

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**To:** Office of Planning and Research (OPR)  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812

County Clerk-Recorder,  
County of Monterey  
168 W. Alisal Street, 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

**FILED**

OCT 15 2026

XOCHITL MARINA CAMACHO  
MONTEREY COUNTY CLERK  
DEPUTY

2026-0172

**From (Public Agency):**

Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)  
P.O. Box 223340  
Carmel, CA 93922-3340

### PROJECT INFORMATION

**Project Title:** Extension of the Palo Corona Regional Park Conservation Grazing Lease (Amendment 3 to Contract No. L201415-500-01)

**Project Applicant:** Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

**Project Location – Specific:** Palo Corona Regional Park, 4860 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel, CA 93923. (36°31'47.10"N , 121°54'17.64"W) (Attachment A)

**Project Location – City:** Unincorporated (near the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea)

**Project Location – County:** Monterey

### DESCRIPTION OF NATURE, PURPOSE AND BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT

On October 7, 2026 (Agenda Item 6-F), the District's Board of Directors approved an amendment to the existing conservation grazing lease for Palo Corona Regional Park (Contract No. L201415-500-01) with Paddock Land & Cattle (DBA LE Cattle Company LLC). The amendment extends the lease term from October 31, 2026, through September 30, 2027. It changes only the expiration date. All other terms of the lease remain unchanged.

The purpose of the Project is to continue conservation grazing, which the District uses as a resource management tool to maintain the Park's coastal grasslands, limit the encroachment of coyote brush and other woody shrubs into grassland, and manage fire fuels near neighboring communities. Beneficiaries are the public, Park visitors, neighboring communities, and the grassland resources of the Park.

### APPROVING AND IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

### EXEMPT STATUS (CHECK ONE)

- ☐ Ministerial (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); Guidelines § 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(3); Guidelines § 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(4); Guidelines § 15269(b), (c))

☒ **Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 1, Existing Facilities (Guidelines § 15301); Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land (Guidelines § 15304)**

☐ **Statutory Exemption. State code number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT**

The extension of the existing conservation grazing lease is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under the Class 1 Categorical Exemption (Existing Facilities), which applies to the operation, leasing, and minor alteration of existing public or private facilities and topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of existing use (14 Cal. Code Regs. §15301); as well as Class 4 Categorical Exemption (Minor Alteration to Land), which applies to minor public or private alterations in the condition of the land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. There are no exceptions present that make these Exemptions inapplicable. The extension continues an existing grazing use that has been conducted on the property continuously since before the District's acquisition and changes only the lease term. Grazing on the property was treated as part of the existing baseline in the District's Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Palo Corona Regional Park General Development Plan, adopted by Resolution 2021-02.

**LEAD AGENCY CONTACT**

**Contact Person:** Jake Smith, Planning & Conservation Program Manager

**Telephone:** 831-372-3196 x116

**Email:** jsmith@mprpd.org

**IF FILED BY APPLICANT**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.

2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*Not applicable. The District is both the public agency approving the Project and the agency carrying it out.*



Signature

10-13-2026

Date

**Print Name and Title:** Eric Morgan, General Manager

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

*Authority cited: Public Resources Code sections 21083 and 21110. Reference: Public Resources Code sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1.*

**Date Received for Filing:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attachment A: Palo Corona Regional Park Conservation Grazing Lease Management Units and Grassland Areas.**

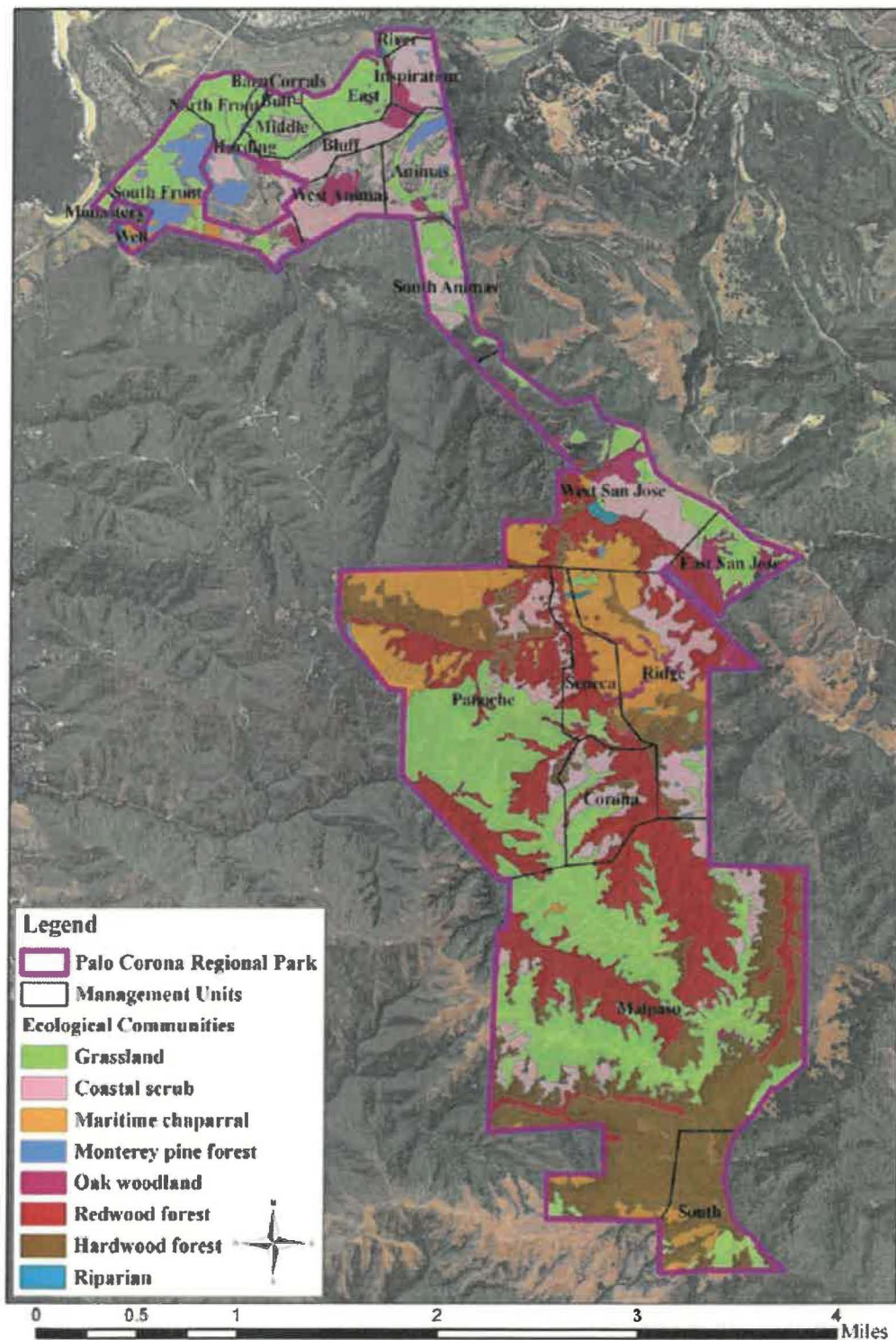


**Figure 2-2: Ecological communities within Palo Corona Regional Park. Map prepared by Jodi McGraw with GIS data provided by Overtree (2006).**