

**Before the Board of Supervisors  
County of Monterey, State of California**

**Resolution No. 22-503**

- a. Find that per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15262 “Feasibility and Planning Studies” the IRWM Plan does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or negative declaration as the evaluation of environmental factors contained in the IRWM Plan is adequate for the level of planning, and the Plan is exempt from further review under CEQA;
- b. Adopt the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay, and South Monterey Bay Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan Update as a voluntary document that provides broadly supported, identified goals, objectives, strategies, and projects to meet the integrated water needs of the people and the environment within the planning Region.

**CEQA ACTION:** Find that per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15262 “Feasibility and Planning Studies” the IRWM Plan does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or negative declaration as the evaluation of environmental factors contained in the IRWM Plan is adequate for the level of planning, and the Plan is exempt from further review under CEQA.

**WHEREAS**, the State of California through the Department of Water Resources (DWR) desires to foster Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning and encourages local public, non-profit, and private (for profit) entities to define planning regions appropriate for managing water resources and to integrate strategies within these planning regions; and

**WHEREAS**, the IRWM Plan is a comprehensive guide for developing, prioritizing, and implementing coordinated water resource plans and projects that incorporate water management strategies, objectives and goals by stakeholders, and assist in meeting Statewide priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the DWR IRWM Program has grant funds from Proposition 1 funds to support eligible projects in the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay, and South Monterey Bay planning region;

**WHEREAS**, the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (CRFREE Project) will meet the goals and objectives of the IRWM Plan by restoring connectivity between the Carmel River and the south arm of the Carmel Lagoon, restoring riparian habitat, and preserving 135 acres as open space; and

**WHEREAS**, CRFREE will reduce the 100-year flood level on the north side of the lower Carmel River by allowing flood waters to access the south floodplain, removing approximately 125 parcels from the 100-year floodplain; and

**WHEREAS**, to be eligible for the State IRWM implementation grant funds under the California voter-approved Proposition 1, the IRWM Plan must be adopted by the County of Monterey. The Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay, and South Monterey Bay planning region IRWM has recommended approximately \$800,000 in IRWM funds be allocated to implement the CRFREE Project, and staff will apply to DWR for these funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the recommended action supports the Board of Supervisors' Administration and Infrastructure Strategic Initiatives by providing sustainable physical infrastructure and associated flood risk reduction and habitat benefits to promote the safety of area residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, approval of this recommendation will adopt the IRWM Plan Update;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Monterey County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the following:

- a. Find that per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15262 "Feasibility and Planning Studies" the IRWM Plan does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or negative declaration as the evaluation of environmental factors contained in the IRWM Plan is adequate for the level of planning, and the Plan is exempt from further review under CEQA.
- b. Adopt the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay, and South Monterey Bay Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan Update as a voluntary document that provides broadly supported, identified goals, objectives, strategies, and projects to meet the integrated water needs of the people and the environment within the planning Region.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022, by roll call vote:

AYES: Supervisors Alejo, Phillips, Lopez, Askew, and Adams

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

(Government Code 54953)

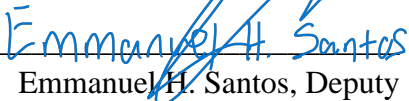
I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book 82 for the meeting on December 13, 2022.

Dated: December 19, 2022

File ID: RES 22-213

Agenda Item No. 46

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Monterey, State of California

  
Emmanuel H. Santos, Deputy