
R-22-21
Meeting 22-02
January 27, 2022

AGENDA ITEM #5

To: Board of Directors
Open Space Authority

From: Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager

SUBJECT

Approve Agreement with Peninsula Open Space Trust and Point Blue Conservation Science for Monarch Habitat Restoration Project

REVENUE/COST

The Monarch Habitat Restoration Project is funded by the Tides Foundation in the amount of \$250,000

BACKGROUND

In June 2017, the Authority released the *Coyote Valley Landscape Linkage Report* and is working in partnership with Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and other conservation partners to preserve and eventually restore strategic locations within Coyote Valley. In support of the Linkage vision, POST acquired a 60-acre Kuzia property located in mid-Coyote Valley in June 2020.

POST intends to transfer the property to the Authority in the future, subject to approval by the Authority's Board. Because of the Authority's existing presence in the Coyote Valley and its intention to acquire the property from POST, the Authority entered into a License and Management Agreement with POST on December 25, 2020 to manage the property in the interim until the Authority acquires title to the property.

In August of 2021 the Tides Foundation, on the recommendation of Google.org, awarded POST a grant in the amount of \$250,000 to implement the Monarch Habitat Restoration Project (Project). The primary goal of the Project is to provide school children and other community members an opportunity for environmental education and Conservation Corps members with job experience, and establish diverse and consistent pollinator plant species along 1,750 feet of Fisher Creek and into the expanded buffer which will total approximately 2 acres of riparian and pollinator habitat. Point Blue Conservation Science's (Point Blue) climate-smart restoration design tools will ensure successful establishment and resiliency in the face of climate change by considering local seed sourcing as well as selecting plants with drought, flood, and fire resiliency traits and use by wildlife. Maintenance efforts will occur for three years following plant installation and will involve irrigation maintenance as well as management and removal of invasive species cover. The Project scope of work was developed jointly by POST, the Authority, Point Blue, and Go Native.

DISCUSSION

The Project will provide school children and other community members an opportunity for environmental education and Conservation Corps members with job experience, and result in restoration of habitat for pollinators, including the monarch butterfly, along Fisher Creek, a documented location for wildlife movement in Coyote Valley.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the resolution and authorize the General Manager to enter into a Project Implementation Agreement with POST and Point Blue Conservation Science to implement the Monarch Habitat Restoration Project.

Prepared by:

Galli Basson, Resource Management Program Manager

Attachment(s): Resolution 22-17 – A Resolution of the Governing Board of the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into a Project Implementation Agreement with Peninsula Open Space Trust and Point Blue Conservation Science for the Monarch Habitat Restoration Project

Exhibit F– Project Implementation Agreement