

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks Department



DATE: March 24, 2014

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: April 3, 2014

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

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and accept report.

BACKGROUND:

This report covers research and activities since I began as the Natural Resource Manager on February 18, 2014 and the Commission's February 6, 2014 meeting.

DISCUSSION:

Highlight of Activities and Research Topics:

1. Scientific Permit Process: See separate report, Action Item, 8.C.
2. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Management Plans: Provided research and expert opinions concerning appropriate restoration activities, phasing, and considerations concerning the San Vicente Creek Restoration Management Plan and the Cypress Grove Management Plan.
3. Met and discussed roles of key office staff and some field staff with relevant site visits for current projects (Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, San Bruno Mountain, Edgewood).
4. Friends Groups Outreach: To date I have met with Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks, Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Friends of San Pedro Valley Park, San Bruno Mountain Watch, and Friends of Edgewood.
5. San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) research and participation in the Technical Advisory Committee to discuss and evaluate a contractor for a new monitoring and management contract.
6. Plan, design, and implement fern planting along Coastal Trail at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve scheduled for April 5, 2014 with community volunteers.

7. Overseeing the implementation of a monitoring and BMP action plan to reduce the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for bacteria in San Pedro Creek and at Pacific State Beach.
8. Attended the Weed Management Areas bimonthly meeting and will lead the next meeting on a field trip to Devil's Slide in May and discuss our strategy for invasive plant management.
9. Attended the Technical Advisory Committee meeting for the Fitzgerald Area of Special Biological Significance.
10. Dog Policy: Specifically reviewing other agencies, counties, and cities with dynamic dog policies. As an example Portland Parks and Recreation, City of Boulder, City of Minneapolis, and Sydney Australia. In progress.
11. MOU research and suggestions. In progress.
12. SWOT Analysis: Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats analysis. In progress.
13. Set-up meetings with East Bay Regional Parks and other regional open space agencies to evaluate their natural resources departments and gather information about developing our program.
14. GIS research and opportunities for collaboration and integration with other open space land management agencies.
15. Continued reading of all relevant planning documents concerning all Parks and relevant biological resources.
16. Identifying important training and collaboration opportunities including CEQA courses and the Bay Area Open Space Council's upcoming annual meeting.