

**MONTEREY COUNTY**  
**HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
 Erik V. Lundquist, AICP, Director



HOUSING, PLANNING, BUILDING, ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** January 4, 2021

**To:** Office of Supervisor Mary L. Adams, District 5

**From:** Shandy Carroll, Management Analyst III, HCD

**Subject:** Update to District 5 regarding Carmel Lagoon and Carmel River projects

**cc:** Melanie Beretti, Principal Planner

The following is an update regarding Projects and activities in the Carmel Lagoon and lower Carmel River area for the Monterey County Supervisorial District 5 office to share with constituents. It covers work completed between December 6, 2021, and December 23, 2021, and work planned for the near future. Prior updates can be found at <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/housing-community-development/planning-services/carmel-river-and-lagoon-project-updates>

**1. Carmel Lagoon and River Beach Sandbar Seasonal Management Activities:**

Public Works, Facilities and Parks (PWFP) staff managed the Carmel River Beach sandbar December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Crews lowered and contoured the sandbar in accordance with State and Federal permits. On December 17<sup>th</sup> the Lagoon breached the sandbar and connected to the ocean. Crews monitored the sandbar until the breach occurred. Pumping crews were on standby to remove stormwater from the ends of Camino Real, River Park Place, and Monte Verde Street.

Below are key activities, status and update related to sandbar management activities.

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Update</b>
Upcoming meetings	Planned: January 18, 2022 at 2 pm	County Board of Supervisor’s Capital Improvement Committee to receive a Carmel Lagoon update. The January 10 <sup>th</sup> meeting was canceled. Meeting agenda and zoom information will be posted one week before the meeting: <a href="https://monterey.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx">https://monterey.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx</a>
Interim (Seasonal) Sandbar Management	In progress: October - March	All necessary permits are complete and active, and can be viewed here: <a href="https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/housing-community-development/planning-services/current-major-projects/carmel-lagoon-ecosystem-protective-barrier-and-scenic-road-protective-barrier-systems">https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/housing-community-development/planning-services/current-major-projects/carmel-lagoon-ecosystem-protective-barrier-and-scenic-road-protective-barrier-systems</a>

Temporary Flood Management	In progress	A pumping contractor hired by PWFPP will be on hand if stormwater is backed up behind the sandbag wall at the end of the ends of Camino Real, River Park Place, and Monte Verde Streets.
Monitoring	In progress – see links	<a href="#">Carmel Lagoon Water Levels</a> <a href="#">Current and forecasted flow at Robles Del Rio Bridge, Carmel River</a> <a href="#">Wave height at Carmel River Beach</a>

**2. Carmel Lagoon Ecosystem Protective Barrier (EPB), Scenic Road Protection structure (SRPS) and Interim Sandbar Management Plan (ISMP) Project (REF 120051):**

The 2016 Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Carmel Lagoon Ecosystem Protective Barrier (EPB), Scenic Road Protection structure (SRPS) and Interim Sandbar Management Plan (ISMP) Project is located at the below link: <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/housing-community-development/planning-services/current-major-projects/carmel-lagoon-ecosystem-protective-barrier-and-scenic-road-protective-barrier-systems>

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Update</b>
Upcoming Community meetings	Preliminary planning  Planned: January 18, 2022 at 2 pm	A community outreach meeting will be held in early 2022 to review the updated 30% SRPS Design plans, pending the completion of the plans.  County Board of Supervisor’s Capital Improvement Committee to receive a Carmel Lagoon update. The January 10 <sup>th</sup> meeting was rescheduled for January 18 <sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. Meeting agenda and zoom information will be posted one week before, here: <a href="https://monterey.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx">https://monterey.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx</a>
Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	Draft revision	Additional technical studies to analyze the hydrology from stormwater runoff inland of the sandbag wall has been added to the current EIR contract. Direction will be requested from the Board of Supervisors (via the Capital Improvement Committee) regarding additional consideration and analysis of a property line EPB in the EIR if desired (planned January 18, 2022 @ 2 pm).
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Ongoing	None during review period.
EIR Technical Studies	Final Drafts	Technical studies consultants are adding the analysis of the natural location of the breach data from 2013 – 2020, in response to comments received on the draft study. The draft technical study evaluating the effect of the SRPS wall on the beach will be ready for review and comment in the new year.
SRPS 30% Design	Pending Technical Studies	Following the completion of the technical studies, the existing preliminary SRPS 30% design described in the Draft EIR will be updated to reflect the new information.

		The design will include the location, dimensions, type of wall, and will consider sea level rise and identify adaptive measures. A visual rendering of preliminary designs will be released with the re-circulated DEIR. All studies will be provided to the Technical Advisory Committee, regulatory agencies, stakeholders, and the community for review and input.
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### 3. Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement (CRFREE) Project

The CRFREE Project Certified Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) is available at:

<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/housing-community-development/planning-services/current-major-projects/carmel-river-free>

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Update</b>
Project Approval	Complete	The CRFREE Project and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) was approved by the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors June 15, 2021.
National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)	In progress	The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) continues its NEPA analysis of the Project as part of its consideration of the \$22.9 million grant funds proposed for the CRFREE project, inclusive of funding for the Carmel Area Wastewater District’s (CAWD) project to underground its force main and sewer outfall pipes spanning the south arm of the Lagoon.
Construction and permitting	In progress	The current implementation schedule anticipates construction to begin in early 2024. Construction will last approximately twelve (12) to eighteen (18) months. Big Sur Land Trust and County Staff are working with the consultants to coordinate utility relocation in the Project area. Right of Way discussions have been held with Caltrans, CalAm, and ATT.
Construction Phase MOU	In progress	The All-Party MOU for the construction phase is under review by the parties and will be considered for approval in 2022.
Grant Funding	Ongoing	CRFREE is estimated to cost approximately \$42 million. Approximately \$11 million in grant funds have been awarded, with a further \$31 million applied for and pending. The State of California has approved the award of a \$5,147,149 grant from the Department of Water Resources Coastal Watershed Risk Reduction Program. The California State Coastal Conservancy will award the amount of \$4.25 million, pending acceptance of the award by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors.