

**MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
STAFF REPORT**

BOARD MEETING: March 01, 2023

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-January through mid-February 2023 in addition to performing MPRPD's regular business.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

1. Annual Audit and Financial Statements

MPRPD's Annual Audited Financial Transaction Report has been filed with the State Controller's Office. This report is due 7 months following the end of the fiscal year. Final Audited Financial Statements and the governance letter have been distributed to the Board. The Statements have also been sent to the State Controller and the County of Monterey as required.

2. Atmospheric River Responses by MPRPD

MPRPD's divisions have been engaged in our agency's individual, multi-agency, and private party coordinated responses to the string of winter storms that brought several feet of rain to parts of California's Central Coast.

On Sunday, January 22, 2023, several local and state officials, agency heads and personnel, residents, and other attendees, toured storm-damaged sites on the Central Coast. One of the sites visited was DeDampierre Regional Park. The entourage witness the damage that had taken place, the measures that had taken place to reduce or ameliorate storm damage, and discussed potential next steps to hopefully reduce future storms' damage within the region.

County and MPRPD met in late January and shall continue to meet to develop alternatives and hopefully take advantage of FEMA (federal) funds that may help underwrite and reimburse costs for the recovery, mitigation, and future capital improvements of storm-impacted and storm-prone areas.

3. California Red-legged Frogs (CRLF)

Staff continued working closely and coordinating with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and MPRPD Project-B's consultants and contractors re: CRLFs at the Rancho Canada Unit's entrance pond, adjacent to the Project-B construction site. As of the

writing of this report, federal parties were satisfied with the care MPRPD's consultants, contractors, and staff have taken.

4. FEMA Application

Staff has submitted an application for public assistance with FEMA to address costs associated with the 2023 January's storm damage and recovery. The applicants meeting was held on Friday, February 10. The Exploratory Call (EC) with FEMA took place on February 21. Operations staff are still assessing damages. In addition, all damages are being reviewed for potential submission as CJPIA insurance claims.

5. Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget

Staff has begun preparations for the FY2023-24 budget's planning and development, and will meet with MPRPD's Finance Committee to review the draft document before the final draft is presented to the Board for review and approval by June 2023.

6. FORTAG

This initiative's creators, and MPRPD's staff, continued discussions the visionary FORTAG project. This team agreed to reschedule an on-site meeting in early March to continue FORTAG's planning, especially in the City of Del Rey Oak's proximity. Details will be provided to the Board at future meetings as this project advances.

7. Joint Powers Authority at Laguna Grande Regional Park

The cities of Monterey and Seaside's personnel and MPRPD (Team) discussed the park's continued enhancement, challenges, and opportunities. These meetings will continue as this Team seeks means to implement health-safety, environmental, educational, and recreation opportunities. The Board will be provided a joint presentation in the near future to describe the team's thoughts in response to the public's recommendations.

8. LGO! Fund

As previously reported, MPRPD staff continued collaborating with the Community Foundation for Monterey County in the development of this fund which will facilitate donors' ability to assist with MPRPD's acquisitions, projects, and programs. A detailed report will be presented to the Board as early as spring 2023.

9. On-call Services

After successfully obtaining contracts for on-call plumbing and HVAC services, staff continue to work on obtaining contracts for professional on-call services such as, but not limited to, on-call electrical services. Staff will continue to issue RFPs through the District's OpenGov Procurement site.

10. Project-B Accessibility

Staff met at the Palo Corona Regional Park's parking area with Community Life Associate and Driver, Brenda Reese from the Cottages of Carmel to ascertain accessible van parking needs for their residents, many of whom have various stages

of dementia. Staff tried multiple ADA compliant parking spots with Brenda's van. Following the visit, Brenda sent the following note:

"Rafael and Kelly, Thank you both for making time in your day to meet with me. It was an honor and pleasure. I am excited with the new Projects going on at the park. It will make the Park more inviting & friendly for our seniors and other in wheelchairs or using walkers. There is nothing better for the soul than fresh air and sunshine."

MPPRD and Project-B's engineering consultant continue to be in contact, exploring additional opportunities to further enhance the park's accessibility, especially its parking bays and trails.



Jackie Nelson and Brenda Reese try out the new ADA parking spaces



Brenda Reese tries out the existing but newly striped ADA parking spaces

11. Palo Corona's Project-B Construction in General

Construction activities progressed throughout the month of February. PG&E's trenching transformer and conduit installation are currently underway. Exclusionary fencing has been installed along the path of the permanent power line. This fencing is intended to prevent CRLF from entering the work area. PG&E equipment is still waiting to be delivered. It is currently anticipated in early April. New kiosk signage and bike racks are anticipated to be installed by the end of February.

Project-B's progress reports have been jointly prepared by MPRPD's Project Manager, rangers, and the Ausonio construction management team. Ausonio's team continues to coordinate closely with Wedgewood to ensure no negative impacts affect the concessionaire's events. Tribal Monitors remain on-call to identify and avoid any potential negative impacts to cultural sites when trenching occurs. No cultural artifacts were encountered in the past month. The ranger and Ausonio team have also been working closely with SWCA's biologist to monitor the site for, and to protect, the federally listed California Red Legged Frog.



Exclusionary fencing along PG&E main line path



Exclusionary fencing along PG&E main line path (cont'd)



Exclusionary fencing around area of new PG&E transformer

12. Palo Corona's Project-B Restrooms

District volunteer Tempe Wennerholm, Volunteer and Trailhead Greeter at PCRCP reported that, "Virtually every visitor was overjoyed to see [Project B's] new restrooms open! A family expressed appreciation that the family restrooms allowed a parent to keep young children with them inside."

"Virtually every visitor today commented on the quality, convenient location, size and useability of the Individual and Family cabins, aesthetic design, and that they are now open!"

13. ParkIT! Initiative

The initiative's Steering Committee, which includes MPRPD, recently visited Big Basin State Park to analyze that park's reservation and shuttlebus systems, and their potential application for the ParkIT! initiative. The Steering Committee determined that a reservation system must first be developed and be ready for implementation prior to launching a pilot project.

As previously reported, a portion of the existing Rancho Canada Unit's parking area may be designated for use by the ParkIT! initiative. This Unit's infrastructure and facilities may offer support for this initiative. The Board will be provided a post-field trip coupled with the initiative's status and other related updates during a future meeting.

14. Remote Meeting Preparations

Staff continues to work with our IT contractor to setup the remote meeting option for internal and Board meetings, so that the public can resume virtual meeting attendance. We anticipate that the remote meeting option will be ready in time for the April Board meeting.

15. Training

Staff attended the annual CSMFO Conference in Sacramento, where they took advantage of individual appointments to meet with District's CalPERS Actuary, along with Cal/OSHA, workers compensation, NetFile and emergency preparedness training.

16. Wedgewood Tenant Improvements at the Rancho Canada Unit

MPPRPD's concessionaire, Wedgewood Weddings and Banquets, continued implementation of several substantial improvements for the event venue. These improvements' substantial costs are being underwritten by the concessionaire. The updated and upgraded facilities shall continue to be available for MPPRPD's functions as well.

A. HVAC and Roof Replacement: Roofing replacement of the Merienda Room, Pub, and Discovery Center gabled roofing was completed in early December. Other sections of the complex's re-roofing project will likely be completed by early February 2023, if not sooner.

B. Painting: The building's exterior's painting began and will likely be completed by early February 2023, if not sooner. The color palette reflects that used at the recently constructed Project-B restroom, and the nearby Community Church.

C. Renovated Ballrooms & Pub: The ballrooms and pub have received a bright new facelift. The open beam ceiling was sandblasted to remove paint, new light fixtures have been installed, and new high-quality laminate flooring has been installed.



New light fixtures, laminate flooring, and sandblasted ceiling,



New light fixtures sandblasted ceiling (continued)



Newly remodeled restrooms

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH (EECO) DIVISION

1. Blue Zones Project Monterey County

Staff completed the steps for MPRPD to become a Blue Zones organization. Blue Zones organizations encourage staff and visitors to make healthy choices easier by making permanent and semipermanent changes to the organization’s surroundings, facilities, and programs that encourage healthy activities and practices in the following categories: “Moving Naturally (including hiking, running, and walking), Eating Wisely, Having the Right Outlook, and Making Connections.” A celebration ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, 26 March 2023, during the California Wildlife Day event. A Blue Zones Monterey County representative is planning to give a presentation at MPRPD’s March Board meeting.

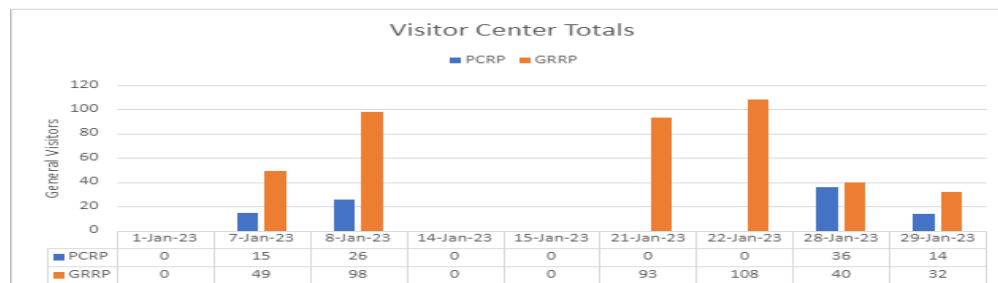
2. Community Outreach:

A. Closures and Storm Communications

In wake of the recent December-January winter storms, staff communicated with the public through social media, emails, and on-site postings regarding Visitor and Discovery centers’ closures, program cancellations, and park closures, informing the public about flood and road conditions. Many questions about temporary park closures and each park’s respective re-opening were answered through social media. Park that remained open for public use, offering alternatives for continued outdoor participation, programs and activities, such a Frog Pond Wetland and Lock-Paddon Wetland preserves were also highlighted on MPRPD’s social media.

B. Visitor Center Totals

Staff has been monitoring and collecting visitation data during weekends, 10am-4pm, at Palo Corona Regional Park’s Discovery Center and Garland Ranch Regional Park’s Visitor Center. The chart below summarizes weekend visitor contacts. This data was collected by MPRPD’s staff and volunteers in January 2023. Dates with 0 visitation recorded indicate that the centers were closed due to either severe weather events (1/14-15/23; 1/22-23/23) or holidays (1/1/23).



NOTE: Severe wind storms, flooding, and weather conditions impacted park visitation, in general, in January 2023. Out of an abundance of caution, Palo Corona and Garland Ranch regional parks were temporarily closed to all visitor access in mid-January.

C. Social Media Posts

For this reporting period, posts consisted of district news/events, promotion of upcoming LGO! programming, park closure/reopening updates, and educational content about the flora and fauna of MPRPD parks.

The following of MPRPD social media accounts grew in January-February.

a. Facebook Stats: @MPRegionalParkDistrict: (1) Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) | Carmel CA | Facebook

- i. Jan. 19: FPWP Open park option, flora, and fauna (1,269 views/accounts reached) (40 likes/reactions)
- ii. Jan. 28: Kahn Ranch open (1,053 views/accounts reached) (45 likes/reactions)
- iii. Feb. 1: Bobcat family PCRCP video and info. (269 views/accounts reached) (28 likes/reactions)
- iv. Feb. 15 Follower Count: 2,101 (+26)
- v. Facebook Page Reach: 6,405 (↑ 19.7 %)
- vi. Top 3 posts for likes/reactions: Jan. 16 – Feb. 15

b. Instagram Stats: @mprpd_lgo: Monterey Peninsula Parks (@mprpd_lgo) • Instagram photos and videos

- i. Jan. 28: PCRCP re-opened (353 views/accounts reached) (35 likes/reactions)
- ii. Jan. 29: Mushrooms of LPWP
- iii. Feb. 15 Follower Count: 1,137 (+45)
- iv. Instagram Page Reach: 2,875 (↑ 0.6%)
- v. Top 3 posts for likes/reactions: Jan. 16 – Feb. 15
 1. Feb. 1: Bobcat family PCRCP video and info. (762 views/accounts reached) (162 likes/reactions)
 2. Jan. 28: PCRCP re-opened (353 views/accounts reached) (35 likes/reactions)
 3. Jan. 29: Mushrooms of LPWP (323 views/accounts reached) (34 likes/reactions)



mprpd_igo

mprpd_igo 🌲 Garland Ranch Regional Park has reopened, with a few exceptions.

⚠️ The following areas of Garland Ranch will remain closed until further notice for recent storm damage assessment and needed repairs:

- Kahn Ranch (entire segment closed) UPDATE: NOW OPEN!
- De Dampierre ballfields and Lower Saddle Trail REMAIN CLOSED

🌲 Palo Corona Regional Park remains closed until further notice. UPDATE: NOW OPEN!

💜 Thank you for your patience while we work to get the parks fully open.

🌲 Huge thanks to our Rangers for all their hard work getting most of Garland Ranch reopened for this weekend!

📱 For closure updates and park maps, please check our website (link in bio): <https://mprpd.specialdistrict.org/>

📷 Photo of Garland Ranch by Jon Benner.

#mprpdandme #letsgooutdoors #monterey #carmel #hiking

View insights

Liked by costanoanrumsencarmeltribe and 33 others

JANUARY 21

🌲 There are a variety of mushrooms to be found during this rainy season at Locke-Paddon Wetland Community Park in Marina. <https://www.mprpd.org/locke-paddon-wetland-community-park> (link in bio).

📷 All pictured mushrooms were spotted this January in Locke-Paddon Park! Image 1: Collage of various mushrooms.

🍄 Image 2: *Lepista nuda* (Blewit) mushroom caps. The Blewit often grows in leaf litter in woodlands and is widespread in Britain, Ireland, and North America.

Image 3: *Lepista nuda* (Blewit) mushroom gills.

💧 Image 4: A cluster of mushrooms in the *Peziza* genus, a large genus of cup fungi (Pezizaceae family) whose hobbies include growing on the ground, rotting wood, or dung. Spores are formed on the inner surface of cup mushrooms and the cup shape collects rain drops (as seen in the picture) resulting in spores splashing out of the cup! 🌧️

🍄 Image 5: Clusters of *Tubaria furfuracea* (Scurfy Twiglet) mushroom caps. The Scurfy Twiglet is very common in North America and often grows on wood chips and other woody debris.

Image 6: *Tubaria furfuracea* (Scurfy Twiglet) gills.

#mprpdandme #letsgooutdoors #lockepaddon #monterey #montereybay #cityofmarina #CityOfMarina #mushrooms #mushroom #winter



👍❤️🔒 21

6 comments 1 share

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👉 Volunteer Orientation!

🌲 Discover the many ways to get involved with your parks by becoming a volunteer for the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District! Get information and get oriented to become a steward, an educator, or both.

🕒 When: Sunday, February 26 from 2 PM - 4 PM

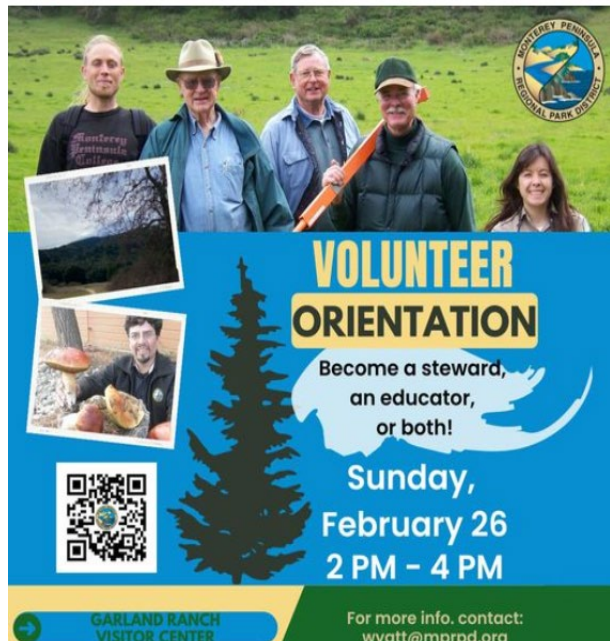
📍 Where: Garland Ranch Regional Park Visitor Center

Ages 18+

📝 Sign up (link in bio): <https://secure.rec1.com/ca/monterey-peninsula-regional-park-district/catalog?filter=c2VhcnNoPTlyMTc2MDc=>

Contact Debbie for more information at wyatt@mprpd.org or (831) 372-3196 ext.113

#mprpdandme #Monterey #monterey #montereybay #montereycounty #volunteer #community #communityservice #nature #steward #educator #garlandranchregionalpark #letsgooutdoors #letsgooutdoors





mprpd_igo ...

mprpd_igo 🌿 While some parks remain closed from storm damage, Frog Pond Wetland Preserve in Del Rey Oaks is open to explore!

📷 Maybe you'll spot a squeaky resident bird of the central California coast, the Chestnut-backed Chickadee along the trail (image 1). Check out the pond, redwood grove (image 2), and oak trees (image 3) while you're there!

#mprpdandme #letsgooutdoors #ponds #hikingadventures #hiking #monterey #wildlife #redwoods #birds #birdsofinstagram

3w

[View insights](#)

📍 🗨️ 📌

Liked by krmradio and 23 others

JANUARY 19



mprpd_igo ...

mprpd_igo 🐾 This bobcat family says hello from Palo Corona Regional Park!

😁 Remember to always view wildlife from a respectful distance, do not approach, and NEVER feed them in our parks or anywhere else.

Feeding wildlife harms their health and attracts them to human areas which can be dangerous for people and the wildlife.

🐾 The more wildlife are treated with respect, the more likely we are to see them in our parks!

🐾 Did you know bobcat mothers teach their young to hunt and once they learn enough to become pros they can leap over 3 meters in length (that's over 9 feet) to catch their meal! We are thankful Palo Corona can provide habitat to this bobcat family while they learn and grow.

📷 Video taken by Savannah Peña

#mprpdandme #letsgooutdoors #palocorona #palocoronapark #Monterey #monterey #montereybay #montereypark #montereycounty #montereycalifornia #carmel #carmelbythesea #wildlife #wildlifesightings #bobcat

[View insights](#)

📍 🗨️ 📌

534 views

FEBRUARY 1

3. Education:

A. Transportation Grant

At MPRPD's February Board meeting, the LGO! Transportation Grant between MPRPD and Community Foundation of Monterey was approved with the additional criteria that underrepresented groups be represented. Signatures to effectuate this agreement have been requested and staff awaits formal signatures. This grant will provide funding to bring organized groups from the surrounding tri-county area to MPRPD properties thus, helping to overcome one of the biggest barriers for underserved communities to enjoy the outdoors -- lack of transportation.

B. K-12 Education Programs

Staff are piloting two MPRPD education programs for grades 5-9 students at Palo Corona Regional Park: (1) *Healthy Habitats*, a hands-on learning and exploratory program focused on riparian ecosystems, and (2) *Pollinator Garden*, an outdoor experience focused on connecting students to floodplain restoration.

Healthy Habitats is also being presented to a local homeschooled group of children, ages 10-15, and *Pollinator Garden* is being conducted with The Village Project members, an after-school organization from Seaside. Both groups have limited access to environmental and outdoor education, with the MPRPD programs specifically reaching students living in Monterey and Seaside. There are approximately 8 students enrolled in each program, for a total of 16 students.

One goal of these small pilot groups is to provide a foundation for working with larger schools or school districts on similar programming at Palo Corona Regional Park.

- a. Discussions with Bay View Academy (BVA), a public charter school in Monterey, have resulted in a partnership designed to encourage 5th-grade students to get outdoors and experience local habitats in a way that complements BVA's interdisciplinary curriculum. The goal is to create an enriched, robust, and comprehensive *Healthy Habitats* program by collaborating with faculty from BVA. Two field trips focused on measuring ecosystem health will be developed with this school this year. Once piloted and refined, field trip materials will be made available online as a teaching resource for the public.
- b. Via the "Outdoor Learning Collaborative," MPRPD staff are working in partnership with Salinas Unified High School District, Bird School Project, Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, and other environmental educators through a Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) grant to provide teacher workshops at Palo Corona Regional Park during winter and spring 2023.

C. Exhibits and Interpretation

- a. **PCRP Entrance Plaza Panels:** Staff designed and fabricated three panels using colors and style from the approved PCRP Wayfinding and Signage plan, ready for installation at the newly opened PCRP entrance shuttle bus staging area. They include a park map with universal symbols, a list of rules and regulations, and an MPRPD district map. Staff are scouting other sites in the park to install similar signs.
- b. **PCRP Discovery Center (DC) -- “Palo Corona by Season”:** Staff designed and installed a set of new panels for the glass-enclosed display case just outside the DC’s entrance. These panels emphasize seasonal changes in weather patterns, and notable flora and fauna, to look for in PCRP, specifically. The main panel presently on display will rotate quarterly. Autumn, Winter, and Spring panels are now complete, while the Summer panel is currently in development.



- c. **Carmel River Watershed 3-D Exhibit: River Watershed Topo Map:** A 3-De topo map highlighting the Carmel River Watershed is now showcased in PCRP’s Discovery Center. This map will help visitors, especially school-aged students, to better understand the relationship between the region’s topography, hydrology, and the Pacific Ocean. The map is interactive, allowing water to be placed at its highest point, allowing water to run downhill along the Carmel River and its tributaries, into the map’s rendition of Monterey Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

D. Let’s Go Outdoors! (LGO!) Guide and Programs

The Spring/Summer 2023 LGO! publication is slated to hit mailboxes in mid-March and will run from March 24 through September 24, 2023. There are over 70 programs/sessions that have the capacity to provide over 700 public members

an opportunity to learn about MPRPD's mission, the local environment, and help build a more environmentally literate community.

E. Service Learners

Staff recruited three students from CSUMB's School of Computing and Design to create graphic designs for a Visitor Interpretive Planning Document, and a snake, condor, and a Kelp Highway exhibit.

An additional student will create an interactive menu for the digital kiosk in the PCRPD Discovery Center for users of all ages and abilities. With input from CSUMB's and MPRPD's educational staff, this service learner will design enticing graphics for touchscreen menus for MPRPD, highlighting our region's natural and cultural resources, and our conservation and environmental education partners' effort.

F. Special Use Permits

The following special use permits (SUP) were issued in January and February 2023:

- a. **Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT) – Annual agreement to access parks from January through December 2023:** There are currently several hikes planned through the backcountry of PCRPD starting at the Rancho Canada Unit, BSLT's Mitteldorf Preserve, and San Jose Creek (west entrance at State Park's western entrance). As part of BSLT's annual special use permit activities, staff will submit quarterly inquiry applications for upcoming events. This increases successful communication and minimizes over-scheduling.
- b. **Jennifer Petty -- JeLau Photography**
- c. **Lianne Neptune:** Plant Walks and Guide – an extension of work offered through the *Let's Go Outdoors!* guide.
- d. **Tatiana Scher:** Scher Photographer

G. Volunteers

- a. **BSLT Helps MPRPD Analyze Trail Conditions:** Big Sur Land Trust staff and MPRPD volunteers assisted MPRPD's Maintenance and Operations Division's staff with scouting and reporting on MPRPD's parks regarding backcountry trails' condition post January's storm events.
- b. **GRRP Arboretum:** Local native plant expert and consultant, Pat Regan met MPRPD's volunteers and staff to brainstorm ideas and create plans for the Garland Ranch Regional Park arboretum's upgrading.

- c. **Volunteer Enrichment:** MPRPD’s volunteers and staff met for an enrichment session and tour of the Garland Park Visitor Center’s exhibits, topographic map, and arboretum.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE DIVISION

1. Cachagua Community Center Apartment Roof

The small apartment’s roof needs to be replaced due to the extreme conditions during last summer’s and this winter season’s severe weather. This structure is located in proximity to the Cachagua Community Center. The project is being coordinated by Rangers, along with Regional Government Services and MPRPD’s Administration Division staff.



CCC Apartment Roof

2. Community Meeting @ Rancho Canada

Monterey County’s 5th District, Supervisor Mary Adams, is coordinating a community meeting at Palo Corona Regional Park’s Rancho Canada Unit to discuss recent flood issues on the Carmel River. The presentation will include discussion regarding recent winter storm events and provide an overview of the different flood mitigation projects underway.

3. January 2023 Storm Damage Update

A “bomb cyclone” and a series of atmospheric river events pummeled California’s Central Coast during the month of January 2023, significantly impacting District properties and infrastructure. For the past month, Rangers have been dedicated to primarily assess damages, prioritize repairs, and implement the necessary (sometimes minimal) measures to reopen parks as quickly as possible to public access.

As of the drafting of this report, fortunately, Mother Nature has provided a significant break in the weather, allowing soils an opportunity to dry out thus, providing an opportunity for Rangers to access parks with equipment and inmate

crews to effect repairs. That said, the region's rainy season may cause flood events and wind storm damage through May of this year.

Below is a photo of Terrace Trail taken immediately following the January 9, 2023 storm event, and another photo taken a few weeks later after Rangers and Cal Fire inmate crews had an opportunity to address segments of sloughing cutbank and narrowing trail tread.



Before



After

As of the writing of this report, the only remaining closure existed at De Dampierre Park's ballfields, where flood waters inundated the ballfields and the Paso Hondo neighborhood, causing significant sand deposition and soil degradation throughout the parking lot and trail system.

Rangers are taking the necessary steps to ensure that opening day for Carmel Youth Baseball is not impacted, which means making the park safe enough to open for public access, but not initiating the larger-scale repairs that will be necessary to return the park to pre-storm event conditions. As noted earlier in this report, MPRPD may experience another event this season (hopefully not), which may require replacement of the damaged parking bollards that were relocated by flood waters and retrieved by Don Chapin Co and MPRPD's Rangers.



Damaged Parking Bollards

At MPRPD's San Clemente-Blue Rock Open Space Preserve, Rangers discovered multiple trees down and landslides affecting trails, also making the Preserve inaccessible to vehicular traffic, as photographs note below:



Slides and trees across road at San Clemente/Blue Rock

Rangers continue to discover damage, while also working to reopen all District parks and preserves to public access. Rangers continues to track time, materials, and equipment used in response to this natural disaster in hopes of securing FEMA reimbursement funds to assist with recovery costs.

4. OPS Training Day

Rangers took a break from storm damage recovery to participate in a full day of training provided by the District's insurer, California Joint Powers Insurance Authority. Topics included Lockout/Tagout Procedures, GHS/Hazard Communication, Hand & Portable Power Tool Safety, and Basic Electrical Safety.



Rangers attending training at GRRP's Meeting Room

5. Palo Corona's Temporary Ranger Station

Rangers are exploring the purchase, lease, or "rent to own" of a portable construction office-type trailer. Ideally, this portable structure will be utilized as a temporary Ranger station and office until funding for Project-A is secured. MPRPD's Board previously authorized the planning and design of Project-A, which includes a Ranger office facility, about the time when MPRPD's Board authorized Project-B to proceed. This temporary office will allow more Rangers to be stationed at Palo Corona Regional Park and will be located adjacent to the Rancho Canada Unit's maintenance shop.



Example of a Portable Office Trailer

PLANNING & CONSERVATION DIVISION

- 1. Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Work Plan and Budget Development**

Staff are developing an initial Planning & Conservation Division workplan, budget, and staffing proposal for the 2023/2024 fiscal year. Staff look forward to presenting an update to the Board during future MPRPD Finance Committee and MPRPD Board meetings.
- 2. Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Mitigation Projects**

Staff are requesting Board authorization to enter into a Access and Work Agreement with the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County to enable the RCDMC to implement two major fuel breaks on MPRPD land and secure an environmental consultant on behalf of MPRD to conduct environmental review and permitting work that supports the Carmel Valley Fuel Break Project and additional fuels reduction work proposed under MPRPD's recent grant from the California State Coastal Conservancy.
- 3. Laidlaw-Apte Vegetation Management Project**

Staff are working with the Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District and Cal Fire to reduce unnaturally high vegetation levels and fuel loading in the Laidlaw-Apte Preserve. Staff have received confirmation from Cal Fire that the pre-construction surveys for the project will be completed in late February and Early March so that the project can progress as soon as late March or early April 2023.
- 4. MPRPD Invasive/Fuel Volunteer Program Development**

Staff continue to work with the Operations and EECO division teams to explore new volunteer program models for MPRPD that could support invasive plant and fuels removal projects across MPRPD properties. Staff expect that this work will require an interdepartmental project in the 23/24FY workplan to help develop this concept into a pilot program that is potentially jointly managed across MPRPD's departments.
- 5. Multi-Benefit Community Trail**

Staff continue to work with the State's resource agencies and grant funders to develop a plan for realignment of sections of the Multi-Benefit Community Trail.
- 6. Rancho Canada Floodplain Restoration Project**

MPRPD staff continued to work on securing a plant propagation consultant in February to help oversee native plant seed and cuttings, plant propagation efforts for the Rancho Canada Floodplain Restoration Project. The Restoration project team is also in the process of updating the project design from the 65% level, finalizing, and submitting initial permit applications for the project, and seeking grant funding.