


## AGENDA ITEM NO. 6-F

### MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT BOARD REPORT

**DATE:** March 4, 2026  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Savannah Peña, Environmental Education Supervisor  
**REVIEWED BY:** Eric Morgan, General Manager   
**SUBJECT:** Approval of Maintenance and Educational Use Memorandum of Understanding with University of California Master Gardeners and Resolution #2026-02

---

#### SUMMARY

Staff respectfully recommends the Board approve entering into a partnership agreement with University of California Master Gardeners (UCMG) Program of Monterey County and direct staff to execute said Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (**ATTACHMENT 1**) in substantially the form and content submitted for the purpose of for installation, general maintenance, and educational use of the arboretum and outdoor classroom space at the Garland Ranch Regional Park Arboretum.

Staff recommends that the Board approve the MOU and adopt a resolution (**ATTACHMENT 2**) finding the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15304(b)(d).

#### FISCAL IMPACT

Not Applicable

#### FUNDING SOURCE

Not Applicable

#### FUNDING BALANCE

Not Applicable

## DISCUSSION

In June 2023, MPRPD staff and UCMG representatives initiated a partnership discussion to provide mission-driven, hands-on, and educational native plant gardening programs in the Garland Ranch Regional Park Arboretum. In June 2024 and March 2025, the UCMG representatives provided an outreach booth at MPRPD's Annual Summer Wildflower Show and co-lead a successful stewardship event with MPRPD staff for 40 people from Central Coast Community Energy, respectively.

Based on these collaborative opportunities, staff and UCMG representatives drafted an initial proposal to formalize a long-term relationship based on UCMG's standard MOU form and MPRPD's interdivisional staff feedback.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a five-year partnership between the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) and the Regents of the University of California, on behalf of its UC Cooperative Extension Monterey County (University of California Master Gardener Program) for the development, use, and maintenance of a Native Plant Demonstration Garden and Arboretum at Garland Ranch Regional Park in Carmel Valley, California. The collaboration supports both organizations' missions by creating a "living library" that promotes native plant education, sustainable landscaping practices, conservation, and public engagement.

Under this agreement, MPRPD provides designated space, shared facilities, access to utilities, coordination support, and budget consideration for materials as resources allow. UCMG will install and maintain the native demonstration garden, provide regular volunteer support, deliver public educational programming, comply with fire-wise and plant health best management practices, and adhere to established safety, tool sanitation, and communication protocols. Through this partnership, the parties aim to enhance environmental education, stewardship, and community access to horticultural knowledge.

## CEQA COMPLIANCE

The Project qualifies for a Class 4 Categorical Exemption (CEQA Guidelines § 15304(b)(d)) for minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. Specific examples include: (b) New gardening or landscaping, including the replacement of existing conventional landscaping with water efficient or fire resistant landscaping. (d) Minor alterations in land, water, and vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas or fish production facilities which result in improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources or greater fish production.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Staff respectfully recommends that the Board authorize and direct the General Manager to execute a MOU, substantially as to form, between the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park and University of California Master Gardeners for general maintenance and educational use of the arboretum and outdoor classroom space at the Garland Ranch Regional Park.

Staff respectfully recommend that the Board of Directors: Adopt Resolution #2026-02 finding the Maintenance and Educational Use Memorandum of Understanding with University of California Master Gardeners exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Class 4 Categorical Exemption (Guidelines § 15304(b)(d)) and approve its implementation.

## **ATTACHMENT**

1. [Draft Maintenance and Educational Use Memorandum of Understanding with University of California Master Gardeners](#)
2. [Resolution #2026-02](#)