

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

DATE: April 3, 2024
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Jake Smith, Planning and Conservation Program Manager
REVIEWED BY: Rafael Payan, General Manager
SUBJECT: Consideration of Option to Renew Grazing Lease with Paddock Land & Cattle

SUMMARY:

Staff wish to exercise an option to renew a grazing lease through June 30, 2026, to allow Paddock Land and Cattle to continue their essential grazing operations as a resource conservation and land management tool at Palo Corona Regional Park.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The District receives \$1.00 per year, in addition to grassland, infrastructure, and land management services from its Lessee that offset MPRPD’s costs for managing the Property.

FUNDING SOURCE:

Not applicable.

FUNDING BALANCE:

Not applicable.

DISCUSSION:

Palo Corona Regional Park (Property) has a long history of cattle grazing and livestock operations prior to the District’s acquisition of the 4,300-acre Property. The District has continued livestock grazing as a resource conservation and land management tool to protect and enhance sensitive natural communities, minimize the proliferation of invasive flora, and reduce the risk and severity of wildfires. The District manages grazing of the Property according to its Grassland Management Plan for Palo Corona Regional Park (2007), which outlines grassland conservation targets, biological goals & objectives, and tailors grazing prescriptions to maintain or enhance natural communities and special status species populations within the Property.

The District does not operate its own cattle operation but instead leases the Property to private cattle operators to implement grazing operations in coordination with District staff. The District most recently awarded the Property’s grazing lease (Lease) to Paddock Land and Cattle after a public request for proposal (RFP) process in 2014 (**ATTACHMENT 1**), which was subsequently amended in 2017 to change the lease term end date to May 1, 2024 (**ATTACHMENT 2**). The Lease provides for an option to renew the Lease term for an additional five (5) year term. Staff wish to exercise this option to renew the lease for twenty-six months (2 years and two months) through June 30, 2026, to allow Paddock

Land and Cattle to continue providing critically needed grazing services on the Property. Staff anticipate that a future lease will be the subject of a public RFP process after staff can comprehensively review and revise the lease to ensure that the Property's conservation and land management goals are being met and to align with comparable grazing leases in the region.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff respectfully recommends that the Board authorize and direct the General Manager to execute District's option to renew its grazing lease with Paddock Land & Cattle for a term of twenty-six months (2 years and 2 months), terminating on June 30, 2026.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Grazing Lease with Paddock Land and Cattle](#)
2. [Amendment to Grazing Lease with Paddock Land and Cattle](#)
3. [Option to Renew Grazing Lease with Paddock Land and Cattle](#)