

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks Department



DATE: May 22, 2015

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: June 4, 2015

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Ramona Arechiga, Natural Resource Manager
SUBJECT: Natural Resource Manager Report

RECOMMENDATION

Review and accept report.

BACKGROUND

This report covers research and activities since the Commission's April 9, 2015 meeting.

DISCUSSION:

Countywide Initiatives

GIS

Natural Resource Intern, Rachelle Hedges, will be working to oversee two Student Conservation Association (SCA) high school crews this summer. The students will be using tablets with maps and field forms loaded onto them in order to collect trails data. Students will attend the August Commission meeting to present their efforts and results. The Natural Resource Manager (NRM) has been actively participating with the County-wide GIS group and providing input concerning Parks' future GIS needs.

Collaboration

Coordination and collaboration are ongoing on a number of priorities including fuel management, invasive weed monitoring, threatened and endangered species and other closely related topics. The NRM regularly attends meetings to coordinate with other agencies involved in these topics within and outside of the County. Over the last two months, the NRM has attended trainings to implement protocol-level surveys for California red-legged frogs (federally listed as threatened; state listed as species of concern) and marbled murrelets (federally listed as threatened in California; state listed as endangered).

Fuel Reduction Site Visits and Initiatives

The NRM program has initiated a fuel break maintenance program in coordination with District IV for the Quarry Park property boundary located off of El Granada Boulevard in El Granada. In coordination with CALFIRE, the Parks Department hosted two drill days for local fire agencies. On drill days, firefighters had the opportunity to gain practical experience regarding wildland firefighting in different vegetation communities at Quarry and San Bruno Mountain State and County Parks. No fire was used in these drills.

Parks District Activities

Parks District I – North County

NRM is working with PG&E to oversee restoration of a small area that was disturbed due to emergency tower work at Coyote Point. A Technical Advisory Committee meeting was held to discuss vegetation management priorities and work areas for San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. This information will be used to solicit bids for the work in May and June.

Parks District II – South County

The NRM program has initiated discussions with USFWS to renew an expired permit to begin more active management to improve habitat for threatened or endangered species at Edgewood and in other parks that may provide opportunities.

Parks District III – South Coast

The Resource Conservation District and the NRM program have been developing work agreements to ensure success coordination and implementation of three projects: fish passage, increased water storage capacity, and sediment reduction. Work will begin in May to capture baseline data for the restoration work at Pigeon Point Bluffs in the fall.

Parks District IV - Midcoast

A grant was secured to extend the restoration along San Vicente Creek at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. Common Murre and other seabirds are being monitored by the USFWS at Devil's Slide Rock again this year. A multi-year scientific permit has been developed to ensure continued access for this important research.