

PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

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Images available

California Red-legged Frogs Discovered at Palo Corona Regional Park

Discovery is an opportunity to expand critical habitat, research, and environmental education.

Carmel CA, Tuesday, August 30, 2022 - In May 2022, MPRPD began construction of “Project B” at Palo Corona Regional Park’s front entrance to provide permanent restroom facilities, vehicle and bus pull-out, a welcome plaza, enhanced accessible parking and a semi-permeable event pad. The project, scheduled to be completed in November, was paused last week when California red-legged frogs were discovered in the irrigation pond near the restroom construction site. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and other regulatory agencies were contacted, and the project was put on hold until a site review is completed.

MPRPD staff sees the discovery of California red-legged frogs in the pond near the site of a future outdoor classroom as a testament to the capabilities of this site to be restored for habitat and conservation values and enhancing research efforts and environmental education, while also providing important public access and recreation within the regional park.

“We are all inspired by how much our community loves this special place,” Jackie Nelson, Environmental Education Supervisor stated. “And we have the same overall goal—to see Palo Corona improved to provide responsible public access while enhancing the habitat for wildlife, including these newly discovered red-legged frogs.”

Since moving onto the former Rancho Cañada Golf Club property, now known as the Rancho Cañada Unit of Palo Corona Regional Park, in May 2018, MPRPD has collaborated with local scientists and consultants to conduct habitat and species assessments, especially monitoring species of concern. A 2019 amphibian study reported an abundance of invasive bullfrogs, but no evidence of any listed species in the pond once used to irrigate much of the former west golf course.

“Our commitment to the MPRPD mission, ‘to acquire and maintain open space in the District for preservation and use, collaborating with partners and the community, for public benefit and enjoyment, and environmental protection’ is stronger than ever,” said Rafael Payan, MPRPD General Manager. “We will continue to be flexible and inclusive in our efforts to manage this ever-changing landscape for public benefit and for the protection of our precious natural habitats.”

The long-term vision to take an old golf course and create habitats and a park for all includes the enhancement of the Carmel River with the Rancho Canada Floodplain Restoration Project and upland

enhancement projects, removal of asphalt cart paths, and enhancement of habitats through reintroduction of native plants.

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) is celebrating 50-years of preserving and protecting parks and open space for wildlife and public enjoyment. For more information visit the MPRPD website at: www.mprpd.org OR follow us on Facebook.

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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. MPRPD is committed to being an inspirational, inclusive, respected, sustainable, and valued open space district that collaborates with and serves the community, and its conservation needs through interconnected open spaces, public parks, education, and advocacy for the entire community. For more information on the MPRPD and its mission, vision, and open spaces, please call 831.372-3196 or visit www.mprpd.org.