

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

DATE: May 4, 2022
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Caine Camarillo, Supervising Ranger
REVIEWED BY: Rafael Payan, General Manager
SUBJECT: Consider Approval to Submit Grant Application for the Coastal Conservancy’s Wildfire Resilience Grant

SUMMARY:

Staff respectfully requests that the Board approve and authorize staff to apply for the Wildfire Resilience Grant through the State Coastal Conservancy to address fuel mitigation and fire management strategies at Garland Ranch Regional Park. The required pre-application submitted on January 14, 2022 is provided for your review (**ATTACHMENT 1**).

FISCAL IMPACT:

Potentially \$598,000 in grant revenue.

FUNDING SOURCE:

State Coastal Conservancy Wildfire Resilience Grant Program

FUNDING BALANCE:

Potentially \$598,000 in grant revenue, with a 2-year term to expend funds

DISCUSSION:

In January 2022, staff responded to the State Coastal Conservancy’s call for projects with a pre-application requirement through the Wildfire Resilience Grant. The request for pre-applications aligned with the Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Mitigation and Fire Management Plan process and schedule. Based on the pre-application submittal, MPRPD’s project was selected and asked to complete a full application.

The State Coastal Conservancy (“Conservancy”) is a state agency, established in 1976, to work proactively with local communities to implement multi-benefit projects that protect and enhance coastal resources. The Conservancy is leading the state’s Central Coastal Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program with funding from the Department of Conservation. Conservancy funding from this program comes from three separate sources with different priorities and geographies.

The Coastal Conservancy’s Wildfire Resilience Program supports local partners to develop and implement projects that improve ecological health of natural lands and reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in areas where people live. The program will fund grants for (1) on-the-ground activities to restore the health and increase resilience of California forests, grasslands, and natural lands to wildfire; and (2) planning and capacity building to increase wildfire resilience in California for projects from Marin County south to Ventura County.

As reported in the February 2022 Operations & Maintenance Division report, staff coordinated with RGS Consultants to apply for grant funding through this program. The District applied for capacity funding for a) the Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Mitigation and Fire Management Plan, and implementation funding for immediate fuel mitigation efforts with primary attribution of those funds to removal of approximately 11-acres of mature stands of eucalyptus trees within the park. This potential grant will enhance the funding efforts of the MPRPD Board and extend wildfire prevention by increasing fuel mitigation efforts to include the Garza Road shaded fuel break. All these efforts are to align with the Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Mitigation and Fire Management Plan which is now underway with the consultant firm Rincon.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff respectfully requests that the Board approve and authorize staff to apply for the State Coastal Conservancy Wildfire Resilience Grant based on the projects outlined in the staff report.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Coastal Conservancy Wildfire Resilience Grant Pre-Application](#)