

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

**DATE:** November 14, 2018  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Jackie Nelson, Environmental Education Supervisor  
**REVIEWED BY:** Rafael Payan, General Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Consideration and Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Staff respectfully recommends that the Board consider entering into an agreement with the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History (PGMNH) and direct staff to execute said Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in substantially the form and content submitted for the promotion of academic success and educational, outdoor experiences for school-aged youth within our community (**ATTACHMENT 1**).

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) bus transportation for school programs during the Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

Parks, Open Space & Coastal Preservation Assessment District- Account 6974  
Community/Neighborhood Parks.

**FUNDING BALANCE:**

\$10,000

**DISCUSSION:**

Committed to engaging youth with nature, MPRPD initially entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History (PGMNH) to connect youth and watersheds on MPRPD lands in July 2015. During the past three years, youth in grades Kindergarten to 8th participated in the Watershed Explorers program. These experiences included a classroom pre-visit to prepare students for their trip, nature walks in Garland Ranch Regional Park, and sampling macroinvertebrates in the Carmel River. In the most recent year of this program, Watershed Explorers served 1,773 students. Of these students, 1,111 students were from underserved schools (Title 1).

This MOU has benefitted both MPRPD and PGMNH. With a desire to promote watershed community science, also known as citizen science, but no access to watersheds at their institution, PGMNH relies on partnerships, like MPRPD, to provide access to watershed adjoining lands for their programming. Both MPRPD and PGMNH

staff have benefitted by sharing resources for student program planning and delivery, as well as teacher professional development.

MPPRPD staff respectfully requests that the Board of Directors approve entering into another one-year MOU agreement with the PGMNH, for the next iteration of Watershed Explores, *Watershed Guardians*. Watershed Guardians will serve students 6th-12th grade, providing opportunities to monitor water quality along the Carmel River and subsequently analyze their data with the data available to MPPRPD, annually. The program plans to serve 1,500 students while using sites at Dampierre Park and Garland Ranch and Palo Corona regional parks. To date, in the 18-19 school year, the program has served 368 students.

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. [2018-2019 Memorandum of Understanding](#)