

# COUNTY OF MONTEREY

## HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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HOUSING, PLANNING, BUILDING, ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

#### REVISED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (RDEIR)

**PROJECT TITLE:** CARMEL LAGOON ECOSYSTEM PROTECTIVE BARRIER, SCENIC ROAD PROTECTION STRUCTURE, AND INTERIM SANDBAR MANAGEMENT PLAN PROJECT (REF120051; SCH#2014071050)

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Within and adjacent to the Carmel River State Beach and Lagoon between State Route Highway 1 and the Pacific Ocean in the unincorporated Carmel area of Monterey County, California. (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 009-472-001-000; 009-481-004-000; 009-491-001-000; 243-011-001-000; 009-511-009-000; 009-511-011-000; 009-511-007-000; and 009-511-006-000)

Notice is hereby given that the County of Monterey is seeking written comment on the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) on the Carmel Lagoon Ecosystem Protective Barrier, Scenic Road Protection Structure, and Interim Sandbar Management Plan Project (REF120051, SCH#2014071050) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The public review period will begin on **February 2, 2024** and end on **March 20, 2024**. This public review period is established for the purpose of receiving written comments on the accuracy and adequacy of the RDEIR together with other information relative to the environmental effect of the proposed project described below.

**Project Description:** This Notice of Availability is for the RDEIR for the proposed Carmel Lagoon Ecosystem Protective Barrier (EPB), Scenic Road Protection Structure (SRPS), and Interim Sandbar Management Plan Project (ISMP) (proposed project) (REF120051, SCH# 2014071050).

On December 2, 2016, the County of Monterey, as Lead Agency, released the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the proposed project. The Draft EIR evaluated the environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the three proposed project components: 1) EPB; 2) SRPS; and 3) ISMP, with the primary objective of implementing a solution to improve the functions and values of the ecosystem in and around the Lagoon by restoring the Lagoon's historic hydrologic, pre-management conditions to the extent feasible, and to protect and improve habitat for fish and wildlife while maintaining flood protection in the area.

The proposed EPB project component would maintain existing flood protection to low-lying homes and public infrastructure along the northern edge of the Lagoon, while the frequency of mechanical management of the sandbar is reduced in compliance with regulatory requirements. The proposed SRPS project component would provide protection from erosion along the northern sand cliffs and from the undermining

of Scenic Road, which may result from northerly river flows or large ocean swells. The proposed ISMP project component is intended to provide a short-term (i.e., until the design, environmental review, permitting, and construction of the proposed EPB and SRPS project components are completed) solution to potential flooding issues by implementing select sandbar management actions that would allow additional natural function in the Lagoon while still protecting properties and infrastructure.

The Draft EIR public review period ended on January 31, 2017, which included a 15-day extension to the required 45-day review period. During this time period, public agencies, organizations, and the public had the opportunity to review the Draft EIR and submit comments regarding the Draft EIR and proposed project in accordance with California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15087 of the CEQA Guidelines.

In response to public comments on the Draft EIR, the County of Monterey elected to conduct additional technical studies and environmental analyses associated with project alternatives, which resulted in revisions to the following chapters of the Draft EIR: Introduction; Summary; Alternatives; CEQA Considerations; List of Preparers; Environmental Setting (topical sections Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, Transportation and Energy); and Appendices. No changes have been made to the proposed project description or footprint, or the remaining sections of the Draft EIR.

In accordance with California Public Resources Code Section 21092.1 and CEQA Guidelines CCR Section 15088.5, the County of Monterey is recirculating portions of the Draft EIR (in the form of the RDEIR) in response to new information and to provide the public with a meaningful opportunity to comment on the additional information. The recirculation is “partial” (meaning that only chapters or portions of the prior Draft EIR with new information have been revised and reissued) rather than “full” (meaning that the entire document has been revised and reissued).

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**LEAD AGENCY: COUNTY OF MONTEREY HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**ADDRESSES WHERE A COPY OF THE REVISED DRAFT EIR IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW:**

Documents referenced in the DEIR and RDEIR are available at the County of Monterey, Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)-Planning at the address below. Physical copies of the RDEIR will be available at the following library addresses listed below.

County of Monterey  
Housing & Community Development  
1441 Schilling Place South 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

Monterey County Free Libraries –  
Carmel Valley Branch  
65 W Carmel Valley Rd  
Carmel, CA 93924

Harrison Memorial Library  
Main Branch  
Corner of Ocean Ave &  
Lincoln Street  
Carmel by the Sea, CA 93921

(831) 755-5025

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: FEBRUARY 2, 2024 THROUGH MARCH 20, 2024**

The Draft EIR and REDIR is available in CD format for purchase from the County of Monterey Housing and Community Development at the above address. The documents are also available on the County website at: <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/housing-community-development/planning-services/library-current-major-projects/carmel-lagoon-ecosystem-protective-barrier-and-scenic-road-protective-barrier-systems/2024-carmel-lagoon-revised-draft-environmental-impact-report>

**Potential Significant Environmental Effects:**

The RDEIR identifies impacts in the following resource areas that are either less than significant or are significant but can be mitigated to a less than significant level: Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, Transportation, and Energy.

The RDEIR identifies impacts in the following resource areas that are significant and cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level: Aesthetics, and Hydrology and Water Quality.

**Questions/Information**

Public hearings will be held, subsequent to the public review period, at a time and place to be specified by legal advertisement in a local newspaper of general circulation. If you would like to be notified of the hearings or would like additional information, please contact:

Melanie Beretti  
Acting Chief of Planning  
County of Monterey Housing and Community Development  
1441 Schilling Pl South, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Salinas, California 93901  
Phone: (831) 755-5025  
E-mail: [berettim@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:berettim@co.monterey.ca.us)

**Submit comments on Re-circulated Draft EIR**

We welcome your comments during the public review period. You may submit your comments in hard copy to the name and address above. The Agency also accepts comments via e-mail or facsimile but requests that you follow these instructions to ensure that the Agency has received your comments. To submit your comments by e-mail, please send a complete document including all attachments to:

[CEQAcomments@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:CEQAcomments@co.monterey.ca.us)

Responses will be provided for all comments received on the recirculated portions of the Revised Draft EIR during the additional public review period. However, responses will not be provided for additional comments on the remainder of the Draft EIR to which modifications have not been made. All of the comments that were submitted to the County in regard to the original Draft EIR have been retained. The comments that pertain to the sections of the original Draft EIR that have not been revised and included in the Revised Draft EIR will be responded to in the Final EIR.

An e-mailed document should contain the name of the person or entity submitting the comments and contact information such as phone number, mailing address and/or e-mail address and include any and all attachments referenced in the e-mail. To ensure a complete and accurate record, we request that you also provide a follow-up hard copy to the name and address listed above. If you do not wish to send a follow-up hard copy, then please send a second e-mail requesting confirmation of receipt of comments with enough information to confirm that the entire document was received. If you do not receive e-mail confirmation of receipt of comments, then please submit a hard copy of your comments to ensure inclusion in the environmental record or contact the Agency to ensure the Agency has received your comments.

Facsimile (fax) copies will be accepted with a cover page describing the extent (e.g., number of pages) being transmitted. A faxed document must contain a signature and all attachments referenced therein. Faxed documents should be sent to the contact noted above at **(831) 757-9516**. To ensure a complete and accurate record, we request that you also provide a follow-up hard copy to the name and address listed above. If you do not wish to send a follow-up hard copy, then please contact the Agency to confirm that the entire document was received.