



PRESS CONTACT:

Rafael Payan, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District
payan@mprpd.org
(831) 372-3196 ext. 101

Hank Armstrong, Big Sur Marathon Foundation
hank@bsim.org
(831) 625-6226

**Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District and Big Sur Marathon Foundation
Partner to Host Pacific Coast Athletic League Cross-Country Championships for
All Divisions**

*Partnership has supported more than 5,000 Youth from 100+ Monterey County Schools to Compete
and Connect on the Palo Corona Regional Park Community Trail*

****Photo and Video Opportunities****

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA, CA – For the second consecutive year, [Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District](#) (MPRPD) and [Big Sur Marathon Foundation](#) (BSMF) will partner to host [Pacific Coast Athletic League](#) (PCAL) Cross-County Championships for All Divisions on **Saturday, October 28 from 9:00am to 1:30pm at Palo Corona Regional Park.**

Through the partnership, both organizations are able to successfully run a responsible event with a shared commitment to stewardship and sustainability of the land for all to access and enjoy.

“We see PCAL’s championship not only as a celebration for the student athletes, coaches, and families who get to experience the beauty and wonder of Palo Corona,” shared Rafael Payan, General Manager at MPRPD. “We also view it as a celebration of two years of strong partnership to provide a unique resource to our community schools and their teams at no charge.”

By Saturday, October 28, over 5,000 youth from more than 100 schools across Monterey County and beyond will have competed on the newly established Palo Corona Multi-Benefit Community Trail, at no cost to the schools.

“We see this partnership and this trail as just the beginning of equitable access,” shared Hank Armstrong, Vice-Chair of BSMF. “By partnering with MPRPD, we’re able to offer safe transportation and opportunities to experience open spaces like Palo Corona to students from South County and Salinas – which is something that we all strive to have happen. We have even heard that some of our local student athletes never even knew about Palo Corona and the open trails it provides to our community and visitors alike.”

The Multi-Benefit Community Trail is a lower-level trail that runs along the Carmel River, it has 1k and 2k intersecting loops with an elevation change of 80 feet, and connects to the more expanded Palo Corona trail network. In addition to the trail, MPRPD is continuing to integrate recreation with conservation as they progress with the restoration of Palo Corona Regional Park.

WHAT: Celebration of Multi-Benefit Community Trail & Partnerships at PCAL Championships

WHO: *Interviews available on-site:*

Rafael Payan

General Manager, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

Monta Potter

Board Director, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

Hank Armstrong

Vice Chair, Big Sur Marathon Foundation

Josh Priester

Executive Director / Race Director, Big Sur Marathon Foundation

Bertrand Newsom

Community Engagement Manager, Big Sur Marathon Foundation

WHEN: **Saturday, October 28**
9:00am - 1:30pm

WHERE: [Palo Corona Regional Park](#)
Multi-Benefit Community Trail
Carmel-By-The-Sea, CA 93923

**Members of the press are welcome to come to the Hospitality Tent to connect with community leaders, coaches, and athletes between 9:30am - 11:00am*

SCHEDULE: 9:00am: Race 1 Start Time (5 Races total)
12:05pm: Race 5 Start Time
1:00pm: PCAL Awards Ceremony
1:30pm: Trail / Park Cleanup

About the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) has been preserving and protecting parks and open space since 1972. For more information on the MPRPD and its mission, vision, and open spaces, please call 831.372-3196 or visit www.mprpd.org.

About the Big Sur Marathon Foundation

The Big Sur International Marathon was established in 1986 and today is managed by a 12-person Governance Board of the non-profit Big Sur Marathon Foundation. The Big Sur Marathon Foundation creates beautiful running events that promote health and benefit our community. For more information, please visit www.bigsurmarathon.org