

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

RESOLUTION NO. ----

Resolution of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors to:

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

[REF150069, County of Monterey - Carmel Lagoon Emergency Sandbar Management (APNs: 009-481-004-000 & 243-011-001-000)]

WHEREAS, Carmel River Beach State Park is located at the south end of Carmelo Street and Scenic Road in the unincorporated Carmel area of Monterey County;

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

WHEREAS, developed commercial, 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 Carmel Lagoon;

WHEREAS, since 2011, the County Resource Management Agency (RMA) 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, Carmel Area Wastewater District) regarding measures taken to reduce the risk to life, property and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, Monterey County is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as part of a long-term solution to flooding in the Carmel Lagoon that balances protection of private property with protection of federally listed species, which includes an Ecosystem Protective Barrier (EPB), Scenic Road Protection Structure (SRPS) projects, and Interim Sandbar Management Plan (ISMP);

WHEREAS, the EIR will not be complete in time for the winter storm season this year as a result of working with the regulatory and stakeholder agencies;

WHEREAS, the County's Winter Sandbar Management Plan (SMP) involves mechanically creating a diversion channel, at an agreed elevation and alignment, in the sandbar while leaving a portion of the sandbar closest to the lagoon intact to act as a 'plug'. During times of severe storm activity and increased river flows, the plug is then either naturally pushed away by the force of the increased water level, or manually started by a crew of RMA employees with hand tools to avoid use of heavy equipment in water and to allow the process to begin faster. 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 County is preparing for emergencies that may occur as a result; WHEREAS, the County's Winter SMP is for the upcoming winter only and does not take the place of a project to provide a long-term solution; and

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

WHEREAS, approval of the Winter SMP is an action necessary 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 or structure,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors does hereby:

- 1) Find that the Carmel Lagoon Winter 2015-16 Sandbar Management Plan (Winter SMP) is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c) for emergency projects;
- 2) Approve the Carmel Lagoon Winter 2015-16 Sandbar Management Plan;
- 3) Authorize the Director of the Resource Management Agency to obtain required permits and fully implement the Carmel Lagoon Winter SMP if needed during emergency situations throughout the 2015/2016 rainy season to alleviate flooding.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 20st day of October, 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 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

