

# MONTEREY COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Carl P. Holm, AICP, Director



Building Services / Environmental Services / Planning Services / Public Works & Facilities  
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## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (DEIR/EA)

**PROJECT TITLE:** CARMEL RIVER FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROJECT, PLANNING FILE NUMBER: (REF140048)

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The Proposed Project is located at the downstream end of the Carmel River Watershed, approximately half a mile from the river mouth, immediately east and west of State Route 1 (SR 1), just south of the Carmel River Bridge, in Monterey County, California. (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 243-071-005-000, 243-071-006-000, 243-071-007-000, 243-021-007-000, 157-121-001-000, 243-081-005-000 and 243-071-008-000.

Notice is hereby given that the County of Monterey and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) are seeking written comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (DEIR/EA) for the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (REF140048, SCH# 2011021038) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The 45-day public review period will begin on March 8, 2019 and end on April 22, 2019. This review period is established for the purpose of receiving written comments on the accuracy and adequacy of the DEIR/EA together with other information relative to the environmental effects of the proposed project.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Monterey County Resource Management Agency (County) proposes to implement the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Enhancement Project (Project). The Proposed Project consists of two interdependent Project components: Floodplain Restoration and Causeway. The USFWS has granted partial funds for the Floodplain Restoration component and is the NEPA lead agency, with the California Department of Transportation acting as a cooperating agency on the review of the Causeway facilities. The County of Monterey is the CEQA lead agency.

The Floodplain Restoration Component consists of: (1) removing a portion of the non-structural earthen levees on the south side of the Carmel River channel; (2) grading to restore the site's ecological function as a floodplain by creating the hydrogeomorphic characteristics necessary to support floodplain restoration activities; (3) grading to elevate approximately 23 acres of existing farmland above the 100-year floodplain elevation to create an agricultural preserve; and

(4) implementation of a Restoration Management Plan (RMP). The RMP includes restoration of a mosaic of native habitats across the site in two phases, and maintenance, monitoring, and reporting protocols to ensure the success of the revegetation specific to compensatory mitigation requirements.

The Causeway Component consists of replacing a portion of the State Route 1 (SR 1) roadway embankment with a causeway section to accommodate flood flows that enter into the south overbank area as a function of the removal of portions of the levees as described above and to restore hydrologic connectivity between the Project site and the Carmel Lagoon. The Project would result in the reconnection and restoration of approximately 100 acres of historic floodplain. Once construction of the Causeway is complete, SR 1 would remain a two-lane conventional highway with 12-foot travel lanes; however, the Causeway incorporates 8-foot wide shoulders, transitioning to match existing 4-foot-wide shoulders at the southern project limits. The Causeway would also include a southbound left turn lane at the Palo Corona Regional Park entrance and public trails.

**LEAD CEQA AGENCY: COUNTY OF MONTEREY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY - PLANNING**

**LEAD NEPA AGENCY: U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE, WILDLIFE & SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM**

**ADDRESSES WHERE A COPY OF THE DRAFT EIR/EA IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW:**

County of Monterey  
RMA-Planning  
1441 Schilling Pl., 2nd Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901  
(831) 755-5025

Monterey Public Library  
Central Library  
625 Pacific Street  
Monterey, CA 93940  
(831)-646-5669

Carmel Valley Library  
Public Library  
65 W. Carmel Valley Rd  
Carmel, CA 93924  
(831) 659-2377

Harrison Memorial Library  
Main Branch  
Ocean Ave. & Lincoln Street  
Carmel by the Sea, CA 93921  
(831) 624-4629

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: March 8, 2019 THROUGH April 22, 2019**

The DEIR/EA is available on CD for purchase from Monterey County RMA - Planning at the above address. The documents are also available on the County website under “Carmel River/Lagoon Projects” at the following address:

<http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-i-z/resource-management-agency-rma-planning/current-major-projects>

**Potential Significant environmental effects:**

The DEIR/EA identifies impacts in the following resource areas that are potentially significant but can be mitigated to a less than significant level: air quality, biological environment, visual/aesthetics, emergency services, traffic, or transportation, cultural resources, hydrology and

floodplains, water quality and storm water runoff, geology, soils, seismicity, and topography, paleontology, hazardous waste and materials and noise and vibration.

### **Questions /Information**

Public hearings will be held, subsequent to the public review period, at a time and place to be specified by legal advertisement in a local newspaper of general circulation. If you would like to be notified of the hearings or would like additional information, please contact:

Daniel Bertoldi  
Monterey County  
Resource Management Agency  
1441 Schilling Pl., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901  
Phone: (831) 784 - 5643  
E-mail: bertoldids@co.monterey.ca.us

### **Submit comments on Draft EIR/EA**

We welcome your comments during the public review period. You may submit your comments in hard copy to the name and address above. The Agency also accepts comments via e-mail or facsimile but requests that you follow these instructions to ensure that the Agency has received your comments. To submit your comments by e-mail, please send a complete document including all attachments to: [CEQAcomments@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:CEQAcomments@co.monterey.ca.us)

An e-mailed document should contain the name of the person or entity submitting the comments and contact information such as phone number, mailing address and/or e-mail address and include any and all attachments referenced in the e-mail. To ensure a complete and accurate record, we request that you also provide a follow-up hard copy to the name and address listed above. If you do not wish to send a follow-up hard copy, then please send a second e-mail requesting confirmation of receipt of comments with enough information to confirm that the entire document was received. If you do not receive e-mail confirmation of receipt of comments, then please submit a hard copy of your comments to ensure inclusion in the environmental record or contact the Agency to ensure the Agency has received your comments.

Facsimile (fax) copies will be accepted with a cover page describing the extent (e.g. number of pages) being transmitted. A faxed document must contain a signature and all attachments referenced therein. Faxed documents should be sent to the contact noted above at **(831) 757-9516**. To ensure a complete and accurate record, we request that you also provide a follow-up hard copy to the name and address listed above. If you do not wish to send a follow-up hard copy, then please contact the Agency to confirm that the entire document was received.