

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

DATE: November 1, 2023
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Jake Smith, Planning & Conservation Program Manager
REVIEWED BY: Rafael Payan, General Manager
SUBJECT: Review and Approval of Resolution #2023-13, Finding the Marina Dunes Preserve Coastal Dunes Restoration and Enhancement Project Exempt from CEQA

SUMMARY:

Staff are requesting Board approve the Marina Dunes Preserve Coastal Dunes Restoration and Enhancement Project and find it exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act so that staff may continue securing project permits and begin PG&E funded restoration activities at the Marina Dunes Preserve in fall 2023.

FISCAL IMPACT:

County Clerk Recorder Notice of Exemption Fee: \$50.00

FUNDING SOURCE:

6794- Professional/Contract Services

FUNDING BALANCE:

\$940,141

BACKGROUND:

The Marina Dunes Preserve (Preserve) is an approximately 62-acre publicly accessible Preserve located along the northern coastline of the City of Marina. The Monterey Regional Park District (MRRPD) acquired the Preserve via three separate land acquisitions beginning in 1988, ending extractive mining activities, permanently protecting the coastline from future development, and opening new areas of the coastline for public access. For decades MRRPD has been working to protect and enhance coastal dune habitat in the Preserve and most recently completed the Marina Dunes Preserve Restoration Action Plan (RAP) which outlines updated restoration priorities for the Preserve and was presented to MRRPD's Board on April 7, 2021.

On February 2, 2022, the Board authorized staff to enter into an agreement with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to implement dune stabilization and habitat restoration at the Preserve **in alignment with** restoration priorities identified in the RAP. Likewise, staff are currently working with Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) to identify how MST may be able to fund implementation of additional restoration priorities identified in the RAP as mitigation for MST's proposed SURF! Transportation Project. Staff propose that implementation of the recommendations included in the RAP, including elements funded by PG&E and potentially MST, be a part of the Marina Dunes Preserve Coastal Dunes

Restoration and Enhancement Project. Prior to beginning restoration activities, MPRPD must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) to secure a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) from the City of Marina, and an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

DISCUSSION:

MPRPD contracted with Burleson Consulting, a Terracon Company (Burleson) to analyze the Project and determine whether the Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. Burleson prepared a brief memo summarizing its analysis of the Project which determined the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Class 4 categorical exemptions (CEQA Guidelines Section 15304) which apply to minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes (**ATTACHMENT 1**). If the Board approves the Marina Dunes Preserve Coastal Dunes Restoration and Enhancement Project and find it exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, staff will file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk Recorder and proceed with applying for a CDP and ITP so that Project work can begin as soon as this fall.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff respectfully recommend that the Board approve the Marina Dunes Preserve Coastal Dunes Restoration and Enhancement Project and find it exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (**ATTACHMENT 2**).

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Marina Dunes Preserve Coastal Dunes Restoration and Enhancement Project CEQA Memorandum](#)
2. [Resolution #2023-13 Finding the Marina Dunes Preserve Coastal Dunes Restoration and Enhancement Project Exempt from CEQA](#)