

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

DATE: February 1, 2023
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Jackie Nelson and Savannah Peña
REVIEW BY: Rafael Payan, General Manager
SUBJECT: Review and Approval of Let's Go Outdoors! Transportation Grant Agreement

SUMMARY:

Staff respectfully requests the Boards consider entering into an agreement with the Community Foundation of Monterey County (CFMC) to establish the "MPRPD Transportation Grant" program, a special purpose fund (ATTACHMENT1).

FISCAL IMPACT:

Up to \$50,000 annually

FUNDING SOURCE:

Account 6791 Grant Program

FUNDING BALANCE:

\$969,300 (as of 1/12/2023)

DISCUSSION:

July 2019 saw the start of the Parks, Open Space and Coastal Preservation Community Facilities District (CFD), an annual property tax assessment, approved by voters in November 2016. Services presented to the electorate included assurance to increase recreational access to natural areas through platforms like the community and neighborhood grant program established during the Assessment District, a property tax assessment from 2004-2019. The transportation grant is conceived as an extension of the community and neighborhood grant program established during the assessment tax.

Transportation is one of the largest barriers for equitable access to parks and open spaces by partners, school districts, local organizations, families, and community members. School and outdoor education programs, special events, and recreational opportunities are expanding at MPRPD. These programs offer teaching opportunities not replicated in classrooms, as well as new perspectives and approaches for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to learn. The transportation grant increases MPRPD's ability to serve the community while addressing a critical barrier.

Staff has researched venues to establish the transportation grant program while considering its implementation and management with limited staff resources and time. The Community Foundation of Monterey County (CFMC) is a highly respected, fiscally

responsibility, well-known organization whose focus is to make grants available to the communities in Monterey County and beyond. They offer expertise and targeted outreach to implement the MPRPD Transportation Grant with minimal overhead fees of 2%, assessed quarterly. Upon reviewing the investment options, MPRPD elected to invest in the low risk, fiscally conservative Money Market account as staff assesses the program (ATTACHMENT 2). CFMC will manage all aspects of administering the grant while establishing strong communication practices with MPRPD staff and providing quarterly statements and annual reports, or as requested.

The grant identifies a hierarchy of grant qualifications with well-defined guidelines outlined in EXHIBIT C. Eligibility of the grant includes applicants must be within the tri-county areas of Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito and must be visiting an MPPRD property. Grant amounts are reviewed and distributed based on the MPRPD fiscal year, July 1-June 30, annually.

This program is a template to develop other fund programs such as the proposed Let's Go Outdoors! (LGO!) Fund. The LGO! Fund is a separate contribution funding mechanism for the public, businesses, and other entities to support MPRPD projects. This different program will be presented to the board in the coming months.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends that the Board direct staff to execute the Contribution and Acceptance Agreement with the Community Foundation of Monterey County to establish the MPRPD Transportation Grant Program and authorize staff to fund the program in the starting amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) as adopted in the FY2022-2023 MPRPD approved budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [CFMC Contribution and Acceptance Agreement](#)
2. [CFMC Investment Brochure](#)