

MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DATE: August 5, 2020
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Jackie Nelson, Environmental Education Supervisor
REVIEWED BY: Rafael Payan, General Manager
SUBJECT: Approval of Outreach and Education Memorandum of Understanding with Ventana Wildlife Society

SUMMARY:

Staff respectfully recommends the Board approve the continuation of MPRPD's agreement with the Ventana Wildlife Society (VWS) and direct staff to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (**ATTACHMENT 1**) in substantially the form and content submitted for the purpose of VWS Education and Outreach staff accessing MPRPD properties to promote health and wellness, and educational and outdoor experiences to diverse youth groups.

FISCAL IMPACT:

\$2,500 annually.

FUNDING SOURCE:

Grants Program – Account #6791: Staff recommends the Board adopt a mid-year budget adjustment for MPRPD's Grant Program. Funding is provided from the Community Facilities District (Services) account and shall provide much needed transportation funds to the District's community members.

FUNDING BALANCE:

Current balance \$0.00.

DISCUSSION:

Establishing productive partnerships and collaborative relationships with organizations that have congruent missions is a key to the success of environmental education and outreach programs. In March 2016, MPRPD and VWS entered an MOU to engage youth in these types of meaningful outdoor experiences on MPRPD lands (**ATTACHMENT 2**). This aligned with the MPRPD 2016-2020 Strategic Plan's Goal II of "*Engaging People with Nature*".

This valuable community partnership has given nearly 2,000 youth an interactive, thought-provoking, experience outdoors, with many of these students visiting the sites for the first time. Directing efforts towards diversity and inclusion, VWS is a proponent of providing access to marginalized communities of which 60% of the youth served attend for free through grant-funded support. Thus, removing barriers such as transportation costs and program fees enhances the opportunity to reach additional children and have them participate in environmental education and outdoor activities that they might not otherwise

be exposed to. A summary of the VWS Education and Outreach program is attached **(ATTACHMENT 3)**. MPRPD and VWS staff have benefitted by sharing resources for program planning and providing natural history information.

As a decentralized operation, VWS relies on partnerships, like MPRPD, to provide access to natural open spaces and protected lands for their programming. Due to numerically limited staffing, MPRPD has adopted a model of collaboration with organizations respected in the community and having positive records, like VWS, to reach a broader, more diverse group of people to share the conservation message.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MPRPD staff respectfully requests the Board of Directors approve entering a five-year education-based MOU agreement with the Ventana Wildlife Society and authorize the General Manager to execute said agreement.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Education MOU Agreement Between Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District and Ventana Wildlife Society](#)
2. [2016-2017 MOU Agreement between MPRPD and VWS](#)
3. [VWS Education and Outreach Summary by Alena Porte](#)