

**MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

DATE: August 5, 2020
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Jackie Nelson, Environmental Education Supervisor
REVIEWED BY: Rafael Payan, General Manager
SUBJECT: Approval of Park Use Agreement with Ventana Wildlife Society for Condor Feeding Station

SUMMARY:

Approval of a park use agreement (**ATTACHMENT 1**) between the Ventana Wildlife Society (VWS) and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) for the purpose of continuing the established temporary feeding station at Palo Corona Regional Park (PCRP) for the threatened and endangered California condor.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact anticipated at this time.

FUNDING SOURCE:

Not Applicable.

FUNDING BALANCE:

Not Applicable.

DISCUSSION:

In November 2013, the Board authorized MRPD to enter an agreement with the VWS for the purpose of establishing a temporary feeding station for California condors at PCRP. Feeding stations are a tool to help expand the condor's range, and PCRP serves as the ideal location for such a station. In addition to its location at the northern edge of the California condor's current range, PCRP boasts large pristine stands of coastal redwoods, considered prime nesting habitat, and has open grassland ridge areas providing easy condor access to terrestrial mammal carcasses, in addition to excellent ground-level visibility for viewing potential terrestrial predators such as coyotes and bobcats.

Outfitted with remote sensing cameras, the feeding station provided and continues to provide an opportunity to view the succession of curious wildlife visiting the site. First came skunks and racoons, then coyotes, a mountain lion, and even golden eagles. Once turkey vultures came to feed at this station, condors soon followed. Several visitors frequenting the PCRP Discovery Center have reported seeing condors, as have several residents who have seen condors near their homes along Malpaso Creek.

The opportunity "to play a role in one of the most ambitious and significant wildlife 'reintroduction' projects ever undertaken," through the consistent feeding and establishment of the station was temporarily compromised during and after the 2016

Soberanes Fire. Without the protection that uncharred natural groundcover offered, rampant soil erosion ensued caused by heavy rains, leading to localized flashfloods and road damage, limiting access to the site into 2019. A summary of the condor feeding station project is included for Board review (**ATTACHMENT 2**).

The feeding station is a story-telling platform to engage the public about the importance of conservation and the success of the condor recovery story. Conveying this story can be achieved through live streaming webcams, exhibits and life-size condor replicas. It is possible that by having feeding stations, such as the one in the backcountry of PCPR that someday soon we will be seeing condors soaring over Point Lobos, Monterey, and Marina.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff respectfully recommends the Board approve MPRPD entering a park use agreement with the VWS, thereby continuing the established temporary feeding station at PCRPR for the threatened and endangered California Condor for a five (5) year term, with the option to extend the term for additional five (5) years, and authorize staff to execute said agreement.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [VWS Park Use Agreement](#)
2. [VWS Condor Feeding Station Project Summary by Joe Burnett](#)