

**MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
STAFF REPORT**

BOARD MEETING: November 14, 2018

SUBJECT: Environmental Education and Community Outreach Update

PRESENTER: Jackie Nelson, Environmental Education Supervisor

REPORT: **Education**

Carmel River Watershed Conservancy brought 56 fourth grade students, from Laurel Wood Elementary in Salinas, and led the first formal school group activity in the PCRPD-DC.

Ventana Wildlife Society utilized the Garland Ranch Regional Park Visitor Center for their youth and teen programs. During multiple days in the month of November, VWS is scheduled to explore the PCRPD Discovery Center and trails.

Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History (PG Museum) brought 52 sixth to eighth grade students from Lockwood Middle School, San Antonio Unified School District, to GRRP as a continuation of the Watershed Explorers now called Watershed Guardians.

Staff completed the final report for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Bay Watershed Education and Training (NOAA B-WET) grant summarizing the accomplishments over the past three years. Over the three-year period MPRPD received \$125,700 in grant funds and served nearly 3,000 students in grades K-8th. A copy of the final report is available upon request.

Outreach

EECO staff gave a presentation to the Rotary Club of Monterey, providing an update on the Palo Corona Regional Park (PCRPD) planning process. Approximately 60 members were in attendance.

The following Special Use Permits (SUP) were issued during this reporting period:

1. Quail Lodge sponsored the first American Rally Nippon event which utilized the PCRPD parking lot on Thursday, November 1. Rally Nippon, a classic car caravan held on the country roads in Japan, celebrated its 10th

anniversary in the United States. The multi-day convoy began in San Francisco and culminated in Monterey. The last day of the motorcade started with 42 exquisite, collectable cars navigating through the timed check point at PCRCP, then off to the beautiful Big Sur coast to the Ventana Inn, and over the grade of Nacimiento Fergusson Road to Mission San Antonio de Padua.

2. Sierra Club-Ventana Chapter was issued an annual SUP to access the backcountry of Palo Corona Regional Park for advertised Sierra Club hikes.
3. Carmel Valley Athletic Club is sponsoring an annual "Turkey Trot" on Thursday, November 22. The family friendly, 5K/3.1-mile run/walk, along the South Bank Trail begins at 8:30 am on Thanksgiving Day. 100% of proceeds go to the Monterey Food Bank.
4. Boy Scout Troop 127 Night Hike on Friday, November 16. Following a discussion that includes night vision and lighting, nocturnal animals, the evening sky, basic celestial navigation, and safety on the trails, Troop 127 will hike to Vasquez Knob and back down.
5. The Carmel River Watershed Conservancy (CRWC) has been accepted to be part of the 2018 Monterey Gives Campaign. The CRWC campaign focus is "weaving community" which includes funding their watershed education programs that includes integrating art and science curriculum for students, and the creation of a "spirit nest" art sculpture to be donated to Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District at PCRCP.

Volunteer/Stewardship

Volunteer, Scott Hennessy, is leading a Buckwheat and Butterfly Garden habitat restoration project along the "Rancho Canada" trail. Using seeds collected for the Carmel River watershed, Scott has grown more than 500 cells of buckwheat and other pollinator insect attractant native plants. The butterfly garden project beautifies the site, attracts wildlife, and offers MPRPD a restoration/stewardship site for the public and school groups.

FISCAL IMPACT:	Not Applicable.
FUNDING SOURCE:	Not Applicable.
FUNDING BALANCE:	Not Applicable.
RECOMMENDATION:	Informational Only.