Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (Carmel River FREE Project)

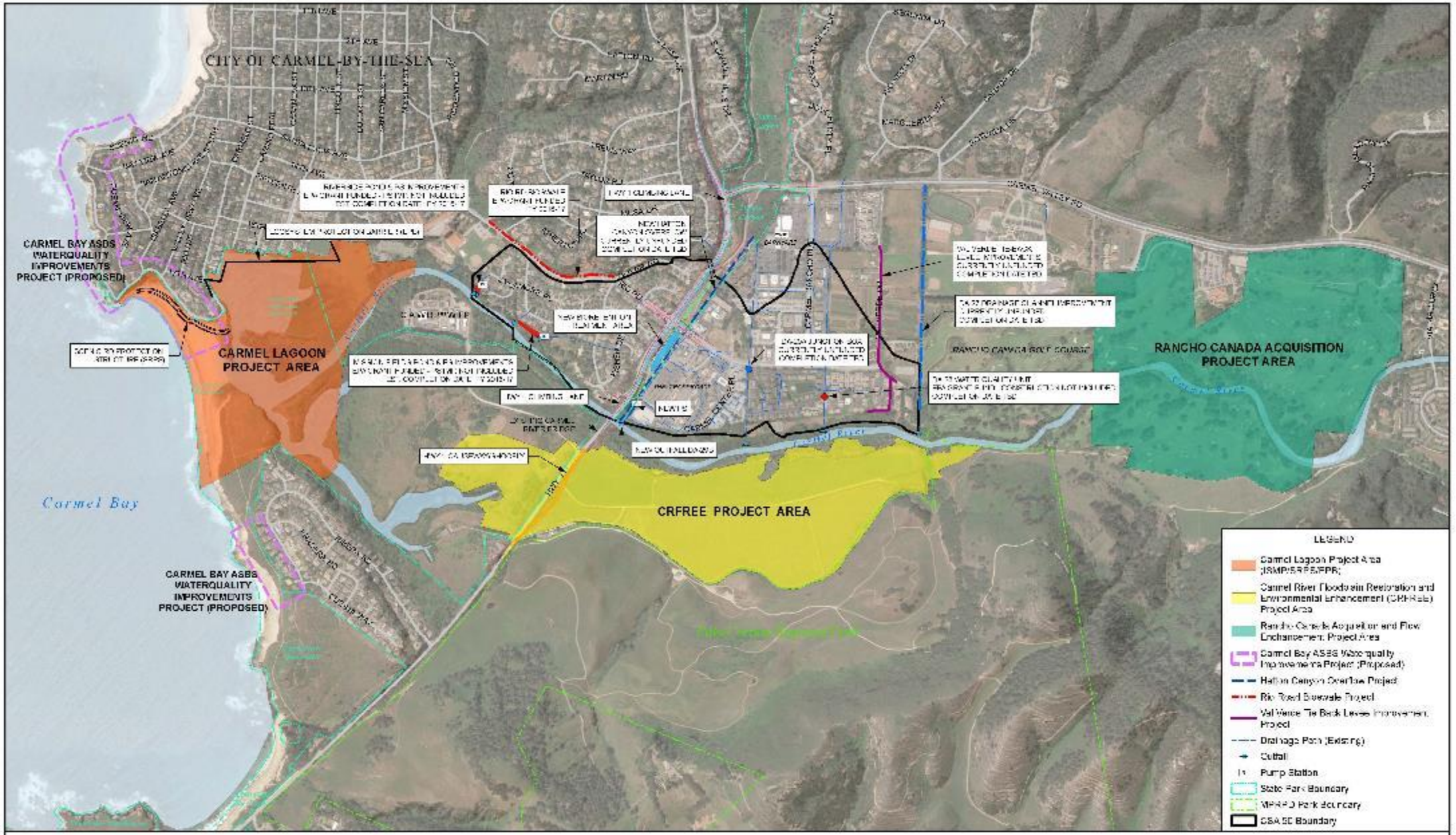
Board of Supervisors Meeting

January 28, 2020

Scheduled Item No. 27

OUTLINE / OVERVIEW

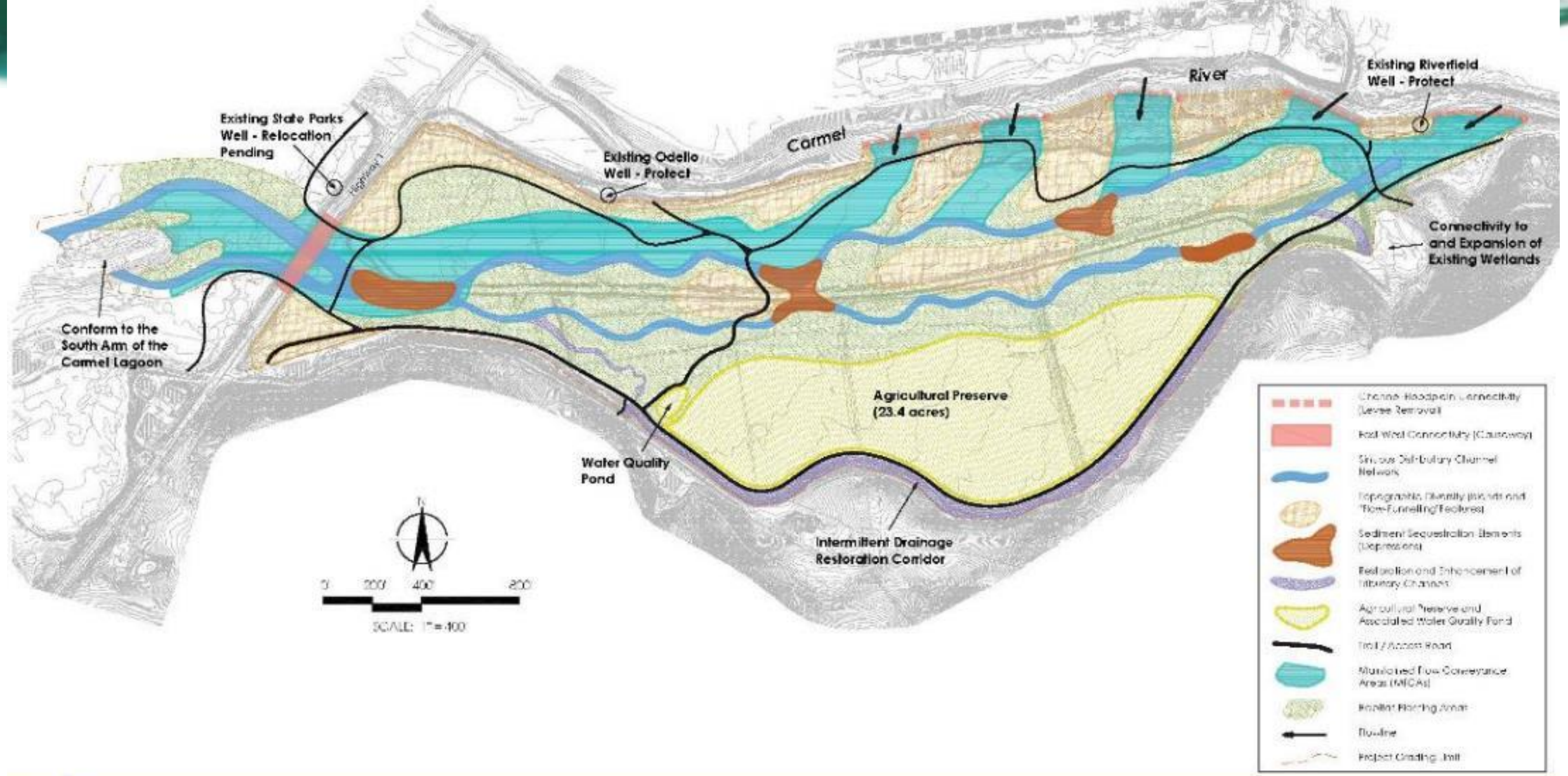
- Project Description
- Environmental Review
  - CEQA – Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
  - NEPA – Environmental Assessment (EA)
- Public Distribution & Notification
- CEQA Analysis (Impact Overview)
- Project Alternatives
- Board Action



PROJECT OVERVIEW
AT LOWER CARMEL RIVER AREA

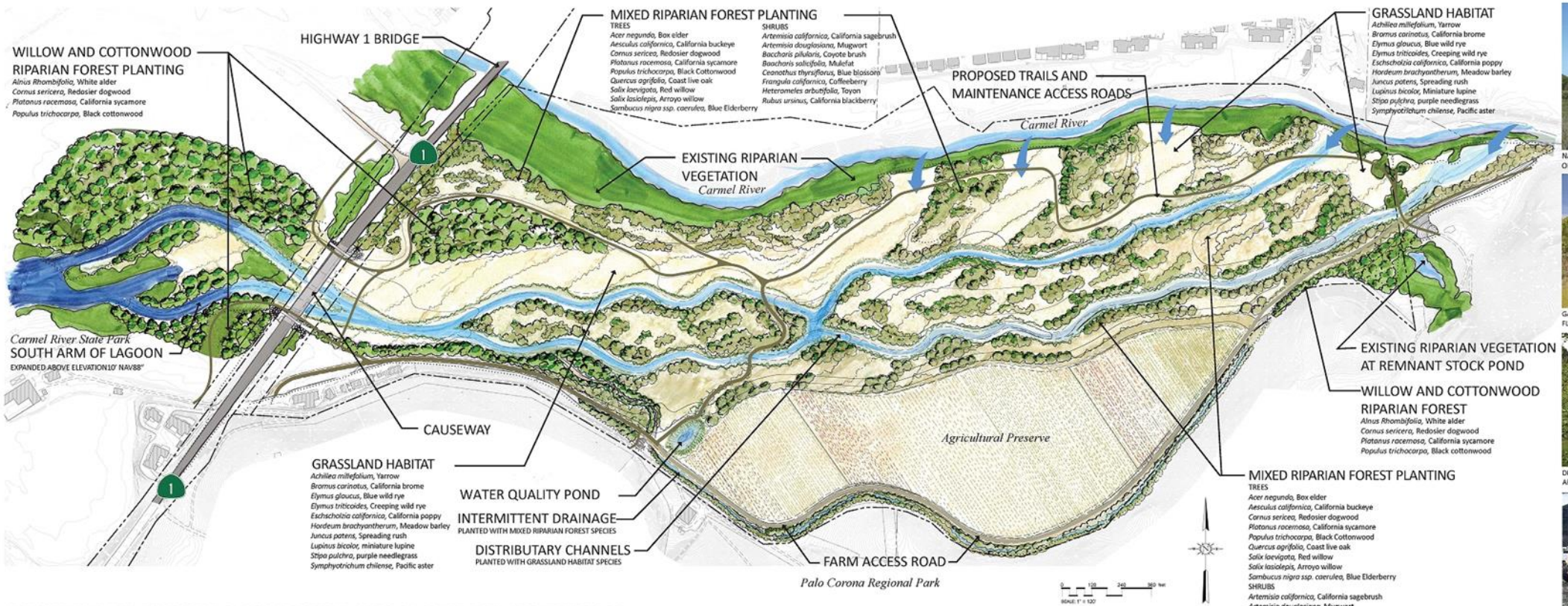
UNINCORPORATED MONTEREY COUNTY NEAR CARMEL, CA

COUNTY OF MONTEREY
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY



Balance Hydrologics, Inc.

Plate 1 . Restoration Design Features, Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project, Monterey County, California.



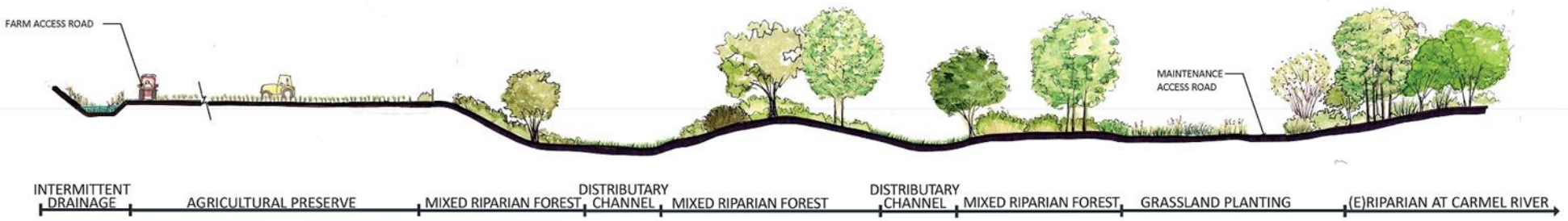

NATURAL FLOODPLAIN RECRUITMENT
ODELLO WEST, NEAR HIGHWAY 1


GARLAND RANCH REGIONAL PARK
FLOODPLAIN REFERENCE


DEEP PLANTING OF COTTONWOOD CUTTINGS
AFTER 12 YEARS


DEEP POTHOLE PLANTING IN PROGRESS

CONCEPTUAL FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION AND REVEGETATION
PLAN VIEW



TYPICAL SECTION 1" = 30' horizonal, x 3 vertical

PROJECT PARTNERS:
Big Sur Land Trust
Monterey County RMA

DESIGN TEAM:
Whitson Engineers
Balance Hydrologics
H.T. Harvey & Associates
Cornerstone Structural Engineering Group
Kleinfelder
Avila & Associates
Conservation Collaborative

BIG SUR LAND TRUST

CARMEL RIVER FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION & ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Monterey County, California

May 22, 2015

CEQA/NEPA

- **NOP**: March 6, 2018 (CEQA Guidelines Section 15082)
- **Scoping Meetings**: March 26, 2018 at Rancho Cañada (CEQA Guidelines Section 15802)
- **Circulation**: March 7, 2019 NOA for Draft EIR/EA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15087). Public Circulation - March 8, 2019 to April 22, 2019.

CEQA Analysis

- No Impact
  - Land Use Planning, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Recreation, Utilities and Service Systems
- Less Than Significant Impact
  - Agricultural and Forest Resources, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation
  - Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Public Services, Traffic, Tribal Resources, Mandatory Findings of Significance
- Significant Impact, Unavoidable
  - None

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES – Board is not approving the Project Today

- Alternatives:
  - No Build Alternative
  - Preferred Project
  - Reduced Project Alternative
    - Reduced levee notches, floodplain grading and causeway length to reduce or eliminate potentially significant impacts associated with downstream infrastructure owned by State Parks and the Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD)
  - Secondary Channel Alternative
    - More grading on the floodplain to create desired habitat features for sensitive fish and wildlife resources
  - Environmentally Superior:
    - Preferred Project

Recommended minor edits for Board consideration (1 of 5)

	Draft FEIR text	**Requested corrected text**	**Suggested Compromise**
1. **Alternate mitigation method (Draft FEIR, p. 131)**	Following "the preferred approach to protect the CAWD pipelines will likely require moving the pipelines underground, below the south arm of the Carmel Lagoon, or some other sufficient method to protect the pipelines from increased flow velocity, and woody debris."	*add the following sentence:* <u>The sufficiency of an alternate method would be determined by CAWD at CAWD's sole discretion.</u>	Acceptable.

Recommended minor edits for Board consideration (2 of 5)

2. MM HF-4 **(Draft FEIR, p. 146)**	**HF-4** The County shall negotiate in good faith for an agreement with CAWD to address funding and implementation of the Undergrounding Project in order to avoid potential impacts of the Proposed Project.	**HF-4** The Undergrounding Project is necessary mitigation for the Proposed Project. The County shall negotiate in good faith for an agreement with CAWD to address funding and implementation of the Undergrounding Project in order to avoid potential impacts of the Proposed Project.	If the Proposed Project proceeds, the Undergrounding Project is necessary to avoid potentially significant impacts to CAWD's infrastructure. The County shall negotiate in good faith for an agreement with CAWD to address funding and implementation of the Undergrounding Project in order to avoid potential impacts of the Proposed Project.

Recommended minor edits for Board consideration (3 of 5)

3.MM HF-5 (Draft FEIR, p. 146)	**HF-5** The County shall not issue a Notice to Proceed to commence construction of the Proposed Project until the following has occurred: A. The County has received in writing the following assurances from CAWD: 1. CAWD has obtained all required governmental approvals to proceed with the Undergrounding Project, and 2. CAWD has awarded a construction contract to construct the Undergrounding Project; and B. All necessary funding for the Undergrounding Project has been secured to the satisfaction of both CAWD and the County. (As used herein, "Notice to Proceed" means authorization to the contractor to commence construction.)	**HF-5** The County shall not issue a Notice to Proceed to commence construction of the Proposed Project until all of the following have occurred: A. The County has received in writing the following assurances from CAWD: 1. CAWD has obtained all required governmental approvals to proceed with the Undergrounding Project; and 2. CAWD has awarded a construction contract to construct the Undergrounding Project; and B. The County shall not issue a Notice to Proceed to commence construction of the Proposed Project unless and until CAWD has provided written assurance that, in its opinion, the necessary funding for the Undergrounding Project has been secured in order for CAWD to proceed, and the County has concurred. C. The agreement referenced in HF-4 between CAWD and County has been fully executed. (As used herein, "Notice to Proceed" means authorization to the contractor to commence construction.)	Acceptable

Recommended minor edits for Board consideration (4 of 5)

4. FEIR Response C2-10 (Draft FEIR Appendix M, page A-262)	~~While the Proposed Project has a potential impact on the CAWD infrastructure, as described on pg. 131~~ of the DEIR/EA (FEIR/EA, pg. 130), ~~the comment demonstrates that the existing condition of the CAWD infrastructure required repair independent of the Proposed Project and that repairs were deemed necessary as a result of the potential for failure resulting from predictable flood events, regardless of the implementation of the Proposed Project.~~	The Proposed Project would have potentially significant impacts on the CAWD infrastructure with resulting harm, as described on pgs. 130-132 and pg. 141 of the DEIR/EA, FEIR/EA pgs. 130-131 and 141-142, and in the CAWD comments, that would be addressed through mitigations measures HF-3, HF-4, and HF-5.	Acceptable

Recommended minor edits for Board consideration (5 of 5)

5. FEIR Response C2-26 (Draft FEIR Appendix M, p. 264)	~~It is incorrect that undergrounding is only necessary as mitigation for the Proposed Project. Undergrounding may be an appropriate and viable approach to protecting CAWD outfall pipes independent of the Proposed Project.~~	It is correct that undergrounding or other sufficient protection method would be necessary as mitigation for the Proposed Project.	~~It is incorrect that undergrounding is only necessary as mitigation for the Proposed Project.~~ Undergrounding may be an appropriate and viable approach to protecting CAWD outfall pipes independent of the Proposed Project.

BOARD ACTION FOR CONSIDERATION

Adopt a resolution to certify the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment for the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement (CRFREE) Project

--Certify the FEIR/EA *with minor edits* for the CRFREE Project