



County of Monterey

Item No.1

Zoning Administrator

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

Legistar File Number: ZA 26-001

January 15, 2026

Introduced: 1/7/2026

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Matter Type: Zoning Administrator

PLN220025 - SENA LOUIS T & KRISTIN TRS

Public hearing to consider a Commercial Vacation Rental to allow the use of residential property for transient lodging for a period of 30 calendar days or fewer.

Project Location: 3000 Red Wolf Drive, Carmel

Proposed CEQA Action: Find the project Categorical Exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15301 and none of the exceptions to the exemptions listed in Section 15300.2 can be made.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Zoning Administrator adopt a Resolution:

- a. Finding the project qualifies for a Class 1 Categorical Exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15301 and none of the exceptions to the exemptions listed in Section 15300.2 can be made; and
- b. Approving a Coastal Development Permit for a Commercial Vacation Rental to allow the use of a residential property for transient lodging for a period of 30 calendar days or fewer.

The attached draft resolution includes findings and evidence for consideration (**Exhibit A**). Staff recommends approval subject to 9 conditions of approval.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Agent: Luke Ingram

Property Owner: Kristin and Louis Sena

APN: 416-011-032-000

Parcel Size: approximately 11.27

Zoning: Split-Zoned Watershed and Scenic Conservation with a maximum gross density of 40 acres/unit with a Design Control Overlay and Watershed and Scenic Conservation with a maximum gross density of 80 acres/unit with a Design Control Overlay, within the Coastal Zone or “WSC/40-D (CZ) or WSC/80-D (CZ)”

Plan Area: Carmel Area Land Use Plan

Flagged and Staked: Not Applicable

Project Planner: Jacquelyn M. Nickerson, Principal Planner

nickersonj@countyofmonterey.gov; 831-784-5650

SUMMARY:

The project is located at 3000 Red Wolf Drive, a privately maintained road, in Carmel. On February 7, 2022, the agent submitted an application seeking to use their existing single-family dwelling located in a residentially developed neighborhood. The County did not have regulations for vacation rentals in the Coastal Zone at that time. Once the application materials were deemed complete on October 1, 2024, the agent informed County staff that they wished to wait for the County to finalize and adopt Vacation Rental Regulations. As of December 23, 2025, the Coastal Vacation Rentals for the County because effective.

The existing single-family dwelling is 1,656 square feet in size, with two bedrooms, one bathroom, and a kitchen. The agent is proposing that the residence be occupied by a maximum of 5 people overnight and 8 people during daytime hours at the property at a time. The property is currently served by a private well, and an on-site septic system will be sufficient to provide sewer treatment for the dwelling. The property will retain its solid waste services to Waste Management, a waste management company. If approved, the granting of this Coastal Development Permit would allow the establishment of the first permitted vacation rental in the Carmel Area Land Use Plan out of 218 Coastal Development Permits permitted pursuant to Title 20 Section 20.64.290.F.3.b.

DISCUSSION:

The proposed project is subject to the policies and regulations of the 1982 County of Monterey General Plan (General Plan), Carmel Area Land Use Plan (CAR LUP), Carmel Area Coastal Implementation Plan (CIP), Monterey County Code Title 7 Chapter 7.120, Monterey County Code Chapter 16.80, and the Monterey County Coastal Zoning Ordinance (Title 20).

Land Use

The parcel is split-zoned and Scenic Conservation with a maximum gross density of 40 acres/unit with a Design Control Overlay and Watershed and Scenic Conservation with a maximum gross density of 80 acres/unit with a Design Control Overlay, within the Coastal Zone or “WSC/40-D (CZ) or WSC/80-D (CZ).” The existing single family dwelling is located on the portion that has a gross density of 80 acres/unit. Title 20 Section 20.17.050.PP allows for the Commercial Vacation Rental use, subject to the granting of a Coastal Development Permit. Title 20 Section 20.64.290.F establishes the regulations for a property operating as a Commercial Vacation Rental on such property for transient lodging for a period of 30 calendar days or fewer.

The property complies with Title 20 Section 20.64.290.F.5 in that it has been demonstrated that the response time for County emergency services for fire and emergency medical services is adequate. Adequate is defined as 5-8 minutes within Community Areas, Community Plans, and Sphere of Influence, 12 minutes within Rural centers, and 45 minutes for all other areas. The subject property does not fall under any of the specified categories; therefore, it is subject to the 45 minutes for all other areas. Carmel Highlands Fire Department is 11 minutes away, and the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula is 19 minutes away, which provides 24-hour emergency medical and fire response services for structural coverage. Staff incorporated Condition No. 5 to ensure that the guests are provided with information on the response time for emergency medical and fire services and that contact information for these services is provided to all guests as a part of the informational notice posted within six feet of the front door (**Exhibit A**).

Parking requirements outlined in Title 20 Sections 20.64.290.F.6 and 20.58.040 require that a Single-Family Detached residential dwelling unit have 2 spaces/unit, which this application complies with as illustrated in the attached plans.

The subject property complies with the limitation on the number of Commercial Vacation Rentals per legal lot requirements of Title 20 Section 20.64.290.F.7, which allows one Commercial Vacation Rental per legal lot of record. The subject property will be the only Commercial Vacation Rental on the legal lot of record. The owner of the subject property complies with the ownership requirements of Title 20 Section 20.64.290.F.10, wherein the owner of the subject property is allowed to have an ownership interest in one Commercial Vacation Rental within unincorporated Monterey County. The owners of the property do not have an ownership interest in other already operating Commercial Vacation Rentals in unincorporated Monterey County, and this would be their first and only Commercial Vacation Rental in unincorporated Monterey County.

As detailed in the draft resolution (**Exhibit A**), the Applicant/Owner has provided evidence of compliance with the applicable requirements. The designated Property Manager for the Commercial Vacation Rental, Irma Salamanca, resides at 1206 La Salle Ave, Seaside, 93955, approximately 26 minutes away (12.7-mile drive) from the subject property. Ms. Salamanca's contact information will be provided to the guests of the property and will be available 24/7 to respond to guest or neighborhood questions or concerns. Ms. Salamanca will also ensure that any neighbor or guest complaints are resolved within thirty minutes. This contact information will be provided to guests as a part of the informational notice posted within six feet of the front door as required pursuant to Title 7 Section 7.120.040.L.

The property has a maximum occupancy of 5 overnight guests and 8 daytime guests. The proposed occupancy does not exceed the limits set forth in the California Uniform Housing Code and the requirements enumerated in Title 7 Section 7.120.070.C, which limit the maximum overnight occupancy to two persons per bedroom plus one and not counting infants (zero to twelve months), with a not to exceed total maximum overnight occupancy of 10 overnight guests, regardless of the number of bedrooms in the property.

To ensure the proposed use will not affect the residential character of the neighborhood, the following two conditions have been incorporated. Condition No. 3 has been incorporated to ensure that the property will not be an event venue, and Condition No. 4 to ensure that the property will remain in compliance with the regulations for Vacation Rentals in Title 7 Chapter 7.120, Title 20 section 20.64.290, and the Conditions of Approval. Additionally, the proposed Commercial Vacation Rental is subject to Monterey County's Noise Ordinance (Chapter 10.60), which prohibits loud or unreasonable noise between the hours of 9:00PM and 7:00AM. In accordance with Title 20 section 20.70.060, if the property is found to be in violation of the approved operations plan or conditions of approval attached to this Coastal Development Permit, the permit may be revoked for non-compliance.

Private Road/Access

The property is accessed through Red Wolf Drive, a private road, and pursuant to Title 20 Section 20.64.290.F.4, the subject property must comply with Title 16 Chapter 16.80, which regulates private roads in Monterey County. The private road accessing the subject property is not subject to a private road agreement or private road maintenance. Pursuant to Title 16 Chapter 16.8, property owners which utilize this private road have been notified of the proposed project on October 29, 2025. As of the date of this staff report, no comments or objectives have been received, and no further documentation or condition is required of the applicant.

CEQA:

The project qualifies as a categorical exemption from environmental review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15301. This exemption applies to the operation of existing private structures, involving negligible or no expansion of an existing use. The Applicant/Owner proposes to use a residential single-family dwelling for transient lodging where the term of occupancy, possession, or tenancy of the property by the person entitled to such occupancy, possession, or tenancy for a period of 30 consecutive calendar days or fewer. This project does not propose or authorize any additional exterior development and/or expansion of the existing structure currently on the project site.

The subject property will be limited to one rental contract at any given time. All facilities, as planned and approved, have been confirmed by County agencies to be adequate for this use. Therefore, the proposed use is consistent with the CEQA Guidelines Section 15301. None of the exceptions under CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to this project. Additionally, there will be no significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. Further, there is no evidence that “the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.” Additionally, an action is a “project” only when it is either “directly undertaken by any public agency,” “supported, in whole or in part” by financial or other forms of assistance from a public agency, or involves the issuance of an entitlement by a public agency (Public Resources Code, § 21065).

The County prepared a FEIR for the Vacation Rental Ordinances project, which was certified by the Board on August 27, 2024 (SCH# 2022080643). The FEIR did not identify any significant impacts of Commercial Vacation Rentals up to the Commercial Vacation Rental cap set for each County of Monterey Planning Area. This Commercial Vacation Rental does not exceed the cap on Commercial Vacation Rentals in the Carmel Area Land Use Plan as it would be the first Commercial Vacation Rental in this area.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

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

- HCD-Environmental Services
- Environmental Health Bureau
- Carmel Highlands Fire Department

Prepared by: Jacquelyn M. Nickerson, Principal Planner
Reviewed/Approved by: Fionna Jensen, Principal Planner

The following attachments are on file with HCD:

Exhibit A - Draft Resolution including:

- Recommended Conditions of Approval
- Site Plans and Floor Plans
- Operations Plan
- Home Inspection Checklist

Exhibit B - Vicinity Map

cc: Front Counter Copy; HCD-Environmental Services; Environmental Health Bureau; Carmel Highlands Fire Department; Jacquelyn M. Nickerson, Principal Planner, Fiona Jensen, Principal Planner; Dennis Ing, Property Owners; Interested Party List: The Open Monterey Project; LandWatch (Executive Director); Lozeau Drury LLP; Christina McGinnis, Keep Big Sur Wild; Planning File PLN220025.