

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

DATE: May 4, 2022
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Caine Camarillo, Supervising Ranger
REVIEWED BY: Rafael Payan, General Manager
SUBJECT: Review and Approval of Resolution #2022-10, Designating the Fuel Mitigation Activities Project at Garland Ranch Regional Park as Exempt from CEQA Guidelines

SUMMARY:

Staff respectfully requests that the Board approve Resolution #2022-10 to adopt the fuel mitigation activities project at Garland Ranch Regional Park (GRRP) which qualifies as a CEQA exempt project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Not applicable

FUNDING SOURCE:

Not applicable

FUNDING BALANCE:

Not applicable

DISCUSSION:

MRRPD staff responded to the State Coastal Conservancy's call for projects with a pre-application requirement through the Wildfire Resilience Grant program. The request for pre-applications aligned with the Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Mitigation and Fire Management Plan (FMFMP) process and schedule. Based on the pre-application submittal, MRRPD's project was selected and asked to complete a full application which is due in early May 2022.

The District's pre-application requested capacity funding for the Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Mitigation and Fire Management Plan, and implementation funding for immediate fuel mitigation efforts with primary attribution of those funds for the possible removal of approximately 11-acres of eucalyptus trees within the park. Furthermore, this potential grant will enhance the funding efforts of the MRRPD Board and extend wildfire prevention by increasing fuel mitigation efforts to include the Garzas Road shaded fuel break.

If the Board authorizes staff to submit an application, then staff also recommends the Board approve Resolution #2022-10, approving the fuel mitigation activities project as it qualifies as a Class 4 Categorical Exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), California Code of Regulations (CCR) CEQA Guidelines Section 15304.

The two significant activities proposed by MPRPD include:

1. Thinning or full eradication (based on GRRP FMFMP recommendations) of the Rancho Loop eucalyptus grove within GRRP (11 acres).
2. Creation of a shaded fuel break (50') along River Trail in GRRP, paralleling East Garzas Road in Carmel Valley Village (6.2 acres).

The project meets the requirements of a CEQA Article 19 Class 4 Categorical exemption "Minor Alterations to Land" (Section 15304, Public Resources Code) as the proposed activities involve minor alterations to conditions of land and vegetation not involving removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff respectfully recommends that the Board adopt Resolution #2022-10 approving the project as a CEQA exempt project.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Resolution #2022-10 Adopting the project as a CEQA exempt project](#)