

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks Department



DATE: May 19, 2016

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: June 2, 2016

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

RECOMMENDATION

Read report.

BACKGROUND

This report covers research and activities since the Commission's April 7, 2016 meeting.

DISCUSSION:

Countywide Initiatives

Fuel Reduction Work

The NRM program requested funding through the San Mateo County Fire Safe Council to treat two additional locations at Quarry County Park and at San Bruno Mountain State and County Park in proximity to Pacific Gas and Electric Company's infrastructure for fuel reduction. Locations were selected based on the recent fuel and fire risk analysis conducted by natural resource staff, fire history, and funding requirements and we hope to hear about the outcome of project selection soon.

Park District Activities

Park District I – North County

NRM program recently reviewed proposed restoration work to restore native grassland and oak savannah in habitats adjacent to the Crystal Springs Regional Trail being implemented by SFPUC.

Park District II – South County

The NRM program held its quarterly Natural Resource Coordination meeting for Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve. This meeting serves as an opportunity to coordinate all efforts related to natural resource management in this special place. NRM

staff have also implemented two rounds of monitoring to review the progress on the restoration being implemented by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PGE) at the hydro-test sites within Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve.

Park District III – South Coast

NRM staff attended marbled murrelet training for the upcoming monitoring season in Pescadero Creek County Park. Additional staff will attend a training in June. Monitoring of marbled murrelet will begin July 1 and this year will be implemented in a coordinated effort; all marbled murrelet surveys in the area are being implemented on the same days in order to better understand distribution and use of our local forests in San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties.

Park District IV - Midcoast

NRM staff have been working with CALFIRE to implement fuel maintenance work along the fuel break just south of El Granada Blvd at Quarry County Park in the newly acquired Wicklow portion of the property. CALFIRE have been very helpful by providing additional engine crews to continue this work in advance of fire season. The NRM program staff will also be working to map rare plant species at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve with local experts in May.

Park District VII – North County

The NRM staff have been busy implementing endangered butterfly monitoring at San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. To date we have completed all rounds of San Bruno elfin larvae monitoring and have begun Callippe silverspot adult butterfly monitoring. On May 4, the NRM program also hosted the first quarterly San Bruno Mountain Natural Resource Coordination meeting. This was a very well attended event with 15 attendees! The input provided in this meeting will be integrated into our upcoming vegetation management scope of work for the 2016/17 fiscal year.