

MONTEREY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MEETING:	February 7, 2012- Consent	AGENDA NO.:	24
SUBJECT:	Extend the Administrative Proclamation of Local Emergency due to the conditions of high surf and rising river levels at the Carmel Lagoon causing conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property along Scenic Road and adjoining neighborhoods signed by the Administrative Officer on November 16, 2011 for an additional thirty days in accordance with California Government Code Section 8630 (4/5ths vote required).		
DEPARTMENT:	County Administrative Office – Office of Emergency Services		

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors extends the Administrative Proclamation of Local Emergency due to the conditions of high surf, light rain and rising river levels at the Carmel River Beach Lagoon causing conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property along Scenic Road and adjoining neighborhoods signed by the Administrative Officer on November 16, 2011 for an additional thirty days in accordance with California Government Code Section 8630 (4/5ths vote required).

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

Pursuant to Section 2.68.060 of the Monterey County Code and Section 8630 of the Government Code, the County Administrative Officer or his designee is empowered to proclaim the existence of a local emergency when the County is affected by a public calamity and the Board of Supervisors is not in session. The proclamation of local emergency is subject to ratification by the Board of Supervisors within seven (7) days thereafter. On November 16, 2011 the County Administrative Officer issued a proclamation of local emergency based on the following facts:

During the weekend of November 11-13, 2011 conditions of high surf, light rain and rising river levels at the Carmel River Beach Lagoon to 9.99 feet, with a sandbar elevation above 12 feet, the Lagoon would not self breach and flow to the sea. With additional episodes of high surf and rain in the forecast for the upcoming week the threat of flooding of 32 homes and surrounding roadways, potable water delivery systems, sewer collection systems and other utility systems in the area was imminent, even after emergency sandbagging measures undertaken by County Department of Public Works had been put in place.

The foregoing conditions were or were likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the County of Monterey and required the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat. The conditions of extreme peril warranted and necessitated the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency and immediate action to mitigate the effects of the local emergency. However, this year no heavy equipment could be placed on the beach without the issuance of an emergency permit by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE). An emergency permit would be considered if an emergency existed or was imminent, and the permit would stipulate the type of work and conditions for the work that must be followed.

The situation prompted County staff to request the emergency permit. The ACE granted the request so that mechanical measures could be utilized to create a means to lower the level of the Lagoon in time, to a level that would prevent the flooding of properties and utility systems, and potentially allow the Lagoon to open and close naturally to prevent the Lagoon from draining. A Carmel River channel alignment would be created in such a manner as to prevent a rapid out

flow. The emergency permit was issued given the issuance of a Proclamation of Local Emergency by the County of Monterey. Prior to commencement of work on the Beach on November 16, 2011 the river level had risen to 10.05 feet and the surf forecast for the upcoming period showed waves heights up to 21.8 feet. The Emergency Permit issued by the ACE remained in effect and allowed the Department of Public Works to again open the channel and drain the Lagoon when it reached imminent flooding level on November 25, 2011, and again on December 20, 2011, both times self closing. Agreement was made under the terms of the second emergency permit that the channel could be reopened and managed to lower the Lagoon no less than a 6' elevation until the evening of December 23, 2011, when it would be closed under the second permit. If emergency conditions arose again, a new emergency permit would be required. Since that time several periods of intermittent rainfall and high surf did occur causing imminent flooding conditions that did require the County to seek and receive additional emergency permits from the ACE to manage the Lagoon with mechanical measures. Current conditions continue to require close monitoring of the Lagoon, and there continues to be intermittent periods of rainfall and high surf in the forecast for the future. Therefore, it is recommended that the Board of Supervisors take action to extend the November 16, 2011 Proclamation of Local Emergency beyond the February 10, 2012 until such time as natural conditions occur allowing the Carmel River Channel to naturally breach and stay breached.

This action will extend the Proclamation for thirty days. CAO and OES will update the board of supervisors periodically concerning the emergency and efforts to restore and maintain the Carmel River channel alignment and the level of the Carmel Lagoon, sufficiently protecting lives, property and utility systems in the area and in accordance with the conditions of an emergency permit from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

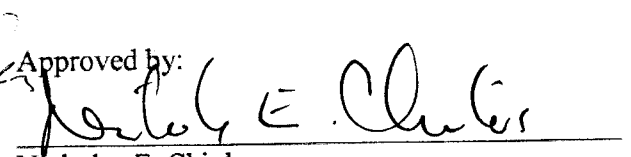
OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The mitigation efforts of the foregoing conditions affecting the Carmel River Beach, Lagoon and river channel, the Carmel River Beach State Park and Scenic Road involved the cooperation and assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA National Marina Fisheries, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California State Parks Department and Department of Fish and Game, Monterey County Resource Management Agency; Planning Department and Monterey County Public Works Department, Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Monterey County Health Department – Environmental Health Division, Monterey County Sheriff's Department, Monterey County Office of Emergency Services., California Coastal Commission and Monterey Peninsula Water Management District.

FINANCING:

This extension of this Proclamation of Local Emergency will not in itself impact the General Fund.

Prepared by: 
Sherrie L. Collins
Sherrie L. Collins
Emergency Services Manager

Approved by: 
Nicholas E. Chiulos
Nicholas E. Chiulos
Intergovernmental and legislative Affairs Director

Date: 1/31/12

Date: 1-31-12