



# County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

## Board Report

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**File #:** PC 18-119, **Version:** 1

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### **PLN170611 - PIETRO**

Consider an application for the construction of a split-level single family dwelling and an attached garage (Approx. 5,200 sq. ft.) within 750 feet of a known archaeological resource on Carmel Point. Carmel Area Land Use Plan, Coastal Zone

**Project Location:** 26307 Isabella Avenue, Coastal Zone, Carmel Area Land Use Plan

**Proposed CEQA action:** Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

#### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Planning Commission adopt a resolution to:

- 1) Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration
- 2) Approve a Combined Development Permit consisting of:
  - a. A Coastal Administrative Permit and Design Approval for the construction of a 3,834-sq. ft., split-level single family dwelling inclusive of an attached garage, subject to a condition deleting the 1,366-sq. ft. basement component; and
  - b. A Coastal Development Permit to allow development within 750 feet of a known archaeological resource; and
- 3) Adopt a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

The attached draft resolution includes findings and evidence for consideration (**Exhibit D**). Staff recommends approval subject to 26 conditions of approval, including 4 mitigation measures.

#### PROJECT INFORMATION:

**Agent:** Anthony Lombardo, Esq.

**Applicant:** Chris Adamski

**Property Owners:** Pietro Family Investments, LP

**APN:** 009-463-012-000

**Parcel Size:** .19 acres (8,438-sq. ft.)

**Zoning:** MDR/2(18)-D (CZ)

**Plan Area:** Carmel Area Land Use Plan

**Flagged and Staked:** Yes

#### SUMMARY:

The property is located on Isabella Avenue in the Carmel Point residential neighborhood, the project consists of the construction of a 5,200-sq. ft., split-level, single family dwelling including a 1,366-sq. ft. subterranean basement and a 437-sq. ft. two-car garage on a vacant lot. During review of the proposed development three potentially significant primary issues were identified: Impacts to Archaeological (Cultural), Tribal Cultural Resources and Seismic hazards.

In just the past year, RMA-Planning has received six requests for basement approvals on the Point. The Carmel Area LUP Archaeological Resources key policy 2.8.2 states:

*“Carmel’s archaeological resources, including those areas considered to be archaeologically sensitive but not yet surveyed and mapped, shall be maintained and protected for their scientific and cultural heritage values. New land uses, both public and private, should be considered compatible with this objective only where they incorporate **all site planning and design features necessary to minimize or avoid impacts to archaeological resources.**”*

The immediate area surrounding the subject lots are made up of 18 parcels. The subject lots are located in a recorded archaeological site, CA-MNT-17. Staff reviewed the permit history of all 18 parcels bordered by Isabella Avenue, Scenic Road, Valley View Avenue, and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Almost half (44%) of the parcels yielded archaeological reports with positive identification of cultural material.

Based on the history of this area, staff required Phase I and Phase II archaeological reports. The results of the archaeological reports were inconclusive. However, based on the known sensitivity of this area and the potential impact of a basement, staff is recommending denial of the 1,366 -square foot basements as well as recommending two on-site monitors during the excavation phase for the proposed residences. Options for consideration include:

1. No Basements
2. Partial basements
3. Approve basements subject to a condition that if significant resources are found that the project has to be redesigned around those resources. This will require defining the threshold of significance.
4. Approve basement. If resources are found, then they are removed and cataloged, or relocated (if human remains).

In addition, a potential seismic hazard was independently evaluated by registered and certified geologist and engineers within the context of the projects being proposed (including basement additions). Staff recognizes that the projects as proposed are feasible; however, staff also finds that less excavation/disturbance would be necessary with the exclusion of the basements. Therefore, staff finds the seismic hazard is mitigated with adherence to the recommendations made in the Geologic and Geotechnical reports and the adoption of the proposed conditions of approval.

## DISCUSSION:

See attached **Exhibit B**.

## CEQA

As the lead agency, Monterey County RMA-Planning prepared an Initial Study pursuant to Section 15063 of the California Environmental Quality Act. A Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (“MND”) for PLN170611 was prepared in accordance with CEQA and was circulated for public review from September 6, 2018 through October 8, 2018.

Potential impacts analyzed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration included: aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, noise, transportation/traffic and tribal cultural resources.

Of the potential impacts analyzed, staff only identified impacts related to Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources, as discussed above. Mitigations have been incorporated to reduce these impacts to a less than significant level. Staff has made the necessary findings to approve the project subject to twenty-six (26)

conditions, which includes four (4) mitigation measures (**Exhibit D.1**).

Staff added condition nos. 13-15 for RMA-Planning to better comply with the policies of the Monterey County Zoning Ordinance, Title 20. Per Section 15074.1 (c) of the CEQA Guidelines, no recirculation of the proposed mitigated negative declaration is required where the new mitigation measures are made conditions of, or are otherwise incorporated into, project approval.

Staff also added text to Mitigation Measure No.3 to make the language more effective (see underlined text). Pursuant to Section 15074.1 (a) of the CEQA Guidelines, prior to approving the project, the lead agency may, in accordance with this section, delete those mitigation measures and substitute for them other measures which the lead agency determines are equivalent or more effective.

#### PDSP004- MITIGATION MEASURE #3: PROTECTION OF TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES AND SACRED PLACES (OCEN MONITOR)

Condition Text: In order to ensure that Tribal Cultural Resources incur less than significant impacts, an OCEN-approved Monitor shall be onsite during project-related grading and excavation to identify findings with tribal cultural significance. The tribal monitor shall have the authority to temporarily halt work in order to examine any potentially significant cultural materials or features. If resources are discovered, the property owner shall provide an area for reburial of resources onsite or provide an adequate off-site location for reburial. The tribal monitor shall be given the authority to determine the ultimate disposition of any artifacts or remains onsite. This mitigation is not intended to alleviate the property owner or applicant from contacting the coroner and complying with State law if human remains are discovered.

Staff received one formal comment during the thirty-day public circulation period and a second outside of the comment period. A letter from the applicant's legal representation (**Exhibit F**) was received via email with the following points:

- Disagreement with staff's interpretation of statements made in the initial Albion archaeological report
- Disagreement with staff's interpretation of statements made in the supplemental archaeological report
- Clarification that "finds" discussed in Initial Study background are not on the subject parcel
- Analysis ignores the requirements of the geologic and geotechnical studies relevant to the development of the project site
- Contest the application of the HR zoning district overlay (premature and counterintuitive)

In brief, staff stands by the statements identified in the archaeological reports and does disclose the fact that artifacts associated with CA-MNT-17 were discovered in the near vicinity of the subject parcels, although, as staff detailed above, there are three recorded archaeological sites on Carmel Point and a strong likelihood of continued finds in this area. The geologic and geotechnical studies do suggest that the topsoil is not adequate for a shallow slab foundation but the geotechnical report does offer alternatives. Finally, the HR re-zoning is codified in the Carmel Coastal Implementation Plan and other projects in Carmel Point (with positive archaeological reports) have been conditioned to request an HR zoning overlay.

For a detailed explanation, see **Exhibit G**.

#### OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The following agencies have reviewed the project, have comments, and/or have recommended conditions:

RMA-Public Works  
Environmental Health Bureau  
RMA-Environmental Services  
Water Resources Agency  
Cypress FPD  
Carmel Highlands Land Use Advisory Committee

The subject project was reviewed by the Unincorporated Carmel Highlands Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC) on January 16, 2018 and was not given a recommendation of approval based on a number of factors, including the proposed aesthetic. A motion to not support the project was made with members voting: 3 ayes, 1 no, and 1 absent. The following reasons were cited in the minutes for not supporting the project as proposed:

- Removal of large quantities of soil for construction of a large 1,366-sq. ft. basement could disturb possible archaeological resources in an archaeologically sensitive area.
- The structure in design and materials should better reflect the more rural character of the surrounding neighborhood.
- The development's landscaping plan should be a rural design and not an urban design. It should more naturally relate to its surroundings using indigenous plants and upper canopy trees.
- Exterior lighting should be designed to stay onsite per County regulations.

Prepared by: Maira Blanco, Associate Planner, x5052

Reviewed by: Jacqueline R. Onciano, RMA Chief of Planning &  
Brandon Swanson, RMA Services Manager

Approved by: John M Dugan, FAICP, RMA Deputy Director of Land Use and Community Development

The following attachments are on file with the RMA:

Exhibit A - Project Data Sheet and Vicinity Map  
Exhibit B - Discussion  
Exhibit C - Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study  
Exhibit D - Draft Resolution including;

- Exhibit D1 - Conditions of approval
- Exhibit D2 - Plans
- Exhibit D3 - Colors and Materials

Exhibit E - Carmel Highlands LUAC meeting minutes (January 16, 2018)  
Exhibit F - Comments  
Exhibit G - Staff's response to comments

cc: Front Counter Copy; Planning Commission; John Dugan, RMA Deputy Director, Land Use & Community Development; Brandon Swanson, RMA Services Manager; Maira Blanco, RMA Associate Planner; Chris Adamski, applicant; Anthony Lombardo, agent; Pietro Family Investments, property owners; Louise Miranda Ramirez, OCEN Tribal Chairwoman; Mike Watson, California Coastal Commission; Robert Carver, interested party; Barbara Rainer, interested party; The Open Monterey Project (Molly Erickson); LandWatch (Executive Director); John H. Farrow; Janet Brennan; Project File Nos. PLN170611.

