



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION

Sarah Berling, Kelly Brezoczky, Tamara Michie,
Gerald Montmorency and Neal Rutta

All meetings are held in the City Council Chambers
East Side of Monte Verde Street
Between Ocean and 7th Avenues

REGULAR MEETING Thursday, March 13, 2025

MEETING 2:30 PM

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON AND VIA TELECONFERENCE. The public is welcome to attend the meeting in person or remotely via Zoom, however, the meeting will proceed as normal even if there are technical difficulties accessing zoom. The City will do its best to resolve any technical issues as quickly as possible. To view or listen to the meeting from home, you may watch the Youtube Live Stream at: <https://www.youtube.com/@CityofCarmelbytheSea/streams>, or use the link below to view or listen to the meeting via Zoom teleconference:

<https://ci-carmel-ca-us.zoom.us/j/82654169072> Webinar ID: 826 5416 9072 Passcode: 068916 Join by phone: 1 253 215 8782

HOW TO OFFER PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment may be given in person at the meeting, or using the Zoom teleconference module, provided that there is access to Zoom during the meeting. Zoom comments will be taken after the in-person comments. The public can also email comments to yculver@ci.carmel.ca.us. Comments must be received 2 hours before the meeting in order to be provided to the legislative body. Comments received after that time and up to the beginning of the meeting will be made part of the record.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC APPEARANCES - Under the Brown Act, public comment for matters on the agenda must relate to that agenda item and public comments for matters not on the agenda must relate to the subject matter jurisdiction of this legislative body. Hateful, violent, and threatening speech is impermissible public comment as it disrupts the conduct of the public meeting. This is a warning that if a member of the public attending this meeting remotely violates the Brown Act by failing to comply with these requirements of the Brown Act the meeting, then that speaker will be muted.

Members of the public are entitled to speak on matters of municipal concern not on the agenda during Public Appearances. Each person's comments shall be limited to 3 minutes, or as otherwise established by the Commission. Matters not appearing on Commission's agenda will not receive action at this meeting but may be referred to staff for a future meeting. Persons are not required to give their names, but it is helpful for speakers to state their names so that they may be identified in the minutes of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items on the consent agenda are routine in nature and do not require discussion or independent action. Members of the Commission or the public may ask that any items be considered individually for purposes of Commission discussion and/ or for public comment. Unless that is done, one motion may be used to adopt all recommended actions.

1. Approval of January 16, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Acting Public Works Director's Report for February 2025

EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS

- A. Presentation from the Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve on the work completed in the Mission Trail Nature Preserve over the past year
- B. Presentation by the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) on E-Bikes and E-Bike Regulation
- C. Presentation by Carmel Cares on the Carmel Beach Pick Up Posse

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

Orders of Business are agenda items that require City Council, Board or Commission discussion, debate, direction to staff, and/or action.

4. Presentation by Integral Consulting/EMC Planning Group on Adaptation Strategies to Protect the Beach, Coastal Infrastructure, and Minimize Coastal Erosion from Storm Events and Sea Level Rise (Phase 2, Task 2 of the Coastal Engineering and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Study).
5. Pickleball and Tennis Policy: Consider a recommendation to the City Council regarding adoption of a policy to balance the Pickleball and Tennis activities at Forest Hill Park with the surrounding residential uses.
6. February 2025 Forester's Report

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

This agenda was posted at City Hall, Monte Verde Street between Ocean Avenue and 7th Avenue, Harrison Memorial Library, located on the NE corner of Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Street, the Carmel-by-the-Sea Post Office, 5th Avenue between Dolores Street and San Carlos Street, and the City's webpage <http://www.ci.carmel.ca.us> in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL RECEIVED AFTER THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Any supplemental writings or documents distributed to a majority of the Forest & Beach Commission regarding any item on this agenda, received after the posting of the agenda will be available at the Public Works Department located on the east side of Junipero Street between Fourth and Fifth Avenues during normal

business hours.

SPECIAL NOTICES TO PUBLIC

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 831-620-2000 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to ensure that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting (28CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION Staff Report

March 13, 2025
CONSENT AGENDA

TO: Forest and Beach Commissioners

SUBMITTED BY: Yvette Culver, Administrative Coordinator

SUBJECT: Approval of January 16, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

RECOMMENDATION:

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:

Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2025 Regular FB Meeting

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**REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, January 16, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Berling, Brezoczky, Michie, Montmorency
ABSENT: None
STAFF PRESENT: Mary Bilse, Acting Public Works Director/Environmental Manager
Justin Ono, City Forester
Yvette Culver, Commission Secretary/Administrative Coordinator
Tom Ford, Administrative Analyst
Val Gaino, Environmental Administrative Analyst

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Brezoczky led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Item A: Earth and Arbor Day 2025 Date Scheduled
Val Gaino, Environmental Analyst announced the combined Earth and Arbor Day, on Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 10:00 am– 2:00 pm.

Justin Ono, City Forester, made note of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which can be found on either the Public Works website under the tab Community Wildfire Prevention Plan or the direct link of ci.carmel.ca.us/CWPP

PUBLIC COMMENT

Allie McDaniel
Melanie Billig
Ramie Allard

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

Item 1: Status Update of Pickleball Interim Rules
Tom Ford, Administrative Analyst, presented the Staff Report and recommended the Commission discuss the status update and implementation of the interim pickleball rules, and provide feedback or direction on any challenges or opportunities identified. Mr. Ford answered questions from the Commission.

The adopted interim rules, effective December 20, 2024, allowed pickleball play only on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. These rules were intended to be in effect for three months, at which point the Commission will revisit the matter to assess their effectiveness and make any necessary adjustments prior to sending their final intended policy to the City Council for formal adoption.

During the holiday break, however, numerous people reportedly played during the off days, which was confirmed by the Carmel Police Department. City Staff suggested locking the nets and clarified that there was an error in the staff report and that they in fact were not recommending locking the gates, only the nets. The matter of who would be able to lock and unlock the nets, if

that route was chosen, was to be determined, as the nets are owned by private citizens and not by the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Professional signs were being prepared in the meantime to display at the courts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Didier Diaz
Grahm Norton
John Kratchmer
Charles Najarian
John Jaramillo

Commissioner Michie moved to amend the interim rules to change the times on Tuesdays, Thursday and Saturday from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM to 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, and have the nets unlocked and locked on those days, seconded by Commissioner Montmorency and carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Berling, Brezoczky, Michie, Montmorency
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Item 2: Artificial Turf Policy: Consider a recommendation to the City Council regarding adoption of an Artificial Turf Policy prohibiting the installation of artificial turf/synthetic grass in the City.

Katherine Wallice, Associate Planner presented the Staff Report and recommended that the Forest and Beach Commission consider the proposed Artificial Turf Policy and make a recommendation to the City council regarding adoption of the Artificial Turf Policy. Ms. Wallace answered questions of the Commission.

Executive Summary

In 2016, the State of California enacted Government Code Section 53087.7, which required jurisdictions to approve proposed installations of drought tolerant landscaping, including synthetic grass/artificial turf on residential property. The law came about as an emergency measure in a time of drought and was intended to encourage use of drought-resistant landscaping alternatives. However, in light of potential harms to public health and the environment, Senate Bill 676 amended Government Code Section 53087.7 to restore the power of local agencies to limit, further regulate, or prohibit the installation of artificial turf/synthetic grass. In response to SB 676, City staff prepared an updated Artificial Turf Policy prohibiting the installation of artificial turf citywide. The Artificial Turf Policy would replace the City’s existing Permitting Standards for Synthetic Grass/Artificial Turf.

Background

Artificial turf is a man-made product of synthetic materials intended to simulate the appearance of natural turf, grass, sod, or lawn. In 2016, the State of California required jurisdictions to approve applications for artificial turf, pursuant to Government Code Section 53087.7

In response to the amended State law, City staff prepared an updated Artificial Turf Policy prohibiting the installation of artificial turf in Carmel-by-the-Sea. Because artificial turf is a plastic petroleum product that may cause adverse effects on public health, stormwater management,

pollutant discharge, and neighborhood character, City staff found artificial turf/synthetic grass uses in all zoning districts to be inappropriate.

The Forest & Beach Commission was being asked to consider making a recommendation to the City Council regarding formal adoption of the Artificial Turf Policy. Since this action would not result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment the action does not qualify as a “project” as defined in section 15378 of the CEQA Guidelines and was not subject to environmental review.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Melanie Billig
 Ramie Allard
 Cindy Lloyd
 Linda Smith

Commissioner Montmorency moved to recommend to City Council that they consider stopping the approval of any artificial turf in the City of Carmel-by- the Sea, seconded by Commissioner Michie and carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Brezoczky, Michie, Montmorency, Berling
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Item 3: Revised Community Engagement Survey for the Carmel Coastal Engineering and Adaptation Study Phase 2, Task 1

Val Gaino, Environmental Analyst, presented the Staff Report to the Commission and recommended the Forest and Beach Commission approve the revised Community Engagement Survey for the Carmel Coastal Engineering and Adaptation Study Phase 2, Task 1. Ms. Gaino answered questions of the Commission.

Phase 2, Task 1, Public outreach and Community Engagement, included two parts:

- Community Survey
- Community Meetings

Future community meetings would be held with the intent to educate the community on sea level rise predictions, coastal erosion concerns, and the adaptation strategy options. In March, a presentation will be given by the consultants from Integral Consulting, Inc.

The task for the Commission was as follows:

- Review survey revisions
- Make suggestions/approve the survey content, marketing and timing

Survey Method:

The Survey uses professional and intuitive software, through Qualtrics, which will allow staff and Consultants to easily graph collected data and visually communicate results. The Survey can be open and accessible online as long as the Commission would like. The Consultants suggested opening the survey January-July to access a large variety of Carmel Beach visitors through different seasons. The Survey can be available via a web link address, QR code, and on paper at

various locations throughout the City including Public Works, City Hall, Harrison Memorial Library, or by request. The online Survey is available in most world languages. The Survey (links) are planned to be distributed through direct mailing to Carmel residents, provided at public community meetings, special events, workshops, at city building and libraries, the farmer's market, and at high tourist traffic locations in Carmel. The Survey will be posted online on the City website, the Friday letter, advertised through local papers, posted on Monterey County tourism related sites and at Monterey Regional Airport.

Ms. Bilse informed the Commission that a discussion has started about potentially having joint meetings with the Climate Committee, Planning Commission, and the Forest and Beach Commission. The logistics for these meetings have not yet been established.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Melanie Billig

Shirley Moon

Commissioner Michie moved to approve the coastal adaptation project survey with its recent survey edition edits and to release it three times in 2025 (once during the winter, spring and summer, with those months to be determined), seconded by Commissioner Berling and carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Berling, Brezoczky, Michie, Montmorency
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Item 4: Forester's Report for December 2024

Mr. Ono presented the Foresters Report to the Commission for December 2024

Forestry, Parks, and Beach Highlights:

- Carmel Forest Master Plan (CFMP): Staff held interviews with three environmental consulting firms to select a consultant for the CEQA review of the Administrative Draft of the Forest Master Plan. A consultant was selected and is being notified.
- Staff received editable documents from Davey Resource Group (DRG) and officially took over final revision of the master plan. Edits will encompass public feedback from the October 2024 Steering Committee meetings.

Contractors:

- Landscape maintenance contractor Town & Country continues to provide landscape maintenance services along the Scenic Pathway previously funded by Carmel Cares. This contractor also continues their landscape maintenance throughout the city with new task orders issued for the watering of newly planted trees and relocation of an irrigation box on the Scenic Pathway.
- City Contractor Tope's Tree Service continued working on a task order including 40 dead or dying trees for removal or pruning.
- New task orders are being compiled for West Coast Arborists and Community Tree Service and will be sent by late mid/late January. City Staff and Crews:

- City crew cleared vegetation for facilitation of the San Antonio Pathway reconstruction south of Pebble Beach entrance. As shown in the following tables and charts, the calendar year 2024 forestry statistics included:
- Number of City trees removed = 193 (5% reduction from 2023)
- Number of City stumps removed = 112 (86% increase – *not including 2023 contractors*)
- Number of City trees pruned = 228 (21% decrease from 2023)
- Number of City trees planted = 174 (67% increase from 2023)
- Number of tree permit applications received = 391 (4% increase from 2023)
- Number of trees permits applications resolved = 336 (16% increase from 2023)
- Number of private trees removed = 231 (32% decrease from 2023)
- Number of private trees required to be replanted = 231 (2% decrease from 2023)
- Private tree removal permit required replant percentage = 100% (31.17% increase)
- Number of Communications (Fresh Desk) tickets received = 2270 (5% increase from 2023)
- Number of Communications (Fresh Desk) tickets resolved = 2619 (24% increase from 2024)

Item 5: Acting Public Works Director's Report for December 2024

Ms. Bilse presented the Directors Report Report to the Commission for December 2024

Carmel Cares, Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve and Other Volunteer Groups

- Volunteers from Carmel Cares regularly pick up trash on Carmel Beach and in the Downtown Carmel.
- Garden Club is working to maintain and beautify the City Hall gardens.
- Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve have been cleaning brush throughout the Preserve throughout December 2024.

Environmental Programs

- Worked with Carmel Area Wastewater District to clean out the City's large storm drain Continuous Deflection Separator (CDS) units.
- For the Shoreline Infrastructure Repair Project, the Request for Proposal was issued seeking coastal engineering and environmental firms to design and acquire environmental permitting for the repair of two structurally damaged beach access stairs, reconstruction of the Fourth Avenue seawall/outfall, and to assess, prioritize, and provide cost estimates for all other shoreline infrastructure identified in the Coastal Engineering Study, Phase 1 Condition Assessment Report. The City selected Moffett and Nichol and are currently working on contract negotiations.
- For the MTNP 3 Drainage Projects, which includes drainage piping near the Rio Road entrance, an 85-foot boardwalk over a bog, and reconstruction of a large swale. This project was awarded to Monterey Peninsula Engineers in the summer of 2024, and construction was completed by the end of 2024

Street Maintenance

- Removed eight piles of debris from MTNP.
- Finished placing wood chips on Willow Trail in MTNP.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Dates for the next Steering Committee meeting for the Carmel Forest Master Plan

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Yvette Culver, Administrative Coordinator, Commission Secretary

Approved by: _____
Kelly Brezoczky, Chair



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION Staff Report

March 13, 2025
CONSENT AGENDA

TO: Forest and Beach Commissioners

SUBMITTED BY: Mary Bilse, Acting Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Acting Public Works Director's Report for February 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive Acting Public Works Director's Report for February 2025.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

The Acting Public Works Director's Report will include:

- A. City Council actions related to Forestry, Parks, and Beach issues
- B. Forestry, Parks, and Beach-related Capital Improvement Projects
- C. Climate Committee meetings and Climate Action Plan Implementation
- D. Update on Volunteer Organizations
- E. Misc. Forestry, Parks, and Beach-related Public Works items.

Environmental Evaluation

This action does not constitute a project within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act under Public Resources Code Section 21065. It has no potential to cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and therefore, does not require environmental review.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment #1 Acting Public Works Director's Report for February 2025



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

Public Works Department February 2025 Report

TO:	Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
SUBMITTED BY:	Mary Bilse, Acting Public Works Director
SUBMITTED ON:	March 13, 2025
APPROVED BY:	Chip Rerig, City Administrator

City Council Meeting of February 3, 4, 10, and 27, 2025

- Police Chief, Fire Chief, Public Works Director, City Forester, Building Official and Assistant City Administrator made a presentation on the City's Wildfire Preparedness in the Village.
- Council received the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.
- Council established a Financial Stewardship Workgroup and an Emergency Preparedness Workgroup.
- Council adopted a Resolution to Amend the Professional Services Agreement with Ausonio, Inc., for Project Management Services for a fee increase of \$30,000 and a not-to-exceed fee of \$155,000 for Fiscal Year 2024/25.
- Council received a status report on the Carmel Police Department Project. Council directed staff to schedule a community meeting to discuss the Police Department Building Project.
- Council held the Strategic Priorities Workshop at Sunset Center on February 27th from 10 – 3:00pm to review and evaluate prioritization of strategic projects.

Forest and Beach Commission Meeting in February 2025 Cancelled - Storm

Volunteer Groups

- Volunteers from Carmel Cares set a new record with 13 volunteers for the Downtown Detail.
- The Garden Club is working to maintain and beautify the North Dunes and the City Hall gardens.
- Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve will present their Work Effort Overview to the Forest & Beach Commission in March 2025.

Environmental Programs

- Met with Joey Canepa and Denise Duffy & Associates at North Dunes Habitat Restoration Area to plan for Town & Country's removal of ice plant.
- Worked with Integral and EMC Planning on the Coastal Engineering Study Adaptation Strategies to present in the March Forest & Beach and Planning Commission meetings.
- Distributed the Community Survey on Sea Level Rise on February 14, 2025, and conducted public outreach at the Thursday Farmers Market and Carmel Beach at Del Mar Parking Lot.
- Coordinated a meeting on Environmental Purchasing with staff from various City departments.
- Participated in training for the CalRecycle software, Recyclist.
- Reviewed and conducted final stormwater plan checks for private construction sites.
- Researched grant opportunities for electric vehicle chargers for Vista Lobos and Sunset Center parking lot.

- Coordinated with Carmel Cares regarding the Carmel Beach Cleanup presentation to the Forest & Beach Commission.
- Attended regional agency meetings (Monterey Regional Stormwater Management Program and ReGen Monterey).
- Issued new waivers in accordance with SB 1383 for recycling/organics program's collection services.
- Continued to coordinate with vendors for the Earth/Arbor Day on April 26, 2025.

Facility Maintenance

- Upgraded the heating, sump system, and coordinated with the roof repairs at City Hall.
- Successfully resolved a plumbing issue at the Vista Lobos facility
- Meetings to review the Sunset Center elevator repairs.
- Discussed Fire Station improvements for the large engine.
- Reviewed ADA railing proposal at Devendorf Park.
- Coordination with Vista Lobos office improvements for carpet installation.
- Coordinate the Fire Station roll-up door and construction project in garage.
- Upgraded the vault epoxy at the Harrison Memorial Library and Children's Library.
- Coordinate the Norton Court roll up door and security system.
- Initiated surveys of City Facilities for maintenance review.
- Coordinated locking/unlocking pickleball nets at Forest Hill Park.

Project Management for the Capital Improvement Program

4 Leaf Projects:

- For the Police Building Project, Council received a Status Report and reviewed the Conceptual Design. Council directed staff to schedule another community meeting to discuss the Police Department Building project further and receive public input.

Ausonio, Inc. Projects:

- For the City Hall Roof Replacement Project, contract was awarded to California Constructors in the amount of \$175,340, which includes a 10% contingency, is complete. Construction is 99% complete and Contractor completed their final punch list items.
- The Sunset Center Cottage Window Repairs Project contract in the amount of \$161,040, which includes a 10% contingency, to Pro-Ex Construction was awarded at the August City Council Meeting. Construction is 99% complete and Pro-Ex is working through their final punch list items. The Notice of Completion has been filed with the County of Monterey.
- For the San Antonio Pathway Repair Project, Second to Fourth Avenues, contract was awarded at the October 2024 City Council meeting to Sharp Engineering and Construction in the amount of \$503,470. Construction was completed in February 2025.
- For the Sunset Center Retaining Walls Repair Project, ZFA submitted 90% plans and technical specifications. An extra work authorization was issued to ZFA for the repair of two large cracks in another wall in the north parking lot. Additional funding is on hold pending Council direction at upcoming CIP meetings.

Wallace Group Projects:

- For the FY 2023/2024 City-wide Paving Project, bidding is anticipated in spring 2025.
- For the Shoreline Infrastructure Repair Project, the Request for Proposal was issued seeking coastal engineering and environmental firms to design and acquire environmental permitting for the repair of two structurally-damaged beach access stairs, reconstruction of the Fourth Avenue seawall/outfall, and to assess, prioritize, and provide cost estimates for all other

shoreline infrastructure identified in the Coastal Engineering Study, Phase 1 Condition Assessment Report. The City selected Moffat & Nichol and will go to Council in March 2025. Attachment 1

Additional Capital Improvement Projects:

- For the four City-wide Drainage Improvement Projects, Coastal Paving & Excavation began construction in February 2025. Construction is anticipated to be completed by the end of March 2025.

Street Maintenance

- Attended Traffic Safety Committee' February Site Tour and Meeting.
- Removed and replaced a 16-foot-long storm drain on Ladera Street and built new bulkheads.
- Repaired guard rail on Ocean and San Antonio Avenues.
- Repair split rail fence on Fourth Avenue and Casanova Street.
- Construct split fence and lay Decomposed Granite in center portion of San Antonio Walkway
- Schedule e-waste pick-up.
- Continued maintenance of potholes and sign maintenance.
- Replaced mutt mitts and cleaned up trash receptacles.
- Respond to February storm requests.
- Picked up massive piles of debris at Mission Trail Nature Preserve.
- Painted curbs in Downtown Carmel.
- Continued the sidewalk and gutter survey for tripping hazards in Downtown Carmel.

Forestry, Parks, and Beach

- Refer to City Forester's Report.



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION Staff Report

March 13, 2025
EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS

TO:	Forest and Beach Commissioners
SUBMITTED BY:	Justin Ono, City Forester
SUBJECT:	Presentation from the Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve on the work completed in the Mission Trail Nature Preserve over the past year

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation from the Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve (FOMTNP) and the City Forester about the previous year's work effort in the Preserve.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

The FOMTNP is a City recognized volunteer support group who focus their time and energy on the 34-acre Mission Trail Nature Preserve. They describe themselves as a "group of devoted residents committed to conserving and restoring the Mission Trail Nature Preserve to its highest natural condition". The group works with City staff to achieve the objectives set forth in the Park's Master Plan and focuses on removal of invasive species, trail maintenance, and habitat restoration amongst many other duties. This presentation shows the cooperative relationship and efforts put forth both by the Friends and the City. The areas the Friends and the City have mainly coordinated on have included:

1. Clearing of downed tree slash and obstructed trails
2. Removing tree hazards
3. Invasive vegetation removal
4. Other ecological forestry and wildfire mitigation
5. Reforestation of areas cleared of invasive trees
6. Trail, bridge, and sign maintenance
7. Lester Rowntree Native Plant Garden maintenance
8. Planning and Management

Outside of routine maintenance activities, the City and the FOMTNP have completed projects of varying scope and complexity. Staff hopes to continue the fruitful partnership well into the future.

Environmental Evaluation

This action does not constitute a project within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act under Public Resources Code Section 21065. It has no potential to cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and, therefore, does not require environmental review.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None at this time

ATTACHMENTS:

MTNP Master Plan Implementation Review



FRIENDS OF
MISSION TRAIL
NATURE PRESERVE



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

Attachment 1

Mission Trail Nature Preserve

Master Plan Implementation Review

February-2025

Mission Trail Nature Preserve Master Plan

Mission Trail Nature Preserve Master Plan

1996 plan adopted by the City Council and incorporated into the City's LCP. ^{Attachment 1}

- * ***Protect, maintain, and enhance the rare coastal habitats (includes ecological forestry wildfire mitigation)***
- * ***Preserve the forested, tranquil atmosphere of the property and provide reasonable low-impact access for the enjoyment of the natural surroundings***



Citizen Action

Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve formed (2009)

MTNP Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow (2010)

MTNP history, initial project needs assessment, annual work program (see appendix), and a call to action

“This narrative is our tribute to a unique canyon and, hopefully, it will initiate a dialogue about how to restore, manage and utilize the Mission Trail Nature Preserve”


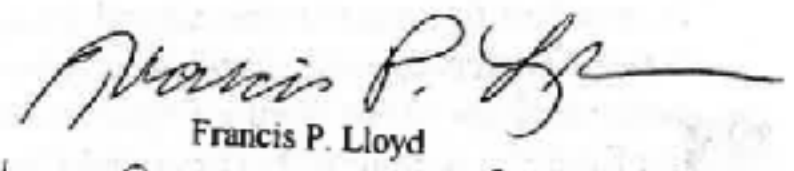
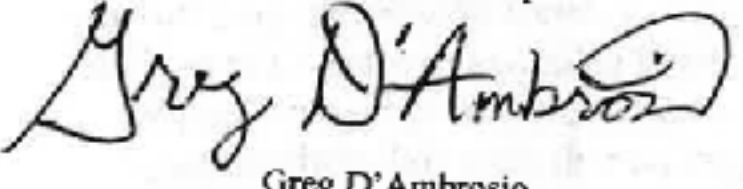
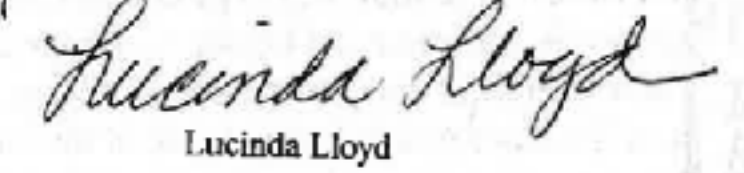

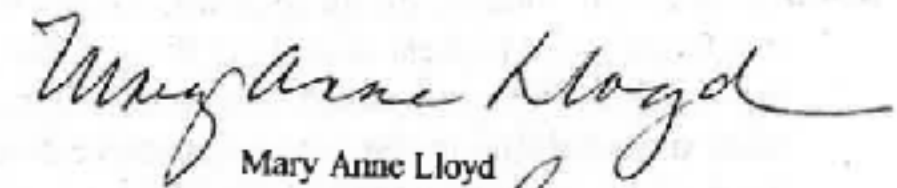



Friends of MTNP incorporated as a 501c3 (2012)

Friends of MTNP Blue Book (2013)

Proposed projects to further implement the MTNP Master Plan



Signatures of Carmel Parkland Advocates

 Randell Bishop	 Francis P. Lloyd
 Greg D'Ambrosio	 Lucinda Lloyd
 Karen Ferlito	 Mary Anne Lloyd
 Gary Girard	 Joyce Stevens
	 Marsha McMahan Zelus



Other Guiding Documents

Baseline Biological Assessment (BBA; Nedeff 2016)

A comprehensive biological overview of the Preserve

Attachment 1

Renewable 5-Year Coastal Development Permit

Re-approved by the Planning Commission in 2021; next approval 2026

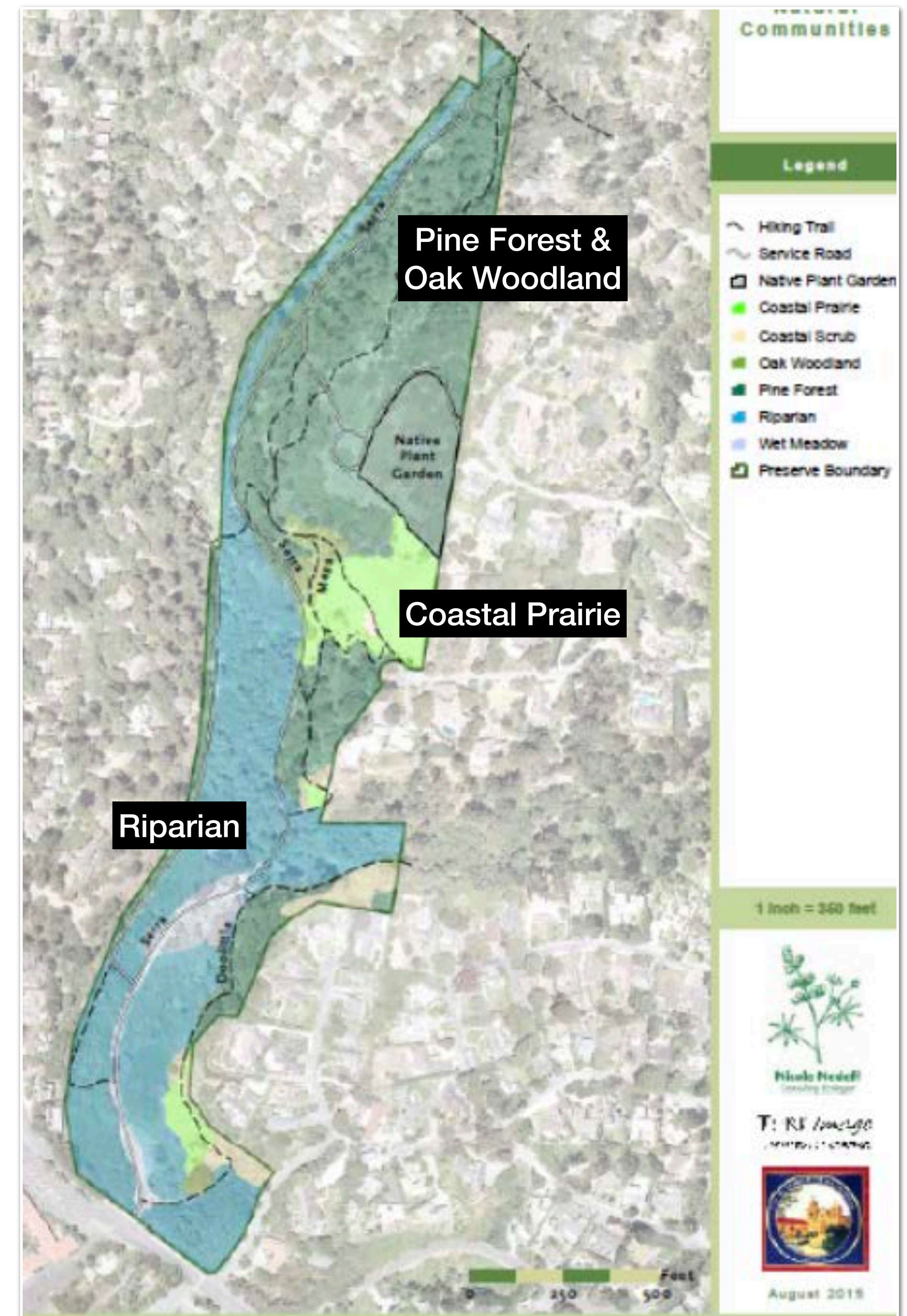
Stream Stability Study (Dudek 2019)

Invasive Plant Action Plan (Burleson 2019)

Expands on invasive plant management techniques outlined in the BBA

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP; MFD 2023)

An assessment of wildfire risk and identification of priority mitigation projects.



Other Guiding Documents

Baseline Biological Assessment (BBA; Nedeff 2016)

A comprehensive biological overview of the Preserve

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Re-approved by the Planning Commission in 2021; next approval 2026

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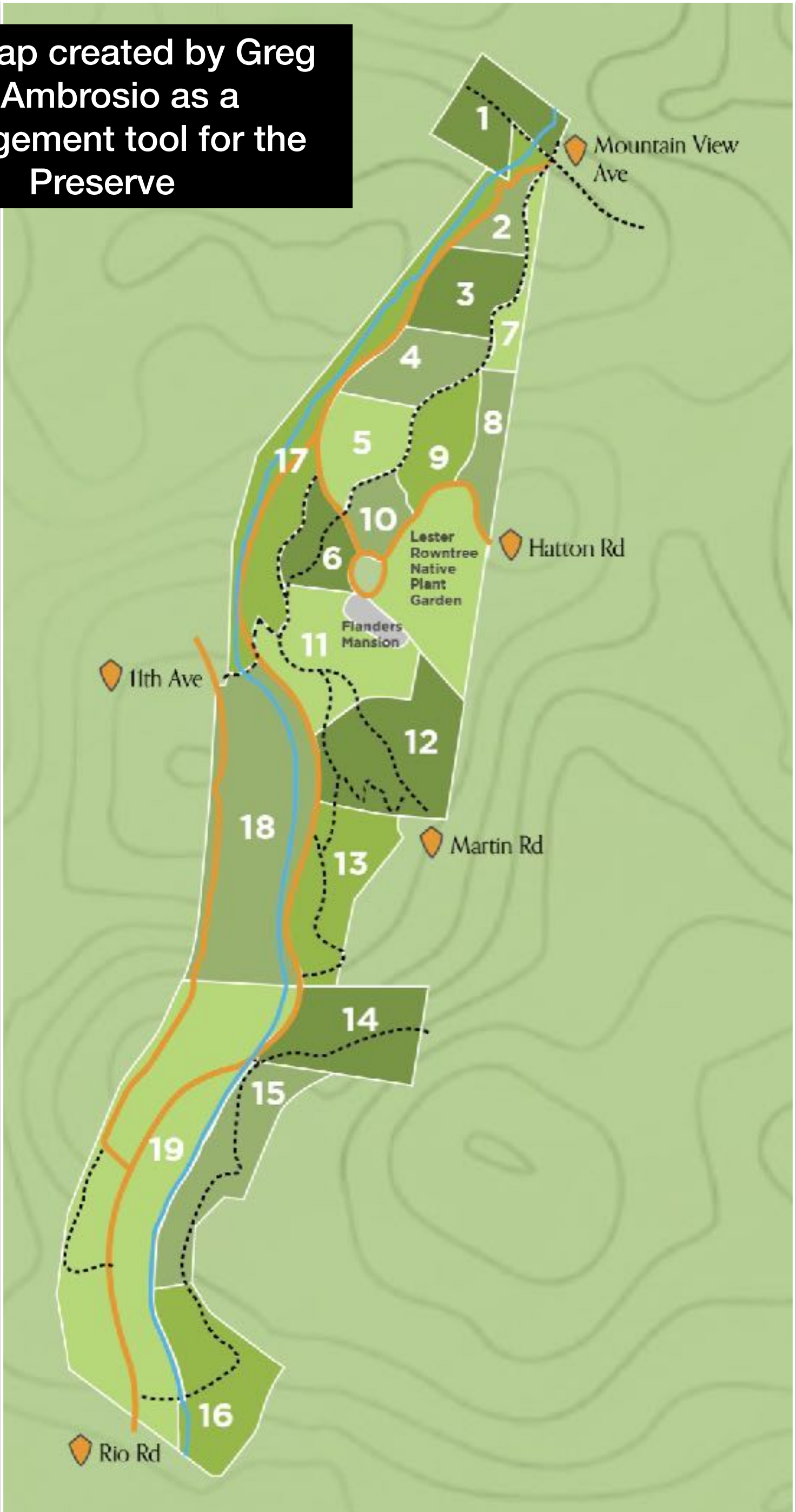
Invasive Plant Action Plan (Burleson 2019)

Expands on invasive plant management techniques outlined in the BBA

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP; MFD 2023)

An assessment of wildfire risk and identification of priority mitigation projects

Plot Map created by Greg D'Ambrosio as a management tool for the Preserve



MTNP 15 Year Accomplishments

- 2009 through 2024

Master Plan

Protect rare coastal habitats

Invasive Eradication Programs Completed

- * Initial invasive tree eradication program completed
- * Initial genista eradication program completed

Annual Maintenance

- * Clearing of downed trees
- * Plot sweeps and invasive vegetation removal
- * Meadows mowed and ladder fuel reduction
- * Reforestation of areas cleared of invasive trees

Other Habitat Improvements

- * Removed water tank, PG&E pole, pump house, and decommissioned the well
- * Stream Stability Study Projects #1 through #3

Master Plan

Provide low-impact access

Trail & Amenity Improvements

- * Single-track trails developed, restored, and rerouted
- * Mountain View entrance stairs and ramp installed
- * Entrance & trail signage, and benches installed
- * Doolittle & Willow Trail raised boardwalks installed
- * Pine root point-of-interest display installed
- * Two Forks overlook installed

Annual Trail & Amenity Maintenance

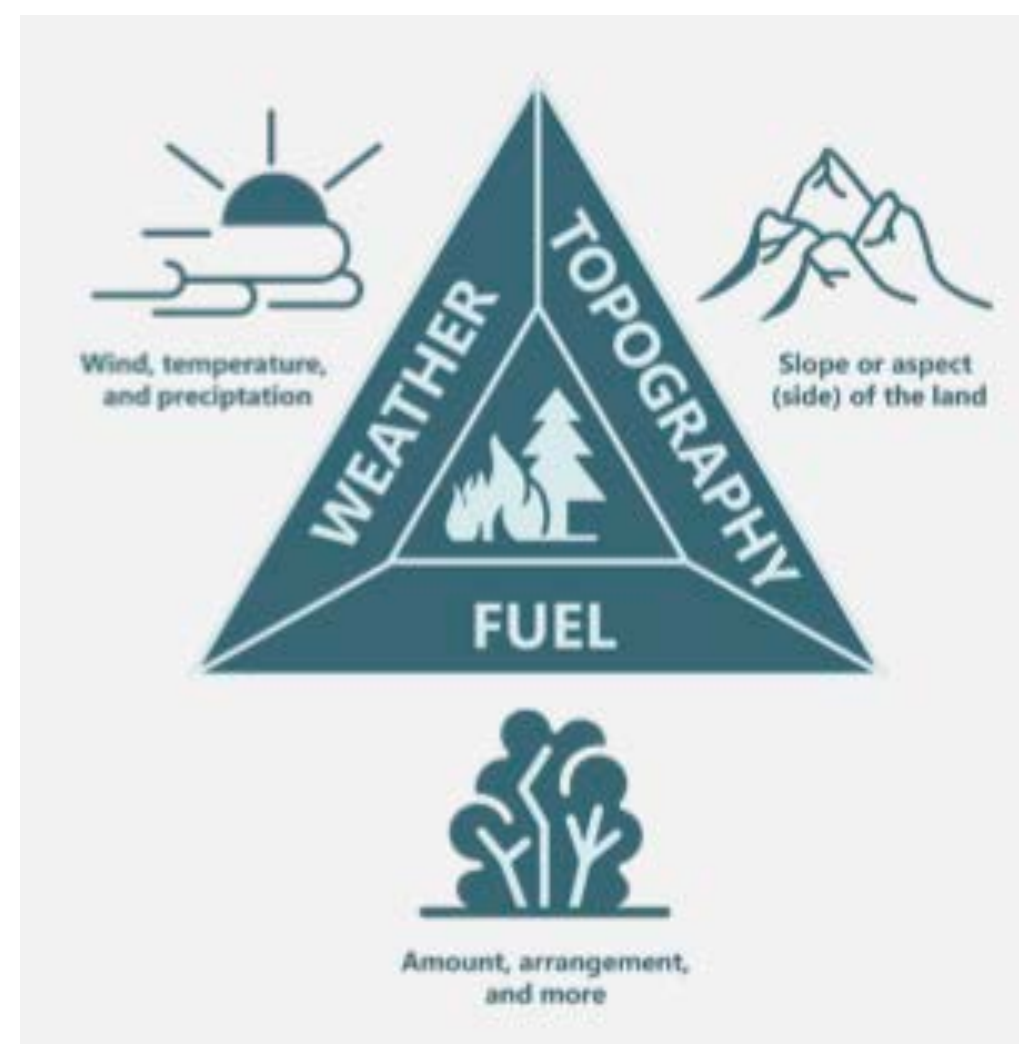
- * Trail, bridge, and signs maintained
- * Trees blocking trails or posing hazards removed

Protect Rare Coastal Habitats

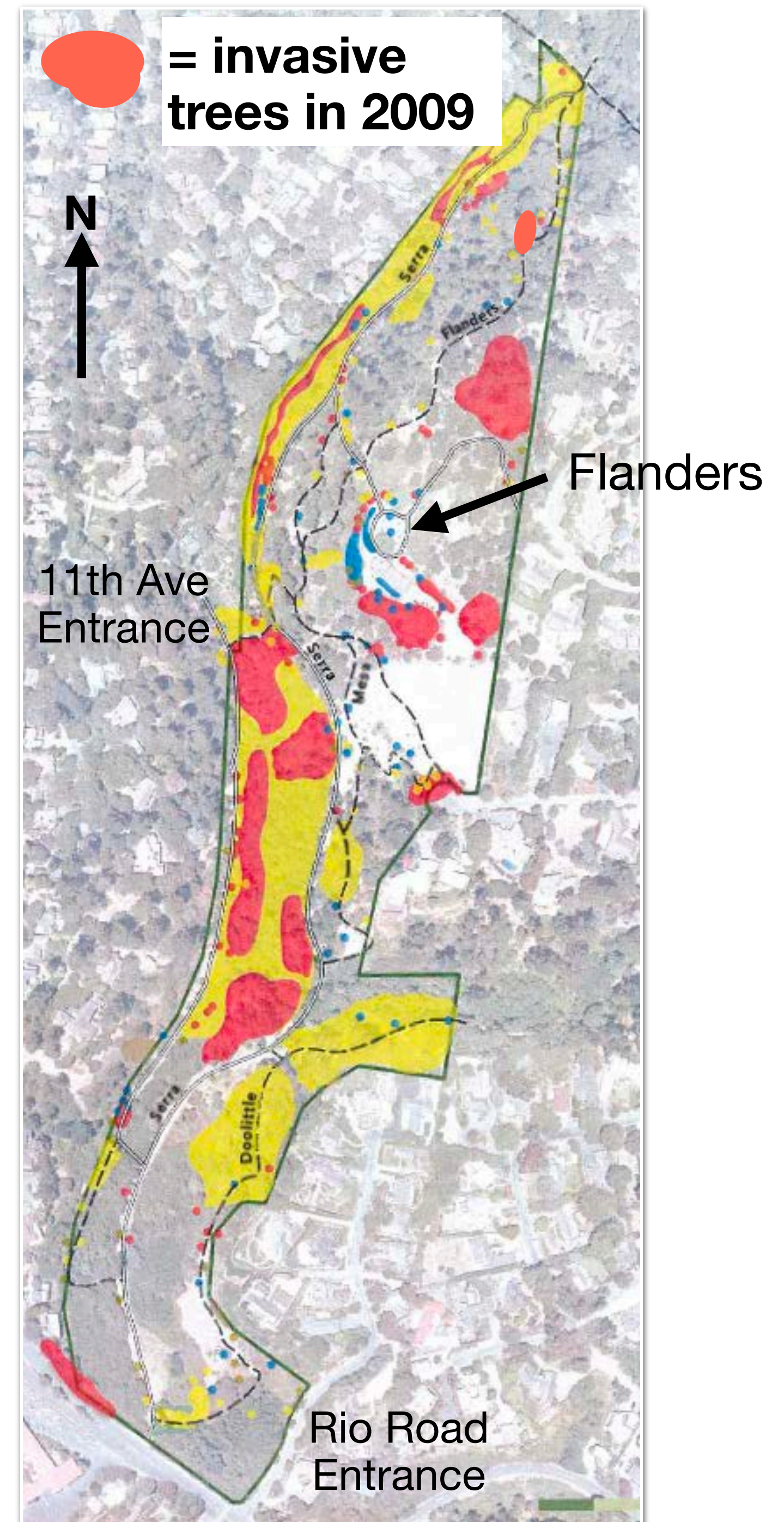
- *Protect, maintain, and enhance*

In a huge win for both habitat restoration and wildfire mitigation, the initial eradication programs recommended by the BBA for invasive eucalyptus, acacia, and pittosporum trees, and genista plants have been completed

Regular plot sweeps and a continuous maintenance removes other invasives and fire fuels



A healthy native forest is more fire resistant



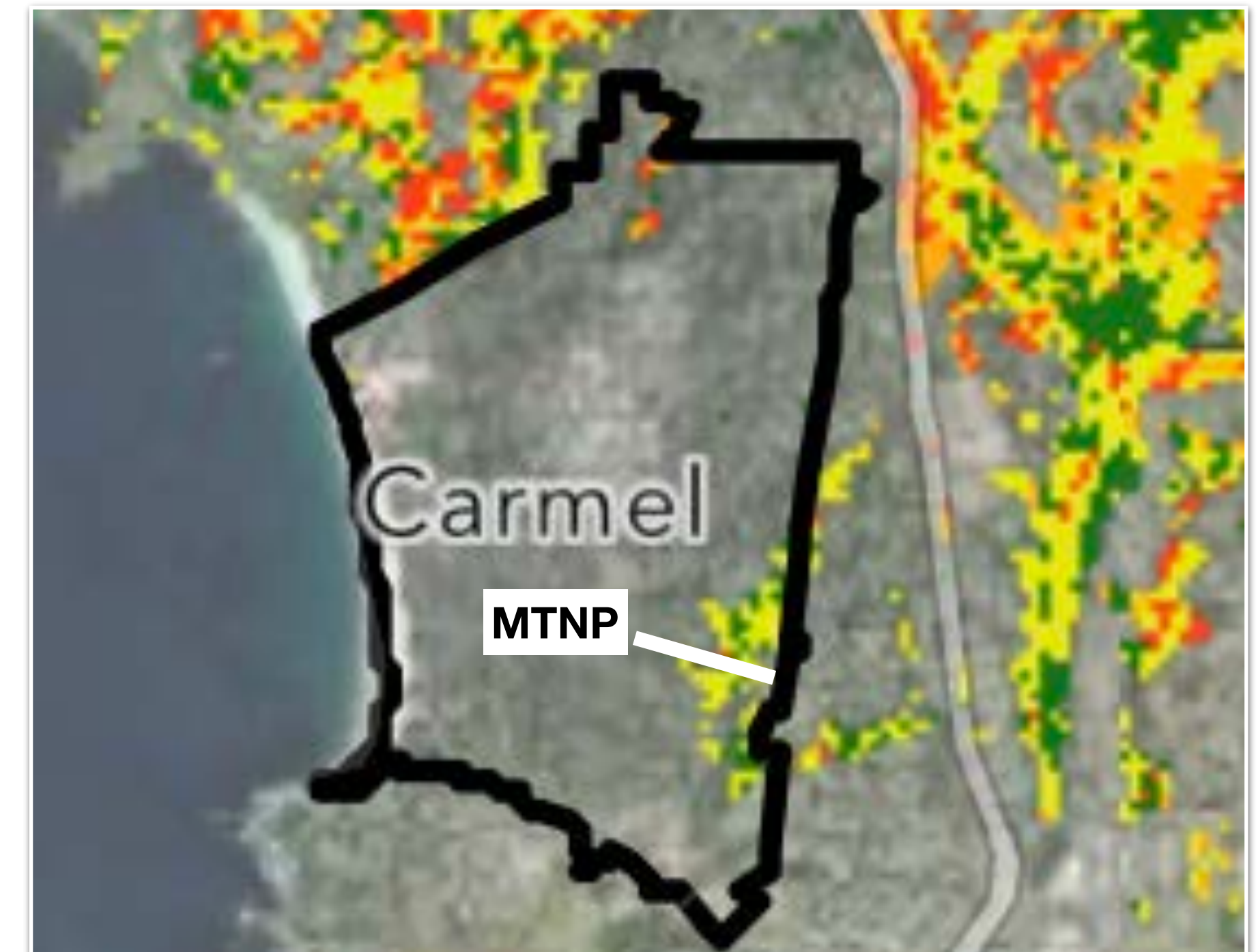
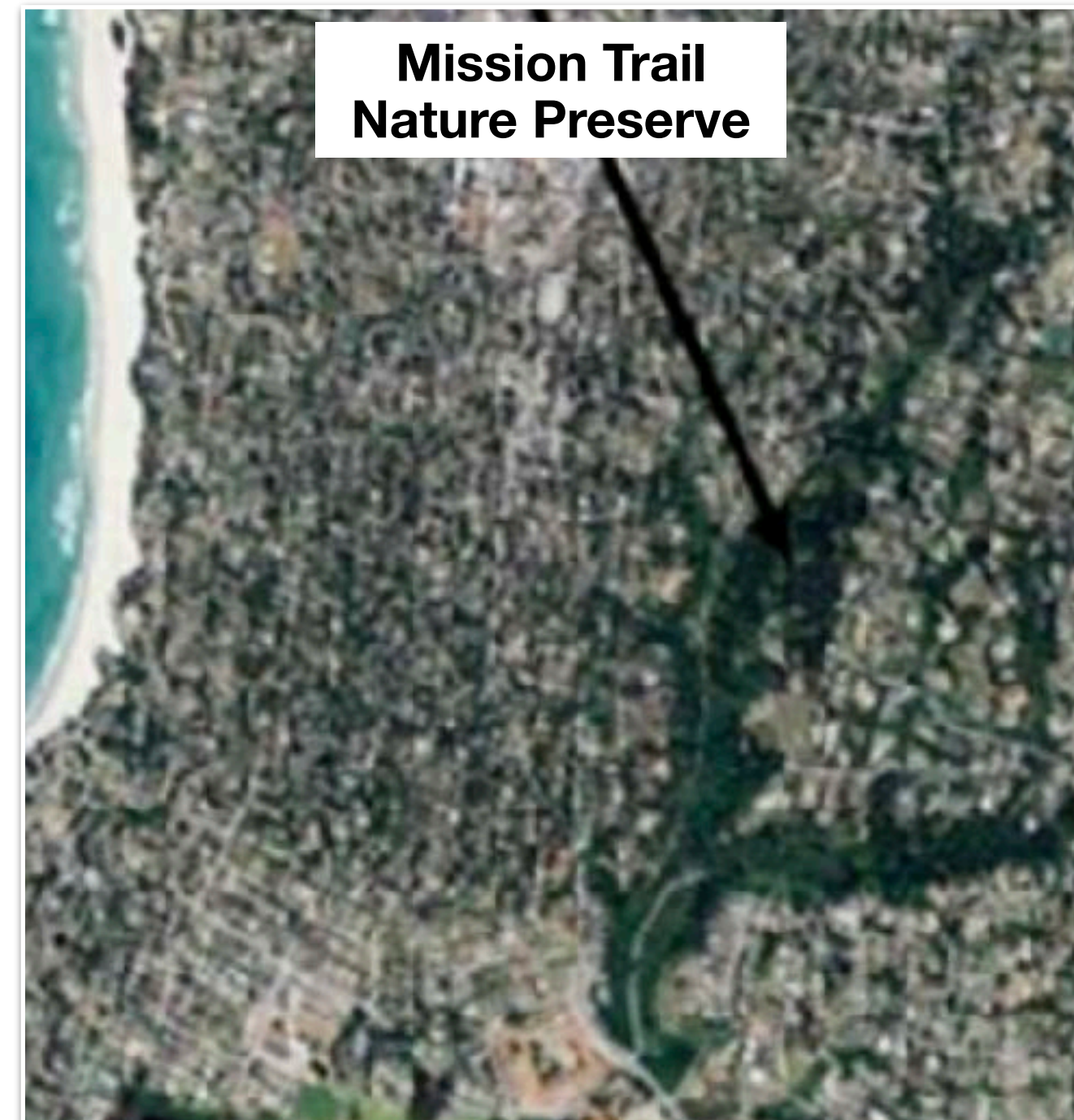
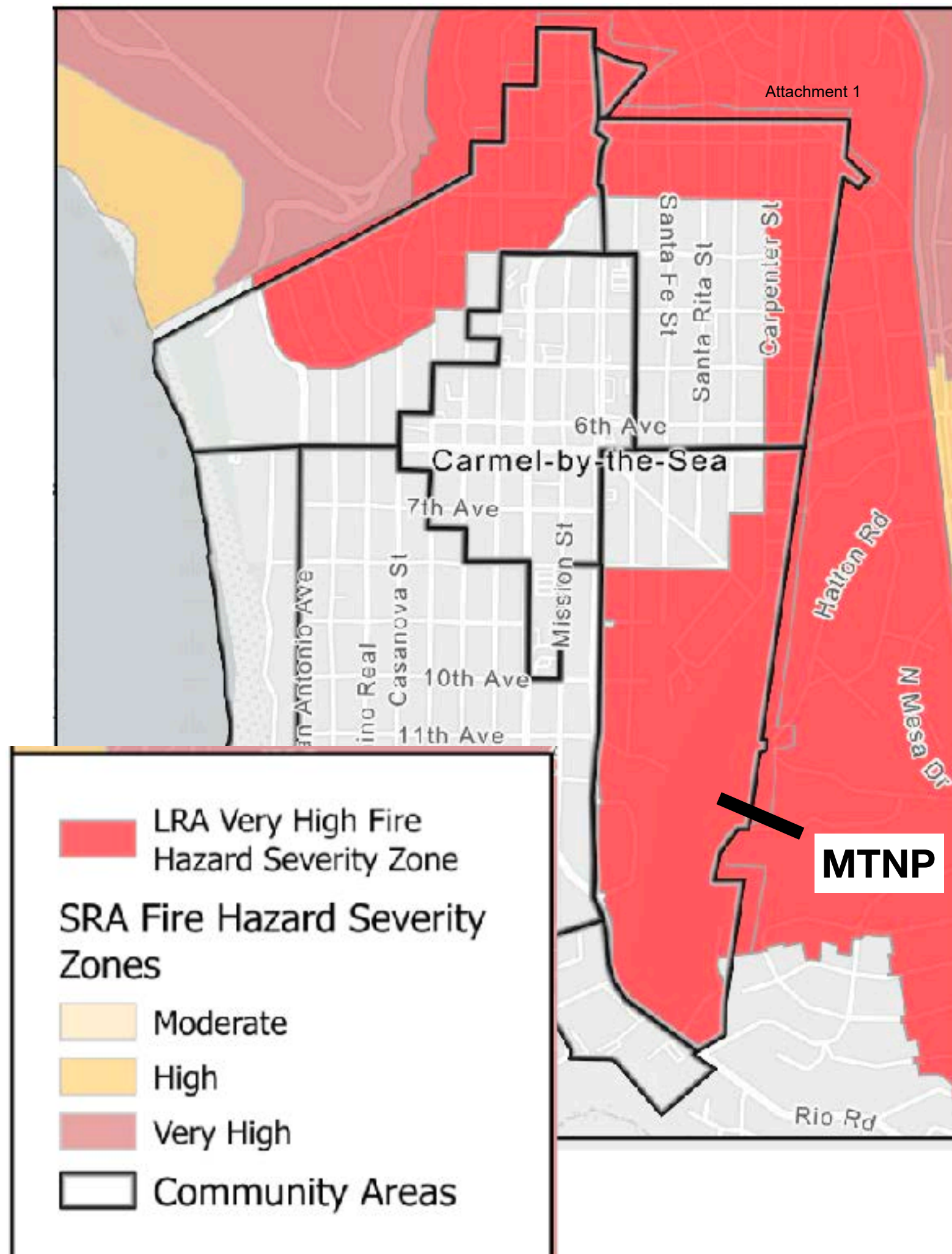
Protect Rare Coastal Habitats

- *Protect, maintain, and enhance*

Significant fire fuel removal over the past 15 years has mitigated wildfire risk in the Preserve

CWPP, Nov-2023

Continuous maintenance is critical



Wildfire intensity under peak weather conditions (CWPP, Nov-2023)

Protect Rare Coastal Habitats

- *Protect, maintain, and enhance*

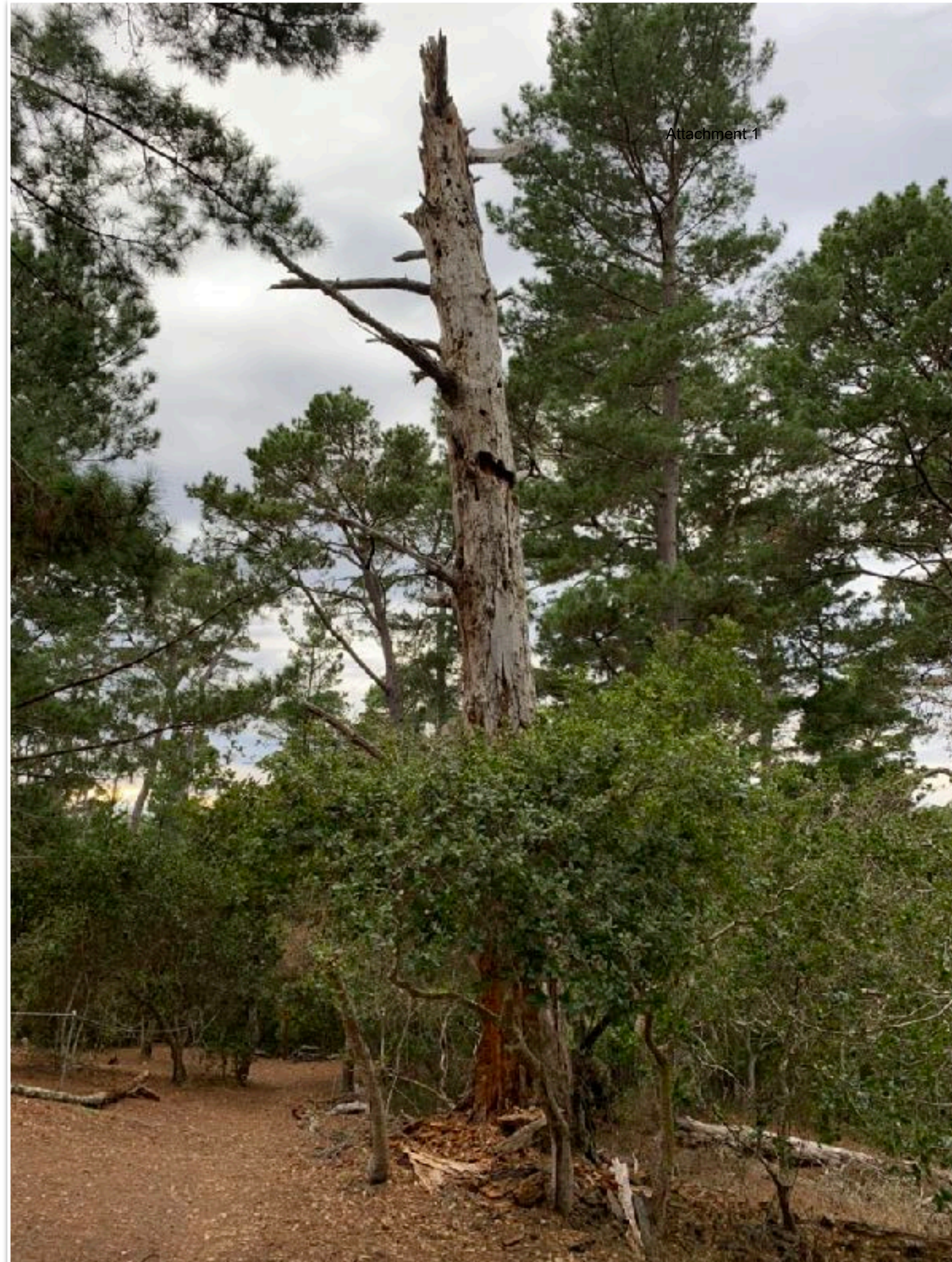
Attachment 1

Tree slash (branches < 4" in diameter) from downed trees is removed to reduce the fire fuel and wildfire risk, while the larger limbs and trunks are left for ecological benefits



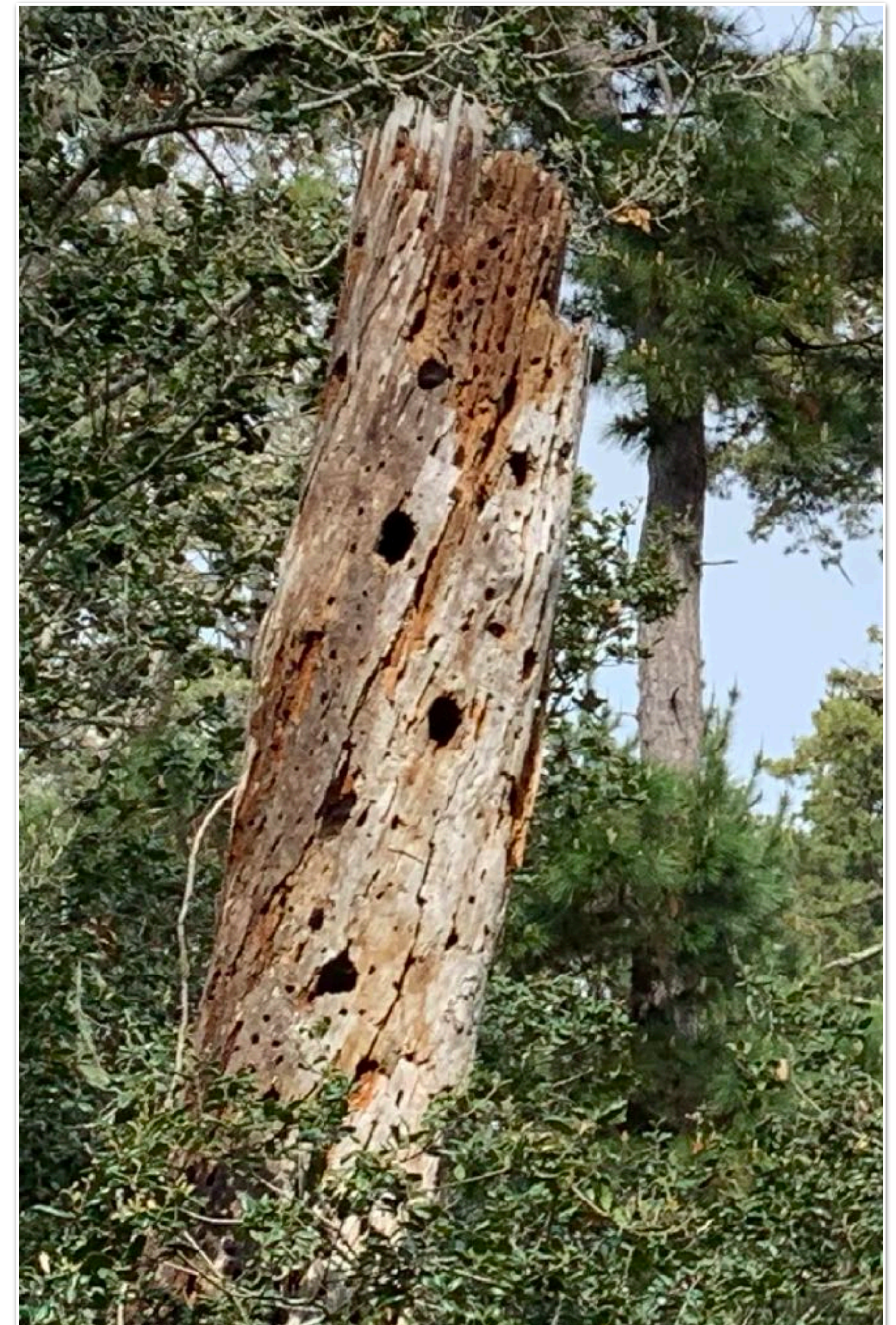
Protect Rare Coastal Habitats

- *Protect, maintain, and enhance*



Wildlife tree trunks are left in place at a safe height for habitat

Wildlife tree used as a woodpecker nesting site and acorn granary



Protect Rare Coastal Habitats

- Protect, maintain, and enhance

Hand pulling invasive plants is an important method for maintaining the Preserve's ecological integrity and biodiversity



Regular plot sweeps identify new hot spots

Monthly Weed Pull events coordinated

Weekly contractor (Town & Country Landscaping) work coordinated



Protect Rare Coastal Habitats

Some of the most frequent invasive plant targets in recent years



Genista (French broom)



English ivy



Cape ivy



Poison Hemlock



Pittosporum



Acacia



Eucalyptus

Protect Rare Coastal Habitats

- *Protect, maintain, and enhance*

Native Monterey Pine forest near Flanders

Attachment 1

Close to a hundred large invasive eucalyptus trees (many > 24") on either side of these pines were removed

Ecological forestry entails careful and targeted removal of forest fuels



Protect Rare Coastal Habitats

- *Protect, maintain, and enhance*

Area cleared of invasive eucalyptus near Flanders led to a significant water table rise and a rapid recolonization by natives



Invasive acacias removed and native saplings planted in 2024 near 11th Ave; a multi-year invasive resprout control program is required



Protect Rare Coastal Habitats

- *Protect, maintain, and enhance*

Attachment 1

**Native cottonwood grove near
recent clearings south of 11th
Avenue**



Protect Rare Coastal Habitats

- *Protect, maintain, and enhance*

Removing dense low-moisture fuels and fire-prone invasives creates space for healthy natives with improved plant and soil moisture retention, fire resistance, and habitat

Attachment 1

Dried poison Hemlock



Dried and woody Genista



Protect Rare Coastal Habitats

- *Protect, maintain, and enhance*

The Martin Meadow ESHA mowing schedule is timed to allow native flowers (e.g Hickman's Onion) to set seed

The lack of a beneficial fire regime has maintenance implications



ESHA: Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area

Monterey Pine serotinous cones



Serotinous cones are an adaptation to thrive and survive in environments with frequent wildfires

Protect Rare Coastal Habitats

- *Protect, maintain, and enhance*

Justin Ono & Mary Bilse (Public Works), and Greg D'Ambrosio (FOMTNP) tour the Preserve with Monterey Fire in May 2024



Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Monterey, Carmel-by-the-Sea, and Pacific Grove

NOVEMBER 2023

Table D-1. Priority Vegetation Management Projects

Project Description	Coordinating Agencies / Entities
Develop a Forest Management Plan for the Mission Trail Preserve with a focus on forest health and ladder fuel reduction	MFD, CBTS, Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve

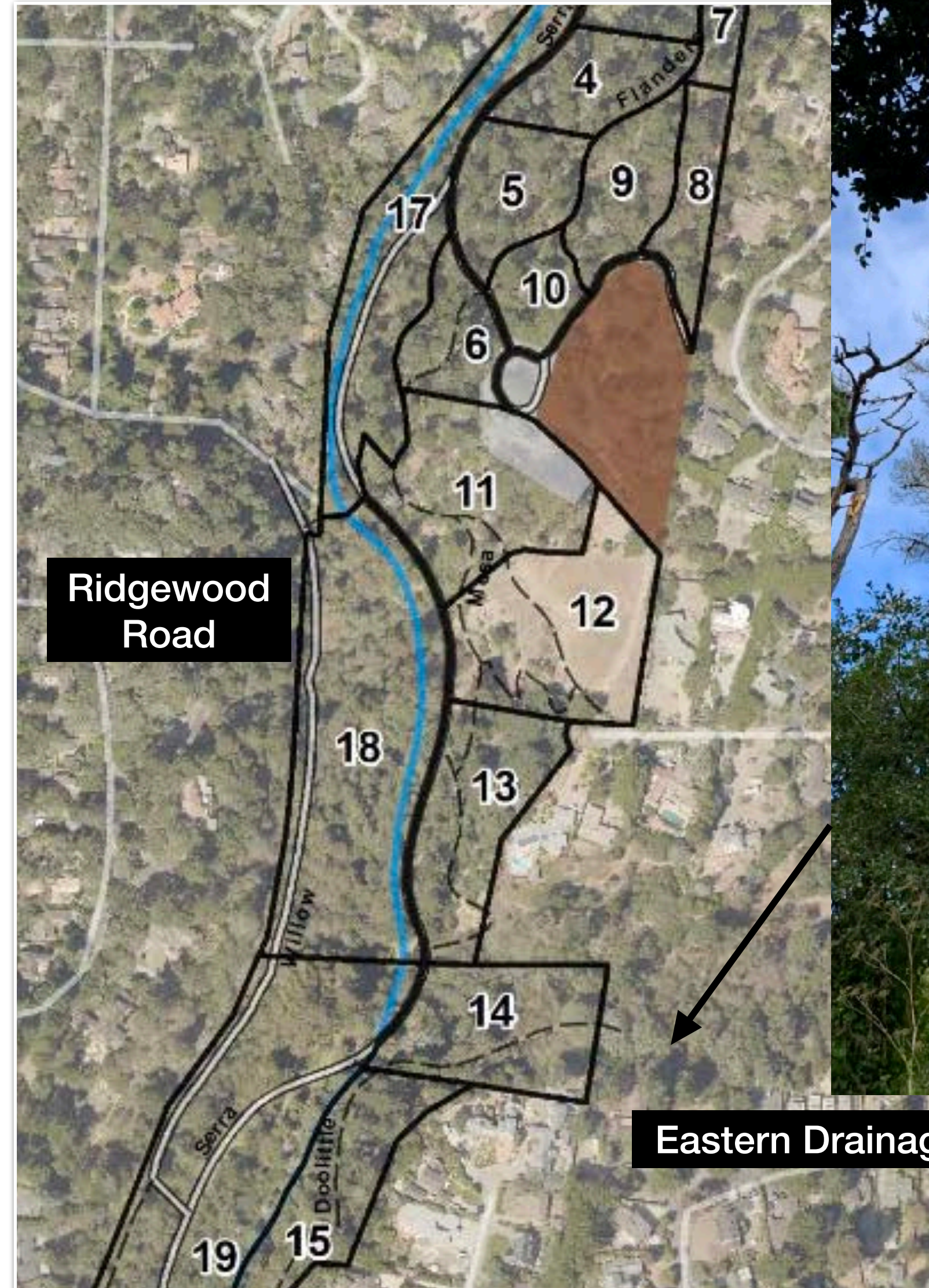
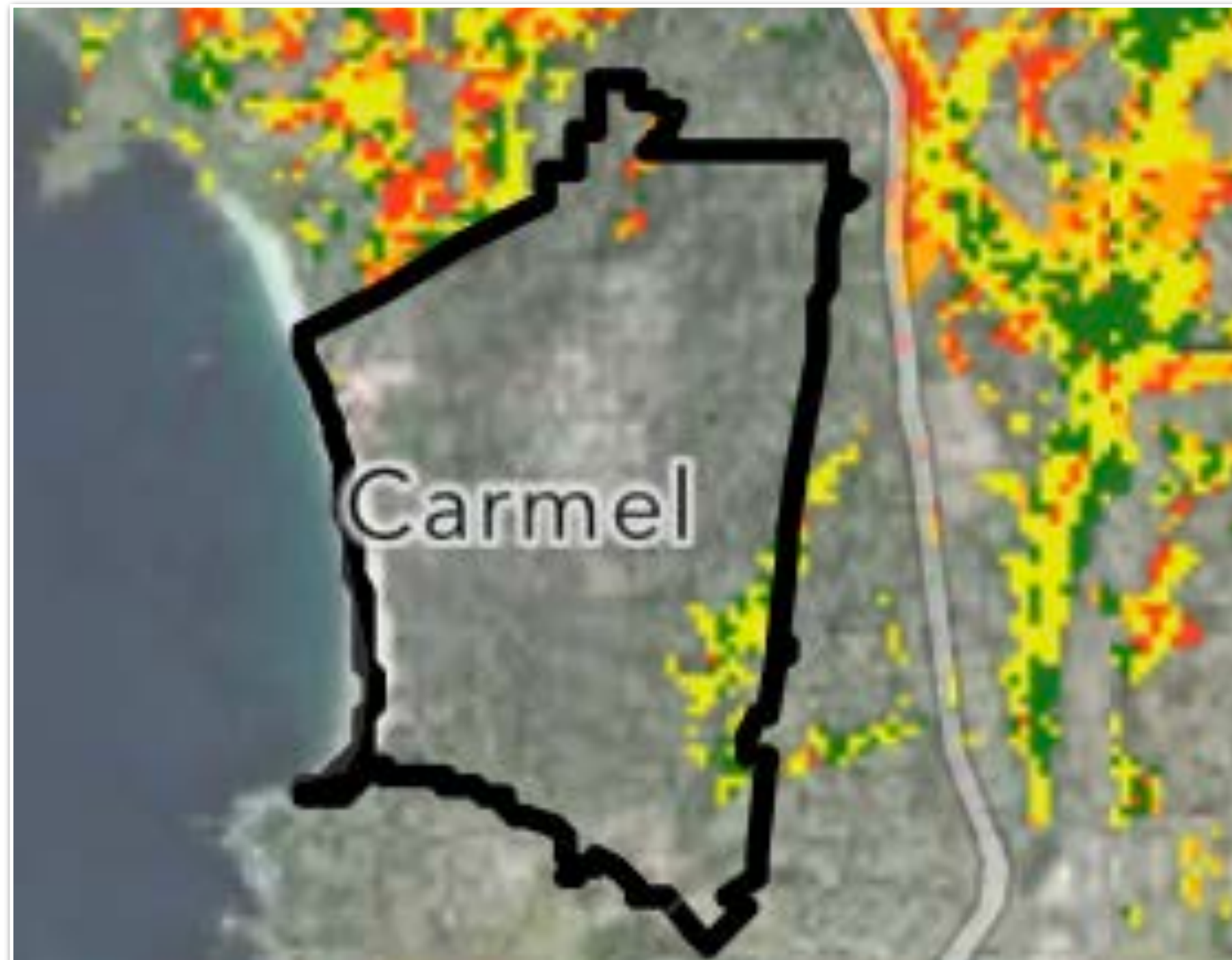
Protect Rare Coastal Habitats

- *Protect, maintain, and enhance*

Outreach to neighbors with forested parcels outside the Preserve boundaries is needed

Attachment 1

Wildfire intensity under peak weather conditions (CWPP, Nov-2023)



Dead pines snag, brush thickets, and other ladder fuels



Eastern Drainage

Mission Trail Nature Preserve Master Plan

Mission Trail Nature Preserve Master Plan

1996 plan adopted by the City Council and incorporated into the City's ^{Attachment 1} LCP.

- ✓ ***Protect, maintain, and enhance the rare coastal habitats (includes ecological forestry wildfire mitigation)***
- * ***Preserve the forested, tranquil atmosphere of the property and provide reasonable low-impact access for the enjoyment of the natural surroundings***



MTNP 15 Year Accomplishments

- 2009 through 2024

Master Plan

Protect rare coastal habitats

Invasive Eradication Programs Completed

- * Initial invasive tree eradication program completed
- * Initial genista eradication program completed

Annual Maintenance

- * Clearing of downed trees
- * Plot sweeps and invasive vegetation removal
- * Meadows mowed and ladder fuel reduction
- * Reforestation of areas cleared of invasive trees

Other Habitat Improvements

- * Removed water tank, PG&E pole, pump house, and decommissioned the well
- * Stream Stability Study Projects #1 through #3

Master Plan

Provide low-impact access

Trail & Amenity Improvements

- * Single-track trails developed, restored, and rerouted
- * Mountain View entrance stairs and ramp installed
- * Entrance & trail signage, and benches installed
- * Doolittle & Willow Trail raised boardwalks installed
- * Pine root point-of-interest display installed
- * Two Forks overlook installed

Annual Trail & Amenity Maintenance

- * Trail, bridge, and signs maintained
- * Trees blocking trails or posing hazards removed

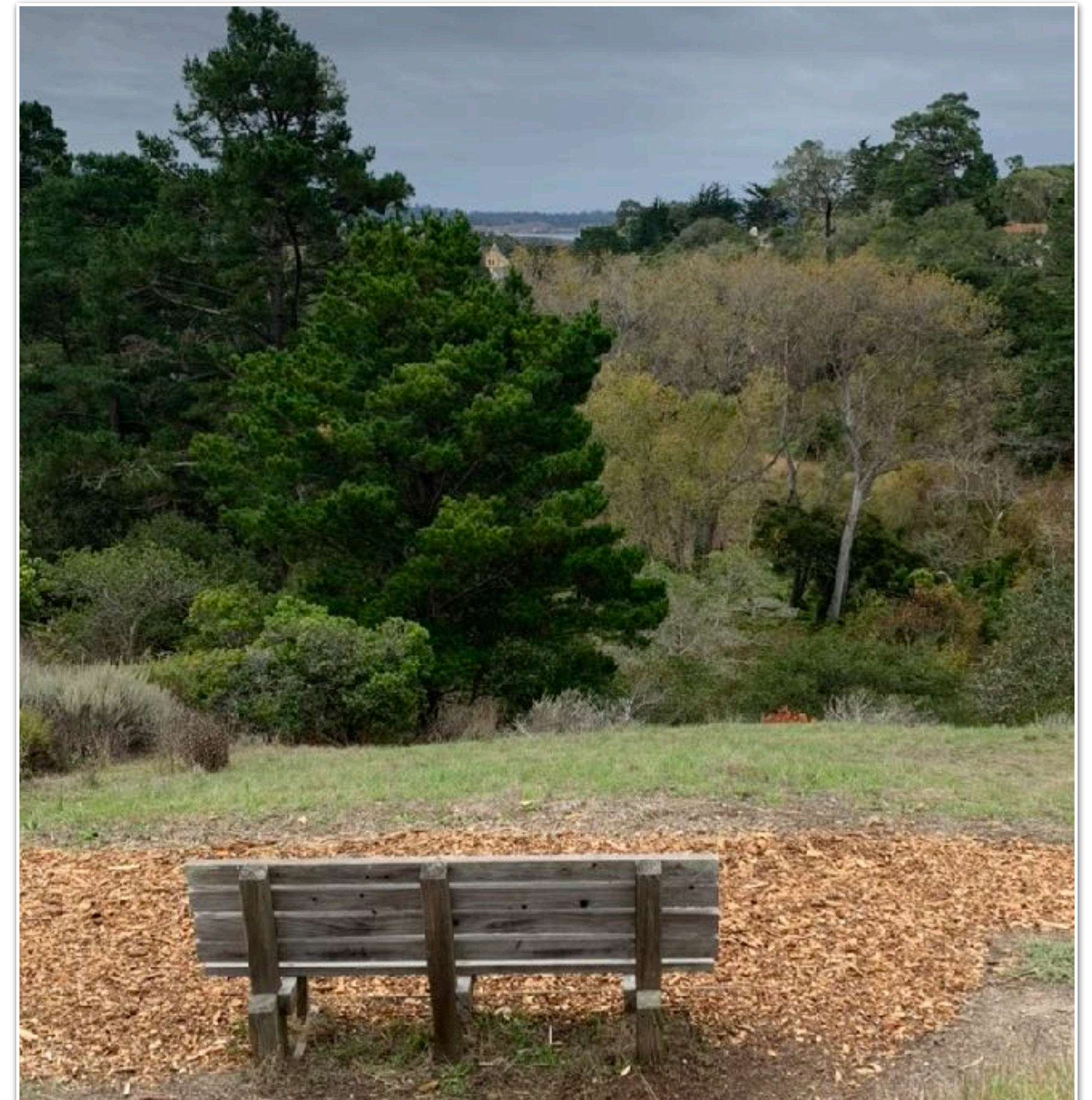
Provide Low Impact Access

- *Preserve the forested, tranquil atmosphere*

Maps and posting boards located at each entrance



A place of solitude and quiet contemplation

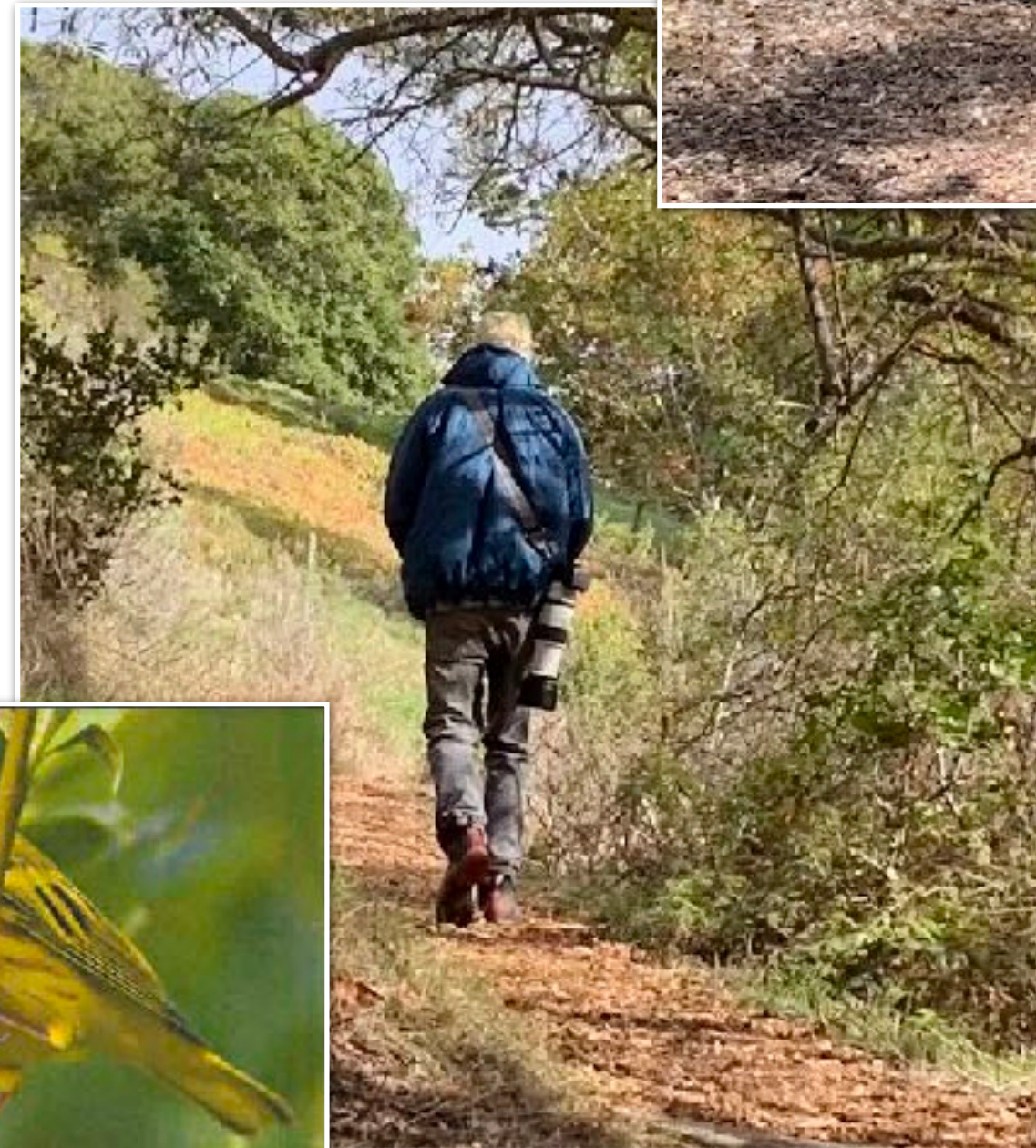
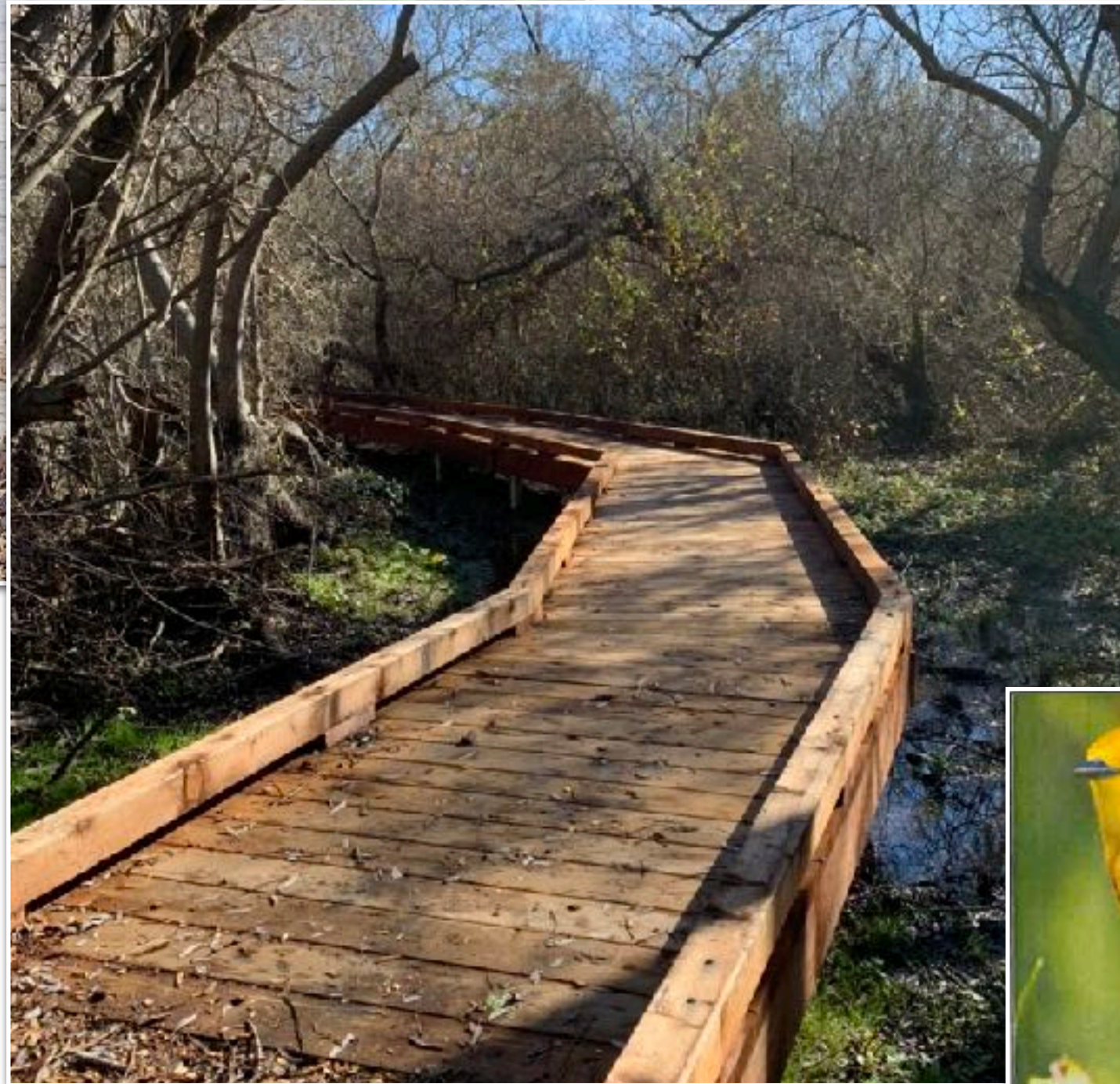
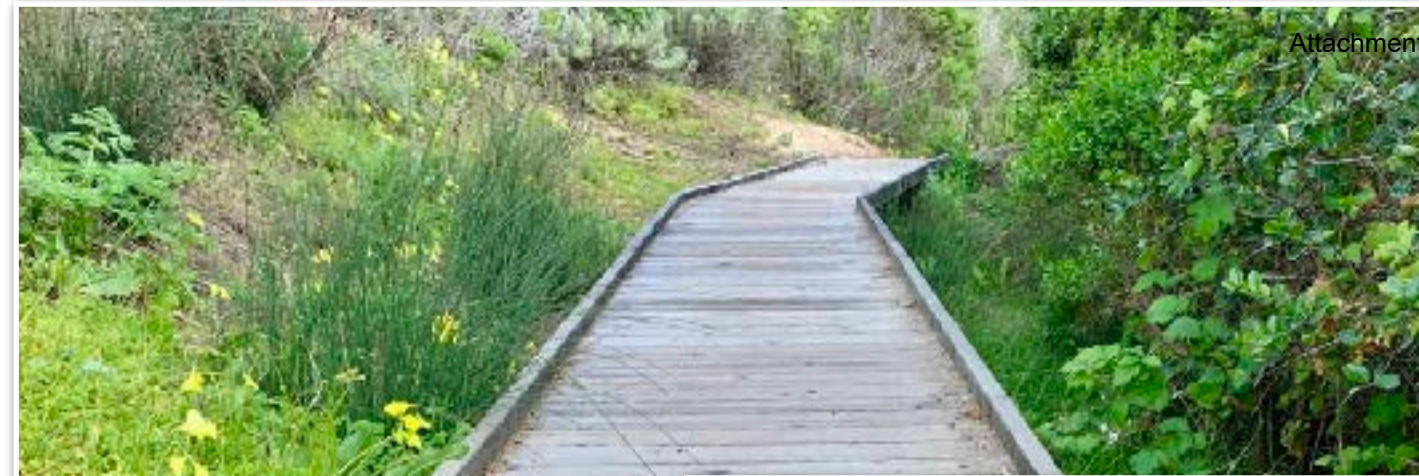


Provide Low Impact Access

- *Preserve the forested, tranquil atmosphere*

Boardwalks installed over bogs

The Preserve is used by birders, and the young and old alike



Provide Low Impact Access

- *Preserve the forested, tranquil atmosphere*

Trail maintenance includes preventing trail cuts, erosion control, leveling, wood chipping, and split-rail fencing



11th Ave bridge rebuilt in 2024 as a Public Works in-house project



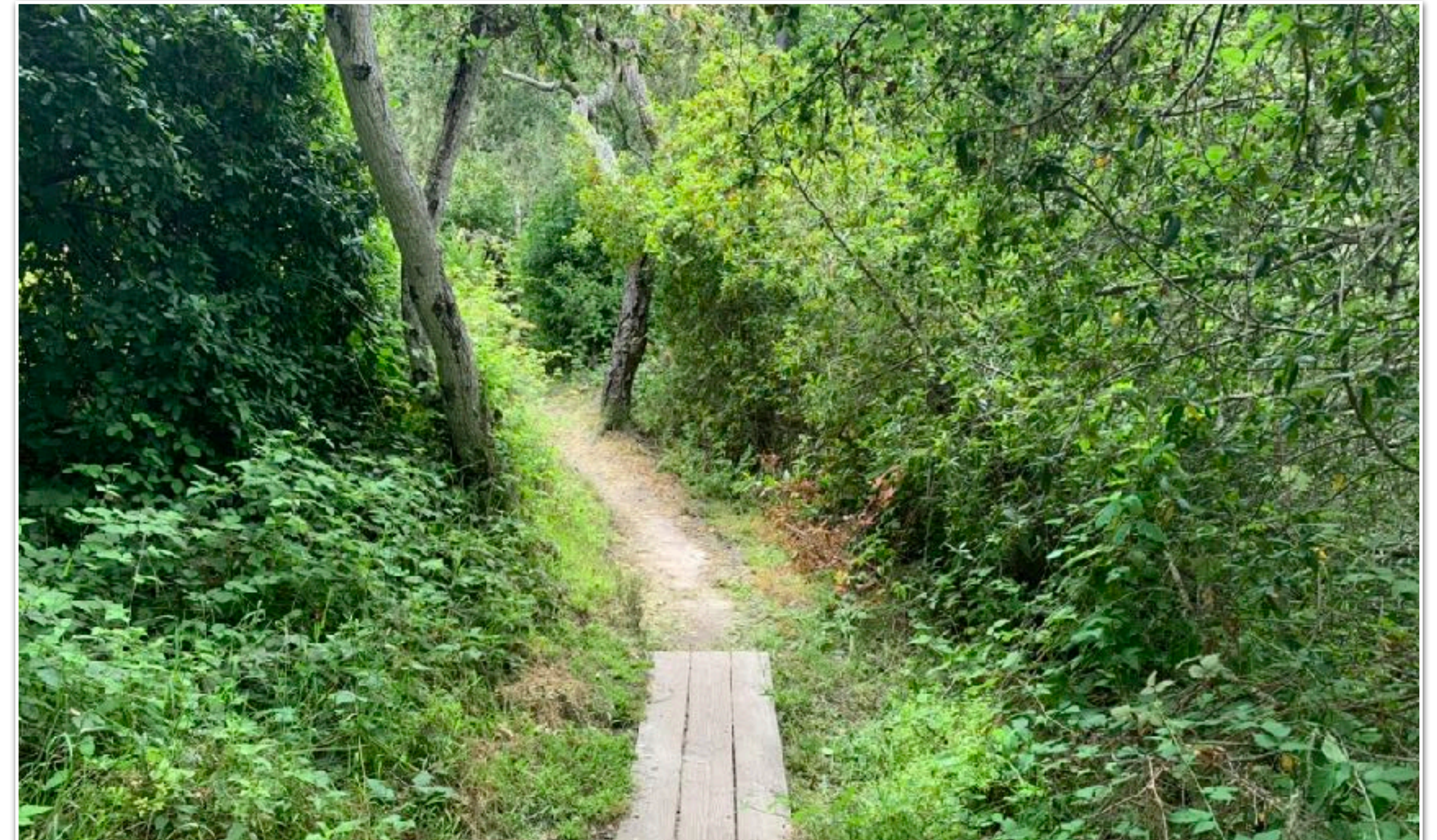
Provide Low Impact Access

- *Preserve the forested, tranquil atmosphere*

Beginning in spring of each year, nearly all four miles of trails, including the single-track and the main service trails are cleared of excessive vegetation



A main service trail cleared of tree limbs to a sufficient height to maintain fire brush truck and other service vehicle access



Cleared single-track trail

Provide Low Impact Access

- *Preserve the forested, tranquil atmosphere*

Natural materials and a rustic aesthetic appropriate for a nature preserve is used

Attachment 1



Provide Low Impact Access

- *Preserve the forested, tranquil atmosphere*

Response to a downed pine along the Flanders driveway

Attachment 1

Rootball used as a point of interest display



Trail moved to the side of downed tree



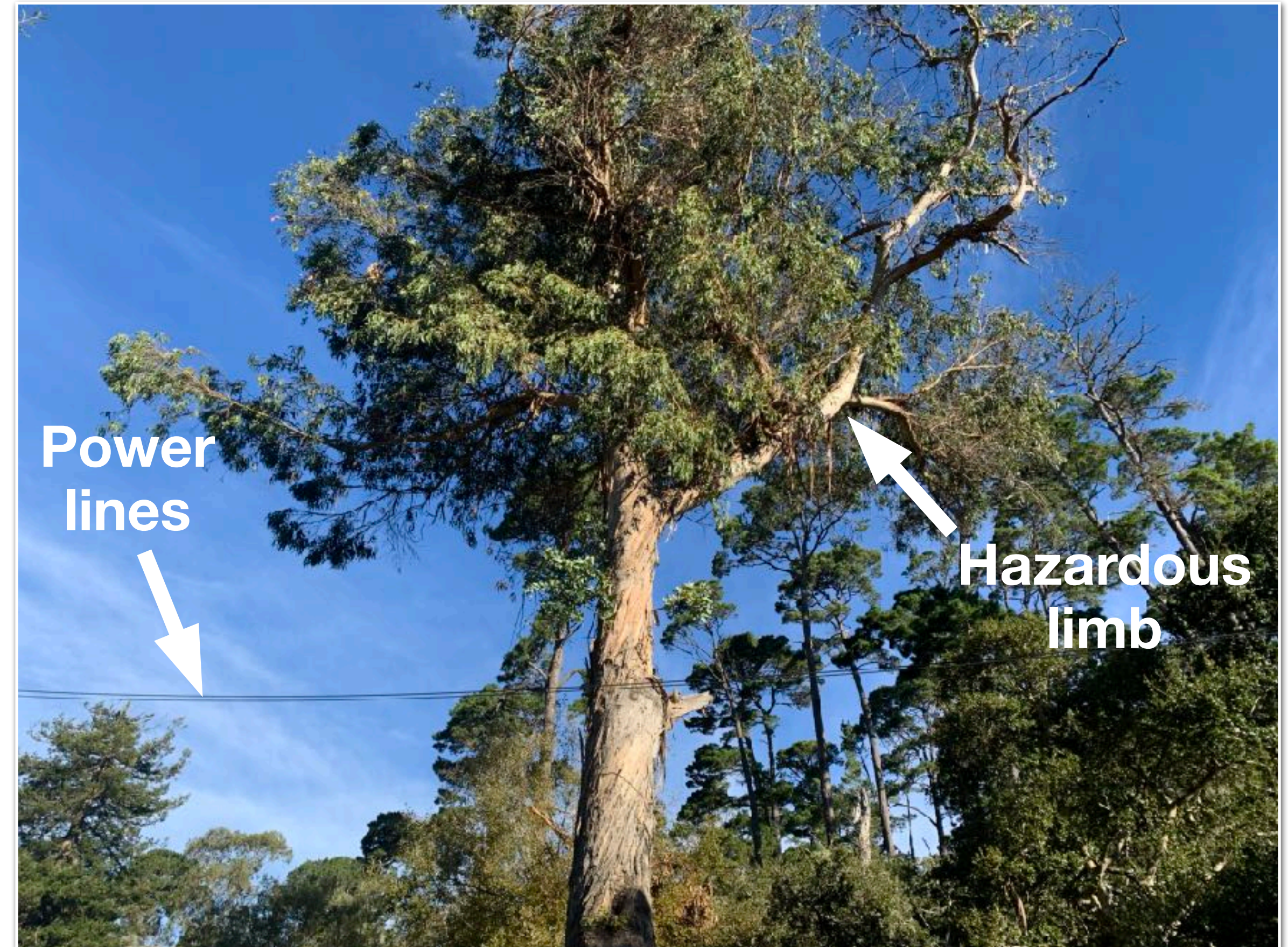
Provide Low Impact Access

- *Preserve the forested, tranquil atmosphere*

Trees are monitored for safety hazards throughout the year



Dead pine along Flanders Trail slated for removal



Limb at risk of failure above power line near 11th Ave entry

Provide Low Impact Access

- *Preserve the forested, tranquil atmosphere*

Attachment 1

Flanders, an integral part of the Preserve



Mission Trail Nature Preserve Master Plan

Mission Trail Nature Preserve Master Plan

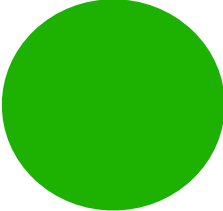
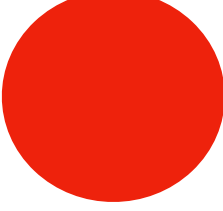
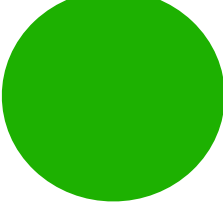
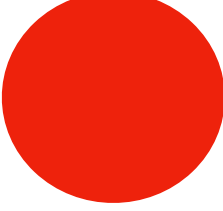
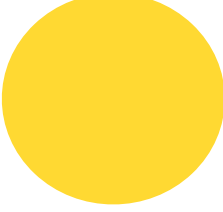
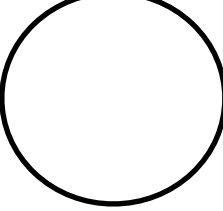
1996 plan adopted by the City Council and incorporated into the City's LCP. ^{Attachment 1}

- ✓ *Protect, maintain, and enhance the rare coastal habitats (ecological forestry wildfire mitigation)*
- ✓ *Preserve the forested, tranquil atmosphere of the property and **provide reasonable low-impact access** for the enjoyment of the natural surroundings*



Master Plan Implementation Status Summary

- 2009 through 2024

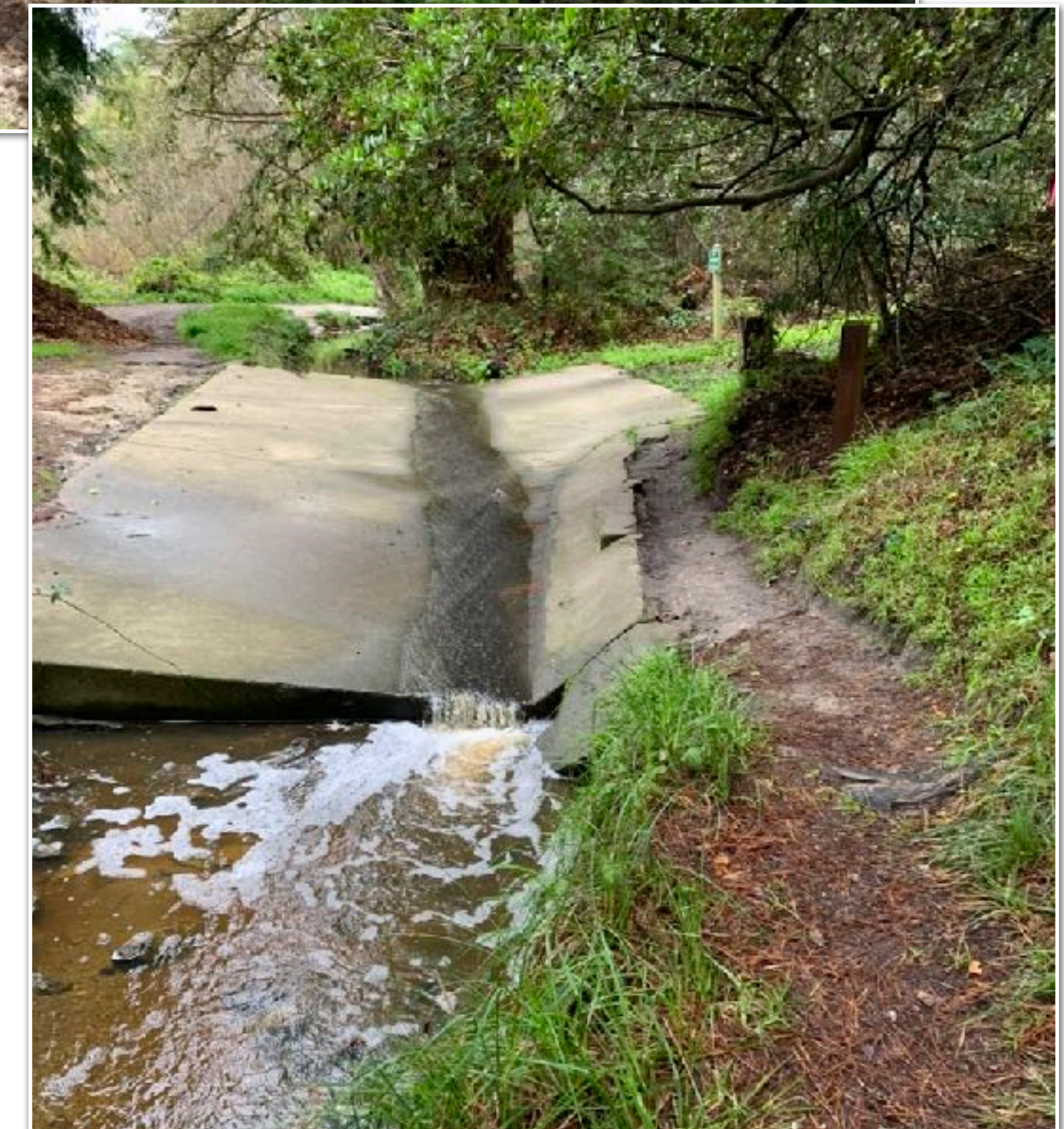
<p>Habitat enhancement & wildfire mitigation <small>Attachment 1</small></p>		<p>Initial eradication programs completed; annual seasonal work plan developed and implemented</p>
<p>One-time habitat improvement / wildfire mitigation projects</p>		<p>Stream Stability projects underway. PG&E power lines in the Preserve a wildfire risk</p>
<p>Trail & amenity installation and maintenance</p>		
<p>One-time MTNP access projects</p>		<p>Crossing Rio Road at entry a safety issue; Carmel 4-mile walking loop linkage through Rio Park a gap</p>
<p>Lester Rowntree Native Plant Garden</p>		<p>Restoration needed</p>
<p>Flanders</p>		<p>Use consistent with the Preserve not yet implemented i.e. residence for an MTNP conservation partner</p>

Project Priorities

Project Priorities

- * *Stream Stability Project #4 (ford reduction, Doolittle Trail bridge at Redwood Grove and trail realignment)*
- * *Stream Stability Study Projects #5 - #8*
- * *Serra Trail French drain installations (2)*
- * *Rowntree Native Plant Garden restoration*
- * *PG&E power line removals*
- * *Rio Road entry safety improvements, B2E , & Carmel 4-mile walking loop link*

Area of Stream Stability Projects #4 & #5



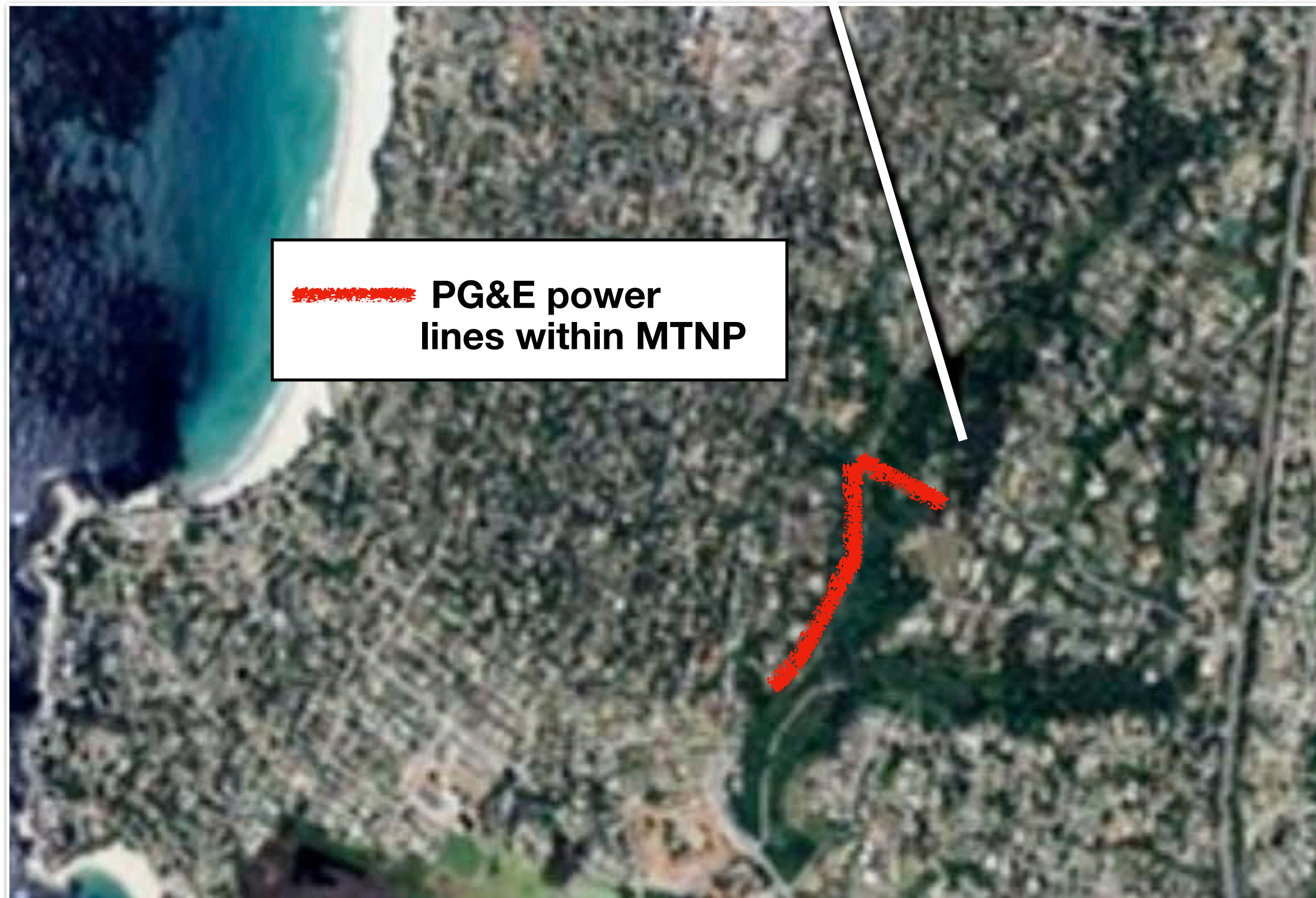
CAWD bridge and old CAWD road (future trail)



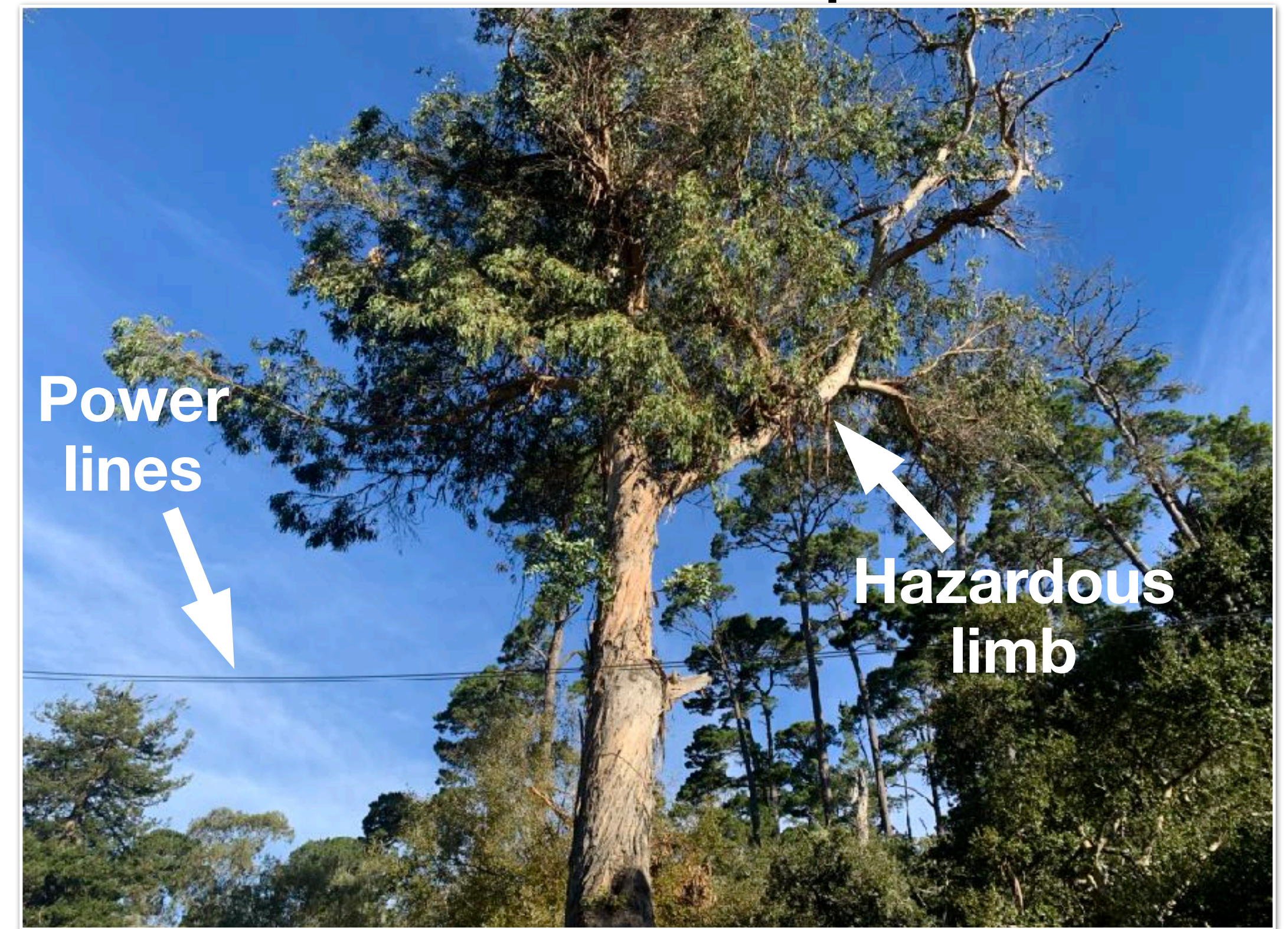
PG&E Power Lines in the Preserve

Since 1992, more than 3,600 wildfires in California have been related to power generation, transmission and distribution, according to data from the U.S. Forest Service

Attachment **Mission Trail
Nature Preserve**



**Hazardous limb above the 11th
Avenue to Flanders PG&E power lines**

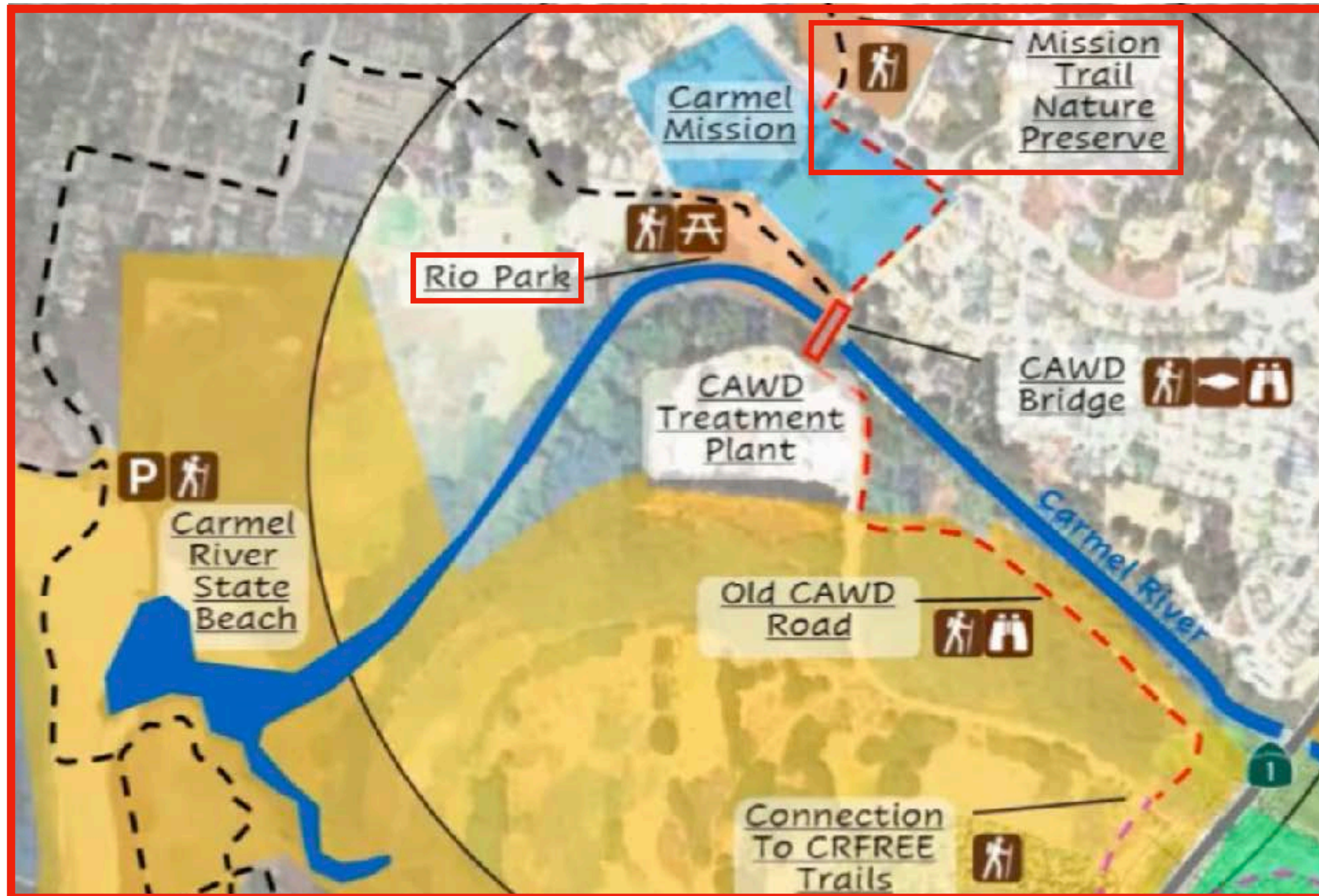


Carmel 4-Mile Walking Loop

Rio Park, a missing link on the Carmel 4-mile walking loop would improve MTNP access as a walk-in passive park and its development would be a good time to address Rio Road entry safety

The CAWD bridge (B2E) would add walking access to regional and State park trails

Attachment 1



Friends of MTNP Asks to City

Ask 1: Continue funding the Public Works MTNP maintenance work, at levels similar to this past year, plus an additional \$10K to defer half the annual cost of FOMTNP contractor (Town & Country Gardening and Landscaping) as a direct grant for reduction of fuel loads.

Ask 2: Have Public Safety officials conduct outreach to neighbors with parcels that border or extend into open space contiguous with the Preserve to address any gaps in fire fuel management.

Ask 3: Underground power lines running through the MTNP. The highest priority power line segment within the MTNP extends from the Eleventh Avenue entrance to Flanders, where the two poles, including a transformer, are smack in the middle of the pine-oak forest, and the power lines run under a hazardous limb near the bridges.

A Successful Citizen-City Partnership



Acknowledgments

Public Works

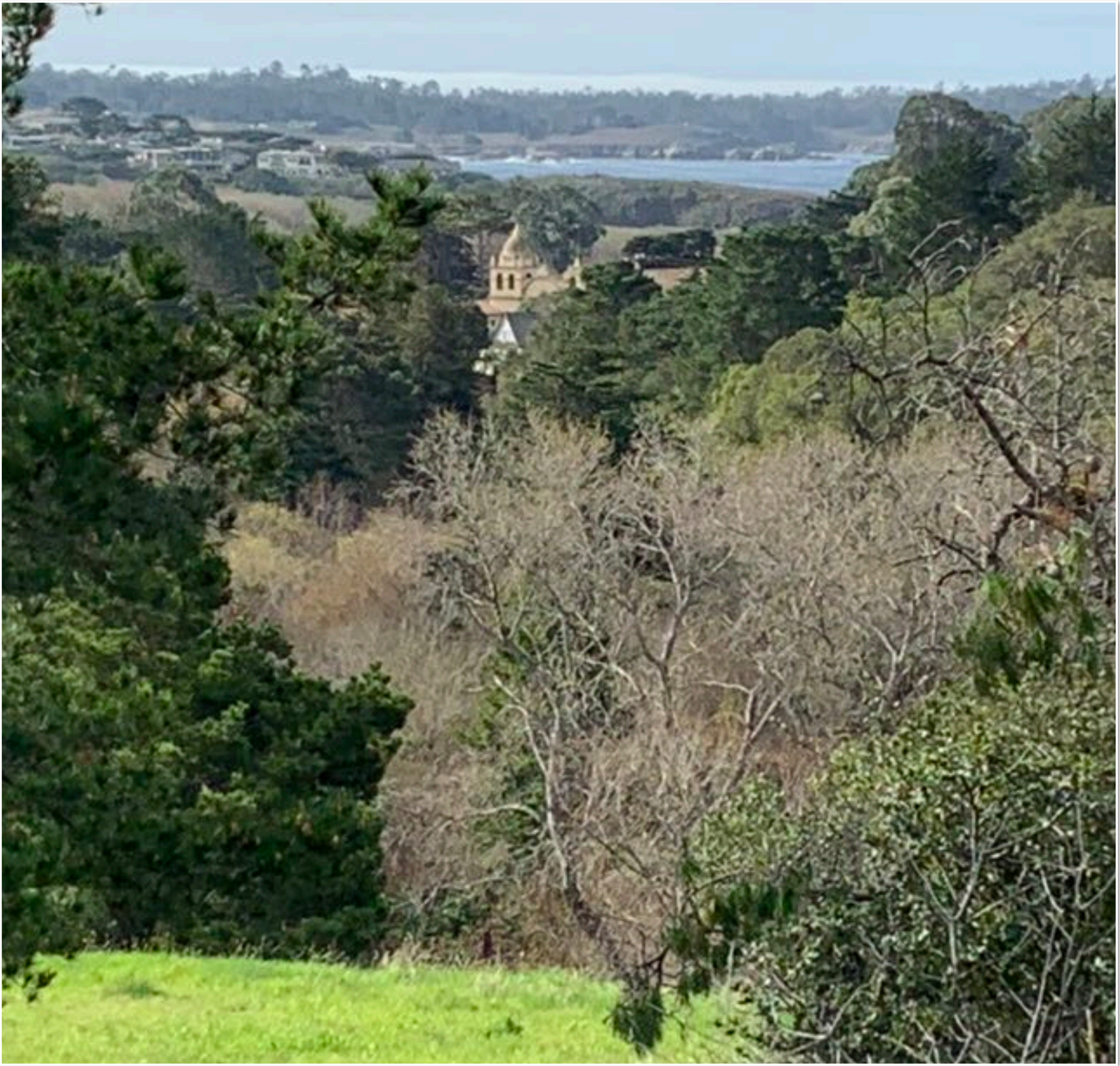
Friends of Mission Trail Nature Preserve

Attachment 1

Donors, Volunteers & Other Supporters



View from Martin Meadow



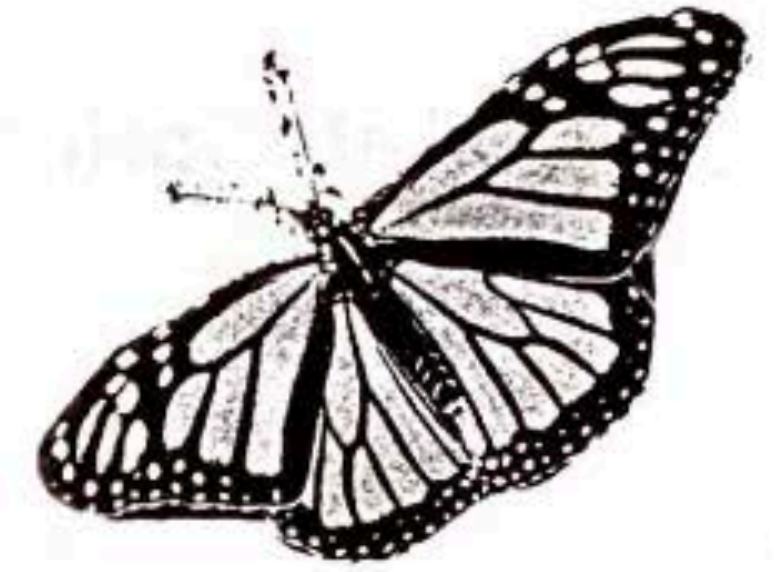
Attachment 1

Appendix

MISSION TRAIL NATURE PRESERVE



MTNP Annual Work Program



Guiding Principle:

“Active management is essential if resource values of the Preserve are to be protected and restored”

Attachment 1

This means establishing an action plan for the Mission Trail Nature Preserve that includes:

- * Working with the staff of the City of Carmel
- * Working with volunteers and contract workers
- * Following an annual work plan (below) for maintenance, eradication, planting, and restoration
- * Creating an action plan for ongoing financial support from the City of Carmel, nonprofit foundations, grant resources, and donors

MTNP Annual Work Program

Winter/Spring Projects:

- * **Focus volunteers and contract workers on the removal of invasive non-native fire fuel species**
Genista, eucalyptus, acacia, cotoneaster, and other woody brush
- * **Maintain the urban-wildland interface**
Thin or remove excessive brush/grass. Create a fire-fuel-free perimeter buffer
- * **Clear or remove storm-damaged trees and other hazards**
- * **Plant native plants**
Harvest and propagate local seed stock and cuttings
- * **Plant Monterey pine native seedlings**
Plant seedlings grown from locally harvested seed stock
- * **Maintain five Preserve entrances**
Maintain overhead clearance, remove debris and invasive plants, inspect operational effectiveness of gates, and repair trailhead surfaces

MTNP Annual Work Program

Late Spring/Summer Projects: (Dry Season - April/September)

- * **Grade and restore foot trails and service trails**
- * **Resurface service trails with wood chips**
Serra Trail, Willow Trail, and Flanders Spur
- * **Selectively remove invasive species**
Remove ivy, periwinkle, hemlock, succulents, cotoneaster, and other invasive plants
- * **Thin dense public/private native vegetation to reduce fire fuel**
Schedule and manage annual thinning programs in conjunction with private property owners adjacent to the Preserve to reduce the build-up of fire fuels and improve the health and vigor of remaining native vegetation
- * **Remove hazardous or dead upper-story pine trees**
- * **Regularly monitor and remove trees that are a threat to visitors and private property owners**
- * **Remove encroaching willows and poison oak to restore the “Wet Meadow”**
The “Wet Meadow” has been a classic feature of the Rio Road entry to Mission Trail Nature Preserve. As such, it is essential that it be open and inviting to the public. As willows and poison oak naturally encroach, remove new sprouts
- * **Clear brush and vines from bridge structures**

MTNP Annual Work Program

Late Spring/Summer Projects: (Dry Season - April/September) Continued

* **Monitor, manage, and clear ravine drainage**

* **Improve and maintain amenities**^{Attachment 1}

Repair and upgrade bridges, signage, trail steps, benches, trash containers, gate entries, and the Rowntree Native Plant Garden

* **Remove invasive tree species**

Numerous non-native invasive tree species require constant vigilance. Acacia and eucalyptus are of primary concern

* **Mow grasses in selected areas to reduce fire fuels and control invasive species**

Schedule work at the optimum time to encourage the spread of native species

* **Remove invasive seedlings in sites cleared of invasive trees**

Bi-monthly culling of new invasive seedlings is required for the first few years while natives recolonize

* **Remove English and Cape ivy from tree trunks**

Late Summer/Fall Projects (September/November)

* **Repair stream bank erosion and clear debris to facilitate drainage**

Remove obstructions and loose materials that would block drainage channels

* **Maintain culvert pipes and box inlets to prevent flooding**

Baseline Annual Maintenance Expenditures

MTNP Baseline Maintenance Expenditures (2023/24)		<i>(a)</i> FMT \$'s	<i>(b)</i> City \$'s
	<small>Attachment 1</small>		
1	Clearing of Downed Tree Slash and Obstructed Trails	\$4,415	\$41,106
2	Removing Tree Hazards	\$3,483	\$3,802
3	Invasive Vegetation - Hand Pulling and Grubbing	\$3,428	
4	Other Ecological Forestry Wildfire Mitigation	\$5,238	\$33,810
5	Reforestation of Areas Cleared of Invasive Trees	\$6,922	
6	Trail, Bridge, and Sign Maintenance	\$6,432	\$22,814
7	Lester Rowntree Native Plant Garden Maintenance	\$5,720	\$7,906
8	Planning and Management	\$4,281	
	TOTAL	\$39,919	\$109,438

(a) FMT \$'s includes \$18,964 direct expenditure and 1,371 volunteer labor hours converted to \$20,565 at a labor rate of \$15 per hour

The Friends of MTNP (FMT) has provided \$176,000 in direct expenditures and 11,531 volunteer hours life to date

(b) Tree crew blended burden rate: \$39.61 per hour



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION Staff Report

March 13, 2025
EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS

TO: Forest and Beach Commissioners

SUBMITTED BY: Val Gaino, Environmental Analyst

SUBJECT: Presentation by the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) on E-Bikes and E-Bike Regulation

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation by the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) on E-Bikes and E-Bike Regulation.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

The increased accessibility and use of e-bikes in Carmel and surrounding areas has provided more people of all ages with the opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities in a healthy and eco-friendly way. However, there are growing concerns regarding speed limits, incidents between e-bikes and vehicles, and the regulations governing where and when e-bike riding should take place. In particular, some Carmel residents have expressed concerns about e-bike traffic in the Mission Trail Nature Preserve (MTNP). In response, new signage has been installed to clarify that bicycles are only permitted on service roads, not nature trails within the park.

At today's Forest and Beach Commission meeting, Janneke Strauss, Associate Transportation Planner for the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) will present the following:

The transportation sector remains the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in California, and electric bicycles provide an eco-friendly alternative for more people. This presentation will cover:

- What qualifies as an electric bicycle
- The benefits and challenges of e-bike use
- State and local regulations regarding e-bike riding areas
- E-bike educational programs

Environmental Evaluation

This action does not constitute a project within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act under Public Resources Code Section 21065. It has no potential to cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and therefore, does not require environmental review.

FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION Staff Report

March 13, 2025
EXTRAORDINARY BUSINESS

TO: Forest and Beach Commissioners

SUBMITTED BY: Val Gaino, Environmental Analyst

SUBJECT: Presentation by Carmel Cares on the Carmel Beach Pick Up Posse

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation from Carmel Cares on the Carmel Beach Pick Up Posse.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

Environmental Evaluation

This action does not constitute a project within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act under Public Resources Code Section 21065. It has no potential to cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and therefore, does not require environmental review.

FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION Staff Report

March 13, 2025
ORDERS OF BUSINESS

TO: Forest and Beach Commissioners

SUBMITTED BY: Val Gaino, Environmental Analyst

SUBJECT: Presentation by Integral Consulting/EMC Planning Group on Adaptation Strategies to Protect the Beach, Coastal Infrastructure, and Minimize Coastal Erosion from Storm Events and Sea Level Rise (Phase 2, Task 2 of the Coastal Engineering and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Study).

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation from Integral Consulting/EMC Planning Group on Adaptation Strategies to Protect the Beach, Coastal Infrastructure, and Minimize Coastal Erosion from Storm Events and Sea Level Rise.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

On August 2, 2022, the City Council adopted the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea's Climate Adaptation Plan and Climate Action Plan under Resolution 2022-064. Council emphasized the importance of implementing these plans and tasked the Climate Committee with overseeing the progress of various projects, including the Coastal Engineering Study and Adaptation Planning Project.

In November 2022, the City Council awarded a Professional Services Agreement to EMC Planning Group with a not-to-exceed fee of \$175,000 for the Coastal Engineering Study and Adaptation Planning Project. Integral Consulting and Haro Kasunich & Associates are subconsultants for this study.

The Consultant team reviewed several key documents to develop the project scope including:

- 2001 Coastal Development Permit for Scenic Road Armoring Repairs
- 2003 Shoreline Management Plan (Shonman and D'Ambrosio)
- 2016 Carmel Shoreline Assessment Update
- 2016 Assessments of Shoreline Improvements at Carmel Beach (Easton Geology)
- City's 2022 Climate Adaptation and Climate Action Plans

The Coastal Engineering Study and Adaptation Planning Project consists of two phases. Phase 1, now completed, was funded through the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), and included five tasks (listed below). Phase 2 is funded by a \$500,000 reimbursement grant from the California Coastal Commission and includes four tasks (listed below).

Summary of Phase 1 (Tasks 1-5):

Phase 1 – Coastal Engineering and Hazard Assessment

Technical documents for Phase 1 are available via this link ([Technical Documents](#)).

- **Task 1: Coastal Infrastructure Condition Assessment** (presented to the Forest and Beach Commission in March 2023 and the Climate Committee in November 2023).
- **Task 2: Shoreline and Beach Change Analysis – Long Term and Seasonal** (presented to the Forest and Beach Commission in August 2023 and the Climate Committee in November 2023).
- **Task 3: Shoreline and Beach Erosion Exposure Modeling** (technical memo presented to the Climate Committee and Forest and Beach Commission in February and March 2024).
- **Task 4: Coastal Hazard and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment** (executive summary and sector profile summaries presented to the Climate Committee and Forest and Beach Commission in February and March 2024)
- **Task 5: Policy Review** (memo summarizing existing coastal hazard policies, meetings with the California Coastal Commission, and staff acceptance).

Summary of Phase 2 (Tasks 1-4):

Phase 2 - Local Coastal Plan (LCP) Coastal Hazards Policy Update

- **Task 1: Public Outreach and Community Engagement** began in 2024 and the Coastal Hazards and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy Survey ([Survey Link](#)) was launched in February 2025. The survey, along with a series of public outreach efforts, aims to understand beach visitor priorities, educate the public on sea level rise and storm impacts, and introduce adaptation strategies.
- **Task 2: Adaptation Strategy Development (Matrix)**. David Revell, Ph.D., Principal, and Matt Jamieson, Project Scientist from Integral Consulting, designed a rated matrix of adaptation strategies (**Attachment #1**). These strategies represent different approaches Carmel-by-the-Sea can take to mitigate the impacts of storms and sea level rise on coastal erosion, beach width, beach access, and infrastructure like roads, utilities, and homes

The adaptation strategy matrix presentation will provide a brief overview of:

- Sea level rise and storm impact predictions for Carmel Beach
- Short and long-term threats to coastal access
- Current coastal armoring (e.g., sea walls, rock revetments, and outfalls)
- The role of beach width and infrastructure in protecting the area

The adaptation strategies are organized into 3 categories:

- Dune and sand management
- Constructed infrastructure
- Retreat or relocation

Each strategy is rated based on:

- Effectiveness in stopping erosion
- Impact on beach width, surf quality, and beach access

- Financial cost of construction and maintenance
- Likelihood of regulatory approval
- Priority timing for implementation

The strategies are rated to determine short and medium term priorities, factoring in effectiveness. Notably, vehicular access to the beach is restricted due to the loss of the Eighth Avenue dune ramp. Some strategies have been previously implemented (e.g., seasonal sand management/harvesting), while others include innovative approaches such as wave deflectors at the base of stone staircases to prevent sand scouring and offshore, underwater reefs to reduce wave energy.

While experts have designed the matrix and consulted with the California Coastal Commission, public input remains essential in prioritizing strategies best suited for implementation. Feedback from the Planning Commission, Forest and Beach Commission, City Council, community meetings, and surveys will inform future Tasks 3 and 4.

- **Task 3: Coastal Hazards Review and Policy Recommendations** (not started).
- **Task 4: Amendments to Local Coastal Program (LCP)** (not started).

Environmental Evaluation:

This action does not constitute a project within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act under Public Resources Code Section 21065. It has no potential to cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and, therefore, does not require environmental review.

FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment #1: Adaptation Strategy Matrix

Carmel Beach - Range of Potential Adaptation Strategies

Strategy Category	Strategy	Strategy Description	Priorities		Cost		Regulatory Viability	Secondary Impacts		
			Timing for Implementation	Priority Index Score (Balancing Effectiveness, Cost, and Other Criteria)	Construction	Maintenance (Including Cost Savings)		Beach Width Impacts	Environmental and Habitat Impacts: Water/Surf Quality and Ecological	Public Access and Safety
			Immediate, Short-term (5-20yr), Mid-term (10-30yr), Long-term (30yr +)	Index Score (0 - 20)	Low - \$, Medium - \$\$, High - \$\$\$	None to Low - \$, Medium - \$\$, High - \$\$\$	Viable, Likely, Less Likely	Negative, No Effect, Positive	Negative, No Effect, Positive	Negative, No Effect, Positive
Dune & Sand Management	Vegetation and landscaping to reinforce/protect terrace soil	Planting and landscaping of bluff areas to reduce bluff erosion (typically due to stormwater). May include terracing or erosion fabric on the bluff with landscaping to retain soil and vegetation	Immediate	18	\$	\$	Viable	=	+	=
Dune & Sand Management	Dune restoration	Creation of native low hummocky dunes along existing dune-backed shoreline	Immediate	18	\$	\$	Viable	+	+	=
Dune & Sand Management	Beneficial reuse of sand	Locally sourced sand available from nearby construction or dredging projects, or capture of sediment	Immediate	20	\$	\$	Viable	+	+	=
Dune & Sand Management	Living shorelines - utilize driftwood expanded dunes	Dunes with driftwood core and vegetation along existing dune-backed shoreline	Immediate	19	\$	\$	Viable	+	+	+
Dune & Sand Management	Beach nourishment of upland dune ramps	Upland sand nourishment at high priority access locations that would erode onto the beach	Short-term	20	\$	\$	Viable	+	+	+
Dune & Sand Management	Beach nourishment	Sourcing and placement of sand directly along the beach usually from offshore or navigation sources	Short-term	18	\$\$\$	\$\$\$	Depends	+	+	+
Dune & Sand Management	Sacrificial berm	Creation of low berm(s) at the backshore along the dune-backed beach. Can work with sand management/harvesting	Short-term	16	\$	\$\$\$	Likely	+	+	+
Dune & Sand Management	Sand management/harvesting	Active harvesting and movement of sand from the foreshore to the back beach and backshore to widen the beach	Short-term	15	\$	\$\$\$	Likely to Less Likely	+	-	+
Engineered Infrastructure	Monitoring and maintenance of existing structures	Program to monitor and maintain existing seawalls	Immediate	17	\$	\$\$\$	Viable	-	-	+
Engineered Infrastructure	Integrate wave deflectors into access improvements	Concrete protrusions at the base of beach stair foundations to deflect wave energy	Short-term	17	\$	\$	Likely	=	-	+
Engineered Infrastructure	Replace revetments with seawalls	Replacing existing revetments with vertical seawalls	Mid-term	16	\$\$\$	\$	Likely	+	=	=
Engineered Infrastructure	Wave tripping low structures on bedrock	Similar to a sill, built into exposed beach bedrock to reduce currents and wave energy	Mid-term	13	\$	\$\$\$	Less Likely	=	-	+
Engineered Infrastructure	Raise crest and redesign of seawalls	Raising the crest of seawalls to reduce wave overtopping, or seawall redesigns including recurved walls to redirect overtopping wave/spray	Mid-term	12	\$\$\$	\$\$\$	Likely	-	-	+
Engineered Infrastructure	Wave cut terrace augmentation	Augmentation and extension of exposed wave cut terraces	Mid-term	12	\$	\$	Less Likely	-	-	Depends
Engineered Infrastructure	Raise riprap	Adding more armoring stone to existing revetments to reduce wave overtopping	Mid-term	11.5	\$\$\$	\$\$\$	Likely	-	-	+
Engineered Infrastructure	Infill seawalls	Adding seawalls to currently unarmored sections of backshore	Mid-term	12	\$\$\$	\$	Less Likely	-	-	+
Engineered Infrastructure	Soil nail wall or tie back wall to protect bluff terrace	Shotcrete textured wall similar to the one at Pebble Beach Golf Links	Mid-term	12	\$\$\$	\$	Less Likely	-	-	+
Engineered Infrastructure	Nearshore reefs	A rubble-mound or concrete structure(s) with the crest below the water line to reduce wave energy	Mid-term	13	\$\$\$	\$\$\$	Less Likely	+	=	+
Retreat/Relocation	Transportation Realignment (pedestrian path)	Plan and implement a strategy for accommodating erosion in relation to pedestrian and vehicular access along Scenic Rd.	Long-term	17.5	Varies (\$\$)	\$	Likely	+	+	+
Retreat/Relocation	Retreat/Relocation	Plan and implement a phased relocation of infrastructure, parking lots, access ways, roadways, and homes from vulnerable locations. Includes policy on triggers related to repetitive losses, repairs, or other criteria	Long-term	17	Varies (\$\$\$+)	\$	Likely	+	+	+



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION Staff Report

March 13, 2025
ORDERS OF BUSINESS

TO:	Forest and Beach Commissioners
SUBMITTED BY:	Thomas C. Ford, Administrative Analyst
SUBJECT:	Pickleball and Tennis Policy: Consider a recommendation to the City Council regarding adoption of a policy to balance the Pickleball and Tennis activities at Forest Hill Park with the surrounding residential uses.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend City Council's approval of proposed Policy 2025-003 to balance the pickleball and tennis activities at the Forest Hill Park courts. The Policy would include a recommendation to:

- Install two permanent pickleball courts with fixed nets, purchased and maintained by the City, on one side of the Forest Hill Park courts, effectively removing one tennis court;
- Designate one side of the court for tennis-only use, painting over the pickleball striping, effectively removing two pickleball courts;
- Establish playable pickleball hours from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays;
- Establish playable tennis hours from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Sunday;
- Install automatic locks on both court entrances, if necessary, to enforce scheduled playtimes;
- Install a fence partition roughly mid-way through the courts, if necessary, to separate the pickleball and tennis areas.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

At the 12/01/2011 meeting of the Forest and Beach Commission, the Commission voted to "approve the installation of one court for pickleball; if usage is high then the other side will be painted for pickleball." Two pickleball courts were ultimately installed on the courts.

At the 09/09/2021 meeting of the Forest and Beach Commission, the Commission approved striping for two additional pickleball courts (for a total of four) to accommodate growing interest in the sport. The local pickleball resident community generously provided mobile pickleball nets for the Forest Hill Park courts. They have consistently demonstrated a courteous and proactive spirit, contributing by painting, maintaining the courts, and regularly offering to assist with landscaping around the courts.

Since 2021, the City has received an increasing number of noise complaints related to pickleball play at Forest Hill Park.

On 08/06/2024, City Council directed staff to work with the Forest and Beach Commission to “explore a policy, prior to the end of 2024, that would balance the pickleball and tennis activities at Forest Hill Park with the surrounding residential uses.”

In response to Council’s direction, Public Works staff conducted extensive public outreach, including meeting with local players and surrounding neighbors to gather input leading up to the following Forest and Beach Commission meeting.

Pickleball proponents highlighted the sport’s benefits, including its accessibility for all ages, promotion of exercise, effective use of park space for recreation, and the sense of community it fosters among both locals and visitors. Conversely, opponents expressed concerns regarding potential noncompliance with City ordinances and sound guidelines, the lack of regulated playing hours, and parking challenges caused by consistently crowded courts, especially on weekends.

At the 09/12/2024 meeting of the Forest and Beach Commission, staff presented a history of the issue, a summary of outreach, and the context of how sound is addressed throughout City policies and guidelines. The Commission recommended that staff conduct further research into possible noise-reduction measures.

In the subsequent month, staff examined approaches taken by other municipalities, including the cities of Yountville and Monterey, to reduce pickleball noise. Findings were presented at the 10/10/2024 meeting of the Forest and Beach Commission, where it was noted that many other cities have also implemented sound-reducing measures such as quiet paddles/balls, restricted hours, and the use of sound barriers or sound fencing. The Commission recommended that staff further investigate sound barriers and record basic sound measurements as a reference point.

At its 11/14/2024 meeting, the Forest and Beach Commission reviewed sound level recordings taken by staff at three locations within 100 feet of the courts, measured at the boundary lines between public and private property (**Attachment 1**). The recordings showed periodic noise spikes slightly exceeding 60 dBA, narrowly surpassing the “Normally Acceptable” residential noise range outlined in the General Plan (**Attachment 2**, Table 9.2). While the Carmel Municipal Code Chapter 8.56 (**Attachment 3**, reproduced in its entirety) provides standards for evaluating noise, its criteria are more subjective—such as Section 8.56.060, which provides the definition of a Class D Noise, and Section 8.56.070, which outlines the General Noise Standard criteria.

When sound levels were taken while tennis was played, the sound gauge did not increase higher than the ambient noise levels in the area. Although the City used high quality noise measurement equipment lent by the City’s Planning and Building Department, the staff that took the sound recordings are not sound engineers, thus their readings were to provide a ballpark gauge of the issue and as such should not be held to precise scientific scrutiny nor to directly influence policy decisions.

Staff evaluated potential strategies for minimizing sound, including restricted hours, the requirement of quiet equipment, and acoustic fencing. The latter ultimately proved costly – in the range of \$40,000 to \$60,000 – and of questionable effectiveness relative to the overall nuisance complaints of persistent sound coming from a court which is uniquely situated more than 20 feet below several surrounding homes.

In order to prepare a set of possible rules for the Forest Hill Park courts, the Commission recommended that staff seek the insight of an acoustic fence representative and to continue researching what measures other jurisdictions have taken.

Interim Rules & Challenges:

At the 12/12/2024 meeting of the Forest and Beach Commission, staff presented a number of options for interim rules, which ranged from the possibility of elimination of the sport in its entirety to the regulation of pickleball materials, playable hours, and days. Staff did not present an option for the installation of acoustic fences due to multiple challenges, including repeated requests to sales representatives which went unanswered. The Commission ultimately adopted a 90-day period of interim rules which restricted pickleball play to Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. After 90 days, the Commission would reassess their effects in March 2025.

Within days of the December 2024 meeting, temporary signs indicating the approved playable days and times were first posted and went into effect on 12/20/2024. Over the next several weeks, numerous complaints of non-compliance were reported to Public Works and the Police, to the extent that by the 01/09/2025 meeting of the Forest and Beach Commission, there was a necessity for a review of the interim rules.

Because the temporary restrictions were not codified in the Carmel Municipal Code, punitive enforcement was not possible. To address this, the Commission amended the interim plan to include locking the nets when pickleball was not permitted and adjusting hours to 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM to allow staff the ability to perform the 4:00 PM locking of nets prior to the end of their working shift. Days after the 01/09/2025 Forest and Beach meeting, staff printed official City signs designating the newly adjusted playable hours and days for pickleball.

The following month, the planned February 2025 meeting of the Forest and Beach Commission was cancelled due to winter weather. A pickleball update had been scheduled to be included in the Announcements portion of the Public Works Director's Report.

As of the publication of this staff report for the 03/13/2025 Forest and Beach Commission meeting, numerous challenges have arisen during the timeframe since the adoption of interim rules. Locking and unlocking procedures have been problematic and costly to coordinate with staff and custodial contractors, particularly on the weekends and in the event of an employee's absence or sickness. The posted rules, which had been displayed in three locations around the court on official City signage, have been reported to have been ignored on a weekly basis, as noted by staff, surrounding neighbors, and passersby. Additionally, over a dozen calls to the Police Department, and regular complaints submitted to Public Works, have continued.

In an effort to address the situation in its entirety, City staff developed a Policy whose purpose is to:

- A. "Balance the pickleball and tennis activities at Forest Hill Park with the surrounding residential uses"
- B. Comply with the City's noise standards (Carmel Municipal Code Chapter 8.56 and the General Plan, specifically the Noise Element)
- C. Be more attuned to the City's village character
- D. Align with the City's human and fiscal resources.

Staff's recommendation is predicated on addressing these four pillars.

A. Balance: The City has considered both the growing popularity of pickleball and the courts' historical use for tennis. To accommodate both sports, staff recommends designating separate, permanent sections within the courts. The tennis side will be significantly larger to meet regulation dimensions,

while the pickleball side, requiring less space, will fit within the remaining area. To clearly define these sections, staff proposes installing a full-length fence to partition the courts—ensuring one side is exclusively for tennis and the other for pickleball. Additionally, each entrance gate would be equipped with an individual automatic locking device to help enforce designated play areas.

B. Compliance: Staff is recommending two of the four pickleball courts be removed in an effort to reduce by one half the total number of pickleball-related sounds. Staff believes that entirely unregulated play may not comply with the City’s noise standards. However, by significantly regulating the use of the courts to limited days and times (Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM), staff believe the recommended amount of play and duration of play will comply with the spirit of the City’s noise standards, uphold their intent, and would therefore not be considered so harsh or prolonged as to constitute a violation (Carmel Municipal Code, Section 8.56.020 D, 8.56.060, 8.56.070).

C. Village Character: The City is sensitive to the needs of our residents and their desire for the quaint village character that collectively makes our Village so special. At the same time, the City supports recreation in its designated park spaces. To balance our quaint ideal with the realities of living near recreational courts, staff recommends allowing pickleball play for a limited schedule—three days a week for six hours each. This approach provides local residents with an opportunity to enjoy the sport while helping to prevent issues such as crowding and parking overflow that can arise from unrestricted use.

D. Resources: The City Public Works Department has a limited staff, which makes it difficult to allocate resources to physically lock and unlock nets that are privately owned and located on City property. To address this, staff recommends that the City invest in high-quality, permanent pickleball nets, with an estimated cost of approximately \$2,000. Additionally, by installing automatic-locking and unlocking mechanisms on the gates, staff believe this will significantly reduce the need for repeated in-person staff time. Staff also considers the estimated cost of a fence partitioning the two sides of the court to be reasonable, given the delicate balance we are aiming to achieve.

See **Attachment 4** for the proposed Policy 2025-003. Staff is recommending the adoption of this Policy, predicated upon the City being the sole contributor to any purchase, maintenance, or labor relating to pickleball on or around the courts.

Environmental Evaluation

This action does not constitute a project within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act under Public Resources Code Section 21065. It has no potential to cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and, therefore, does not require environmental review.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The estimated total cost for implementing the recommended Policy is \$13,000. The Forest, Parks, and Beach Operating Budget does not have sufficient funds to cover these costs in the current 2024-25 Fiscal Year. However, as budget planning is currently underway, staff intends to request this amount—plus an additional \$2,000 to account for potential inflation in materials, labor and prevailing wage (if required for delivery or installation of the partition fence)—for a total requested appropriation of \$15,000 for pickleball costs in the 2025-26 Fiscal Year.

- Two Nets: \$2,000
- Fence: \$9,000
- Automatic Locks: \$2,000

- Rules Signs: \$0 (already displayed)
 - Court Paint: \$0 (already available)
 - Contingencies: \$2,000
- Total = \$15,000

The City's Public Works crew will be able to perform the necessary painting and installation of the nets and their permanent posts into the surface of the court.

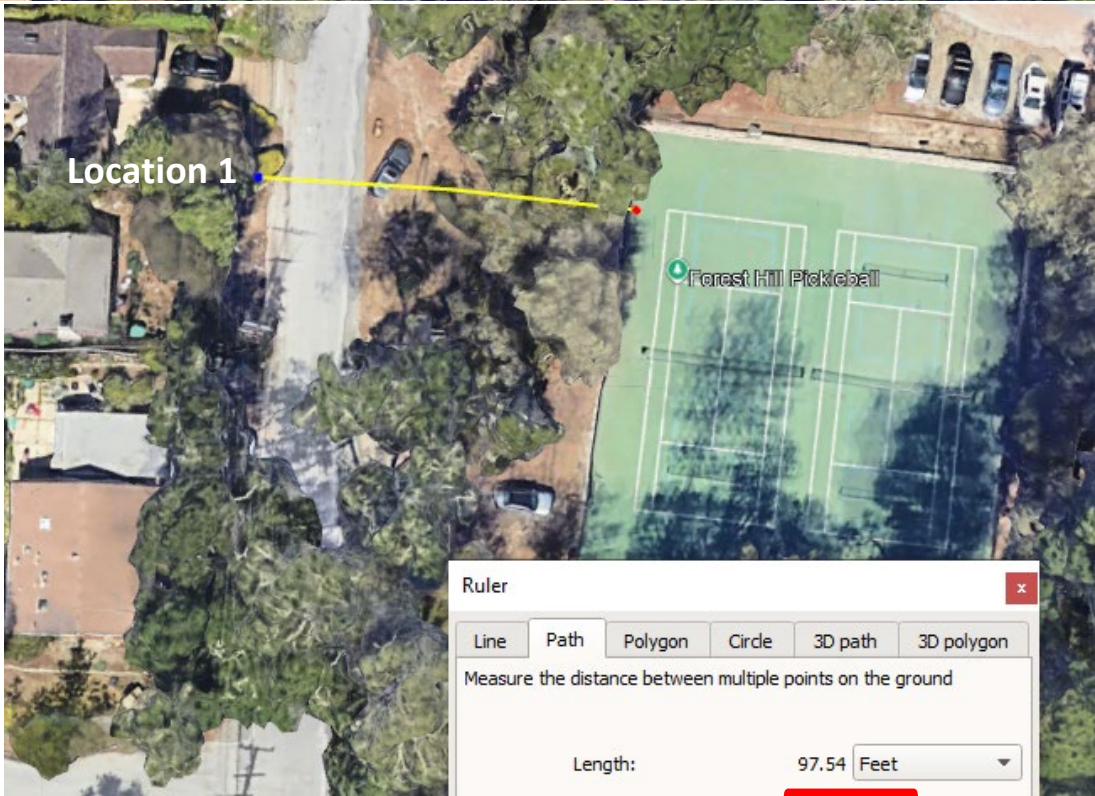
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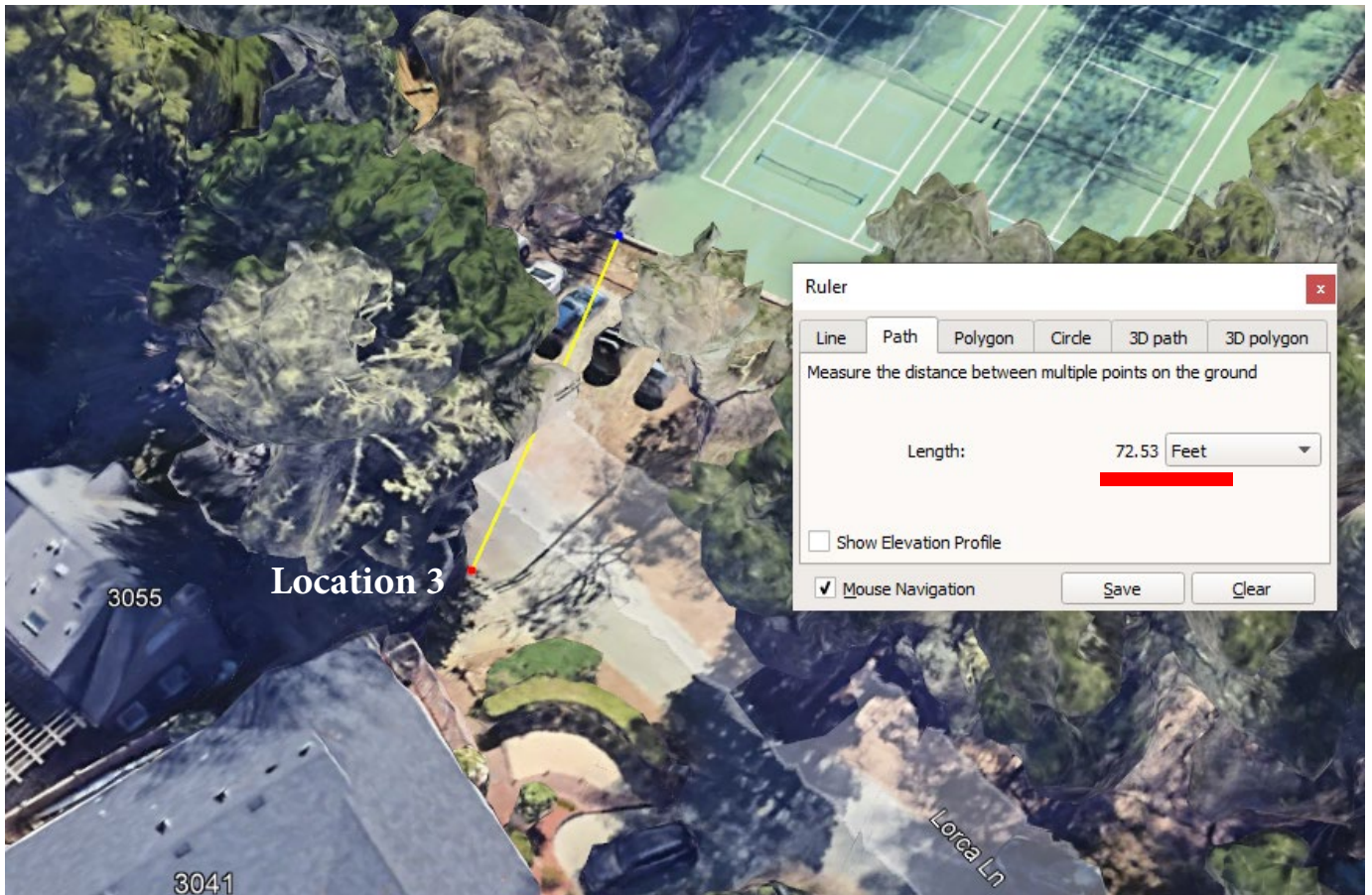
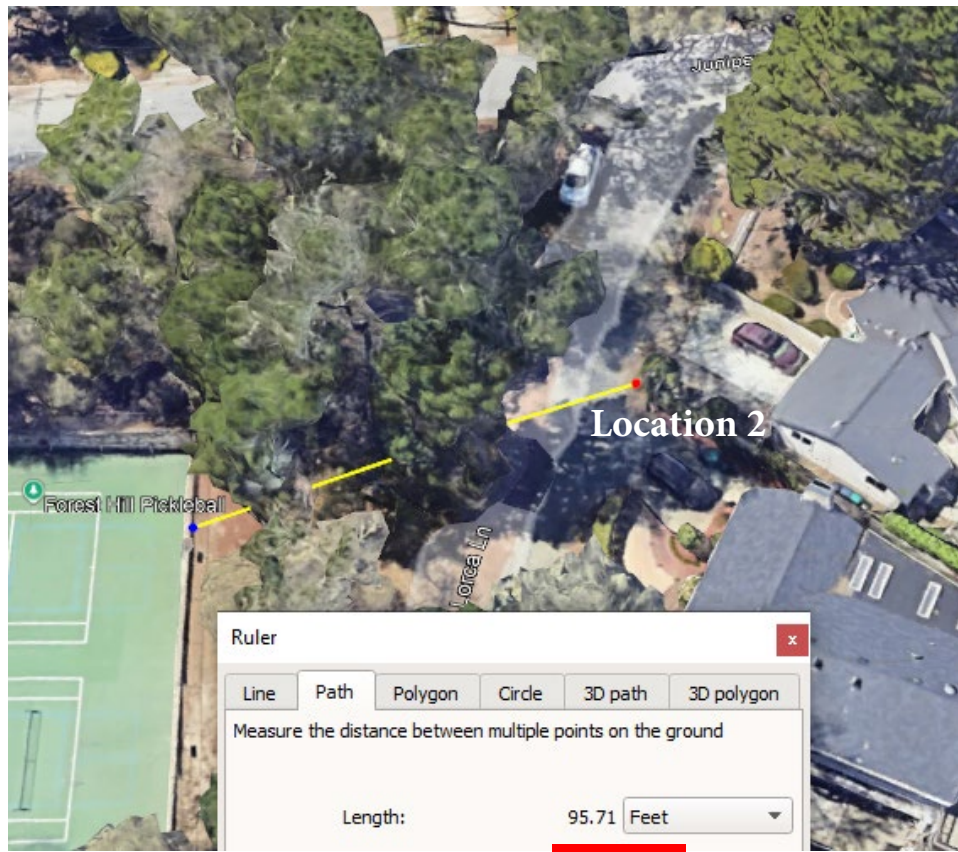
Attachment 1 - Sound Measurements, Distance to Homes

Attachment 2 - Excerpts from General Plan

Attachment 3 - CMC Ch 8.56

Attachment 4 - Proposed Policy 2025-003





Sound Measurements:

The following chart shows sound measurements taken at the same three points surrounding the court.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Number of people playing</u>	<u>Location1 dbA</u>	<u>Location2 dbA</u>	<u>Location3 dbA</u>
23-Oct	420pm	6 pickleball	52.7	57.5	60.4
28-Oct	11am	0 people	-	-	-
1-Nov	440pm	2 tennis, 8 pickleball (+2 waiting)	53.1	54.8	56.5
4-Nov	1125am	1 pickleball	51.8	57.6	56.9
4-Nov	420pm	1 pickleball	57	54.4	52.5
5-Nov	1050am	4 pickleball, 2 tennis	54.6	60.4	61.1
6-Nov	1200pm	6 pickleball	54.8	53.1	60.5 (67.2)

These measurements were taken to get a rough snapshot of what sound levels are around the court, measured at the private/public property line across the street from the courts. Each data point represents the loudest dbA “pop” measured over a 30-60 second length of time. It is notable that none of the play from tennis games resulted in increases of the sound meter above the ambient noise level, which hovers around 50 dbA.

The device used to take measurements was a sound meter lent to the Public Works Department by the Department of Planning and Building. In accordance with their practices of using this meter as a general guide regarding noise, these data presented today are not meant to be held to scientific scrutiny nor to directly influence policy, rather they should be used as guideposts to frame the conversation in lieu of hiring a professional sound engineer to complete a comprehensive analysis.

Excerpts from the General Plan:

- **Land Use & Community Character Element (Page 30, Subsection Goals Objectives and Policies, G1-2):**

“Preserve the residential village character and perpetuate a balance of land uses compatible with local resources and the environment.”

- **Open Space and Conservation Element (Page 3, Subsection Goals, Objectives and Policies, G7-2):**



General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan

Open Space and Conservation Element

G7-2 To provide accessible, safe, and well-maintained parks, open space, and active recreation facilities.

O7-2 Provide and manage a system of parks and recreation facilities that serve the needs of residents and visitors.

P7-5 Ensure that park and recreation facilities are adequately maintained to ensure safe access and use.

P7-6 Investigate and evaluate opportunities and incentives for other agencies, non-profits, private businesses, and user groups to participate in the provision, development and maintenance of parks, open space, and recreational facilities.

P7-7 Enhance and improve park facilities to accommodate a broad range of users including children and seniors.

P7-8 Maintain the City's beach, park and open space in a manner that encourages use and enjoyment by residents and visitors while protecting the aesthetic and environmental quality of these areas.

- (Page 9, Subsection Additional Information):

Forest Hill Park

The Forest Hill Park is located in the northern portion of the City. The park is divided into two distinctive lower and upper areas (see Figure 7.1: Parks, Open Space, Recreation and Community Facilities).

This park provides opportunities for active types of uses. The Forest Hill Park includes two tennis courts, basketball hoops, horseshoe pits, BBQ and picnic area, and the only City-owned children's playground. The Forest Hill Park facilities also include two restrooms, one in the upper and one in the lower area.

In addition to on-street parking, the Forest Hill Park has four on-site parking spaces located by the tennis courts.

Management of the park includes maintenance of landscaping and playground, litter removal, and occasional vandalism removal.

- **Public Facilities & Services Element (Page 2, Subsection Goals, Objectives and Policies):**



Goals, Objectives and Policies

- G 6-1 To recognize the unique social, cultural and recreational aspirations and activities which contribute to the vitality of Carmel-by-the-Sea; to provide a range of public and semi-public facilities and programs responsive to those aspirations; to provide public services to ensure each resident a safe, healthful and attractive living environment; to maintain both facilities and programs so as to exemplify the highest standards for the community.

- **Noise Element (All pages):**



NOISE ELEMENT

Introduction and Purpose

The Noise Element of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea's General Plan has been prepared pursuant to Section 65302(g) of the California Government Code. This section requires that each city's or county's General Plan shall contain a Noise Element. In preparing the Noise Element, the "Guidelines for the Preparation and Content of the Noise Element of the General Plan," prepared by the office of Noise Control, California Department of Health, have been closely followed.

The purpose of the Noise Element is to form the basis for the City's efforts in community noise control. The Noise Element is composed of the following parts:

- an evaluation of the present and future noise climate in Carmel;
- a discussion of the major noise sources in Carmel and some suggestions for their control;
- a section discussing the use of the Noise Element as a planning tool; and
- a section summarizing actions which the City can take to reduce existing noise levels and avoid future noise problems.

A major objective of the Noise Element is to provide guidelines to achieve noise compatible land uses. As such, the Noise Element is most closely related to the Land Use, Housing, Circulation, and Open Space Elements. By identifying noise sensitive land uses and establishing compatibility guidelines for land use and noise, the Noise Element influences the general distribution, location, and intensity of future land use.

The circulation system within a city is one of the major sources of continuous noise; therefore, the existing and future circulation system identified in the Circulation Element will greatly influence the noise environment. When proper planning occurs circulation routes such as major streets and highways, along with truck routes, can be located to minimize noise impact upon noise sensitive land use.

Since noise can adversely affect the enjoyment of quiet activities in open space, the Noise Element is also closely related to the Open Space Element. Conversely, open space can be used as a noise buffer between incompatible land uses. This technique can reduce community noise levels and also provide usable open space for recreation.

This element also includes some of the findings gathered through the Community Survey (Survey). The Survey was prepared as part of the public outreach process to gain a broader



response from the community, property owners, and businesses on issues facing Carmel. The complete Survey report can be found in Appendix A.

Issues of Local Significance

The greatest noise source in Carmel is the large volume of automobile traffic that travels through Carmel. Large buses, trucks and vehicles travel through residential neighborhoods and generate noise that is not in keeping with Carmel's village character. The Survey identified construction, delivery trucks, and garbage trucks as the top three most disturbing noise sources for Carmel's residents. The noise from traffic and buses was in the middle of the scale. While noises generated by animals and the business district were identified as the least disturbing. Other noise sources identified in the Survey included car alarms and leaf blowers as sources of disturbing noise, beyond an occasional, acceptable limit.

Goals, Objectives and Policies

- G9-1** Preserve Carmel's overall quiet environment; reduce noise in Carmel to levels compatible with the existing and future land uses and prevent the increase of noise levels in areas where noise sensitive uses are located.
- O9-1** Support programs to reduce community noise levels where possible to levels acceptable to the community.
- P9-1** Noise emission levels shall be considered alongside performance and cost, when purchasing City owned vehicles and construction equipment.
 - P9-2** Continuously update the noise ordinance to conform with guidelines established by the Office of Noise Control and the California Department of Health Services.
 - P9-3** The noise ordinance shall clearly address all identified sources of noise to simplify enforcement.
 - P9-4** Ensure that construction activities are managed to minimize overall noise impacts on surrounding land uses.
 - P9-5** Develop a system to monitor construction noise impacts on surrounding land uses.
 - P9-6** Develop a noise enforcement program to minimize disturbance of the community tranquility.



- P9-7** Monitor sound levels on a routine basis in order to achieve, through a noise ordinance, reduction of unacceptable noise within Carmel.
- O9-2** Consider the compatibility of proposed land uses with noise environment when preparing community plans or reviewing specific development proposals.
- P9-8** Apply the noise and land use compatibility standards as shown in Table 9.2: Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Environments to all new residential, commercial, and mixed-use proposals, including condominium conversions.
- P9-9** Require acoustical reports and evaluation of noise mitigation measures for projects that would substantially increase noise.
- P9-10** Develop standard noise mitigation measures that can be incorporated into new developments.
- P9-11** The standard noise mitigation measures shall not preclude creative solutions addressing unique situations when there are conflicts between noise levels and land use.
- O9-3** Control unnecessary, excessive and annoying noises within the City where not preempted by Federal or State control.
- P9-12** Protect residential areas from excessive noise from traffic, especially trucks and buses.
- P9-13** Establish noise performance standards for City owned equipment, air circulating and air conditioning equipment.
- P9-14** Endorse future efforts to reduce noise levels along Highway 1 to acceptable levels.
- P9-15** Continue to prohibit the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in the City.
- P9-16** Continue to maintain a truck route to limit noise impacts in the City.
- P9-17** Continue to enforce state laws regarding un-muffled or improperly muffled motor vehicles.
- P9-18** Continue to enforce the City's Live Music Ordinance limiting the sound and location of live music in the commercial districts.



Supporting Information

Noise Scales and Definitions

Sound is described in terms of the loudness (amplitude) of the sound and frequency (pitch) of the sound. The standard unit of measurement of the loudness of sound is the decibel (dB). Since the human ear is not equally sensitive to sound at all frequencies, a special frequency-dependent rating scale has been devised to relate noise to human sensitivity. The A-weighted decibel scale (dBA) performs this compensation by differentiating among frequencies in a manner approximating the sensitivity of the human ear.

Decibels are based on the logarithmic scale. The logarithmic scale compresses the wide range in sound pressure levels to a more usable range of numbers in a manner similar to the Richter scale used to measure earthquakes. In terms of human response to noise, a sound 10 dBA higher than another is perceived to be twice as loud and 20 dBA higher is perceived to be four times as loud, and so forth. Everyday sounds normally range from 30 dBA (very quiet) to 100 dBA (very loud). Examples of various sound levels in different environments are illustrated on [Figure 9.1: Sound Levels and Human Response](#).

Many methods have been developed for evaluating community noise to account for, among other things:

- The variation of noise levels over time;
- The influence of periodic individual loud events; and
- The community response to changes in the community noise environment.

[Table 9.1: Noise Descriptors](#), provides a listing of methods to measure sound over a period of time. [Table 9.2 Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Environments](#), provides a description of California noise standards for various land use categories.



Table 9.1: Noise Descriptors

Term	Definition
Decibel (dB)	The unit for measuring the volume of sound equal to 10 times the logarithm (base 10) of the ratio of the pressure of a measured sound to a reference pressure (20 micropascals).
A-Weighted Decibel (dBA)	A sound measurement scale that adjusts the pressure of individual frequencies according to human sensitivities. The scale accounts for the fact that the region of highest sensitivity for the human ear is between 2,000 and 4,000 cycles per second (hertz).
Equivalent Sound Level (L_{eq})	The sound level containing the same total energy as a time varying signal over a given time period. The L_{eq} is the value that expresses the time averaged total energy of a fluctuating sound level.
Maximum Sound Level (L_{max})	The highest individual sound level (dBA) occurring over a given time period.
Minimum Sound Level (L_{min})	The lowest individual sound level (dBA) occurring over a given time period.
Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL)	A rating of community noise exposure to all sources of sound that differentiates between daytime, evening, and nighttime noise exposure. These adjustments are +5 dBA for the evening, 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM, and +10 dBA for the night, 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM
Day/Night Average (L_{dn})	The L_{dn} is a measure of the 24-hour average noise level at a given location. It was adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for developing criteria for the evaluation of community noise exposure. It is based on a measure of the average noise level over a given time period called the L_{eq} . The L_{dn} is calculated by averaging the L_{eq} 's for each hour of the day at a given location after penalizing the "sleeping hours" (defined as 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM), by 10 dBA to account for the increased sensitivity of people to noises that occur at night.
L01, L10, L50, L90	The fast A-weighted noise levels equaled or exceeded by a fluctuating sound level for 1 percent, 10 percent, 50 percent and 90 percent of a stated time period.
Source: Cyril M. Harris, Handbook of Noise Control, 1979.	

**Table 9.2: Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Environments**

Land Use Category	Community Noise Exposure (CNEL)			
	Normally Acceptable	Conditionally Acceptable	Normally Unacceptable	Clearly Unacceptable
Residential - Low Density, Single-Family, Duplex, Mobile Homes	50 – 60	55 - 70	70-75	75-85
Residential - Multiple Family	50 – 65	60 - 70	70 - 75	70 – 85
Transient Lodging - Motel, Hotels	50 – 65	60 - 70	70 - 80	80 – 85
Schools, Libraries, Churches, Hospitals, Nursing Homes	50 – 70	60 - 70	70 - 80	80 – 85
Auditoriums, Concert Halls, Amphitheaters	NA	50 - 70	NA	65 – 85
Sports Arenas, Outdoor Spectator Sports	NA	50 - 75	NA	70 – 85
Playgrounds, Neighborhood Parks	50 – 70	NA	67.5 - 75	72.5 - 85
Golf Courses, Riding Stables, Water Recreation, Cemeteries	50 – 70	NA	70 - 80	80 – 85
Office Buildings, Business Commercial, and Professional	50 – 70	67.5 - 77.5	75 - 85	NA
Industrial, Manufacturing, Utilities, Agriculture	50 – 75	70 - 80	75 - 85	NA
CNEL = community noise equivalent level				
Source: General Plan Guidelines, Office of Planning and Research, California, October 2003.				
Notes:				
NORMALLY ACCEPTABLE - Specified land use is satisfactory, based upon the assumption that any buildings involved are of normal conventional construction, without any special noise insulation requirements.				
CONDITIONALLY ACCEPTABLE - New construction or development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements is made and needed noise insulation features included in the design. Conventional construction, but, but with closed windows and fresh air supply systems or air conditioning will normally suffice.				
NORMALLY UNACCEPTABLE - New Construction or development should be discouraged. If new construction or development does proceed, a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements must be made and needed noise insulation features included in the design.				
CLEARLY UNACCEPTABLE - New construction or development should generally not be undertaken.				
NA: Not Applicable				

Ambient Noise Measurements

To quantify existing ambient noise levels in Carmel, 11 noise measurements were conducted throughout the City on June 12, 2007. Locations of noise measurement sites were representative of typical existing noise exposure within the City of Carmel. [Figure 9.2: Noise Measurement Locations](#), shows the locations of each site. As shown in [Table 9.3: Noise Measurements](#), measured noise levels ranged from 41.4 dBA to 65.4 dBA.

**Table 9.3: Noise Measurements**

Site No.*	Location	Leq (dBA)	Time
1	Open space area at the end of Martin Road	45.1	11:13 AM
2	Guadalupe Street between 4th and 5th Avenue	41.4	11:53 AM
3	Junipero Avenue at the Police Station	44.3	12:14 PM
4a	Lincoln Avenue and Ocean Avenue at the Library	57.2	12:48 PM
4b	Lincoln Avenue and Ocean Avenue at the Library	53.6	8:40 PM
5	Scenic Drive between 8th and 9th Avenue	65.4	2:30 PM
6a	Dolores Street and 13th Avenue	45.5	2:44 PM
6b	Dolores Street and 13th Avenue	41.4	9:40 PM
7	Monte Verde Street between 11th and 12th Avenue	43.1	3:03 PM
8	Cassanova Street between 9th and 10 Avenue	58.5	3:42 PM
9	Carmelo Street between 2nd and 4th Avenue	46.2	4:08 PM
10a	Dolores and 2nd Avenue	41.6	4:48 PM
10b	Dolores and 2nd Avenue	46.3	9:20 PM
11	Construction Activity along Scenic Drive	64.6	2:00 PM
Note:			
* Noise levels were also taken during the evening per the City's requests. Site with both daytime and nighttime measurements are denoted by "a" and "b".			
Source: Noise Monitoring Survey conducted by RBF Consulting, June 12, 2007.			

The majority of the City consists of residential homes. The commercial areas within the City are concentrated along major thoroughfares such as Ocean Avenue. As indicated in the noise measurement level provided in Table 9.3: Noise Measurements, noise levels within the residential areas of the City are well below 60 dBA. The noise levels within the residential portions of the City are considered "Normally Acceptable" based upon California Standards. The highest noise levels were recorded along Scenic Drive. However, this noise also takes into account the noise generated from the Pacific Ocean in addition to traffic traveling along Scenic Drive. Based upon the noise measurements, the noise levels at the commercial areas (site 3 and 4) were well below 65 dBA, which would be considered "Normally Acceptable" for commercial and public areas.

Major Noise Sources

Control or abatement of a noise problem can typically be accomplished in any one or a combination of three ways: reduce or remove completely the noise source; protect the receiver



of the noise; or block the path between the source of the noise and the receiver to reduce the noise level. All of these options can be used to reduce the noise exposure in Carmel.

State Highway 1

The greatest generator of continuous high noise levels, Highway 1, is located east of Carmel, outside of the city limits. The noise generated by motor vehicles on Highway 1 is caused by a relatively large number of automobiles and trucks traveling at high speed. This high noise level coupled with the fact that residences are located close to the roadway results in a noise problem. The noise levels along Highway 1 in the yards of the nearest residents make conversation and normal vocal levels difficult. Even inside these homes with the windows and doors closed, highway noise is constantly audible as background level noise.

Truck and Bus Routes

Delivery trucks to the central business area of Carmel mainly use the following route: Carpenter Street, Second Avenue, Santa Fe Street, Third Avenue, Junipero Avenue, Fourth Avenue, San Carlos Street, Thirteenth Avenue and Rio road. As is shown in [Figure 9.2: Noise Measurement Locations](#) and [Table 9.3: Noise Measurements](#), noise levels along these streets ranged between 44.3 dBA (Junipero Avenue at 4th Avenue) to 45.5 dBA (Dolores Street at 13th Avenue). These noise levels are considered very low and are “Normally Acceptable” for all types of land uses, including residential uses (see [Table 9.2: Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Environments](#)). A heavy truck can generate noises as high as 88 dBA (TRBNA 2009), however, the noise measuring equipment averages noise levels recorded, resulting in a lower reading.

Tour buses traveling through Carmel have also been identified by residents as a source of noise. Tour buses are directed in a loop pattern through Carmel on Carpenter street, Second Avenue, Santa Fe Street, Third Avenue, Junipero Avenue, Eighth Avenue, San Carlos Street, Thirteenth Avenue, and Rio Road. The tour bus route is similar to the designated truck route. The main problem with trucks and buses is that in a quiet residential area the noise emitted by these vehicles contrasts sharply against the low-level background noise.

Ocean Avenue

Ocean Avenue is one of the major access arterials of Carmel. Ocean Avenue presently carries an average daily traffic of 11,322 automobiles (more during seasonal periods and weekends) with a decreasing number of motor vehicles west of the business area. Truck traffic is prohibited on Ocean Avenue from Highway 1; therefore, the section of Ocean Avenue from Highway 1 to east of the central business area is used by automobiles only. Within the business area, trucks have destinations on Ocean, Junipero, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Avenues, and San Carlos, Lincoln, Mission, Dolores and Monte Verde Streets have to travel and unload throughout the business district. Residents living adjacent to Ocean Avenue are occasionally exposed to temporary, traffic generated, high noise levels. Noise measurements recorded along Ocean



Avenue ranged from 53.6 dBA (evening) and 57.2 dBA (mid day) (see [Figure 9.2: Noise Measurement Locations](#) and [Table 9.3: Noise Measurements](#)). These noise levels are considered very low and are “Normally Acceptable” for all types of land uses, including residential uses (see [Table 9.2 Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Environments](#)).

Individual Vehicles

One of the most annoying and illegal sources of noise in any community, including Carmel, is un-muffled or improperly muffled motor vehicles. Section 27150 of the California Motor Vehicle Code requires that all vehicles be equipped with a properly maintained muffler. Section 27151 makes it illegal to modify the exhaust system of any vehicle. Enforcement of these sections of the vehicle code does not require the use of a sound level meter to prove a violation. In addition to the muffler regulations, Section 23130.5 of the Vehicle Code sets quantitative noise emission limits for different vehicle classes. Enforcement of this section requires noise monitoring equipment and trained personnel. Since almost all the vehicles that violate the quantitative limits have faulty or modified exhaust systems, it is generally more cost effective for a city to cite vehicles under sections 27150 and 27151.

Trash Pick-Up

Noise from trash pickup and compacting results from the use of hydraulic equipment which raises and lowers the metal trash bins, as well as compacts the contents. Typical noise levels range from 80 to 85 dBA at 50 feet during the raising, lowering and compacting operations. A typical trash pickup takes approximately three minutes. The higher noise levels occur during approximately one-half of the operation. The City experiences this type of noise level from existing trash pick-operation, and while this service emits much higher noise levels than its surroundings, the impact of trash pick up service would be short-term and periodic.

Street Sweepers

Because of the slow speed of the sweepers and the need to sometimes sweep opposite to the traffic flow, it is imperative that the sweepers operate when traffic is at its lowest. The nominal operating speed for a street sweeper is 5 miles per hour. This ensures a thorough pickup of debris, but can provide frustrating traffic delays during busy traffic hours. Most cities find it nearly impossible to sweep busy arterial streets or commercial areas after 7:00 AM. In residential areas the opposite is true as streets tend to have less on-street parking during normal work hours. [Table 9.4: Street Sweeper Noise Levels](#), provides representative noise levels for two types of street sweepers. As indicated in [Table 9.5: Street Sweeper Noise Levels](#), noise levels can vary between product type and operation. The noise generated by street sweepers may cause annoyance to surrounding sensitive uses. Although the sweepers result in noise levels above 60 dBA it is not a sustained noise level. The operation of street sweepers would vary and is not anticipated to significantly increase the ambient noise levels within the City.

**Table 9.4: Street Sweeper Noise Levels**

Vehicle	Idling at 10 feet	Operating at 10 feet	Idling at 75 feet	Operating at 75 feet
Schwartz Sweeper	76.7 dBA	91.2 dBA	66.1 dBA	76.7 dBA
Johnston Sweeper	66.2 dBA	88.9 dBA	55.4 dBA	73.0 dBA

Source: City of Ashland, <http://www.ashland.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=9565>, July 17, 2007.

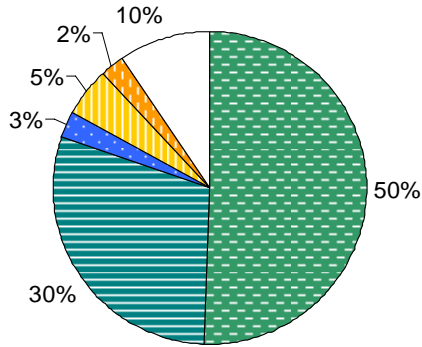
Community Perceptions About Noise

The Survey prepared as part of the General Plan update included a series of questions related to establishing community noise perception. A great majority of respondents (80 percent) perceived Carmel as a tranquil, quiet place with only occasional noise problems (64 percent). A small percentage of respondents (22 percent) believed that Carmel has an increasing noise problem. Similarly, a small percentage of respondents (22 percent) thought that the City should do more to control noise. **Graph 9.1: Noise Perception**, provides detail related to Carmel residents perception of noise.

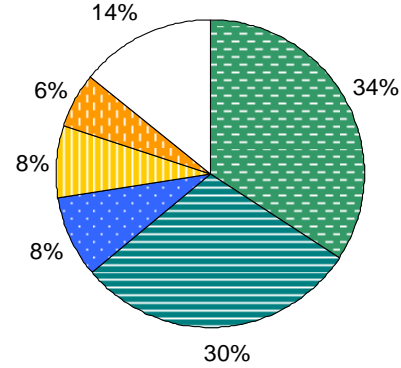


Graph 9.1: Noise Perceptions

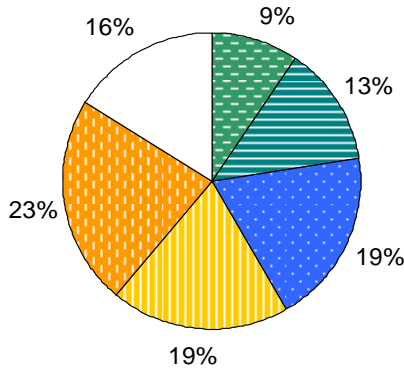
Tranquil, Quiet Place



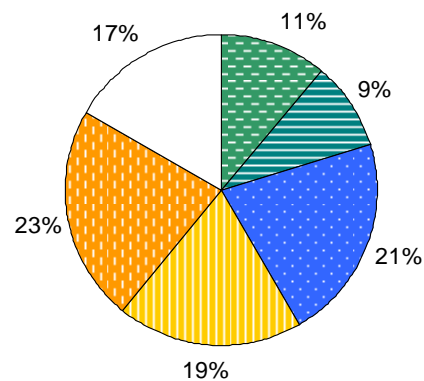
Occasional Noise Problems



Increasing Noise Problems



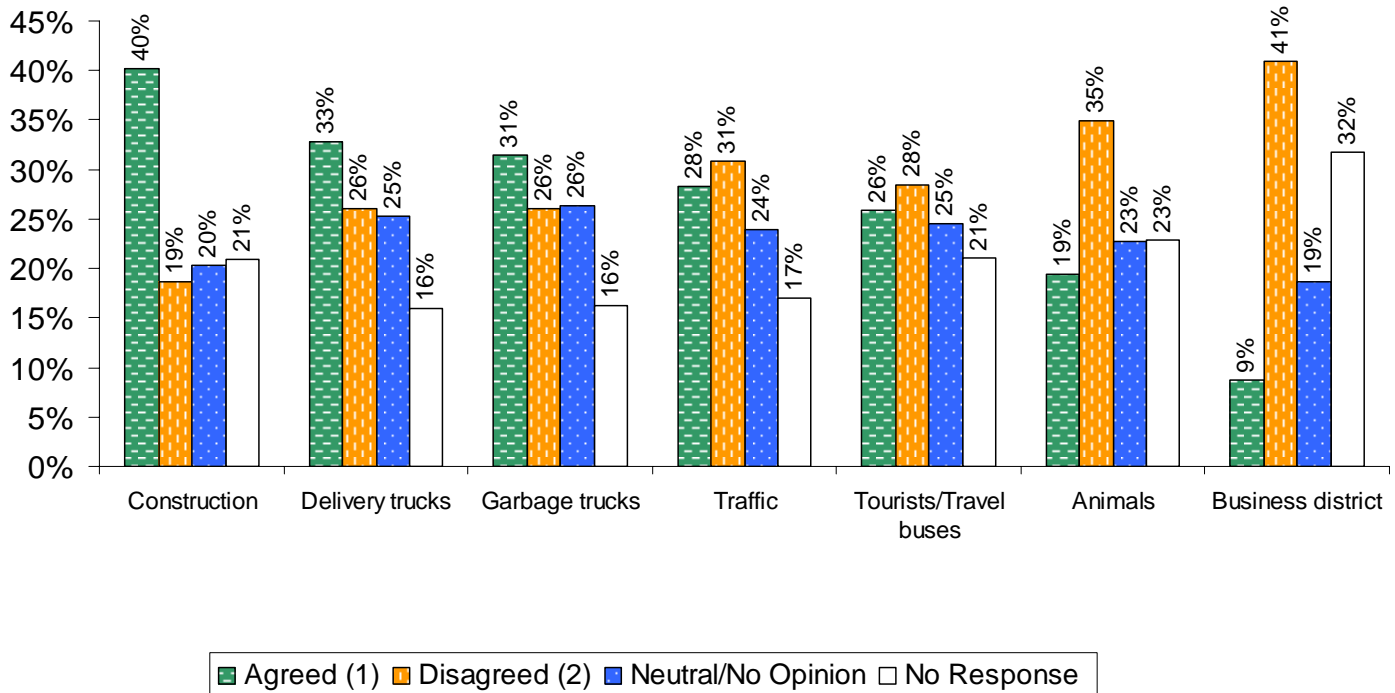
Increase Noise Control



Construction, delivery trucks, and garbage trucks were identified as the top three most disturbing noise sources in Carmel. The noise from traffic and buses was in the middle of the scale, while noises generated by animals and the business district were identified as the least disturbing (see [Graph 9.2: Disturbing Noise Sources](#)). In addition, the narrative portion of responses also identified car alarms and leaf blowers as sources of disturbing noise, beyond an occasional, acceptable limit.



Graph 9.2: Disturbing Noise Sources



Notes:

- (1) Agreed category for this graph combines the results of the strongly agreed and somewhat agreed categories. For a detailed breakdown of these categories, please refer to Appendix A.
- (2) Disagreed category for this graph combines the results of the strongly disagreed and somewhat disagreed categories. For a detailed breakdown of these categories, please refer to Appendix A.

A lot of the miscellaneous noises above were identified as common problem in Carmel. Power saws, leaf blowers and other assorted power tools (such as branch shredders and street sweepers operated by the City) are often annoying to neighbors. The variety of power tools in use and because some are used exclusively outdoors, makes enforcement of fixed noise emission limits difficult. The hours during which these tools are used, however, can be regulated. Other activities which generate noise, and which may cause annoyance, include amplified music, public address systems, and refuse collection and are best controlled through the adoption of a quantitative community noise ordinance.

The Noise Element as a Planning Tool

The noise measurements for Carmel provide baseline information that will be very useful in the City's planning efforts. Some of the more important uses follow.



Exterior Noise Levels and Land Use Compatibility

Over the years many studies have been performed to determine how much noise is acceptable for different land uses. Table 9.2: Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Environments summarizes this information. The table indicates that there is often a large range of exterior noise levels for which a land use could be made compatible if the necessary noise reduction features are included in the design of the project. The land use compatibility table used in conjunction with the noise measurements will, therefore, provide additional input into the decision making process. Proposals to rezone parcels, for example, can be quickly evaluated for any potential conflicts with the existing noise environment.

Noise Ordinance

Section 8.56 of the City's Municipal Code includes a Noise Ordinance. The purpose of this ordinance is to prohibit unnecessary, excessive and annoying noises from all sources in the City and provide guidance as to what uses fall within this group. The standards used in determining if a noise is a nuisance include, but are not limited to:

- The volume, intensity, and duration of the noise;
- The number of persons affected by the noise;
- The use and zoning of the area within which the noise emanates;
- The time of day or night the noise occurs;
- Whether the origin of the noise is natural or unnatural;
- Whether the noise is recurrent, intermittent, or constant; and
- Whether the noise is produced by a commercial or a noncommercial activity.

The Noise Exposure Contours and the California Noise Insulation Standards

The California Noise Insulation Standard for Multi-Family Dwellings (Title 25 of the California Government Code) requires an acoustical report for dwellings proposed in areas where the CNEL exceeds 60 dBA. The purpose of the acoustical report is to demonstrate the manner by which the development will meet the standards for interior noise levels.

Noise Mitigation Measures

In some situations it is necessary to construct noise sensitive developments (e.g. residential, schools, hospitals) in noisy areas. In those cases noise control engineering can be used to help mitigate noise impacts in a way that does not interfere with structural, architectural, or building code requirements. The measures or combinations of measures used to mitigate noise fall into four major categories: site planning, architectural layout, noise barriers, and construction modifications. Noise mitigation measures should also be assessed against other community values such as open space, aesthetics, maintenance problems, etc. Each project has its own special problems, and mitigation measures, which are cost effective for one project, may not be



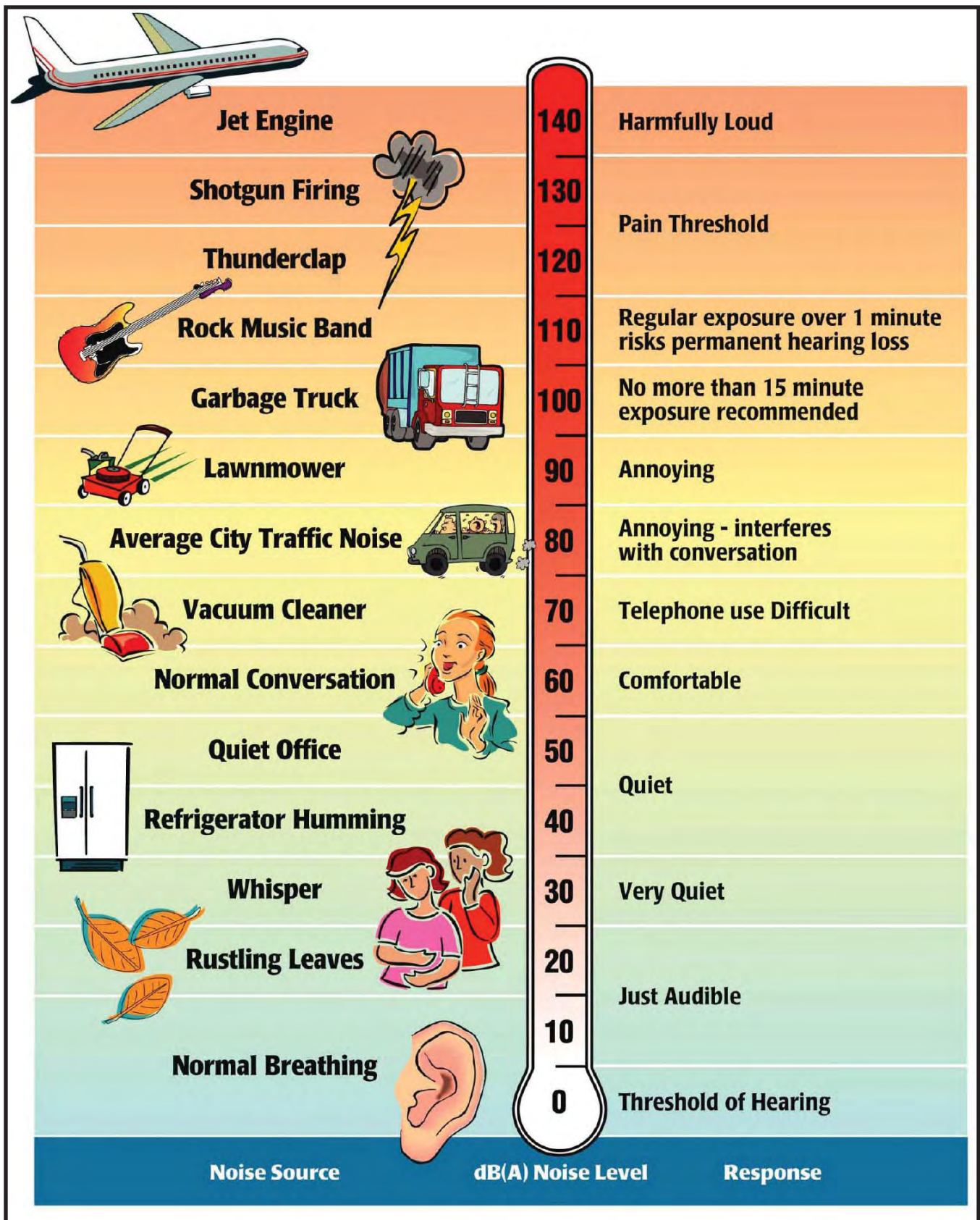
for another. Regardless of the measures employed for a project, mitigation is generally cheaper and more effective if it is addressed during the design phase.



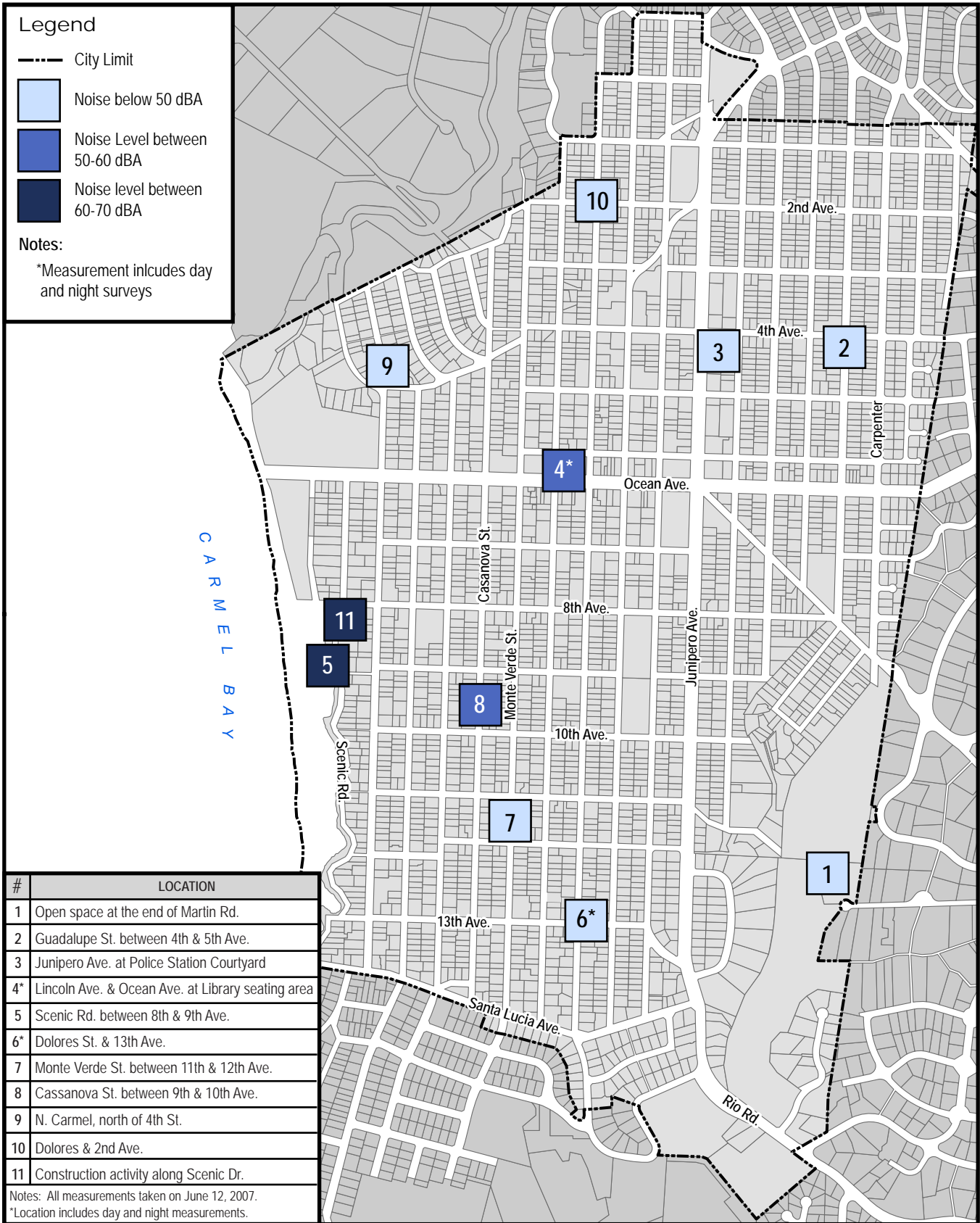
Noise Element References

RBF Consulting, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea Noise Measurements, July 2007. (RBF 2007)

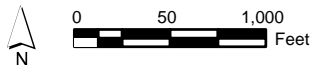
Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, *Vehicle Noise Sources and Noise-Suppression* <<http://pubsindex.trb.org/document/view/default.asp?lbid=40119>>. Accessed April 15th, 2009. (TRBNA 2009)



Source: Melville C. Branch & R. Dale Beland (1970), Environmental Protection Agency (1974)



Source: RBF Consulting (2007)



04/03/2009 JN 70-100077

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Noise Measurement Locations

Figure 9.2

Chapter 8.56
NOISE REGULATION

8.56.010 Declaration of Policy.

It is declared to be the policy of the City to prohibit unnecessary, excessive and annoying noises from all sources subject to its police power. At certain levels, noises are detrimental to the health and welfare of the citizenry and in the public interest shall be systematically proscribed. The purpose of this legislation is to secure and promote the public health, comfort, safety and welfare and to protect the rights of citizens of the community to privacy and freedom from public nuisance of loud and unnecessary noise. (Ord. 80-4 § 1, 1980; Code 1975 § 699.60).

8.56.020 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise clearly indicates, the words and phrases used are defined as follows:

- A. "Class A noise" includes noise created by and emanating from equipment operated in the public interest or for emergency or safety purposes. Such equipment includes, but is not limited to, sirens, street sweepers, spray rigs, chipper machines, garbage trucks or public utility equipment. Equipment operated by private persons working in the public right-of-way in nighttime or early morning hours in order to avoid blocking traffic in daylight hours is deemed to be operated in the public interest, unless declared not to be in the public interest by the City Administrator.
- B. "Class B noise" includes noise created or generated within or adjacent to residential property which is necessary and normally associated with property maintenance and construction. Class B noise includes, but is not limited to, noise created by power equipment and tools, appliances, workshops, vehicle repairs and testing and construction projects.
- C. "Class C noise" includes noise created or generated from motorized or mechanical equipment or devices used in sporting, recreational and hobby activities and includes, but is not limited to, motor-equipped minibikes, go-carts, motorcycles operating off public rights-of-way, drag races, model planes and cars.
- D. "Class D noise" includes unnecessary, unnatural or unusual noises or sounds created by means of human voice or animal outcry, or by any other means or methods which are so annoying, or which are so harsh or prolonged, as to be injurious to the health, peace and comfort of any reasonable person of normal sensitiveness working, residing or otherwise occupied in the area.
- E. "Commercial purpose" means and includes the use, operation or maintenance of any sound-amplifying equipment for the purpose of advertising any business, or any goods, or any services, or for the purpose of attracting the attention of the public to, or advertising for, or soliciting patronage or customers to or for any performance, show, entertainment, exhibition or event.

F. "Motor vehicles" includes, but is not limited to, minibikes and go-carts.

G. "Noncommercial purpose" means the use, operation or maintenance of any sound equipment for other than a "commercial purpose." "Noncommercial purpose" means and includes, but is not limited to, philanthropic, political, patriotic, and charitable purposes.

H. "Person" means a person, firm, association, copartnership, joint venture, corporation, or any entity, public or private in nature.

I. "Sound-amplifying equipment" means any machine or device for the reproduction or amplification of the human voice, music, or any other sound, but does not include standard automobile radios or other sound-reproducing devices when used or heard only by the occupants of the vehicle in which installed, nor any warning or alerting devices on authorized emergency vehicles or horns or other warning devices on any vehicle used only for traffic safety purposes.

J. "Sound truck" means any motor vehicle or any other vehicle or conveyance regardless of motive power, whether in motion or stationary, having mounted thereon, attached thereto or carrying any sound-amplifying equipment, excepting trucks or other vehicles of any public agency or public utility when in use by such public agency or public utility. (Ord. 2018-03 § 1 (Exh. A § 2), 2018; Ord. 80-4 § 1, 1980; Code 1975 § 699.61).

8.56.030 Class A Noise.

The creation and emission of Class A noise as defined in this chapter are specifically exempt from the provisions of this chapter. (Ord. 80-4 § 1, 1980; Code 1975 § 699.65).

8.56.040 Class B Noise.

It shall be unlawful to create and emit Class B noise as defined in this chapter between the hours of 6:30 p.m. of one day and 8:00 a.m. of the following day. (Ord. 2018-03 § 1 (Exh. A § 3), 2018; Ord. 2006-03 § 1, 2006; Ord. 80-4 § 1, 1980; Code 1975 § 699.66).

8.56.050 Class C Noise.

It shall be unlawful to create and emit Class C noise as defined in this chapter between the hours of 9:00 p.m. of one day and 7:00 a.m. of the following day. The operation of equipment or devices which create or generate Class C noise shall be performed at sufficient distances away from residential property so that persons of normal sensitiveness at such residential locations are not unreasonably disturbed by the noise of the equipment or devices. The conduct and operation of any public event, whether commercial or noncommercial in nature, is excluded from the restrictions of this section. (Ord. 80-4 § 1, 1980; Code 1975 § 699.67).

8.56.060 Class D Noise.

It shall be unlawful for any person to make or cause, or permit to be made or caused, upon any public or private property, or upon any public street, road, lane, alley or thoroughfare, any Class D noise as defined in this chapter. (Ord. 80-4 § 1, 1980; Code 1975 § 699.68).

8.56.070 General Noise Standard.

The standards which shall be considered in determining whether a violation of the provisions of this chapter exists shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

A. The volume and intensity of the noise;

B. The number of persons affected by the noise;

C. The volume and intensity of the background noise, if any;

D. The use and zoning of the area within which the noise emanates;

E. The time of day or night the noise occurs;

F. Whether the nature of the noise is usual or unusual;

G. The proximity of the noise to residential sleeping facilities;

H. The density of the inhabitation of the area within which the noise emanates;

I. Whether the origin of the noise is natural or unnatural;

J. The duration of the noise;

K. Whether the noise is recurrent, intermittent, or constant;

L. Whether the noise is produced by a commercial or a noncommercial activity. (Ord. 80-4 § 1, 1980; Code 1975 § 699.69).

8.56.080 Combustion Engine Blower.

The operation of a combustion engine blower for the purpose of displacing, removing or blowing any materials from or about public or private property in a manner which allows the engine to be heard on public property or causes the materials to be blown into the air in a manner which allows them to settle on public property or on private property not belonging to the same owner of the property on which the blower is being operated is declared to be a public nuisance and unlawful. (Ord. 92-17 § 1, 1992; Ord. 80-4 § 1, 1980; Code 1975 § 699.70).

8.56.085 Sound Reproduction or Broadcasting Equipment.*

A. Except as provided in this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to operate or cause to be operated in the City any sound reproduction or broadcasting equipment in such manner as to cause sound to be projected therefrom outside of any building or out of doors within the corporate limits of the City.

B. Exceptions. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the following:

1. Sound reproduction within automobiles for the pleasure and entertainment of the occupants of such automobiles; provided, however, that the sound reproduction shall not be amplified beyond a distance of 50 feet from the vehicle as defined in the California Vehicle Code, Section 27007;
2. The operation of sound reproduction or broadcasting equipment within any dwelling for the pleasure and entertainment of the occupants of such dwelling; provided, however, that the sound reproduction shall not be amplified beyond the reasonable necessities of the occupants of such dwelling;
3. The use of such equipment outside of automobiles or dwelling houses between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on private property in R-1 district, or on property zoned P-1 or P-2 within the City, for the private entertainment of people within a range of 25 feet from such equipment, and amplified only to the degree suitable for the enjoyment of people within a range of 25 feet;
4. The use of such equipment in connection with the outdoor performances at the Forest Theater; provided, that the amplification of sound not exceed that reasonably needed for the reasonable enjoyment of patrons of the Forest Theater seated therein;
5. The use of such equipment for bona fide rehearsals at the Forest Theater, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.; provided, that the sound be amplified no louder than that needed for a performance at such theater;
6. The use of such equipment by duly authorized agents of the City, or other governmental bodies, or their agents. (Ord. 90-7 § 1, 1990; Ord. 88-2 § 2 (Exh. B), 1988).

8.56.090 Residential Units in Commercial District.

Noise generated by or from business operations or about business premises, between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., which noise can be heard inside apartments, condominiums, or other residential units and is of a character which prevents a reasonable person of normal sensitiveness from quietly enjoying the premises, including sleeping therein, is deemed to be Class D noise and is prohibited. (Ord. 80-4 § 1, 1980; Code 1975 § 699.71).

8.56.100 Violations – Infractions.

Any person violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of an infraction. Each day such violation is committed or permitted to continue shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punishable as such. (Ord. 80-4 § 1, 1980; Code 1975 § 699.62).

8.56.110 Violations – Additional Remedies – Injunctions.

As an additional remedy, the operation or maintenance of any device, instrument, vehicle or machinery in violation of any provision of this chapter, which operation or maintenance causes discomfort or annoyance to reasonable persons of normal sensitiveness or which endangers the comfort, repose, health or peace of residents in the area, shall be deemed, and is declared to be, a public nuisance and may be subject to abatement summarily by a restraining order or injunction issued by a court of competent jurisdiction. (Ord. 80-4 § 1, 1980; Code 1975 § 699.63).

City of Carmel-by-the-Sea

POLICY REGULATING USAGE OF THE TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURTS IN FOREST HILL PARK

Statement of Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish a balanced approach to the use of the Forest Hill Park courts for both pickleball and tennis while addressing neighboring concerns related to noise, scheduling, and enforcement. This policy ensures that both sports remain accessible to the community while minimizing impacts on surrounding residential areas.

Policy:

To achieve this balance, the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea shall implement the following measures at the Forest Hill Park courts:

Court Designation:

The courts shall be permanently divided into designated areas for tennis-only and pickleball-only use. The City shall install two permanent pickleball courts with fixed nets on one side of the courts, effectively removing one tennis court. The other side of the courts shall be reserved for tennis-only use, with the removal of pickleball striping, effectively eliminating two pickleball courts.

Scheduled Play Hours:

Pickleball play shall be permitted only on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Tennis play shall be permitted daily from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Noise and Compliance Measures:

If necessary, automatic locks shall be installed on both court entrances to regulate access and enforce scheduled playtimes. A fence partition may be installed roughly near the midpoint of the courts, ensuring the tennis area is slightly larger to accommodate the larger court dimensions. The purpose of this partition is to provide a clear separation between the pickleball and tennis areas and to facilitate compliance with the designated play areas.

City Resources and Maintenance:

The City shall be responsible for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of pickleball nets, fencing, and any necessary locking mechanisms. The Public Works Department shall oversee the implementation of these measures and ensure ongoing compliance with the policy.

This policy is intended to promote fair access to recreational opportunities while reducing noise concerns, promoting compliance with City noise standards, and maintaining the village character of Carmel-by-the-Sea.



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION Staff Report

March 13, 2025
ORDERS OF BUSINESS

TO: Forest and Beach Commissioners

SUBMITTED BY: Justin Ono, City Forester

SUBJECT: February 2025 Forester's Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the February 2025 Forester's Report

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

Forester's Report



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

Monthly Report

City Forester's Report

TO: Forest and Beach Commissioners
FROM: Justin Ono, City Forester
SUBJECT: February 2025 Forester's Report

Forestry, Parks, and Beach Highlights:

Carmel Forest Master Plan (CFMP):

- Selected consultant (Dudek) to lead the environmental review of our draft update to the Carmel Forest Master Plan. Currently working on their contract.

Contractors:

- West Coast Arborists issued task orders to remove all logs from Rio Park, as well as to clean up Forest Theater. Scope includes removal of several large stumps dead and broken trees, as well as general pruning throughout the property in preparation for the season opening.
- Tope Tree Service finishing task order for 40 dead, dying, and poor trees.
- Community Tree Service issued task order for 15 dead trees and large stumps previously used as Utility Poles.

City Staff and Crews:

- Forestry Maintenance Worker Rene Aldama attained his Arborist Certification from the International Society of Arboriculture, enhancing the professionalism and expertise of the division.
- Welcomed new maintenance worker Miguel Manzano to the City Forestry Crew. Miguel has over 18 years of tree work experience with local company Smith Tree Service.
- City Forestry Crew removed 10 dead, dying, or dangerous trees and pruned 22 trees providing clearance for roads and stop signs, as well as maintaining tree health.
- City Crew responded to multiple storm events removing an additional 3 trees that had failed or were damaged in the storm.
- City Crew removed 3 trees to facilitate a CAWD pipe repair at 2nd Ave and Mission Street.

Permit Information

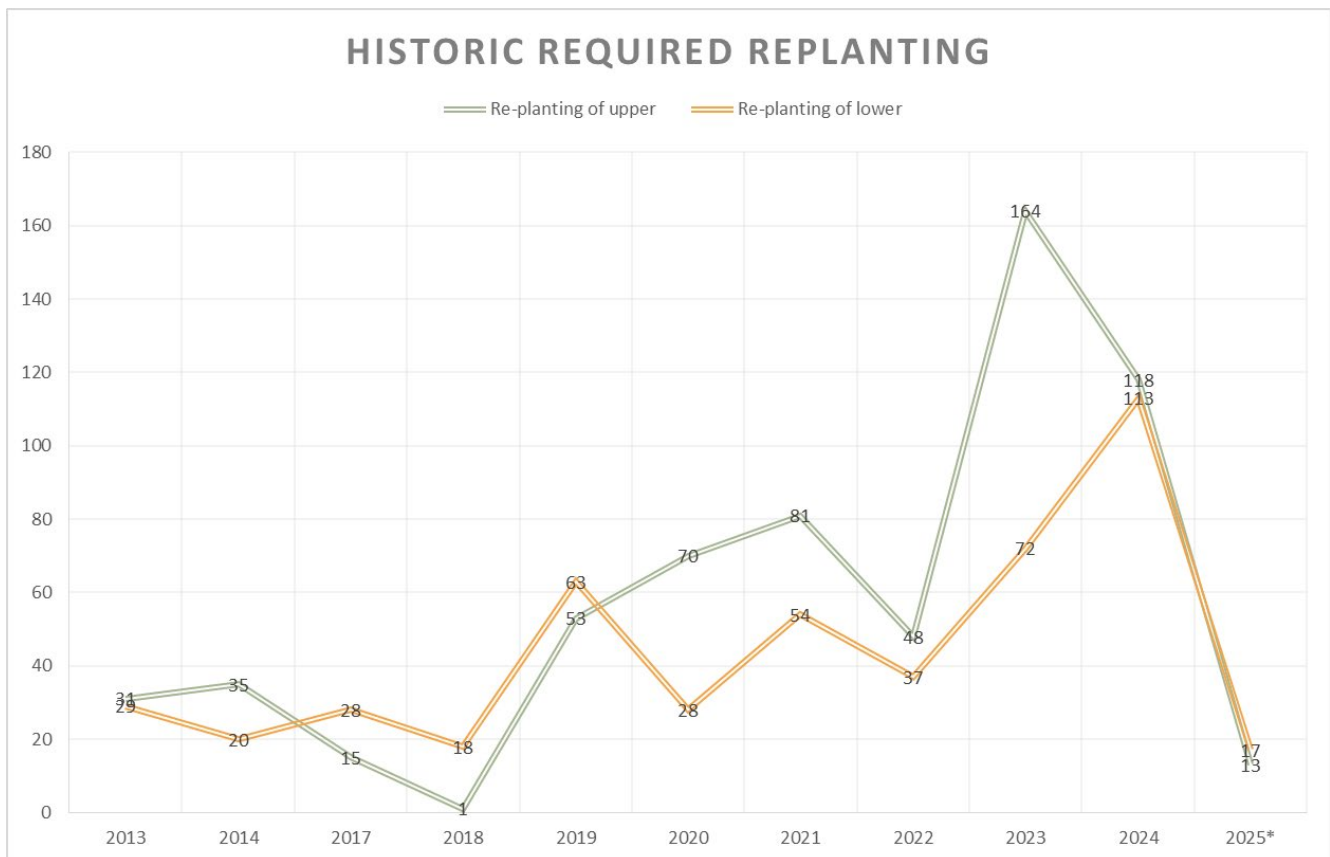
2025 Permitted removals, pruning, and required planting												
	Tree permits received	Tree permits Issued	Site Inspections Performed	Total Prunings	Total Removals	Removal of Upper	Removal of Lower	Required to Plant Upper	Required to Plant Lower	No room for new tree	Meets Density Rec.	Total Number of Trees Required
January	43	26	9	10	18	12	6	7	9	0	2	16
February	29	13	8	15	15	9	6	6	8	0	0	14
March												
April												
May												
June												
July												
August												
September												
October												
November												
December												
2024 Totals	72	39	17	25	33	21	12	13	17	0	2	30

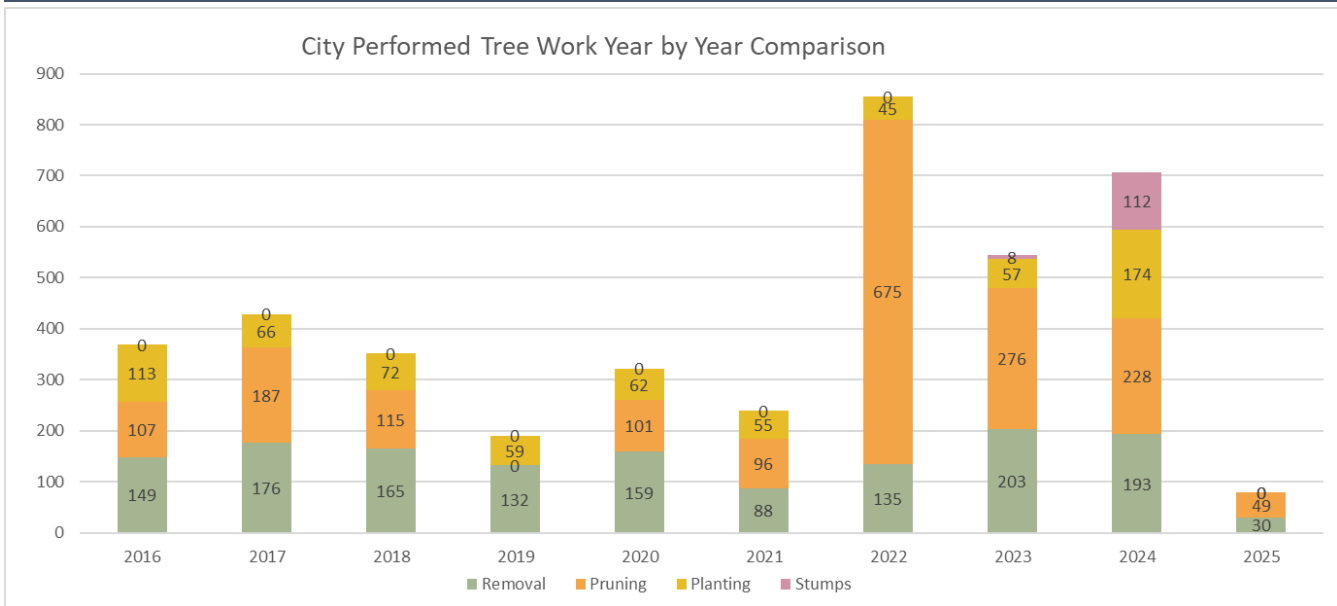


Historic permitted removals and required planting		
	Re-planting of upper	Re-planting of lower
2013	31	29
2014	35	20
2017	15	28
2018	1	18
2019	53	63
2020	70	28
2021	81	54
2022	48	37
2023	164	72
2024	118	113
2025*	13	17

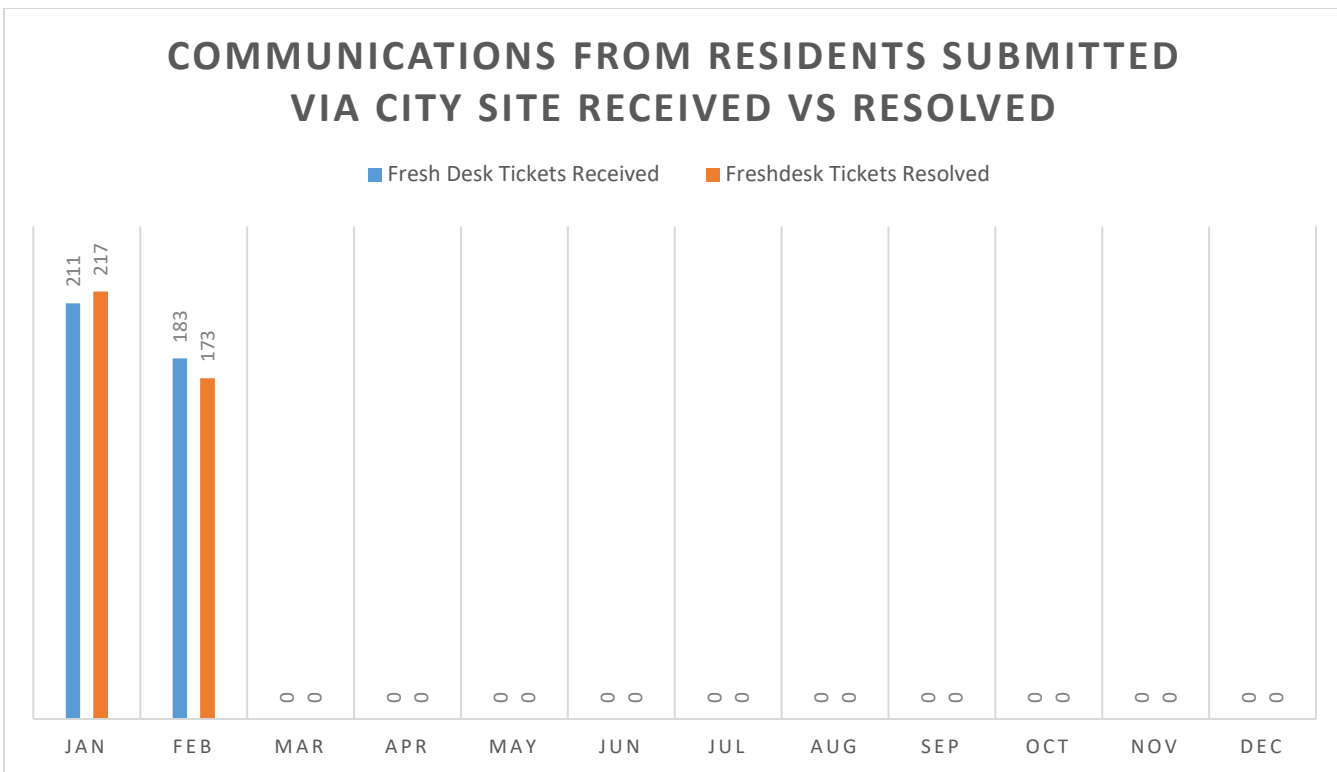
*Year to date

Historic permitted removals and required planting								
Year	Permitted removals	Removal of upper	Removal of lower	Replanting Required	Replanting of upper	Replanting of lower	Replanting %	Applications processed
2021	204	81	123	135	81	54	66.18%	213
2022	149	82	67	85	48	37	57.05%	155
2023	324	211	113	223	164	72	68.83%	336
2024	231	110	121	231	118	113	100.00%	391
2025	33	21	12	30	13	17	90.91%	72





Calendar year to date – Includes work performed by City crew as well as on call tree contractors.



*Numbers only represent correspondences received via the City’s website and do not include live calls, voicemails, drop-in visitors, and emails sent directly to employees from residents, nor return calls and emails from staff.

Master Plan Inventory Catch up

ORIGINAL LIST PRESENTED TO COUNCIL (2024)							
	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Very Poor</u>	<u>Dead</u>	<u>Totals</u>
<u>PROW</u>	119	4,827	4,886	726	127	186	10,871
<u>Median</u>	17	44	15	2	3	5	86

MARCH 2025							
	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Very Poor</u>	<u>Dead</u>	<u>Totals</u>
<u>PROW</u>	119	4,827 (+73)	4,886 (+29-9)	717 (-9)	122 (-5)	143 (-43)	10905*
<u>Median</u>	17	182 (+138)	180 (+165-2)	24 (+22-2)	5 (+3-1)	6 (+1)	410*

*not including trees labeled as "N/A" condition.

Differences from numbers presented to council in 2024. Not including ~1000 trees added.

February 2025 decline in Health of tree removals						
	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Very Poor</u>	<u>Dead</u>
<u>Excellent</u>						
<u>Good</u>		3				1
<u>Fair</u>			3			3
<u>Poor</u>				3		1
<u>Very Poor</u>					1	1

*Good and Fair trees either failed or broke in storms, or were part of a utility project. Y-axis represents condition at time of inventory.