


AGENDA ITEM NO. 6-F

MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT BOARD REPORT

DATE: May 6, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Savannah Peña, Environmental Education Supervisor

REVIEWED BY: Eric Morgan, General Manager 

SUBJECT: Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MEarth

SUMMARY

Staff respectfully recommends the Board approve entering into a partnership agreement with MEarth and direct staff to execute said Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (**ATTACHMENT 1**) in substantially the form and content submitted for the purpose of the mutual promotion of environmental education and programs on MPRPD and MEarth properties.

FISCAL IMPACT

Not Applicable

FUNDING SOURCE

Not Applicable

FUNDING BALANCE

Not Applicable

DISCUSSION

MEarth is a returning partner that previously held a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) from 2020 to 2023. Under that agreement, MEarth utilized MPRPD properties, including Palo Corona Regional Park, to support its environmental education programs during seasonal camps. The organization also collected seeds and native plants from Palo Corona for use in its on-campus nursery and participated in MPRPD-hosted outreach events such as California Wildlife Day and the District's 50th Anniversary.

This updated MOU establishes a renewed three-year partnership between MPRPD and MEarth. The focus has shifted away from seed and plant collection during the Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project and toward expanded educational collaboration. MEarth will continue to use MPRPD lands for programming, while both organizations will co-develop and co-host educational programs across their respective properties. MEarth's primary site is the Hilton Bialek Habitat in Carmel Valley, California.

This partnership aligns with and advances both organizations' missions. MEarth seeks to educate and inspire through environmental stewardship, delivering immersive, nature- and food-based programs at its Carmel Valley site and at locations throughout Monterey County. Its offerings include school-day field trips, after-school and seasonal programs for youth, and community programs for all ages. MPRPD's mission is to acquire and maintain open space for preservation and public use, working collaboratively with partners and the community to promote environmental protection, enjoyment, and public benefit. Its vision is to serve as an inclusive, sustainable, and respected open space district that supports conservation through parks, education, and community engagement.

In support of these shared goals, MEarth and MPRPD's Environmental Education and Community Outreach (EECO) Program will collaborate to:

1. Provide Carmel River watershed education and habitat restoration activities for the community, with a focus on K–12 students and their families.
2. Develop and deliver programs in partnership with MPRPD and other organizations to serve Title I students and implement evaluation methods to assess program effectiveness and identify opportunities for improvement.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff respectfully recommends that the Board authorize and direct the General Manager to execute the MOU, substantially as to form, between the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District and MEarth for the mutual promotion of environmental education and programs on MPRPD and MEarth properties.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. [2026-2029 MOU MEarth](#)