



## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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*Images Available*

### **Transparency Certificate of Excellence Awarded to Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District**

**Carmel, CA, August 6, 2018** – The **Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District** received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance.

“This award is a testament to **Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District’s** commitment to open government,” said Rafael Payan, General Manager. “The entire district staff is to be commended for their contributions that empower the public with information and facilitate engagement and oversight.” To receive the award, a special district must demonstrate the completion of essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for all board members, properly conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller in a timely manner.

The **Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District’s** current boundaries cover over 500 square miles and include the seven incorporated cities on the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Valley, Pebble Beach and the Big Sur Coast. The District is governed by an elected Board of Directors, representing the citizens in each of five wards.

It is the mission of **Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District** to acquire and maintain open space in the District for preservation and use, working with partners and the community, for public benefit, enjoyment and environmental protection.

It is the District’s vision to have several large well managed parks distributed regionally across the District, representing a variety of habitats, concurrently protecting our environment and enhancing our community’s health, recreational and environmental education opportunities.

SDLF is an independent, non-profit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California’s special districts through certification, accreditation, and other recognition programs.

Special districts are independent public agencies that deliver core local services to communities, such as parks and recreation, water, wastewater treatment, fire protection, healthcare, sanitation, mosquito abatement, ports, libraries, public cemeteries and more. Districts are established by voters and their funding is approved by voters to meet specific needs through focused service. They can be specially molded to serve large regions or small neighborhoods depending on the need.

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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](http://www.mprpd.org).