

**Before the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors  
in and for the County of Monterey, State of California**

**RESOLUTION NO.**

Resolution of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors to:

- a. Find that the Salinas River Lagoon Winter 2015-16 Sandbar Management Plan (Plan) is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c) for emergency projects;
- b. Approve the Salinas River Lagoon Winter 2015-16 Sandbar Management Plan; and,
- c. Authorize the General Manager of the Monterey County Water Resource Agency to obtain required permits and fully implement the Salinas River Lagoon Winter Plan if needed during emergency situations throughout the 2015/2016 rainy season to alleviate flooding.

WHEREAS, Salinas River Beach State Park is located at the mouth of the Salinas River north of Marina in the unincorporated area of Monterey County;

WHEREAS, the Salinas River watershed has extreme variations in seasonal and yearly discharge rates;

WHEREAS, developed residential and agricultural areas within the 100 year floodplain suffer from periodic flooding from high river flows and ocean storms, in some areas nearly annually and in some cases multiple times in one year;

WHEREAS, an area of increased annual flood risk exists in and around the Salinas River Lagoon;

WHEREAS, since 2009, the Water Resources Agency (Agency) has consulted with multiple agencies (US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Coastal Commission, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board) and stakeholders (State Parks, landowners) regarding measures taken to reduce the risk to life, property and general welfare;

WHEREAS, the County's Winter Sandbar Management Plan (SMP) involves mechanically creating a diversion channel, at an agreed elevation and alignment in the sandbar. The channel acts as a pressure relief system which gives the water more space to spread as it breaches into the ocean;

WHEREAS, without the channel, water backs up into the low-lying areas surrounding the Lagoon, posing severe threat to life or structure;

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service is predicting a strong El Nino year, increasing the risk of severe storms, so the Agency is preparing for emergencies that may occur as a result;

WHEREAS, the Agency's Winter Plan is for the upcoming winter only and does not take the place of a project to provide a long-term solution;

WHEREAS, the Winter Plan would be implemented only in case of emergency and imminent threat to life or structure;

WHEREAS, approval of the Winter Plan is an action necessary to authorize implementation of actions, should the thresholds in the Plan be met, to prevent or mitigate an emergency under CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c) because the Winter Plan would be implemented only in case of emergency and imminent threat to life, property or structure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors does hereby:

- 1) Approve the Salinas River Lagoon Winter 2015-16 Sandbar Management Plan;
- 2) Find that, should the thresholds in the Plan be met, actions taken to implement the Salinas River Lagoon Winter 2015-16 Sandbar Management Plan (Winter Plan) are statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c) for emergency projects; and
- 3) Authorize the General Manager of the Agency to obtain required permits and fully implement the Salinas River Lagoon Winter Plan if needed during emergency conditions as may be declared by Monterey County throughout the 2015/2016 rainy season to alleviate flooding.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015, by the following vote, to-wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

I, Gail T. Borkowski, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book \_\_\_ for the meeting on \_\_\_\_\_.

Dated:

Gail T. Borkowski, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors County of Monterey, State of California

By \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy