

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-139

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARINA
APPROVING MARINA LIBRARY BUTTERFLY GARDEN CONCEPT PLAN
AND AUTHORIZING AN ACCESS AGREEMENT WITH RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF MONTEREY COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC) is a non-regulatory special district specializing in natural resources management; and

WHEREAS, the RCDMC secured funding via block grant from the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts and Wildlife Conservation Boards to identify sites to implement a butterfly garden in the medians within the Marina Library parking lot; and

WHEREAS, to implement the project, RCDMC must secure a ten-year access agreement establishing maintenance of the butterfly garden, which would support educational opportunities for all library visitors on local plants and species and Marina's support of conservation efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Marina as follows:

1. Approve the Marina Library Butterfly Garden Project partnering with RCDMC and C4SM; and
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute an access agreement between the City of Marina and the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County subject to final review and approval by the City Attorney.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Marina City Council at a regular meeting duly held on the 19th day of December 2023 by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Visscher, McCarthy, Biala, Delgado

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Medina Dirksen

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ATTEST:

Bruce C. Delgado, Mayor

Anita Sharp, Deputy City Clerk

744 La Guardia Street, Building A, Salinas, CA 93905

(831) 975-7775

Resource Conservation District of Monterey County Overview of Partnership Opportunity for Marina Library Butterfly Garden

About the RCD

The Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCD) is a non-regulatory special district whose mission is “to conserve and improve our natural resources, integrating the public interest in environmental protection with the needs of agricultural and urban users.” We are governed by a board of directors appointed by the County Supervisors who serve on a voluntary basis to provide leadership and direction to the work we do. We have a staff of 14 permanent employees and up to five seasonal employees with a wide diversity of experiences and skills in the field of natural resources management.

The RCD works collaboratively with public and private entities on resource conservation and environmental restoration projects throughout Monterey County. Program areas include wildlife/pollinator habitat creation and enhancement, forest health and fuels management, watershed restoration, floodplain management and invasive plant control, and agricultural technical assistance. We are funded by local, state, and federal grants, contracts, and donations (no tax base). The California Association of RCDs provides support and organization to the 97 RCDs in California.

About the Funding Opportunity

The RCD recently secured funding to assist local partners with establishing butterfly/pollinator habitat in public spaces. Funding comes from a block grant to the California Association of RCDs from the California Wildlife Conservation Board. The funding aims to address the critical loss of habitat for pollinators throughout California, with a particular focus on monarch butterflies. We are looking for partners with project ideas for small gardens on public property.

Through the CARCD/WCB grant, RCD can provide technical assistance for project planning, assistance with project installation and maintenance, and funding for supplies and materials (apx. \$12,500 per project), including plants, irrigation infrastructure, mulch, etc.

Before proceeding with project implementation, we must secure a ten-year access agreement promising that installed habitat will be maintained and the property can be inspected by RCDMC, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Wildlife Conservation Board for the duration of the agreement. Partners must develop a plan for long-term maintenance of the site.

Marina Library Butterfly Garden

The RCD has been working with Citizens for Sustainable Marina (C4SM) to develop a project plan for an educational butterfly garden in areas within the Marina Library parking lot and adjacent to the library. We are excited about this collaboration opportunity and have confidence that the leadership and established

volunteer base of C4SM will lead to successful project completion. The RCD is planning to support an Americorps intern who would work primarily with C4SM on this and other projects in Marina.

We believe this project will provide important educational opportunities for all library visitors about our local native plants and the unique creatures that depend on them, and will inspire and empower individual community members to take steps to protect our natural resources, like planting native plants at their own homes. The RCD sees this project as an opportunity to begin a lasting partnership with the City of Marina to enhance the value of Marina's land for our local flora and fauna and our community members.

December 19, 2023

Item No. **13(e)**

Honorable Mayor and Members
Of the Marina City Council

City Council Meeting
of December 19, 2023

**CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION NO. 2023-,
APPROVING THE MARINA LIBRARY BUTTERFLY GARDEN
PROJECT AND AN ACCESS AGREEMENT WITH RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF MONTEREY COUNTY**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is requested that the City Council:

1. Consider adopting Resolution No. 2023-, approving the Marina Library Butterfly Garden project and
2. Authorizing the city manager to enter into an access agreement with the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County subject to final review and approval by the City Attorney.

BACKGROUND:

Earlier this year Citizens for Sustainable Marina (C4SM) and other volunteers removed some of the invasive grasses that were planted in the medians at the library parking. The intent was to replant the area with more native and sustainable plants.

The attached letter from RCDMC (**EXHIBIT A**) gives an overview of the proposed project to partner with the City of Marina to establish a butterfly garden in the medians of the library parking lot.

The Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC) is a non-regulatory special district governed by a board of directors (appointed by County Supervisors) specializing in natural resources management.

ANALYSIS:

Staff has reviewed the concept plan for the proposed project and supports the partnership with RCDMC and C4SM to establish a butterfly/pollinator habitat in the parking lot medians. This project would also support educational opportunities for all library visitors on local native plants and species. Earlier this year, the City Council approved in the FY 23/24 budget \$50,000 for irrigation system upgrades to the library park area.

RCDMC recently secured funding via a block grant from the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts from the Wildlife Conservation Board. This grant aims to address critical loss of habitat for Monarch butterflies. RCDMC has been working in partnership with Citizen for Sustainable Marina (C4SM) to develop a project plan for an educational butterfly garden in the medians with the Marina Library parking lot and adjacent to the library. RCDMC has received approximately \$12,500 to provide technical assistance for planning, installation and maintenance, and funding for supplies and materials including plants, irrigation infrastructure, mulch, etc.

Before RCDMC can proceed with project implementation, RCDMC must secure a ten-year access agreement from the city which establishes that the proposed habitat at the Marina Library can be accessed and can be inspected by the RCDMC, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Wildlife Conservation Board for the duration of the agreement. Partners must develop a plan for long-term maintenance of the site. RCDMC plans to support an Americorps intern who would work primarily with C4SM on this project along with other RCDMC projects within Marina.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There should not be any additional impact on General Fund revenues for the project. Between the \$50,000 CIP funding for the project, the approximately \$12,500 in grant funding from RCDMC and the volunteer labor for installation of the project from C4SM and RCDMC, the project should be able to be completed. It is anticipated to begin in early 2024.

CONCLUSION:

This request is submitted for City Council consideration and action.

Respectfully submitted,

Cyrah Caburian
Executive Assistant
City of Marina

REVIEWED/CONCUR:

Layne P. Long
City Manager
City of Marina