



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Parks Department



**DATE:** July 30, 2014

**COMMISSION MEETING DATE:** August 7, 2014

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**FROM:** Cecily Harris, Development Consultant  
**SUBJECT:** Alternative Funding and Program Development Report

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Review and accept report.

**BACKGROUND:**

This report provides the Commission with information about Alternative Funding, Program Development and Project Management activities that have taken place since December 2013.

**DISCUSSION:**

- 1) Alternative Funding
  - a) New Grant Awards

- 1) On November 15, San Mateo County Parks and Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) submitted a \$500,000 application for a California Coastal Conservancy / Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Priority Conservation Area grant to help acquire a 174-acre property in Loma Mar that could be added to Memorial County Park. In mid-December, we were notified of the MTC grant award. After many conversations and diligent research, we were unable to meet the complicated funding exchange terms of this federal grant award. Fortunately, the California Coastal Conservancy was able to quickly award the County \$500,000 with fewer grant restrictions. This was significant because POST, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, David and Lucile Packard Foundation and Save the Redwoods League had all contributed the balance of the \$3.9 million cost to acquire this property from the San Mateo County Office of Education. On June 30, 2014, the County acquired the Loma Mar Redwoods Property. On July 30, 2014, we held a celebration event for the funders and the many County

Departments that worked together to make this happen. We appreciate the hard work of Real Property and County Counsel for this successful partnership. In coming months, you'll hear more about future public access, habitat restoration, and public programs.

- 2) San Mateo County Parks was awarded a \$500,000 planning grant by the San Mateo County Transportation Authority for the Midcoast Multi-Modal Trail (MMT). This project concept was developed in an earlier planning effort spear-headed by previous Park Director Dave Holland to improve safety and mobility for pedestrians and cyclists along Highway 1. The MMT grant was developed in conjunction with staff from the Office of Supervisor Don Horsley. Using these grant funds, we will prepare the designs, plans, specifications, and permits for approximately 3,750 feet of the planned MMT on the eastern side of Highway 1 from Alto Avenue in Miramar to Coronado Street in El Granada. The San Mateo County Planning Department will serve as project manager.
- 3) San Mateo County awarded \$434,331.20 of Measure A funds to the Human Services Agency and County Parks to operate the Re-Entry Employment Preparation Program for an additional two years. After a successful pilot year, both County Departments wanted to continue this successful partnership that brings five-member crews to County Parks to work on fuel reduction, vegetation management and trail maintenance projects.

b) New Grant Applications

On July 24, 2014 the Parks Management Team met to brainstorm and prioritize FY 2015 to FY 2017 projects and programs throughout the park system. Some grant opportunities were also evaluated for consideration for capital improvement, habitat restoration projects and volunteer programs. At the next Commission meeting, I will report upon some additional grant proposals submitted for deadlines between August and October 2014.

c) Grant Portfolio Management

A significant amount of my time is spent managing the grant portfolio. There are many submittals, narrative and financial reports, reimbursement requests, extension requests and audits required by the grant makers for their loan or grant agreements. During this time period, a number of construction and planning projects are underway or in the queue such as Coyote Point Marina's Dock 29, Coyote Point Parks' Promenade Western Improvements, Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Vegetation Plan, and Crystal Springs Regional Trail South of Dam and South of Highway 92.

This week, we received some good news about existing grants. The California Natural Resources Agency approved using an existing Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation grant to complete the final punch list for the Coyote Point Bay Trail. And the California Coastal Conservancy is willing to discuss adding additional funds to the Explore the Coast grant for the Devil's Slide Trail Ambassadors Program for some additional interpretive signs.