

**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Parks Department



**DATE:** September 23, 2015  
**COMMISSION MEETING DATE:** October 1, 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 August 6, 2015 meeting.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Countywide Initiatives**

**GIS**

The new Senior GIS Intern, Hannah Ormshaw, from the Student Conservation Association has arrived. She began in September and replaces Rachelle Hedges. Ms. Ormshaw joins the Parks team with a master's degree in Geography and significant experience in GIS skills and technology from both her undergraduate and graduate studies. We are excited to welcome Hannah to the Parks Department.

**County-wide Enterprise GIS Roadmap:** County Parks recently participated in interviews and provided information for a department needs assessment. This will inform decision-makers of necessary staff and project costs aimed at growing each department's capacity to deploy a County-wide integrated Enterprise GIS solution.

**Collaboration**

The Natural Resource Manager (NRM) aided the Planning Department's efforts to quantify County Parks properties that meet the criteria for a reduction in flood insurance costs based on the vegetation composition and geography. NRM is working with the Planning Department on updating relevant tree policies that pertain to County Parks. The Santa Cruz Mountains Bioregional Council invited the NRM to attend their

September meeting to coordinate pertinent research and activities regarding conservation in the Santa Cruz Mountains bioregion.

### **Fire and Fuel Reduction**

Recent Fire Safe Council's Annual BBQ also provided an informative presentation concerning goat grazing and fuel reduction opportunities.

### **Parks District Activities**

#### Parks District I – North County

NRM presented the San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan (SBMHCP) budget to the Trustees for approval. Multiple PG&E projects have recently been implemented or in the planning stages for work on SBM. Regular transmission line inspections and maintenance is scheduled. The recent relocation of the valve station will be wrapping up revegetation this fall. Work to improve transmission line height and reliability are also being scheduled. NRM and PG&E staff are coordinating to further reduce environmental impacts to habitat as a result of this work.

#### Parks District II – South County

The NRM program has continued to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and PG&E in developing an appropriate restoration approach for disturbed habitat within Edgewood's grassland habitat. Work began in late August and the NRM has been monitoring progress in collaboration with Ranger staff. Edgewood's quarterly NRM meeting was held August 18<sup>th</sup> at the Education Center.

#### Parks District III – South Coast

San Mateo's Resource Conservation District (RCD) and NRM staff are coordinating the two long-planned fish passage barrier projects this September to improve habitat for steelhead and Coho salmon in Memorial Park. The dam is in the process of being removed and the crossing at Sequoia Flat is being replaced. Marbled murrelet (MAMU) monitoring was completed for the season. The NRM program is participating in the development of a Landscape Management Plan for the Santa Cruz Mountains MAMU population over the next year, meetings resume this October.

#### Parks District IV - Midcoast

With the help of SCA crews this summer, Rangers were able to complete the original Phase I iceplant removal and prepare the area for winter planting along the San Vicente Creek. Planting dates will be advertised as part of the new Stewardship Corps program. The Phase II restoration plan is complete and will utilize a combination of grant and mitigation funds for implementation.

#### Parks District V – Maintenance *all areas*

Pigeon Point restoration implementation is underway. Ranger staff assisted the NRM program in preparing the ground for seeding this fall. Additional work is scheduled for October.