

MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DATE: May 4, 2022
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Jackie Nelson, Environmental Education Supervisor
REVIEWED BY: Rafael Payan, General Manager
SUBJECT: Approval Letter of Intent to Receive Environmental Mitigation from Monterey Salinas Transit (MST) for SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit

SUMMARY:

Staff respectfully requests the Boards consideration and approval the Letter of Intent to receive Environmental Mitigation support from Monterey Salinas Transit (MST) for SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit, as presented or in substantially similar form (**ATTACHMENT 1**).

FISCAL IMPACT:

To Be Determined.

FUNDING SOURCE:

To Be Determined.

FUNDING BALANCE:

To Be Determined.

DISCUSSION:

In 2016, Monterey County voters approved Measure X, the SURF Line project, to reduce travel time, decrease car emissions, and build a more modern public transit network. Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) Board approved the “SURF” transit line from the Marina transit exchange to Reservation Road and through the TAMC owned rail line along the Monterey Coastal Trail in July 2021. The dormant rail line runs through the Fort Ord Dunes State Park (FODSP) corridor and the project will impact native plants, and Smith’s blue butterfly habitat. MST selected Marina Dunes Preserve (MDP) as the mitigation and monitoring site because of its proximity to the project and the MPRPD’s Board approved 2021 MDP Restoration Action Plan.

As part of the CEQA statutory exemption, CEQA Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and the associated Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program the Federal Transit Administration is currently reviewing the project and preparing to issue a Categorical Exclusion with associated mitigation measures pursuant to NEPA. MST

must mitigate for permanent loss of coastal dune habitat as a result of the project. The exact mitigation requires are under review.

In May 2021, MPRPD staff met with MST staff to begin project discussions and assess the mitigation needs. It was determined the 62-acre Marina Dunes Preserve, north of the SURF project, served as a site for the project. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has requested that MST provide documentation that it is collaborating with partner agencies to identify suitable mitigation.

The General Manager, or her/his designee, shall coordinate the mitigation project and provide updates to the Board.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends the Board approve the Letter of Intent in support of the Environmental Mitigation from Monterey Salinas Transit (MST) for SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit, substantially in the form presented.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Draft Letter of Intent](#)