

**MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT  
STAFF REPORT**

**BOARD MEETING:** February 07, 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-December 2023 through mid-January 2024 in addition to performing MPRPD's regular business.

**ADMINISTRATION DIVISION**

**1. Contracts Review**

Staff are reviewing the status of all current contracts for contract terms and insurance compliance.

Staff regularly review contracting templates with the CJPIA and legal counsel. However, in anticipation of upcoming large-scale projects, staff have begun a thorough review of all contracting templates including the public works contract for any updated legal terms, insurance, and prevailing wage requirements. These updates are then entered into the District's e-procurement system OpenGov Procurement.

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

Administration and Operation Divisions' staff continued working on FEMA's Damages Reporting Requirements and Requests for Additional Information.

**3. Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget**

Staff is working on developing updates and year-end estimates for the FY2023-24 budget, with plans to present at the March Board meeting.

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

Staff have begun preparations for the FY2024-25 budget.

Inclusion of items listed in the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan (Plan) in the FY 2024-25 Budget may be subject to the Plan's completion and adoption during the 10 February Special Board meeting. Drafting of the FY 2024-25 budget will be completed no later than early mid-February in preparation for its presentation to the Board at the March 2024 meeting.

## 5. Grant Management and Writing

Staff hired a Regional Government Services (RGS) consultant for grant writing and management assistance in March 2021. Consultant has assisted staff in researching and writing several grant applications or determining that such were not a good fit for the District. Consultant has also assisted staff in Grant Management activities.

Staff and RGS are currently undertaking an extensive review of active District grants, developing protocols, and maintaining files. Staff are developing a grant policy to guide future grant applications and management. Staff are also evaluating various grant management software programs for cost benefit.

## 6. Palo Corona's Project-B Construction in General

Construction of Project-B has been completed. A walkthrough of the project with the contractor (Avila Construction) and their electrical and plumbing subcontractor's was provided for the Operations Division's staff. Significant operational items, such as plumbing and electrical services were discussed, and staff were shown where the major shutoffs are located in the event of an emergency.

All construction/silt fencing has been removed. Wildlife immediately began enjoying the area free of travel impediments. Legal Counsel Administration Division staff continue to work on the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan's closeout.

Last but not least, staff are happy to report that no animals were harmed during construction of Project-B.



**Restroom Plumbing and Site Electrical walk-through with Operations Staff**



**Coyote crossing Project- B site**



**Bobcat roaming across Project-B site**

**7. Policy Creation/Updates Project**

Administration Division staff are working on various policies and updates which will be presented for Board approval in the coming months.

**8. Pre-qualified Consultants and Contractors**

Administration Division personnel continued to assist MPRPD's staff in developing an expanded list of pre-qualified consultants and contractors.

MPRPD developed and implemented a list of pre-qualified architects, landscape architects, and engineers 5-years ago. This list of pre-qualified professional consultants has served the District very beneficially for more than a decade. With the RCU Floodplain Restoration Project and other projects approaching, additional consultants with expertise in environmental consulting are being added to the existing pre-qualified consultant list.

The District's online e-procurement tool, known as **OpenGov Procurement**, shall be used by all MPRPD divisions to pre-qualify consultants. After the consultants are ranked on their qualifications and narrowed into a small pool to select from, staff from MPRPD's respective divisions will present the Board their proposed professional service agreements for the specific services required.

**9. Records Retention**

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

## **10. Training**

Staff participated in Annual Prevailing Wage Updates, Advanced Clean Fleets State and Local Government Fleet Requirements, Employee Off-Duty Cannabis Use, 2024 Employment Law Changes, and Brown Act training. Administration Division staff provided training to all MPRPD staff on use of OpenGov e-Procurement.

## **11. Strategic Plan Update**

The Strategic Plan's public special Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 10. Wedgewood Weddings is generously providing the Fiesta Room for this meeting which is scheduled from 9am through 4pm. The meeting's agenda, outline, and public announcement were being developed as of the writing of this report.

## **12. Year End Audit**

Staff continue working on MPRPD's annual financial audit and preparation of the FY22-23 Financial Statements. Staff anticipates presenting the FY22-23 Final Financial Statements at the February 2024 Board Meeting.

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

### **1. Community Outreach**

#### **Seaside-Monterey-MPRPD Programs at Laguna Grande Regional Park (LGRP)**

As part of the North District Environmental Education Coalition, the cities of Monterey and Seaside, and MPRPD staff held a Community Town Hall event on January 17, 2024. These three jurisdictions form the Laguna Grande Regional Park's Joint Powers Authority (JPA) outreach program. JPA Board members David Pacheco and Kevin Raskoff, as well as MPRPD Board director Monta Potter, and the City of Monterey's Mayor Tyller Williamson joined the approximately 25 attendees to gain a better understanding of the needs and interests of programming in the park. Staffing included volunteer Spanish-language translators to facilitate this inclusive event.

Working collaboratively, the JPS' representative staff provided presentations, feedback boards, and public comment sessions on preferred programs and activities. The feedback boards are being used to inform the public and to prioritize programs. Public information will be provided by the cities' respective public information teams and the MPRPD's *Let's Go Outdoors!* guide will also. Staff are scheduled to provide a summary of the community meeting and updates at the JPA Board meeting in Seaside, on 15 February, and to MPRPD's Board in the coming months as this multi-jurisdictional program is further refined.





establish on-going education programs, and utilizing MPRPD sites for Master Gardener workshops and demonstration gardens.

The University of California (UC) Master Gardener Program is an educational and public service component of the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) program whose mission is to extend research-based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices to the residents of California and be guided by our core values and strategic initiatives.

The Monterey Bay Chapter is a non-profit 501(c)(3) formed in 1995 to support the work of the UC Master Gardeners of Monterey and Santa Cruz counties' programs.

### **Social Media Posts | 16 December 2023 – 15 January 2024**

For this reporting period, posts included District news, LGO! instructor recruitment, LGO! upcoming programming, LGO! fund donation promotion, California Wildlife Day, Laguna Grande Regional Park Community Town Hall promotion, and educational content about the flora and fauna of MPRPD parks.

### **The following of MPRPD social media accounts grew in December to January.**

- i. **Facebook stats - @MPRegionalParkDistrict** (1) Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) | Carmel CA | Facebook)
  1. January 15 Follower Count: 2,500 (+50)
  2. Facebook Page Reach (number of accounts that viewed a piece of content at least once): 32,250 (↑ 122.5%)
  3. Top 3 posts for likes/reactions (16 December – 15 January):
    - a. 30 December: Carmel River at GRRP (26,500 reach) (423 likes/reactions)
    - b. 06 January: “Garland’s Changing Seasons” Upcoming LGO! Program (3,300 reach) (146 likes/reactions)
    - c. 27 December: California Newt (2,200 reach) (100 likes/reactions)
- ii. **Instagram stats - @mprpd\_lgo:** Monterey Peninsula Parks (@mprpd\_lgo) • Instagram photos and videos
  1. 15 January Follower Count: 1,400 (+9)
  2. Instagram Page Reach (number of accounts that viewed a piece of content at least once): 807 (↓ 10.6%)

3. Top 3 posts for likes/reactions (16 December – 15 January):
  - a. 30 December: Carmel River Video at GRRP (392 reach) (77 likes/reactions)
  - b. 06 January: “Garland’s Changing Seasons” Upcoming LGO! Program (342 reach) (43 likes/reactions)
  - c. 13 January: Call for Instructors (350 reach) (37 likes/reactions)

Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)  
Published by Let's Go Outdoors • January 13 at 4:29 PM

Attention knowledgeable nature enthusiasts, this is your chance to get creative and make a positive impact in the community! 🌱

MPRPD is seeking instructors to create and lead Let's Go Outdoors! activities and classes. With a new Spring/Summer season coming up, we hope to bring back the oldies and start new programs as well.

Proposals are due by Thursday, February 1st for inclusion in the Spring/Summer 2024 Let's Go Outdoors! catalog.

... See more



**LET'S GO OUTDOORS!**

**CALL FOR INSTRUCTORS**

- Accepting proposals until February 1st
- Spring/Summer programs run from April to September
- We are seeking instructors to create and lead educational and outdoor-themed classes

For more application information and the instructor proposal form visit:  
<https://www.mprpd.org/let-s-go-outdoors> or scan the code.



Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)  
Published by Let's Go Outdoors • December 27, 2023 at 4:16 PM


As we approach a new year and start new journeys, amphibians like newts and salamanders are also embarking on important and sometimes treacherous journeys of their own throughout Monterey County and various MPRPD parks!

During the rainy season, amphibians travel to their wetland breeding areas often needing to cross trails and roadways.

As the rains increase, remember that every day is a NEWT day! Keep an eye out and give space for newts, salamanders, and frogs crossing the road on their epic journey to complete an essential part of their life cycle.

Image description: a California newt (*Taricha torosa*), a species endemic to California, walks along a gravel pathway.

#carmelriverwatershed #carmelriver #naturetherapy #rainyseason #garlandranchregionalpark #garlandranch #montereybay #montereycounty #montereycalifornia #carmelbythesea #monterey #mprpdandme #carmelvalley #carmel #nature #PaloCorona #rainyday



Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)  
Published by Let's Go Outdoors • January 3 at 9:00 AM


Join us for "Climate Change and Weather in California", a NEW lecture style program this Saturday. Space is running out, reserve your spot today!

Saturday, January 6th  
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm  
Palo Corona Regional Park  
Ages 16 and up  
Registration is required. Reserve your spot for this FREE program here: <https://secure.rec1.com/.../monterey-peninsula.../catalog> (link in bio)

Atmospheric rivers and drought are affected by the changing atmosphere. This lecture will provide an introduction on the causes and effects of global warming and climate change with a focus on California's weather and future climate.

An image of storm clouds over the trail to Inspiration Point at Palo Corona Regional Park.

#carmelriverwatershed #carmelriver #naturetherapy #rainyseason #montereybay #montereycounty #montereycalifornia #carmelbythesea #monterey #mprpdandme #carmelvalley #carmel #nature #letsgooutdoors #PaloCorona #rainyday #climatechange



Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)  
Published by Let's Go Outdoors • December 16, 2023

Consider the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) Let's Go Outdoors Fund in your holiday giving plans this year!

The MPRPD Let's Go Outdoors Fund (held at the Community Foundation for Monterey County) supports safe, accessible parks and open space for recreation, enjoyment, and protection of natural and cultural resources, and native habitat and wildlife throughout our more than 20,000 acres of protected lands.

Your contributions help underwrite essential pr... See more



**MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT**  
**Let's Go Outdoors Fund**  
held at the Community Foundation for Monterey County

**DONATE TODAY**  
SUPPORT PROJECTS LIKE:

- ✓ Fire management and mitigation preparedness
- ✓ Off-leash dog area at Palo Corona Regional Park
- ✓ Floodplain restoration along the Carmel River
- ✓ Stewardship, educational, cultural, & historical programs
- ✓ And many other special projects

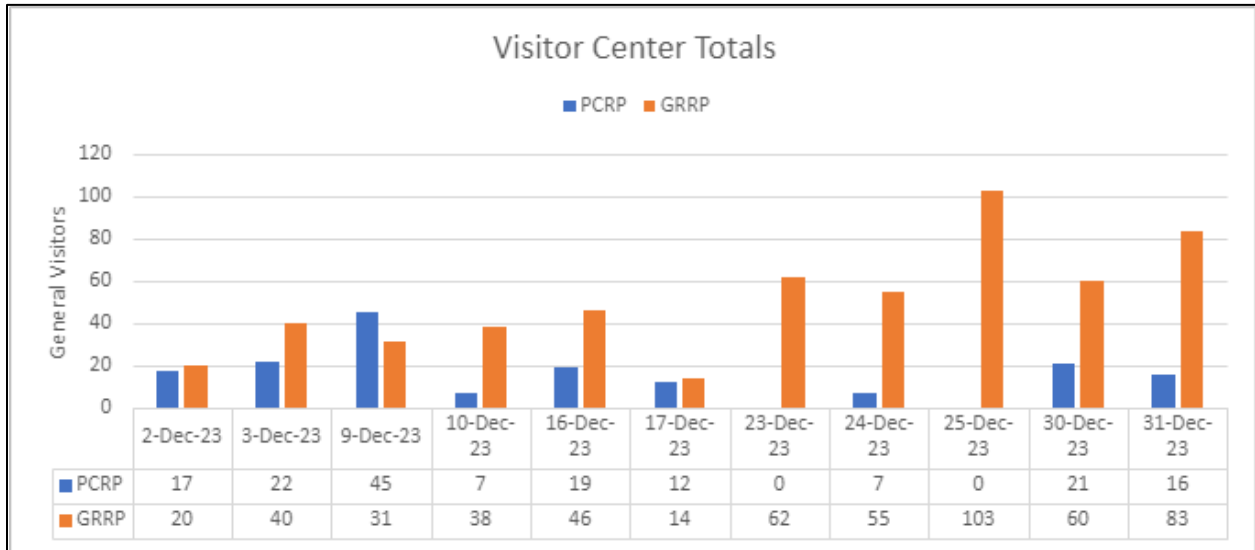
**DONATE TODAY**  
[bit.ly/LGOFund](https://bit.ly/LGOFund)

Community Foundation for Monterey County




**2. Discovery Center and Visitor Center Visitation Totals**

Staff continue to record visitation during weekends, 10am - 4pm, at both the PCRP Discovery Center (DC) and the GRRP Visitor Center (VC). One or both centers have also been opened on select holidays. The chart below summarizes weekend and holiday visitor contacts with staff or volunteers in December 2023. On two Sundays, 12/10 and 12/24, the PCRP DC was open for a half-shift only (3 hours). Dates with 0 contacts recorded (12/23 and 12/25 at PCRP) indicate that the center remained closed due to limited staff availability.



**Visitor contacts at the PCRP DC and GRRP VC in December 2023**

**3. Education and Interpretation**

**i. Educational Programming**

Staff continue to develop activities and online content in preparation for launch in a suite of educational resources by the end of the current fiscal year. These include the following:

**ii. Resource Webpage**

Drafting of the new “Teachers and Students” subpage under the “Education & Outreach” tab on the [mprpd.org](http://mprpd.org) website continues. The first draft of this new webpage will tentatively contain fieldtrip and visitation information for teachers, downloadable resources, and links to local partners to create a hub of environmental curricula customized to local ecosystems in and around the Monterey Peninsula.

**iii. Healthy Habitats Pilot Programming (year 2)**

Staff continue to develop, re-evaluate, and pilot environmental education



programming based on local ecosystems.

#### 4. Exhibits – Palo Corona Regional Park

##### i. Cultural Exhibits

Staff met with Rumsen Ohlone historian, Linda Yamane, to discuss the cultural exhibits at the PCPR DC. Prioritized plans include the *Tools of Daily Life* (aka Tools Now and Then), Kelp Highway, and the installation of images and stories on the base of the tule boat. Discussions continue on the Ruk (home) exhibit.

##### ii. Building Community with Volunteer Support

Nick Kite, a craftsman volunteer, is collaborating with staff to enhance, frame and construct exhibits. He has fabricated the three-sided display for the Tools of Daily Life, and Trees are Essential for All. Mr. Kite has also modified the Carmel River Watershed topographic relief map to enhance the public's viewing of this exhibit.



**Three-sided Tools of Daily Life under construction**

**Base of the tule boat will highlight the region's pre-Columbian cultural history**



**Carmel River Watershed topographic map**



**Trees are Essential for All**

- iii. **Trees are Essential of All - Graphics and Narrative Near Completion**  
 CSUMB Scientific Illustrator intern, Adara Koivula, has nearly completed her services on the *Trees are Essential for All* exhibit with only final edits remaining. A true-to-scale mock-up is on display in the Discovery Center. The next step is final fabrication and installation.

**5. Facilities**

**i. Center Staffing**

Staff are actively planning the opening of the GRRP VC, 5-days-a-week, starting in Spring 2024. Volunteers, staff, and student interns will welcome and orient park visitors while supporting Rangers' trail monitoring.

**ii. GRRP Outdoor Classroom**

The prefabricated classroom structure agreement with ROMTEC has been signed. The archaeological report is under review. Staff continue to meet with the project's architect and construction management and the Regional Government Services consultants to secure structure's permits. Construction is scheduled to begin in August 2024.

This vital facility will support the Visitor Center's expanded use and increased programming by providing a much-needed facility that will greatly enhance public outreach, and cultural and natural resource education.

## **6. *Let's Go Outdoors!* Guide and Programs**

### **i. Fall 2023/Winter 2024 Season**

There were 11 MPRPD-sponsored programs that took place between 01 - 20 January.

ii. Mike Clancy's interesting and relevant workshop on *Climate Change and Weather in California* was presented to a full room.

## **7. Spring/Summer 2024 Season**

"Call for Instructors" and "Call for Community Happenings" for the upcoming season were released at the beginning of January with a proposal deadline of 01 February.

The next *LGO!* guide is projected to arrive in all District residents' mailboxes in late March. This publication covers a season that runs from 20 April - 22 September 2024. This edition will feature community partners and like-minded programming in a new format. New programming related to floodplain restoration and alternative transportation along Highway 1 will also be featured in this issue.

## **8. Special Use Permits (SUP)**

### **University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Marina Dunes Preserve Drone Research**

This multi-year study (2023-2026) uses drones to conduct surveys and map the dynamic physical and ecological features of sandy beach and dune ecosystems along the Monterey Bay coastal strand. Researchers are surveying a 500-meter stretch of beach at Marina Dunes Preserve, centered on the public access path. Data will be used to create high resolutions habitat maps, and digital elevation models used for predictive modeling of coastal habitat and various sea-level rise scenarios.

## **9. Volunteers**

### **i. Volunteers in the Arboretum**

Staff and MPRPD volunteers transplanted and removed plants in preparation for the installation of the outdoor classroom

### **ii. Volunteer Activities**

Volunteers helped facilitate and attended a talk given by Mike Clancy on *Climate Change and Weather in California*.

### **iii. Volunteer Facilitators and Instructors Facilitated *LGO!* Programs**

1. Palo Corona Nature Night Hike and Bird Walk



2. Slow Flow Yoga at the Marina Library
3. Night hike, bird walk, and various hikes at Garland Ranch Regional Park.

## 10. Volunteer Recruitment

Monterey Peninsula  
Regional Park District




# VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Sunday, February 25th from 2 pm - 4 pm  
Garland Ranch Regional Park Visitor Center Patio



- Learn more about becoming a volunteer
- You can become a steward, an educator, or BOTH
- Many exciting ways to get involved! Ages 18+



To register and for more information see the  
website link or call (831) 372-3196 ext. 102  
<https://secure.rec1.com/CA/monterey-peninsula-regional-park-district/catalog>

**Social media digital fliers and printed fliers have been posted recruiting for our upcoming volunteer orientation at Garland Ranch Regional Park on Sunday, 25 February.**

**Staff continue to work with California Wildlife Day consultants to recruit individuals and groups of volunteers to assist with activities on 24 March, at Palo Corona Regional Park.**



## **OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE DIVISION**

### **1. BSMAAC Meeting 09 February**

Rangers will be attending the Big Sur Multi-Agency Advisory Council meeting on 09 February to represent MPRPD. These quarterly meetings take place at the Big Sur Lodge at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park and include local agency representatives, stakeholder groups, and elected officials from local, state, and federal jurisdictions.

### **2. Chimney Sweeping at MPRPD Properties**

Rangers facilitated the annual inspection and cleaning of fireplaces and wood burning stoves at all District properties and rental residences. This year, Cypress Sweeps Chimney Service was contracted to provide these services.



**Fireplace at Kahn Ranch House**



**Spark arrester at Ranger Station**

### **3. Drainage Improvement at Garland Ranch Regional Park Visitor Center**

A percolation basin was constructed at the park's Visitor Center to accommodate accumulated rainwater coming from the patio roof. Rangers dug the pit and backfilled using  $\frac{3}{4}$ " drain rock to prevent accumulated runoff from continuing to damage Lupine Loop Trail.



**Drainage basin beneath gutter downspout at GRRP VC**

**4. Electric Gate at Dedampierre Park**

Rangers scheduled and facilitated a mandatory site visit for the automatic gate opener project at Dedampierre Park on 08 December 2024. The project's construction was awarded to Central Coast Ornamental Iron and will be completed by the end of February assuming there are no weather-related delays. This project will allow the entrance gates to be closed automatically at night to prevent after-hours vandalism and trespassing.

**5. Enforcement Contacts (“Ranger Log”)**

- i. Rangers responded to a report of a dog bite that occurred at the Garland's Visitor Center on 14 January. This case was forwarded to Monterey County Animal Services for follow-up.
- ii. Rangers continue to investigate an incident of property defacement involving



- damage to oak trees along the Waterfall Trail at Garland Ranch Regional Park.
- iii. Rangers continue to investigate unpermitted excavation by an AT&T contractor at Palo Corona Regional Park on 23 January.
  - iv. Rangers contacted an individual who had erected his own disc golf pedestal west of the Discovery Center at Palo Corona Regional Park. The individual was advised of the rules/regs, asked to remove his property, and referred to nearby Carmel Middle School where an 18-hole disc golf course is available.

#### **6. Fence Repairs at Marina Dunes Preserve**

A section of property boundary fencing recently failed along Dunes Drive at Marina Dunes Preserve. Ranger replaced 5-posts and approximately 50 linear feet of 3-rail corral board fencing.



**Rangers repairing boundary fence at Marina Dunes Preserve**

#### **7. FORTAG Construction and Frog Pond Temporary Closures**

Rangers are participating in weekly FORTAG construction meetings to coordinate the opening and closing of the Frog Pond Wetland Preserve in alignment with FORTAG's construction schedule. The Frog Pond segment of FORTAG is currently out to bid and scheduled to be awarded on 27 March. Construction of this segment is scheduled to begin the first week of May 2024.

#### **8. Gabilan and Garza's Canyon Trail Work**

Rangers took advantage of ideal soil conditions and the assistance of a Gabilan Inmate Crew to maintain out-sloping and drainage features along Gabilan and Garza's Canyon Trails at Garland Ranch Regional Park. The crew also helped to remove several trees that were blocking Terrace and Garza's Canyon Trails.



**Garza Canyon Trail drain dips**



**Gabilan Trail out-sloping**

**9. MCRFD Training at Garland Ranch Regional Park**

Monterey County Regional Fire District successfully completed a rope rescue training exercise on Acorn Trail at Garland Ranch Regional Park on 12 January.

Rangers were invited to participate as part of this training exercise, which involved a mock dispatch, required locating the patient using GPS coordinates, extraction of the patient via rope rescue, and transportation of the patient by litter to an awaiting UTV and ambulance.



**Rangers & medics en route to patient**



**Preparing rope and pulley system**





**Rescue team descending off-trail to extract patient**



**Transporting patient via Stokes litter/basket to awaiting UTV**



**Transporting patient (fire hose) via UTV to awaiting ambulance**

### **10. Medical Emergency at Garland Ranch Regional Park**

A medical emergency occurred at Garland Ranch Regional Park at the junction of Lupine Loop and Cottonwood Trails. Rangers heard the service call from Fire Com, awaited the incoming ambulance while other Rangers located the patient, lead the ambulance to the patient, then assisted with loading the patient to an ambulance.



**Rangers & MCRFD personnel responding to medical emergency**

### **11. Parking Lot Maintenance at Garland Ranch Regional Park**

Each winter, Rangers spend several weeks filling potholes and addressing drainage issues at both upper and lower Garland parking lots. This year, because of the interval at which storms are arriving, more regular parking lot maintenance has been required. Materials were purchased from local vendors and District equipment was utilized for this project.



**Upper parking lot along CV Road**





**Lower parking lot**

## **12. Project-B Additional Tasks**

- i. Rangers were tasked with identifying and installing preventative measures in advance of 15 February, which marks the beginning of bird nesting season at Palo Corona Regional Park. To prevent cliff swallows from constructing nests beneath the soffit of the restroom building, Rangers purchased and affixed  $\frac{3}{4}$ " mesh netting under the soffit and along the fascia.
- ii. Rangers also purchased and installed bio-waddles around each drainage inlet to prevent sedimentary fines from entering drainage infrastructure.
- iii. Rangers continued to maintain the temporary symbolic fence with plans of installing a permanent split-rail fence around the entire Project-B site in the near future. The split-rail fence will serve as a strong barrier between public use areas and critical habitat at Pond Six while protecting its CA red-legged frogs.



**Exclusion netting installation**



**Biowaddle around drainage inlet**

### **13. San Clemente – Blue Rock Preserve FEMA Project**

The FEMA-funded San Clemente-Blue Rock Open Space Preserve road repair project is underway. However, the project's start in November created some challenges, as rain events arrived, approximately every four to five days. This left very little time for the ground to dry out, thereby interrupting the contractor's ability to continuously work.



**Contractor bulldozer at San-Clemente Blue Rock Preserve**

### **14. Tree Pruning and Removal at Dedampierre Park**

Tope's Tree Service spent several days at Dedampierre Park pruning pine and sycamore trees. They also removed and hauled away a dead cottonwood tree that was leaning toward the parking lot. Tree service companies are utilized by the District when specialized equipment is needed and/or climbing is required.



**Crown reduction on 80' sycamore tree**



## 15. Trees Down

As we all know, with winter comes downed trees. Rangers have spent several weeks this winter removing fallen trees across trails, including a cluster of trees blocking Fern Trail that required the assistance of a Gabilan Inmate Crew for three days. During January, Rangers removed trees blocking River Trail, Maple Canyon Trail, Rumsien Trail, and San Jose Creek Canyon Trail. This will be a recurring theme with each passing rain event.



**Large maple trees blocking Fern Trail**



**Oak tree blocking River Trail**



**Tree blocking Maple Canyon Trail**

## **PLANNING & CONSERVATION DIVISION**

### **1. Multi-Benefit Community Trail**

Staff have negotiated a draft Streambed Alteration Agreement with California Department of Fish and Wildlife to resolve a Notice of Violation that was issued after construction of the Multi-benefit Community Trail. The draft agreement that will be presented for Board approval during their 07 February meeting outlines a proposal to retire and realign segments of the Multi-Benefit Community Trail and other extant trails at the Rancho Cañada Unit of Palo Corona Regional Park, and restoration of a former golf course pond at the Park.

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

The Floodplain Restoration Project's design team is in ongoing discussions with Wildlife Conservation Board, State Coastal Conservancy, and other potential grant funders to secure grant funds necessary to begin the project's implementation in summer 2025.

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

Staff are working with Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) to secure additional restoration funding at Marina Dunes Preserve in exchange for implementing activities that mitigate impacts associated with MST's SURF!'s Busway and Rapid Transit Project. Staff have received preliminary approval from the State Coastal Conservancy, which holds title restrictions over the Preserve, and expect to bring a draft agreement to the Board for approval in Spring of this year.

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

Staff and MPRPD's consultant, SWCA, continue to work toward the development of a Low-effect Habitat Conservation Plan (LEHCP) for the Rancho Cañada Unit of



Palo Corona Regional Park. The Project team continues its work on the development of a comprehensive list of projects, operational activities, and programs that are expected to occur at the park over the next 20 years. This information will be the basis of what activities will be covered by the LEHCP.

**5. Frog Pond Wetland Preserve Fort Ord Regional Trails and Greenway Mitigation**

Staff continue to work with the Transportation Agency of Monterey County and its consultant team on proposed riparian and oak planting activities at Frog Pond Wetland Preserve as mitigation for vegetation that will need to be cleared at the Preserve during construction of the Canyon Del Rey/Highway 218 segment of the FORTAG trail. Staff are requesting that MPRPD maintain the ability to manage mitigation areas at the Preserve to ensure that mitigation plantings do not increase fire risk or other public safety concerns at the park.

**6. Laidlaw-Apte Vegetation Management Project**

Staff surveyed areas of the property where vegetation and fuels reduction work was completed in July of last year and observed healthy regrowth of the native understory in locations where vegetation was masticated. The recovery of the understory demonstrates how well-designed fuel reduction projects can address unnaturally high fuel conditions while also promoting the regeneration of a healthy and more fire-resilient native understory.



**Regrowth of native understory plants at the Laidlaw-Apte Bird Sanctuary Property after vegetation removal and mastication work occurred in July 2023**

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

MPPRPD staff continue to work with the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC) and Denise Duffy & Associates (DDA) on environmental review and permitting for Cal Fire and California Coastal Conservancy funded projects at Garland Ranch Regional Park. Work includes thinning of the eucalyptus grove near the Rancho Loop Trail and a shaded fuel break along East Garzas Road.

Staff are seeking Board approval to release a Request for Proposals for implementation of the eucalyptus removal and shaded fuel break. This will facilitate the start of this work shortly after all necessary permits and approvals are secured.

**END OF REPORT**