

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

DATE: February 5, 2020
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Jackie Nelson, Environmental Education Supervisor
REVIEWED BY: Rafael Payan, General Manager
SUBJECT: Review and Approval of Cooperation with the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCD) Monarch Butterfly Grant Application

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff respectfully recommends the Board approve and authorize staff to develop and solicit the Wildlife Conservation Board “Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Rescue Program” block grant application in cooperation with the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC) (**ATTACHMENT 1**).

FISCAL IMPACT:

To be determined based on MPRPD in-kind donation commitment.

FUNDING SOURCE:

To be determined.

FUNDING BALANCE:

Not applicable.

DISCUSSION:

For decades, monarch butterflies in the western regions of the United States have been in decline because of loss of habitat, including destruction of their California overwintering sites and loss of both milkweed for caterpillars and flowering resources to fuel migration. The Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Rescue Program (Program) was created by Assembly Bill 2421 (Bill) and signed into law in 2018. It was created for the purpose of recovering and sustaining populations of monarch butterflies and other pollinators. To achieve these purposes, the Bill authorizes the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to provide grants for the restoration or enhancement of California breeding habitat for monarch butterflies and pollinators on private and public lands.

During the 2020 Monarch Summit (Summit) held at Palo Corona Regional Park (PCRP) in January, a key action for the health of monarch butterflies and other pollinator populations was the protection, restoration or creation of their migration and breeding habitat. With the support of the Xerces Society, and Summit participants, scientists, Palo Corona Regional Park was identified to have the potential of becoming significant pollinator habitat, with the

Xerces Society providing a list of “Recommended Plants for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects.”

The Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC) wants to apply for funding to support MPRPD’s efforts at restoring portions of the Rancho Cañada and Front Ranch units of Palo Corona Regional Park to create islands of beneficial pollinator habitat from selected riparian locations to upland areas of the park. The RCDMC will apply for and manage the funds of up to \$45,000 for restoration of monarch butterfly breeding or migration habitat. As the landowner, MPRPD's PCRCP shall be the site for the habitat restoration project (**ATTACHMENT 2**). The RCDMC plans to contract with the California State University Monterey Bay’s Return of the Natives program to propagate and install plant material, with a portion of their work providing an in-kind match for this grant.

The grant requires a 30% match for this two-year funding program. To meet a portion of the in-kind contribution requirements, MPRPD will provide match in the form of Environmental Education Supervisor, Jackie Nelson’s time of less than 3% (annually); Volunteer Naturalist, Scott Hennessy’s plant contribution and plantings; volunteer planting days; and, design, fabrication and installation of interpretive signage at a value not to exceed \$1,500.

The deadline for the request is February 28, 2020. Staff respectfully recommends the Board approve and authorize staff to develop and solicit the Wildlife Conservation Board “Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Rescue Program” block grant application in cooperation with the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC).

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Wildlife Conservation Board Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Rescue Program Grant Application Form](#)
2. [Landowner Agreement: Habitat Restoration Project](#)