

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

DATE: November 14, 2018
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Jackie Nelson, Environmental Education Supervisor
REVIEWED BY: Rafael Payan, General Manager
SUBJECT: Consideration and Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for Steelhead Monitoring Stations in the Carmel River

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff respectfully recommends that the Board consider entering an agreement with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and direct staff to execute said Memorandum of Understanding (ATTACHMENT 1) in substantially the form and content submitted for the purpose of installing Steelhead Monitoring Stations in the Carmel River within the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Not Applicable.

FUNDING SOURCE:

Not Applicable.

FUNDING BALANCE:

Not Applicable.

DISCUSSION:

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), a division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has requested to establish two, and up to three, steelhead monitoring stations on the Rancho Cañada Unit of Palo Corona Regional Park (ATTACHMENT 2). The stations, which will be installed along and within the Carmel River, are a component of a comprehensive effort to understand the limiting factors for steelhead production in the Carmel River, funded by California American Water and conducted as a cooperative effort between the US National Marine Fisheries Service, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, and the University of California, Santa Cruz.

The South-Central Steelhead Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), an evolutionary significant steelhead, is a federally listed "Threatened Distinct Population Segment" of steelhead under the US Endangered Species Act. The stations are designed to detect electronically-tagged steelhead as they migrate out the Carmel River to the ocean, and again when they return to the Carmel River to spawn. The NMFS is responsible for managing, conserving and protecting west coast fisheries for salmon and steelhead, and promoting conservation and recovery of threatened and endangered fish. The

population, migratory and other scientific information collected shall be available to MPRPD for habitat restoration projects. The monitoring stations are also a venue to increase awareness about research being conducted on MPRPD parkland. In addition, the project opens opportunities for potential public, school group and volunteer involvement, as well as, interpretive displays.

The proposed project is designed to begin in the fall 2018 and continue through summer 2021; with the installation of the monitoring stations to occur prior to the start of this year's seasonal rains. The equipment has a relatively small foot print with NMFS staff committed to regular maintenance of the equipment. With MPRPD staff approval, the site selection shall take into consideration public access and other data collection equipment already installed or potentially added.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Memorandum of Understanding](#)
2. [Project Proposal and Overview](#)