

Carmel River NEWS

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From the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy (CRWC)

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CRWC just received an
award from American
Water to install steelhead
recovery signage in the
Carmel River watershed.

For more news and
watershed updates
please check out the
Conservancy's
website!

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Carmel River
Watershed Tours



The Conservancy conducted a public tour of the Carmel River watershed on July 13th starting at Los Padres Dam (pictured).

New Report Supports Lagoon Projects

The County's Resource Management Agency recently released a Draft Biological Assessment (BA) that was prepared by local environmental firm Denise Duffy & Associates, which addresses the ecological impacts of the proposed Ecosystem Protective Barrier and Scenic Road Protection Structure Projects ("the Proposed Action"). Several

conclusions that lend strong support to both of those lagoon projects are listed in the report:
--"While direct and indirect effects will occur as a result

Carmel Lagoon Ecosystem Protective Barrier (EPB),
Scenic Road Protection Structure (SRPS), and
Interim Sandbar Management Plan (ISMP) Project

**DRAFT
BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

April 2014



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On Behalf Of:



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Available for this fall! If interested contact [Lorin Letendre](#).

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of the Proposed Action, the negative impacts are negligible in the context of the resource and the long-term beneficial effects of the Proposed Action." (page ii) --"While there is the potential for short-term direct and indirect impacts to South-Central Coast steelhead associated with the construction of the EPB...the long-term effects of the Proposed Action on fisheries resources within the lagoon will be beneficial." (page iii)

Section 5.2.3.4 of the report cites many "avoidance and minimization efforts" that will be implemented to mitigate any of the short-term negative effects on wildlife and plants in the lagoon. This BA report has been long awaited, and these conclusions could not be more welcome as the County moves forward with its plans to resolve the long-standing problems associated with the barrier beach, including degradation of the lagoon water quality and quantity, and periodic flooding of homes along the north side of the lagoon. The report is available on the County RMA web site.

Carmel River Watershed a Heritage Site?

The Conservancy has been working in collaboration with the Monterey Peninsula Water Management district, the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, the Pelican Network, and Rana Creek Design to seek official designation as a National Heritage Area or a California State Heritage site. Heritage Areas are designed to highlight an area's historical, ecological, and cultural resources, and to encourage eco-tourism, environmental education, and sustainable-based economic development. Most of the National Heritage Areas are located east of the Mississippi River, but the Carmel River watershed is ideally suited to this designation given its rich history beginning with native Americans, and followed by the Spanish, Mexican, and ultimately American populations. The goal is to install ecological and cultural signage in appropriate sites in the watershed, and to construct and staff interpretive centers such as MPRPD's Garland Park Interpretive Center that recently hosted an open house.



The new Schulte Road Bridge where an interpretive sign is being installed.

Students View San Clemente Dam Progress

Recently 23 graduate students from the Monterey Institute of International Studies and California State University at Monterey Bay attending a watershed management class were hosted on a tour of the Carmel River watershed by CRWC's Lorin Letendre and MIIS's Prof. Michael McGuinness. As part of the tour they visited the San Clemente Dam (shown here) site where the Dam Removal Project is well underway. They were given an overview of the project and its current status by Granite Construction Company staff who are managing the project for Cal-Am. The Dam is slated to be removed and the Carmel River re-routed into the San Clemente Creek over the next two years, and this is the largest dam removal underway in California at this time. In addition, the students visited several other sites along the River where riparian restoration and habitat enhancement projects had been done by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District staff.



MIIS students at San Clemente Dam with reservoir in background.