finished section of Oakview Trail**

## **PLANNING & CONSERVATION DIVISION**

### **1. Palo Corona Regional Park**

#### **a. Rancho Cañada Village Comprehensive Real Property and Soil Sharing Agreement**

##### **i. RCV Soil Sharing Coordination**

Staff, in coordination with legal counsel, continue to work with representatives of Rancho Cañada Village (RCV) to ensure that the sewer line realignment and other improvements are compatible with the floodplain restoration project. Staff are also working to determine when RCV expects to begin soil removal activities on the Rancho Cañada unit of Palo Corona Regional Park. Additionally, staff are confirming that all necessary permits, agreements, and approvals have been acquired before RCV work is expected to proceed later this spring.

**ii. 35-acre Rancho Cañada Unit Expansion Property Acquisition (RCV Lots H&I)**

Staff continue to conduct due diligence prior to acquiring 35 acres of open space, known as Lots H&I, located between the Rancho Cañada Unit and Front Ranch Unit of Palo Corona Regional Park. As part of this effort, MPRPD retained the services of a structural engineer to evaluate the existing steel truss bridge on the property. The evaluation will ensure the bridge supports hiking, biking, equestrian uses, cattle movement, and light-duty vehicle traffic as part of MPRPD operations. Staff are also working with representatives from RCV and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to negotiate the terms of pending utility easements and a conservation easement. These agreements will ensure compatibility with MPRPD's proposed use of the property once recorded.

**b. Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration:**

**i. Construction Request for Bids & Proposals**

Staff have reviewed contractor bids and conducted reference checks to identify the lowest responsible bidder for the Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project. In addition, staff have reviewed proposals for construction management and construction monitoring services. Staff will bring contract award recommendations to the Board during the April 2, 2025, Board meeting to enable the project to commence construction in May of this year.

**ii. Engineering Support Scope of Work and Contract**

Staff developed a scope of work and entered into a contract with Applied River Sciences (formerly McBain Associates) to provide engineering and construction support services. Staff expect to present an amendment or a new contract for review and approval by the Board on May 7, 2025.

**iii. Project Grant Funds and Advance Funding**

Staff have received confirmation from representatives of the State Coastal Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board that both agencies will provide MPRPD with advance grant fund payments. These payments will ensure MPRPD has sufficient cash flow to cover project expenses during construction. In addition, both agencies have assured MPRPD that it will not be solely responsible for the project if federal funding is withdrawn. Both agencies will also work with MPRPD to seek additional funding, if necessary, to reduce the project scope.

**iv. Project Communications Plan**

Staff continue to work with their consultant, TOPO Collective, to develop a communications plan, project branding/identity, and collateral materials for the Floodplain Restoration Project.

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

### **a. FORTAG Trail PG&E Utility Easement**

In consultation with legal counsel, the Transportation Agency of Monterey County, and PG&E, staff have developed revised terms for a proposed PG&E utility easement. This easement pertains to a new power line strain pole required for completion of the Canyon Del Rey segment of the trail. The easement will be brought to the Board for review and approval during the April 2, 2025, Board meeting.

## **3. Marina Dunes Preserve**

### **a. Coastal Dunes Restoration and Enhancement Project:**

Habitat Stewardship Project Monterey Bay (HSP) conducted MPRPD-funded volunteer native plant installation events outside of western snowy plover nesting areas on February 27, 28, and March 22 in support of the Coastal Dunes Restoration and Enhancement Project.

### **b. Western Snowy Plover Management Activities**

Staff have developed a scope of work for expanded western snowy plover monitoring and reporting efforts, which will be conducted by Point Blue Conservation Science at Marina Dunes Preserve and Eolian Dunes Preserve on an ongoing basis. Once under contract, Point Blue will begin expanded monitoring to provide MPRPD with greater insights into western snowy plover population trends and potential relationships with MPRPD's land management activities and public access policies. Additionally, experts at Point Blue have advised on the reconfiguration of symbolic fencing at Marina Dunes Preserve to better protect western snowy plover nesting habitat. Rangers are in the process of purchasing additional fencing materials and installing the new symbolic fence configuration.



**The revised 2025 symbolic fencing plan aims to provide increased protection for western snowy plover nesting habitat at Marina Dunes Preserve.**