

## CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT  
725 FRONT STREET, SUITE 300  
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
PHONE: (831) 427-4863  
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# F13a

**Prepared June 6, 2022 for June 10, 2022 Hearing**

**To:** Commissioners and Interested Persons

**From:** Dan Carl, Central Coast District Director  
Alexandra McCoy, Coastal Planner

**Subject: Additional hearing materials for F13a  
CDP Number 3-19-0894 (Carmel River FREE Project)**

This package includes additional materials related to the above-referenced hearing item as follows:

Additional correspondence received in the time since the staff report was distributed

# MONTEREY COUNTY

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## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MARY L. ADAMS, SUPERVISOR – FIFTH DISTRICT

1200 Aguajito Road, Suite #1, Monterey, CA 93940

E-mail: District5@co.monterey.ca.us

Phone: (831) 647-7755

June 2, 2022

Re: California Coastal Commission Hearing June 10, 2022 Item 13a

Dear Chair Brownsey and Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement (CRFREE) Project. Decades in the making, Carmel River FREE is one of the most important hazard mitigation, coastal resilience and habitat restoration projects on California's central coast. Co-sponsored by Big Sur Land Trust and the County of Monterey, this project is strongly supported at the local level. It has been funded by numerous State and Federal agencies.

The CRFREE project removes about 1,470 feet of the south bank levee on the Carmel River to improve floodplain hydrology, restores 100 acres of floodplain topography to support native habitat restoration, and replaces a portion of the State Route 1 roadway embankment with a causeway to allow high stream flows to pass beneath the highway. By restoring function to the floodplain, CRFREE will reduce flood risk to nearby residents and businesses within the FEMA 100-year floodplain.

This project will achieve multiple flood control benefits through floodplain restoration in a highly visible coastal area of Monterey County. Thank you for your consideration in support of this very important project.

Sincerely,

Mary L. Adams  
Board of Supervisors  
Fifth District

June 4, 2022

Donne Brownsey, Chair  
California Coastal Commission  
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Hearing June 10, 2022 Item 13a – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Brownsey and Commissioners:

LandWatch Monterey County concurs with Coastal Commission staff report to support the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration project (CRFREE). We urge you to approve this project, which has been under development for decades. The project is one of the most important hazard mitigation, coastal resilience and habitat restoration projects along California's coast.

CRFREE will reduce flood risks to numerous Carmel Valley and Carmel residents and businesses within the FEMA 100-year floodplain. This project will achieve multiple flood control benefits through floodplain restoration in a coastal area of Monterey County that provides public access to all. Moreover, the project not only restores a long-over drafted coastal watershed, it also seeks to get ahead of climate-induced extreme weather events to improve flood plain hydrology.

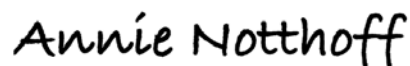
Co-sponsored by the Big Sur Land Trust and Monterey County, CRFREE is strongly supported by local agencies and residents. Funded by many State and Federal agencies, including the State Coastal Conservancy, CRFREE would remove about 1,470 feet of the south bank levee on the Carmel River to restore 100 acres of floodplain topography to support native habitat restoration, and replace a portion of the State Route 1 roadway embankment with a causeway to allow high stream flows to pass under the highway.

We urge your support the Commission staff recommendation to approve this extremely important project to the coastal communities of Monterey County.

Sincerely,



Michael DeLapa  
Executive Director



Annie Notthoff  
President, LandWatch Board of Directors

**From:** [CentralCoast@Coastal](mailto:CentralCoast@Coastal)  
**To:** [McCoy, Alexandra@Coastal](mailto:McCoy.Alexandra@Coastal)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment on June 2022 Agenda Item Friday 13a - Application 3-19-0894 (Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (Carmel River FREE), Monterey Co.)  
**Date:** Monday, June 6, 2022 12:11:12 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: susan osborne <osbornesusanm@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 7:19 AM  
To: CentralCoast@Coastal <CentralCoast@coastal.ca.gov>  
Subject: Public Comment on June 2022 Agenda Item Friday 13a - Application 3-19-0894 (Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (Carmel River FREE), Monterey Co.)

I support the Carmel River FREE project. Please vote yes.

Susan Osborne  
Carmel Valley

**From:** [CentralCoast@Coastal](mailto:CentralCoast@Coastal)  
**To:** [McCoy, Alexandra@Coastal](mailto:McCoy.Alexandra@Coastal)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment on June 2022 Agenda Item Friday 13a - Application 3-19-0894 (Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (Carmel River FREE), Monterey Co.)  
**Date:** Monday, June 6, 2022 12:11:52 PM

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**From:** bobbogardus bunnydidit.com <bobbogardus@bunnydidit.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 2, 2022 8:11 PM  
**To:** CentralCoast@Coastal <CentralCoast@coastal.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment on June 2022 Agenda Item Friday 13a - Application 3-19-0894 (Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (Carmel River FREE), Monterey Co.)

Hi,

My name is Bob Bogardus and I heartily endorse the CRFREE project and respectfully request that the California Coastal Commission approve its Coastal Development Permit Number 3-19-0894.

I am a long-time resident of the Mission Fields area of Carmel along the Carmel River. Our home was flooded twice in 1995 and barely escaped another flood in 1998. In 1995, I was appointed by our County Supervisor to the County Service Area #50 (CSA50) Advisory Committee, and I have worked since then as its secretary. I am passionate about all efforts to reduce the flood risk to the homes and businesses in the CSA50 area.

Our friends and neighbors have been waiting patiently for 27 years for a project that will dramatically improve the flood protection for our neighborhoods and businesses. The CRFREE project is the single most beneficial project and has been in planning for many years. We are all eager for the CRFREE project to begin.

Also, as an avid hiker, I frequent the trails in the Palo Corona Regional Park and am looking forward to the additional recreation trails to be created by the CRFREE project.

Thanks.

Bob Bogardus  
26597 Fisher Dr  
Carmel, CA 93923  
[BobBogardus@bunnydidit.com](mailto:BobBogardus@bunnydidit.com)  
831-625-3299

**From:** [CentralCoast@Coastal](mailto:CentralCoast@Coastal)  
**To:** [McCoy, Alexandra@Coastal](mailto:McCoy.Alexandra@Coastal)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment on June 2022 Agenda Item Friday 13a - SUPPORT Application 3-19-0894 (Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (Carmel River FREE), Monterey Co.)  
**Date:** Monday, June 6, 2022 12:18:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [LandWatch support for CRFREE.pdf](#)

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**From:** Michael DeLapa <[execdir@landwatch.org](mailto:execdir@landwatch.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 3, 2022 7:11 PM  
**To:** [CentralCoast@Coastal](mailto:CentralCoast@Coastal) <[CentralCoast@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:CentralCoast@coastal.ca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Public Comment on June 2022 Agenda Item Friday 13a - SUPPORT Application 3-19-0894 (Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (Carmel River FREE), Monterey Co.)

June 4, 2022

Donne Brownsey, Chair  
California Coastal Commission  
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: Hearing June 10, 2022 Item 13a – **SUPPORT** for Carmel River Floodplain Restoration project (CRFREE)

Dear Chair Brownsey and Commissioners:

LandWatch Monterey County concurs with Coastal Commission staff report to support the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration project (CRFREE). We urge you to approve this project, which has been under development for decades. The project is one of the most important hazard mitigation, coastal resilience and habitat restoration projects along California's coast.

CRFREE will reduce flood risks to numerous Carmel Valley and Carmel residents and businesses within the FEMA 100-year floodplain. This project will achieve multiple flood control benefits through floodplain restoration in a coastal area of Monterey County that provides public access to all. Moreover, the project not only restores a long-over drafted coastal watershed, it also seeks to get ahead of climate-induced extreme weather events to improve flood plain hydrology.

Co-sponsored by the Big Sur Land Trust and Monterey County, CRFREE is strongly supported by local agencies and residents. Funded by many State and Federal agencies, including the State Coastal Conservancy, CRFREE would remove about 1,470 feet of the south bank levee on the Carmel River to restore 100 acres of floodplain topography to support native habitat restoration, and replace a portion of the State Route 1 roadway embankment with a causeway to allow high stream flows to pass under the highway.

We urge your support the Commission staff recommendation to approve this extremely important project to the coastal communities of Monterey County.

Sincerely,

Michael DeLapa  
Executive Director

Annie Notthoff  
President, LandWatch Board of Directors

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**Michael D. DeLapa**  
Executive Director  
[LandWatch Monterey County](#)  
[execdir@landwatch.org](mailto:execdir@landwatch.org)  
650.291.4991 m

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**From:** [CentralCoast@Coastal](mailto:CentralCoast@Coastal)  
**To:** [McCoy, Alexandra@Coastal](mailto:McCoy.Alexandra@Coastal)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment on June 2022 Agenda Item Friday 13a - Application 3-19-0894 (Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (Carmel River FREE), Monterey Co.)  
**Date:** Monday, June 6, 2022 12:12:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [CCC June 2022 Item F13a Support CRFREE .pdf](#)

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**From:** Hardgrave, Sarah x7876 <HardgraveS@co.monterey.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 2, 2022 12:33 PM  
**To:** CentralCoast@Coastal <CentralCoast@coastal.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment on June 2022 Agenda Item Friday 13a - Application 3-19-0894 (Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (Carmel River FREE), Monterey Co.)

Please see attached letter in support of this item.

Thank you,

Sarah

**Sarah Hardgrave** | *Chief of Staff*  
to District 5 Supervisor Mary L. Adams  
County of Monterey  
Phone: 831-647-7755



**From:** [CentralCoast@Coastal](mailto:CentralCoast@Coastal)  
**To:** [McCoy, Alexandra@Coastal](mailto:McCoy.Alexandra@Coastal)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment on June 2022 Agenda Item Friday 13a - Application 3-19-0894 (Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (Carmel River FREE), Monterey Co.)  
**Date:** Monday, June 6, 2022 12:11:37 PM

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**From:** Jens Pedersen <jpedersen2017@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 2, 2022 9:04 PM  
**To:** CentralCoast@Coastal <CentralCoast@coastal.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment on June 2022 Agenda Item Friday 13a - Application 3-19-0894 (Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (Carmel River FREE), Monterey Co.)

I write in my capacity as President of the Arroyo Carmel Homeowners Association, a 92-unit community directly bordering on a significant portion the proposed Carmel River FREE project. The Board of Directors and the members of the Arroyo Carmel Homeowners Association urge the Commissioners to vote YES in support of granting this Coastal Development Permit for the Carmel River FREE project, pursuant to the CCC Staff Recommendations. The project offers vitally needed flood mitigation measures to our community while promoting and protecting the natural habitat for flora and fauna in the lower Carmel River watershed. Expansion and interconnection of trails for public recreational enjoyment would also be a major benefit to the community.

Kind Regards,  
Jens Pedersen  
President, Arroyo Carmel Homeowners Association  
3850 Rio Rd. Unit #4  
Carmel, CA 93923

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [CentralCoast@Coastal](mailto:CentralCoast@Coastal)  
**To:** [McCoy, Alexandra@Coastal](mailto:McCoy.Alexandra@Coastal)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment on June 2022 Agenda Item Friday 13a - Application 3-19-0894 (Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (Carmel River FREE), Monterey Co.)  
**Date:** Monday, June 6, 2022 12:12:10 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Smith <pastures@earthlink.net>  
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 7:51 AM  
To: CentralCoast@Coastal <CentralCoast@coastal.ca.gov>  
Subject: Public Comment on June 2022 Agenda Item Friday 13a - Application 3-19-0894 (Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (Carmel River FREE), Monterey Co.)

Dear Commissioners,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to ask that you approve the Carmel River Free application before you. This is a desperately needed project on many levels. It has been carefully crafted by many and will help undo the century-plus degradation of this important river.

I am a former homeowner of a house on the lagoon near the river mouth, and have seen too often the effects of flooding caused by the misguided levies and “flood control” efforts. These do not take into consideration the natural estuary were the river flowed for millennium before human attempts to control it. I am still a resident of Carmel and have lived in Monterey County for 45 years. This project is the culmination of many agencies, individuals and organizations that have worked for many years to help restore this resource and save the critically endangered Carmel River steelhead.

Please give this item your resounding yes vote.

Sincerely,

Gerald Smith  
98 DelMesa Carmel  
Carmel, CA 93923