

MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

**DATE:** May 5, 2021  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Savannah Peña, Environmental Education Coordinator - Programs  
**REVIEWED BY:** Rafael Payan, General Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Findings and Summary of the San Clemente/Blue Rock Drone Imagery and Vegetation Overview Following the Carmel Fire, Dr. Doug Smith, CSUMB

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**SUMMARY:**

Staff respectfully recommends the Board receive the presentation on the findings, initial recommendations, and summary (**ATTACHMENT 1**) of Post-fire Baseline Monitoring of San Clemente-Blue Rock Open Space and Kahn Ranch Parcels as presented by Lauren Marshall and Dr. Doug Smith from California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB).

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

\$5727

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

Account # 6549 Professional Services

**FUNDING BALANCE:**

As of 2/28/2021, account # 6549 had a remaining balance \$23,000 (80% spent).

**DISCUSSION:**

MPPRPD is committed to the expansion and collection of images and videos through drone and aerial imagery to enhance historical documentation, current and future scientific analysis, and educational opportunities. In response to the August 2020 Carmel Fire, MPPRPD entered the "Carmel Watershed Fire Impact and Monitoring Aerial Imaging" cooperative agreement to document areas affected by fire and fuel break practices. MPPRPD contracted with Dr. Doug Smith from CSUMB to collect baseline data and monitoring points at the fire-impacted sites of San Clemente-Blue Rock Open Space and the fire break site on Osborne Ridge at Kahn Ranch.

Dr. Doug Smith and third-year Environmental Science Student, Lauren Marshall, took drone imagery of the sites prior to forecasted rains. The imagery will determine photo monitoring points to document ground-cover changes and seasonal variability through a time series of photos and videos, historically documenting restoration activities. An ongoing effort to collect these photos are needed to analyze and inform future

management practice and document post-fire successional vegetation growth and recovery rates, especially as this pertains to the proliferation of invasive species.

The following presentation by Lauren Marshall, a graduate student mentored by Dr. Doug Smith, outlines the initial findings and recommendations for future monitoring of fire-impacted lands.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

No action is required at this time.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. [Post-fire Baseline Monitoring of San Clemente-Blue Rock Open Space and Kahn Ranch Parcels of Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District](#)