

**MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION #2026-01  
February 4, 2026**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT  
APPROVING THE GARLAND RANCH REGIONAL PARK DEFENSIBLE SPACE  
MAINTENANCE PROJECT AND FINDING IT EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

**WHEREAS**, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (or the "District") owns and operates a 3,600-acre property known as Garland Ranch Regional Park located at 700 W Carmel Valley Rd, Carmel Valley, CA 93924 (GRRP), governed under Public Resources Code § 5500 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors is authorized by Public Resources Code § 5541 to improve and maintain District parklands and facilities, and is further authorized by Public Resources Code § 5561.6 to prevent wildfires on lands in its possession or control; and

**WHEREAS**, District staff has identified an immediate need for fuel reduction and defensible space reestablishment at the Kahn Ranch and Ranger Station/Cooper Barn complexes to safeguard life, property, and park resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed project consists of manual and mechanical vegetation thinning within 100 feet of structures and 30 feet of primary access routes in accordance with state defensible space standards; and

**WHEREAS**, the District seeks to implement these projects in partnership with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) Forestry Corps, utilizing state-funded hand crews to restore safe conditions and improve emergency response capability; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to approving the Project the District must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.); and

**WHEREAS**, the District has evaluated the project under (CEQA) and determined it qualifies for a Class 4 Categorical Exemption (Guidelines § 15304(i)), which outlines that: fuel management activities within 30 feet of structures to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation, provided that the activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. This exemption shall apply to fuel management activities within 100 feet of a structure if the public agency having fire protection responsibility for the area has determined that 100 feet of fuel clearance is required due to extra hazardous fire conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the District has consulted with the CAL FIRE (BEU/Monterey Unit) and the Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District, both of whom determined that 100-foot fuel clearances are required due to extra-hazardous fire conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the District has concluded that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the Class 4 categorical exemption (section 15304(i)).

**WHEREAS**, the District has determined that none of the exceptions to categorical exemptions found within CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply to the Project.

**WHEREAS**, the Board has considered the whole of the administrative record, which is maintained at the District's administrative offices located at 4860 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel, CA 93923.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AND CERTIFY AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Findings: The Board finds that the above recitals are true and correct and represent the independent judgment of the District.
2. CEQA Determination: The Board finds the Project is Categorically Exempt from CEQA pursuant to Guidelines Section 15304(i) and that none of the exceptions to categorical exemptions set forth in Section 15300.2 apply, and no further environmental review for the Project is required under CEQA.
3. Project Approval: The Board hereby approves the Garland Ranch Regional Park Defensible Space Maintenance Project and authorizes its immediate implementation.
4. Authorization: The General Manager or their designee is authorized and directed to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Monterey County Clerk for the project areas.
5. Facility Maintenance: The Board hereby designates these fuel reduction zones as District facilities and authorizes staff to perform recurring maintenance on a 3-to-5-year cycle as a standard administrative and operational function to ensure continuous compliance with safety standards.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Directors of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Monta Potter, President  
Board of Directors

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen Lee, Secretary/Treasurer  
Board of Directors

# MONTEREY COUNTY REGIONAL FIRE DISTRICT



19900 Portola Drive Salinas, California 93908  
(831) 455-1828 Fax (831) 455-0646 [www.mcrfd.org](http://www.mcrfd.org)

David J. Sargenti, Fire Chief  
Scott Anderson, Deputy Fire Chief

Justin Reyes, Division Chief/Fire Prevention  
Justin Linquist, Division Chief/EMS  
Carlos Vega, Division Chief/Training

01/27/2026

To Whom It May Concern:

The Monterey County Regional Fire District has determined that vegetation treatments out to 100 ft from structures, particularly around the Kahn Ranch residences located at 117 Hitchcock Canyon RD, Carmel Valley, 93924, along with their associated outbuildings, can be implemented at Garland Ranch Regional Park as long as they do not result in the take or any negative impact to endangered, threatened or rare plant or animal species potentially found in these areas. This determination has been made due to the accumulation of vegetative fuels that increase the risk of hazardous wildfire conditions in the coming fire season. Removing fuels in these areas generally in line with a Zone 0 through Zone 2 Defensible Space model will address unnaturally high fuel conditions and help buffer critical park infrastructure, offices, and residential structures from catastrophic fire events.

Likewise, The Monterey County Regional Fire District has determined that vegetation treatments up to a 30 ft buffer along designated access roads used for emergency vehicle traffic, can be implemented at Garland Ranch Regional Park as long as they do not result in the take or any negative impact to endangered, threatened or rare plant or animal species potentially found in these areas. This emergency ingress/egress route is at risk of severe fire due to overgrowth and dense fuel accumulation, especially within 30 feet of these roads. Removing fuels in these areas generally in line with a Zone 3 Defensible Space model will mitigate the unnaturally high fuel conditions and help facilitate timely and efficient emergency response.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at 831-455-1828 or by email, [jreyes@mcrfd.org](mailto:jreyes@mcrfd.org)

Sincerely,

*Justin Reyes*

Justin Reyes  
Division Chief  
Monterey County Regional Fire District

*Serving the Northern Salinas Valley, Highway 68 Corridor, Communities of Chualar,  
East Garrison, Carmel Valley, Mid Carmel Valley & Santa Lucia Preserve*



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**  
**CALFIRE BEU- San Benito- Monterey**  
2221 Garden Road  
Monterey, CA 93940  
(831) 333-4600



January 13, 2025

**Subject:** Defensible Space Garland Ranch Ranger Station and Cooper Barn

**To Whom It May Concern:**

The CAL FIRE BEU/Monterey Unit has determined that vegetation treatments extending up to 100 feet from structures—particularly around the Garland Ranger Station compound, the historic Cooper Barn, and their associated outbuildings—may be implemented at Garland Ranch Regional Park, provided that such activities do not result in the take of, or negative impacts to, endangered, threatened, or rare plant or animal species potentially present in these areas. This determination is consistent with Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291, which requires defensible space around structures to reduce wildfire risk.

This determination has been made due to the accumulation of vegetative fuels that increase the likelihood of hazardous wildfire conditions during the upcoming fire season. Implementing fuel reduction measures in these areas, generally consistent with a Zone 0 through Zone 2 Defensible Space model as outlined in PRC 4291, will address unnaturally high fuel loads and help buffer critical park infrastructure, offices, and residential structures from catastrophic wildfire events.

Likewise, the CAL FIRE BEU/Monterey Unit has determined that vegetation treatments extending up to a 30-foot buffer along designated access roads used for emergency vehicle traffic may be implemented at Garland Ranch Regional Park, provided that these activities do not result in the take of, or negative impacts to, endangered, threatened, or rare plant or animal species potentially present in these areas. These emergency ingress and egress routes are at heightened risk of severe fire behavior due to overgrowth and dense fuel accumulation, particularly within 30 feet of the roadways.

Removing fuels in these areas, generally consistent with a Zone 3 Defensible Space model and the intent of PRC 4291, will mitigate unnaturally high fuel conditions and improve firefighter access, thereby facilitating timely, safe, and effective emergency response during wildfire incidents.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Brice Muenzer

Fuels Battalion Chief

831-601-0078

Brice.Muenzer@fire.ca.gov

# MONTEREY COUNTY REGIONAL FIRE DISTRICT



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01/12/2026

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Anderson".

Scott Anderson  
Deputy Fire Chief  
Monterey County Regional Fire District