



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Parks



Date: February 13, 2017
Board Meeting Date: March 28, 2017
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Sarah Birkeland, Acting Parks Director

Subject: California Department of Parks and Recreation Grant Acceptance for the Memorial County Park Crumb Clean Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Acting Parks Director, or designee, to accept a California Department of Parks and Recreation grant for the Memorial County Park Crumb Clean Program in the amount of \$54,000.

BACKGROUND:

On September 26, 1998, the oil tanker Command discharged an estimated 3,000 gallons of bunker fuel into the ocean that killed over 1,500 seabirds along the shorelines of Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Mateo and San Francisco counties. The California Lands Commission worked with affected counties to develop mutually agreeable projects to be funded from the Command Natural Resource Damage Account that was established to mitigate natural resource damage caused by the spill.

The marbled murrelet is a protected seabird that nests in Douglas firs in the Santa Cruz Mountains but feeds miles away in the Pacific Ocean. Marbled murrelets were impacted by the oil spill. This seabird is also at risk from egg predation by Corvids such as ravens and jays. The Marbled Murrelet Restoration and Corvid Management Project was developed in conjunction with the California Department of Parks and Recreation for work in Big Basin, Butano and Portola State Parks and Memorial County Park. The grant funds were used for the hiring of seasonal Park Aides to educate park campers and day use picnickers on proper food storage and refuse disposal as food and refuse attracts predatory birds. The grant funds were also used to purchase and install animal-proof trash and recycling cans, and food lockers. Informational signs, brochures and magnets were also produced. Work was completed on the first grant on December 31, 2007, the second grant on June 30, 2013, and the most recent grant on December 31, 2016.

Acceptance of this grant will fund a fourth multi-year project that is now called the Memorial County Park Crumb Clean Program. Funding is now provided through the Luckenbach Natural Resource Damage Account. On July 14, 1953, the freighter Jacob Luckenbach was in route to Pusan, Korea when it collided with another vessel near the Farallon Islands. In 2001, the mysterious appearance of oil spills along California's Central Coast impacted many seabirds and shorebirds from Monterey to Point Reyes and was eventually linked to the sunken freighter. The U.S. Coast Guard and its trustees took active measures to remove oil and seal the freighter to prevent any more leakage. A settlement has funded projects for impacted natural resources. This three-year grant will begin during summer 2017 and finish in 2019.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of the Memorial County Park Crumb Clean Program is the protection of the marbled murrelet, and will be implemented by three seasonal Park Aides. These trained interpreters will educate and assist visitors by developing messages and distributing informational materials produced in conjunction with California State Park staff. Additional animal proof trash cans will also be purchased and installed.

As part of the resolution prepared for this grant acceptance, the Board is requested to also authorize the Acting Parks Director, or designee, to execute any other documents associated with acceptance of this grant funding from the California State Parks and Recreation.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the resolution as to form.

Approval of this resolution contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of an Environmentally Conscious Community as the funds from this grant will support the protection of a threatened species of seabird, the marbled murrelet, and the education of park visitors to help protect natural resources.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no net county cost.