

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

DATE: March 4, 2020
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Rafael Payan, General Manager
SUBJECT: Review and Approval of Grant Agreement with California State Coastal Conservancy for Palo Corona Regional Park Habitat Restoration Plan Development Services

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends the Board receive this report and consider authorizing Staff to enter an agreement between the California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) substantially in the presented form **(ATTACHMENT 1)**.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Up to \$617,610.60

FUNDING SOURCE:

Account Code #4220-TPL Grant	\$150,000
Account Code #4220.1-TPL/Cal Am Grant	<u>\$467,610.60</u>
	\$617,610.60

FUNDING BALANCE:

\$617,610.60 (cumulative amount for these funding sources)

In advance of the Rancho Canada Golf Club's acquisition, The Trust for Public Land (TPL) and California-American Water Company (Cal Am) entered a Voluntary Agreement for the Temporary Forbearance of Diversion of Water. Per the Agreement, TPL would receive water forbearance funds from Cal Am. In an agreement dated March 30, 2018, TPL agreed to grant the anticipated water forbearance funds to MPRPD.

In January 2019, TPL awarded water forbearance funds to MPRPD in the amount of \$467,610.60 to MPRPD. The prior year, TPL awarded MPRPD \$150,000.

The purpose of the TPL Grant Funds is solely for the management, operation, maintenance, restoration and enhancement of the 185-acre property now known as the Palo Corona Regional Park's Rancho Canada Unit (RCU). In 2018, MPRPD purchased the RCU from TPL.

DISCUSSION:

MPRPD and SCC propose entering an Agreement wherein the SCC will develop the RCU's Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Plan (Plan), conduct environmental review for the Plan under the California Environmental Quality Act, and prepare permit applications for the Plan leading to its implementation.

The Plan will guide the RCU's restoration from a former golf course to native riparian, grassland, and woodland habitats that will benefit common and rare flora and fauna, and provide opportunities for our communities' residents – especially children – by having them participate in the site's restoration. Scientists, restoration experts and others consider this a significant once-in-a-lifetime project. Because of this, the Plan may also help leverage donations and grants for the Plan's subsequent implementation, and the site's monitoring and operation.

The proposed partnership between SCC and MPRPD will mirrors the productive relationship that the County of Monterey and MPRPD presently have (wherein the County provides Legal Counsel to MPRPD). This adaptive, cost effective and highly efficient model may benefit other organizations and be applied to other endeavors.

SCC is eager to enter an Agreement with MPRPD and has authority under Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 31220 to undertake coastal watershed restoration projects. Further, the SCC has authority under PRC Section 31104 to accept funds from private and public entities, and, subject to approval of the California Department of Finance, to deposit funds into the Coastal Trust Fund for expenditure consistent with the purposes of the funds.

ATTACHMENT:

1. [Grant Agreement between the California State Coastal Conservancy and MPRPD](#)