



MCWRA Briefing Report: Carmel River Lagoon EPB and SRPS Projects

April 30, 2013

Subject: Carmel River Lagoon Ecosystem Protective Barrier (EPB) and Scenic Road Protection Structure (SRPS) Projects

Current Status:

The EPB and SRPS projects are two alternatives designed to meet the following objectives: (1) reduce or eliminate the need for sandbar management activities at the Carmel River barrier beach, (2) reduce or prevent flooding of residential and non-residential areas, (3) improve fish and wildlife habitat, (4) protect the Scenic Road embankment from scour resulting from a northerly-aligned lagoon outflow channel, and (5) protect the Scenic Road embankment from erosion resulting from ocean storm surge.

Conceptual plans and draft technical studies have been completed for the projects, and the *Carmel River Lagoon EPB and SRPS Projects Draft Feasibility Report* is currently being reviewed by County staff.

Next Steps:

The Monterey County Resource Management Agency (RMA) is planning to present the *Carmel River Lagoon EPB and SRPS Projects Draft Feasibility Report* to the Board of Supervisors in May 2013.

Decision Points:

The RMA recommendation to the Board of Supervisors is expected to include the following actions:

- Approve a Memorandum of Understanding by and between Monterey County, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Marine Fisheries Service for “Flood Prevention and Habitat Protection at the Carmel Lagoon”.
- Select an EPB preferred alternative for evaluation purposes.
- Select a SRPS preferred alternative for evaluation purposes.
- Direct staff to complete necessary environmental assessments for the preferred alternatives to be submitted to the regulatory agencies with permit authority.

Completion will require:

Carmel River Beach and Lagoon property is owned by State Parks; therefore, the ability to complete these projects is contingent on an agreement with State Parks for construction access, use and/or relinquishment of their property. Additionally, permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers, California Fish and Wildlife, California Coastal Commission, and Regional Water Quality Control Board will likely be required.

Additional funding will be required for project construction.