



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Watershed Committee/Board of Directors
Title: Watershed Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study Update Regarding Stewardship and Visitor Facilities
From: Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager *BH* *SH*
Meeting Date: December 19, 2024

TYPE OF ACTION: Action X Information Review and Refer

RECOMMENDATION: Receive update

SUMMARY: The Marin Municipal Water District (District) partnered with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (GGNPC) to engage District Board members, executive leadership, stakeholders, and constituents in early scoping of a Watershed Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study (Feasibility Study). Since June 2022, the District has hosted six (6) community workshops, two (2) site visits, and completed an updated watershed census survey to solicit input relating to watershed operations and visitor management. The Board adopted the Feasibility Study at the April 16, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting. Staff will provide an update on the following Strategic Opportunities from the Feasibility Study that have recently been advanced, including: Watershed Stewardship, Visitor Services and Facilities.

DISCUSSION: Mt. Tamalpais and its adjacent watersheds support a rich array of plants and animals, panoramic vistas, and recreational opportunities that are treasured by residents and visitors alike. Since before the turn of the last century, Mt. Tamalpais has been a magnet for recreationists. The Marin Municipal Water District's Mt. Tamalpais watershed lands receive approximately 2 million visitors annually and are part of the Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO 2002). Watershed users include anglers, hikers, equestrians, nature viewers, runners, walkers, youth camps, cyclists and many more. The District initiated a planning process designed to facilitate a conversation with the community around existing visitation in an effort to help address long-standing issues around various modes of recreation on Mt. Tamalpais.

The Feasibility Study reviewed existing watershed recreational facilities, visitor use data, biological resources, stewardship and volunteer programs, and visitor management strategies. The planning process aligned with the District's adaptive watershed management strategy and informs multi-benefit outcomes that can be advanced to help protect the unique goals of different watershed visitors and the biodiversity of the District's watershed lands. The final section of the Feasibility Study presents a

series of Strategic Opportunities organized around stewardship initiatives, visitor services, watershed facilities, and adaptive management operations. Staff will provide an update on the Feasibility Study's Strategic Opportunities that have been advanced over the past quarter, including Watershed Stewardship, Visitor Services and Facilities.

The District has developed a webpage to keep the community updated on the planning process and where the Feasibility Study can be viewed: (<https://www.marinwater.org/WatershedRecPlan>).

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not Applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.