

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:**

Jake Smith

Planning & Conservation Program Manager

Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)

Email: [jsmith@mprpd.org](mailto:jsmith@mprpd.org)

831-372-3196 ext. 116

Images available upon request



**Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project Receives Landmark \$10 Million Grant**

*National Coastal Resilience Fund supports project to restore former golf course*

Palo Corona Regional Park- Carmel CA, Thursday, October 12, 2023 - The Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project (Project) passed a major milestone last week when it was awarded \$10 million in implementation funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The Award marks the [largest single grant award](#) from this round of [NFWF's National Coastal Resilience Fund](#), established in 2018 to invest in projects that restore or expand natural features such as coastal forests, rivers, and floodplains that minimize the impacts of storms and other hazards on nearby communities.

Jake Smith, MPRPD Planning & Conservation Program Manager, stated "This grant award is a testament to the power of partnerships and years of hard work by organizations and community members to make rewilding this property a reality. We're deeply grateful to NFWF for its generous support and to our partners at the State Coastal Conservancy and Trout Unlimited. This project will become a model for how our public parks and open spaces can be redefined to provide greater benefit to our communities for generations to come".

Rachel Couch, Project Manager at the State Coastal Conservancy, stated "When completed this project will not only reconnect the Carmel River to its floodplain and improve overall watershed function, it will also provide a beautiful gateway to the larger Palo Corona Regional Park. We are thrilled to receive this generous grant".

The Project will restore over 1-mile of the Carmel River to expand its historic floodplain and forest, redirecting floodwaters away from communities like Hacienda Carmel, recharging the aquifer that supplies water to the Monterey Peninsula, and rebuilding habitat that supports the recovery of threatened species like the South-Central California Coast Steelhead, California Red-legged Frog, and migratory birds. The Project will transform over 40-acres of former privately-owned golf course property into a restored and rewilded refuge for wildlife and people including an improved network of public trails and new free span bridge across the restoration area. The grant, which was awarded to MPRPD's project partner at the California State Coastal Conservancy, will be transferred to MPRPD prior to construction. The Project will need to raise an additional \$15M-\$20M before it can begin construction as soon as summer of next year.

###

**About the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District**

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) has been preserving and protecting parks and open space since 1972. For more information on the MPRPD and its mission, vision, and open spaces, please call 831.372-3196 or visit [www.mprpd.org](http://www.mprpd.org).