

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5-H

MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT BOARD REPORT

DATE: April 2, 2025
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Jake Smith, Planning & Conservation Program Manager
REVIEWED BY: Shuran Parker, Interim General Manager
SUBJECT: Approval of Utility Easement to Pacific Gas & Electric at the Frog Pond Wetland Preserve

SUMMARY

Staff respectfully recommend that the Board approve granting of a utility easement to Pacific Gas and Electric Company for the purpose of relocating and retrofitting utility facilities to enable construction of the Canyon Del Rey / State Route 218 Segment of the Fort Ord Recreation Trail and Greenway Project.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

FUNDING SOURCE

N/A

FUNDING BALANCE

N/A

DISCUSSION

Background

The Fort Ord Recreation Trail and Greenway Project (FORTAG) is a planned 28-mile network of multi-use trails designed to connect parks and green spaces in the cities of Monterey, Seaside, Del Rey Oaks, Marina, and surrounding unincorporated areas to the Fort Ord National Monument.

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) has been a strong supporter of the FORTAG project. In October 2017, MPRPD passed a resolution to approve the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) as the lead agency for FORTAG. This resolution also adopted the FORTAG trail alignment and integrated it into MPRPD's plans for the Frog Pond Wetland Preserve. In February 2020, MPRPD held a public study session on FORTAG, featuring presentations from TAMC and other project supporters. In June 2020, MPRPD entered into a Master Agreement with TAMC and

other local jurisdictions to incorporate FORTAG into MPRPD's property planning and management activities and to support TAMC in realizing the vision for the project. In April 2023, the MPRPD Board authorized the General Manager to sign a Supplemental Agreement with TAMC to further advance the project. TAMC, the lead agency for FORTAG, has secured over \$30 million in funding through 2016's Measure X and a grant from the California State Transportation Commission. Construction is already underway on the Canyon Del Rey / State Route 218 trail segment (CDR Segment), which includes building a highway underpass beneath Highway 218. This will provide access to FORTAG trail improvements through MPRPD's Frog Pond Wetland Preserve (Preserve).

The construction of the CDR Segment requires retrofitting and relocating utility infrastructure owned and operated by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). PG&E has requested that MPRPD grant a small utility easement to allow the construction of a strain pole at the Preserve, immediately adjacent to the trail corridor in an area that is not accessible to the public (see **ATTACHMENT 1** and Figures 1&2). Staff have reviewed the easement language and have confirmed that it aligns with MPRPD's management and operational requirements for the Preserve and requirements associated with a previous grant from the Land & Water Conservation Fund. However, the current easement text prohibits any improvements or construction within the easement area. Staff are working with PG&E, which recognizes that CDR Segment improvements will be made in this area, to revise the easement language to reflect that the CDR Segment improvements that are currently under construction are allowed uses under the easement. Final language has not yet been confirmed by PG&E, but TAMC has requested that MPRPD approve the easement during the April Board session as to avoid delaying the construction of the CDR Segment.

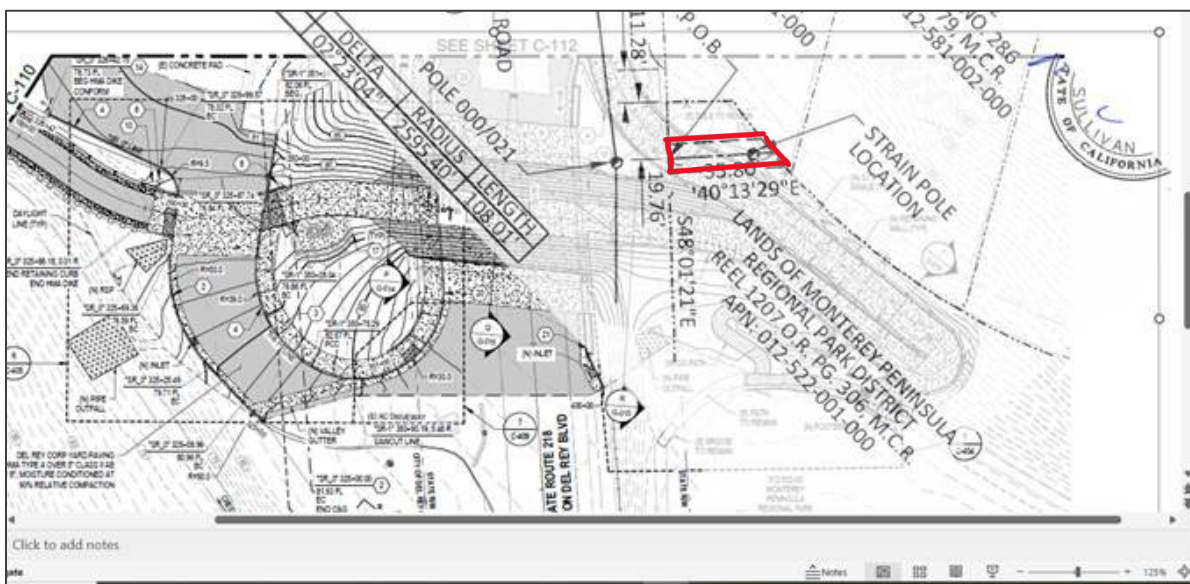


Figure 1: PG&E Easement boundary (red) overlaid on FORTAG CDR Segment improvements at the Frog Pond Wetland Preserve.



Figure 1: Rendering showing the proposed location of the PG&E strain pole adjacent to FORTAG CDR Segment improvements at the Frog Pond Wetland Preserve.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff respectfully recommend that the Board approve granting the utility easement to PG&E, contingent upon the incorporation of revised language that exempts CDR Segment facilities and maintenance activities from the easement terms, and subject to review and approval by MPRPD legal counsel.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [Draft PG&E Utility Easement](#)