

**MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
DIVISION REPORT**

BOARD MEETING: November 13, 2019

SUBJECT: Administration Division Update

PRESENTER: Rafael Payan, General Manager

REPORT: Staff continues to collaborate with our partners on several key projects as noted below. Periodic updates will be provided to the Board as these and other items advance.

A. Annual Financial Audit: As previously reported, documents have been compiled and submitted, and schedules finalized in preparation for the auditor's review and subsequent development of MPRPD's annual financial statement.

B. Frog Pond Wetland Preserve: Staff independently met with TAMC personnel, FORTAG's proponents including Messieurs Fred Watson and Scott Waltz, and officials representing the cities of Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, and Seaside, to explore the potential of creating a multi-modal (bike/pedestrian) corridor through Frog Pond Wetland Reserve. This proposed project may:

1. Construct bicycle trails paralleling the extant pedestrian trails, where possible, to minimize the project's impact to the site;
2. Create two vehicular parking areas that include bicycle staging and pedestrian trailheads. The proposed parking areas will be in proximity of Del Rey Oaks' City Hall and "east" of Jim Moore Boulevard. This proposed project may require:
 - a. Pedestrian/bicycle underpasses beneath Jim Moore Boulevard and Highway 218 to eliminate "surface-crossing" by pedestrians and bicyclists;
 - b. Acquisition of property east of Jim Moore Boulevard, as is being explored by TAMC; and,
 - c. Once successfully executed, MPRPD's abandonment of the extant parking area and trailhead in proximity to Highway 218.
3. Like MPRPD's recent acquisition of the Rancho Canada Unit, this proposed project may provide an opportunity to:
 - a. Embark on a large-scale native riparian habitat restoration project that enhances California Red-legged Frog habitat, removes non-native vegetation, and restores critical riverine, marsh and pond habitat;

- b. Recreate the site’s former native oak groves and woodlands. This will provide visual screens between the extant trail corridor and residences immediately adjacent to Frog Pond; and,
- c. Establish an important hub that connects Fort Ord, Laguna Grande, the California Coastal Trail, Pacific Ocean, Jacks Peak, and Palo Corona to some of our region’s most walkable and bike-able communities.

C. Laguna Grande Regional Park: MPRPD continues to work with the cities of Monterey and Seaside to identify feasible options that may enhance the park’s use and help restore critical native habitat. The three-party Joint Powers Agency will also determine this coalition’s future.

D. Personnel: Candidates were interviewed to fill the EECO Division’s vacancies. These positions are temporary. Successful candidates will develop and deliver environmental education programs, help construct exhibits, and staff the Garland Ranch Visitor Center and Palo Corona Discovery Center.

E. San Jose Creek Trail: MPRPD recently held an “all-staff tour” of the Palo Corona-San Jose Creek trail corridor. The tour began at the Rancho Canada Unit. Stops included Palo Corona’s Inspiration Point, Animas Pond, and the historic hunting cabin and homestead sites. The entourage also toured the three recently constructed pedestrian bridges spanning San Jose Creek, California State Parks’ residential and operations complex at San Jose Creek, and the complex’s entrance at State Route 1.

The purpose of this trip was to familiarize 100% of our permanent staff with this trail corridor and some of the potential “side-hikes” the public may take once this trail corridor is open – which could be as early as this winter. Familiarity will especially help in responding to pertinent questions.

MPRPD Staff will coordinate a similar hike for our Board in advance of the trail’s opening to the public. Said tour will align with the Brown Act.

F. Strategic Plan: A draft summary will be submitted for the Board’s review as early as this December.

FISCAL IMPACT: Not applicable.

FUNDING SOURCE: Not applicable.

FUNDING BALANCE: Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION: This report is for information only.