



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

Forest and Beach Commissioners Sarah Berling,
Kelly Brezoczky, Tamara Michie, Harry Ross, 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, August 20, 2026
2:30 PM**

**Tour 1:30 PM
Meeting 2:30 PM**

HYBRID MEETING ATTENDANCE OPTIONS

This meeting will be held in person and via teleconference ("hybrid"). 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 also watch the live stream on the City's YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/@CityofCarmelbytheSea/streams>. To participate in the meeting via Zoom, copy and paste the link below into your browser.

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://ci-carmel-ca-us.zoom.us/j/85699142476>
Webinar ID: 856 9914 2476
Passcode: 773037
Join by phone: (253) 215-8782

HOW TO OFFER PUBLIC COMMENT

The public may give public comment at this meeting in person, or use 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 at least 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.

TOUR OF INSPECTION

Prior to calling the meeting to order, the Board/Commission will conduct an on-site tour of inspection of the properties listed on the agenda and the public is welcome to join. After the tour is complete, the Board/Commission will begin the meeting in the City Council Chambers no earlier than the time noted on the agenda.

Leadership Carmel instrument demonstration at Forest Hill Park at 1:30 pm.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL - CHAMBERS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

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 Chair. While stating your name is optional, it helps to identify speakers in the meeting minutes. 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. Remote or in-person participants who do not comply with the requirements of the Brown Act will be muted.

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 Board/Commission discussion and/ or for public comment. Unless that is done, one motion may be used to adopt all recommended actions.

- 1) Approve the July Forest and Beach Commission Meeting Minutes.

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

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

- 2) Leadership Carmel Class of 2026 Project Demonstration
- 3) July 2026 Forester's Report
- 4) CFMP CEQA Update

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 5) Directors Report for July 2026

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

August 20, 2026
CONSENT AGENDA

TO: Forest and Beach Commission

SUBMITTED BY: Yvette Culver, Administrative Coordinator

APPROVED BY: Shari Carlet, MSCE, Acting Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Approve the July Forest and Beach Commission Meeting Minutes.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the July meeting Minutes.

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY:

None

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

1. FB Meeting Minutes July 9 2026

FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
July 9, 2026

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Berling, Michie, Ross, Rutta
ABSENT: Brezoczky
STAFF PRESENT: Shari Carlet, Acting Public Works Director
Justin Ono, City Forester
Rene Aldama, Assistant City Forester
Yvette Culver, Commission Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Michie led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Updates on the operations for the July 4th weekend. Public Works was well prepared with no issues reported.

Commissioner Ross gave an update on the signage on Scenic; they are currently waiting for the production sample to come back from the manufacturer. They hope to post them as a prototype. Shirley Moon will keep the Forest and Beach Commission updated.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Smith

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approve the Meeting Minutes for the June 9, 2026, meeting.

Commissioner Rutta moved to approve the Meeting Minutes for the July 9, 2026, Meeting seconded by Commissioner Berling and carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Berling, Michie, Ross, Rutta
NOES: Brezoczky
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

- Receive an update on the monthly Foresters Report for June 2026

SPEAKERS

Justin Ono, City Forester

PUBLIC COMMENT

Christy Ramers

Victoria Beach

Linda Smith

- Tree Fine Discussion

SPEAKERS

Justin Ono, City Forester

Neal Rutta, Forest and Beach Commissioner

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Review the Public Works Monthly Directors Report.

SPEAKERS

Shari Carlet, Acting Public Works Director

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Smith

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Carmel Forest Master Plan updates

Beach hardening

Carmel Cares Beach presentation

Leadership Carmel update

APPROVED: ATTEST:

Tamara Michie, Chair

Yvette Culver, Commission Clerk



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
Forest and Beach Commission
Staff Report

August 20, 2026
ORDERS OF BUSINESS

TO: Forest and Beach Commission

SUBMITTED BY: Justin Ono, City Forester

APPROVED BY: Shari Carlet, MSCE, Acting Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Leadership Carmel Class of 2026 Project Demonstration

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation on Leadership Carmel's 2026 Class project

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY:

FISCAL IMPACT:

None at this time.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Aug20 Leadership Presentation(2) (2)



LEADERSHIP CARMEL

CARMEL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

Harmony Habitat

Enhancing the Playground at Forest Hill Park

An Outdoor Music Garden for Carmel

Bringing youth, music, and the outdoors together

RECAP OF PREVIOUS MEETING



- ◆ Harmony Habitat is a collection sculptural musical instruments made by the American company FreeNotes. Leadership Carmel class of '26 is bringing this legacy gift to fruition to offer creativity to our village. With collaboration of Public Works, these chosen instruments spark interest & connection with the natural environment. The instruments create balance within the harmony and other sounds of the playground.
- ◆ We left off with uncertainty of instruments decible levels & location agreement

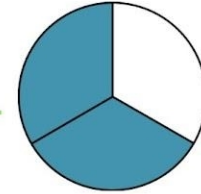
◆ Progress ◆



Fundraising

We're raising **\$30,000**
to bring **Harmony Habitat** to life

We've continued to raise funds and
are closer to our goal



Ordered a single instrument



We went door to door around Forest Hill Park to
speak with neighbors & left flyers.



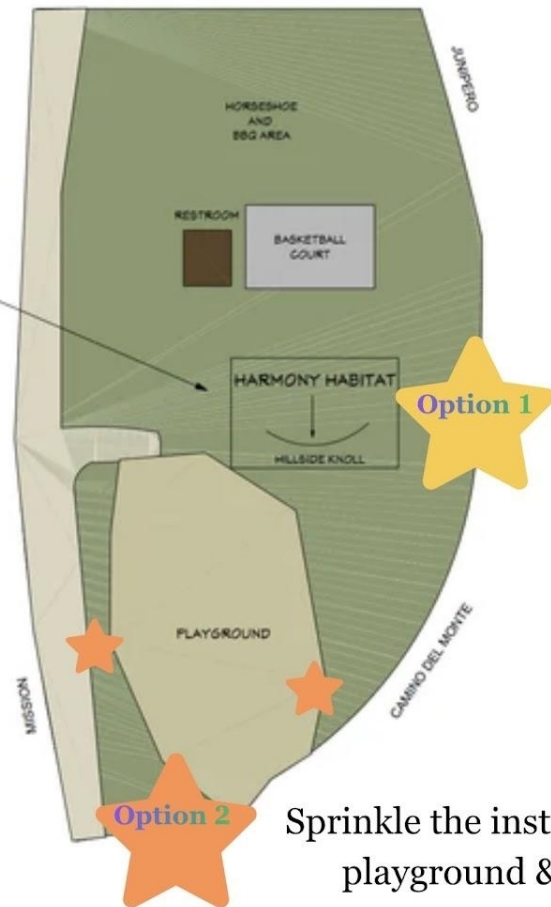
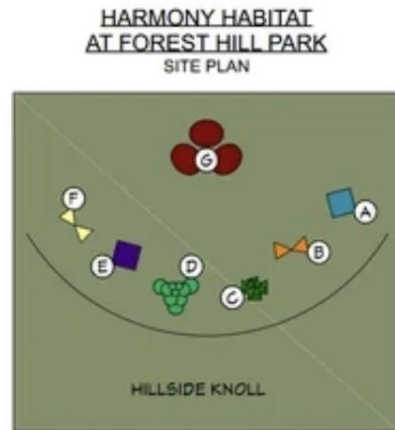
Temporary Installation at Forest Hill Park



Awaiting Commission Approval

Prospective Locations

(A)		TURQUOISE FLOWER FWR-I-IG 19"W x 39"H x 13"D ANODIZED ALUMINUM
(B)		ORANGE BUTTERFLY BFLY-O-IG 19.5"W x 51.5"H x 15"D ANODIZED ALUMINUM
(C)		TENOR TREE TREE-IG 22-3/4"W x 51-3/8"H x 15-3/4"D ANODIZED ALUMINUM
(D)		LILYPAD CYMBALS LPRD-IG-REC 31-1/2" x 39"H ANODIZED ALUMINUM
(E)		INDIGO FLOWER FWR-I-IG 25"W x 48"H x 14"D ANODIZED ALUMINUM
(F)		YELLOW BUTTERFLY BFLY-O-IG 16"W x 46 3/4"H x 12 3/8"D ANODIZED ALUMINUM
(G)		MUSHROOM ENSEMBLE IG SM: 26- 1/2"H x 20-1/4"W x 19-7/8"D MED: 28-1/8"H x 24-3/8"W x 24"D LRG: 30- 1/2"H x 27-7/8"W x 27-1/2"D ANODIZED ALUMINUM



Original Proposed location in the open grass area at Forest Hill Park

Sprinkle the instruments around the playground & not all together

Prospective Locations



★ Option 3 - Instruments located throughout the square mile at multiple locations.

Proposed locations: Forest Hill Park, Multiple spots on Scenic walkway/rd.

Carmel Youth Center, Harrison Memorial Library, All Saint's Episcopal Church.

Other Parks and ideas are welcome.



Temporary Install Decible Test

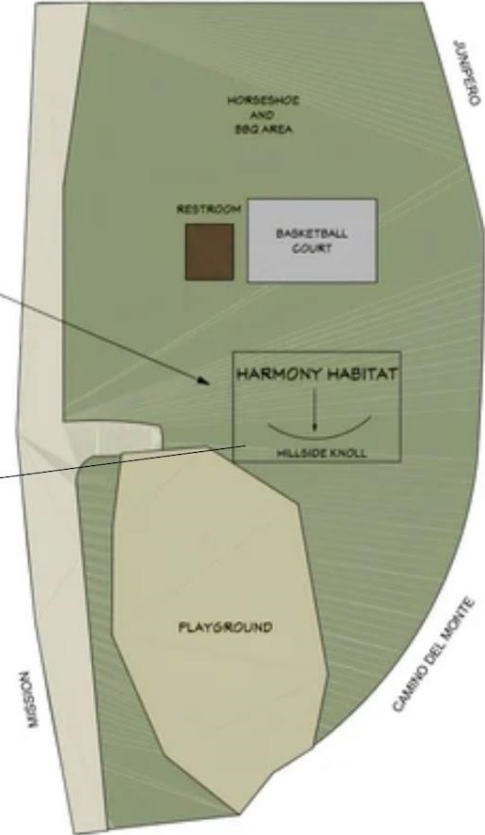


Reading at
the Edge of Park
56.6_{DbA}

Car - 67.5_{DbA}

Driveway- 55.1_{DbA}

*These results are prior to mallet adjustment.
Conclusively the cars 'quietly' driving by are louder than
the instruments.



Decibel Levels

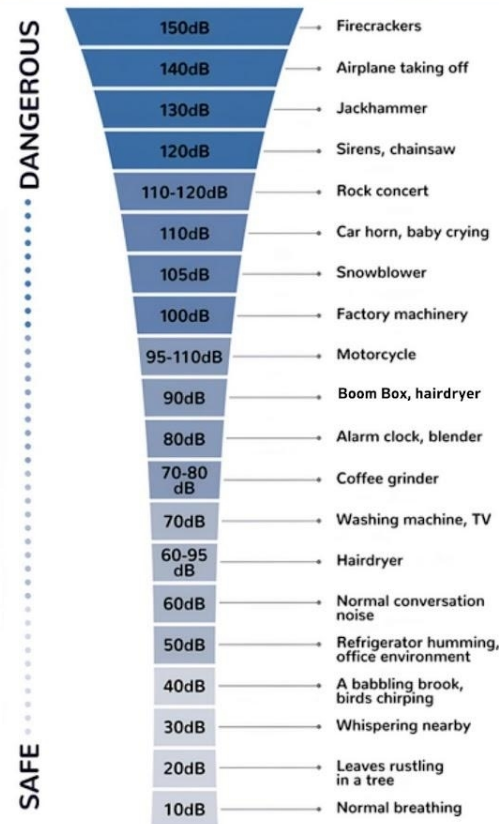
<u>Instrument</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>30 ft</u>	<u>150 ft</u>
Mushrooms	93.7 dB	63.1 dB	54.2 dB
Lily-pad Cymbals	85.4 dB	54.9 dB	50.5 dB
Flowers/Butterflies	84.2 dB	55.7 dB	50.1 dB
Tenor Tree	79.3 dB	58.4 dB	51.1 dB
Kids shouting	90 dB		
Traffic, average street	83 dB		
Average Conversation	60 dB		
Rainfall, moderate	50 dB		
Golf	60 dB		
Elephant	103-117 dB		

◆ Tools & ability to mitigate sound available

<https://multimedia.3m.com>

SAFE vs. DANGEROUS DECIBEL LEVELS

Help prevent noise-induced hearing loss by learning general sound levels and how loud is too loud.



IF YOU'RE EXPERIENCING HEARING LOSS, VISIT CAPTEL.COM

Page 14 of 50
CapTel
Captioned Telephone

Questions for Commissioners

- ◆ Were any Commissioners able to visit other parks in the state or area with similar instruments?
- ◆ What is the Commission's preferred location option?
- ◆ Can the Commission approve a definitive plan today?

Benefits

Kids



Emotional and Psychological Impact

Music serves as a powerful tool for emotional regulation, helping teenagers process feelings, reduce stress, and cope with anxiety. Listening to music can lower cortisol levels, slow heart rate, and activate brain regions associated with reward and emotion, providing comfort and pleasure (boldscience.org)



Identity Formation and Self-Expression

Music is central to identity development in youth. It allows young people to explore different aspects of themselves, express values, and connect with peers who share similar interests (numberanalytics.com).



Social and Cultural Influence

Music facilitates social bonding and community building. Participating in musical groups strengthens peer connections and encourages collaboration (schooldekho.org).



Cognitive and Academic Effects

Engaging with music can enhance cognitive development, including memory, attention, and problem-solving skills. Studies show that children and teens who participate in regular musical activities demonstrate improved academic performance and higher IQ levels compared to peers who do not engage in music. Learning instruments or composing music strengthens focus and discipline, which can positively influence classroom behavior and learning outcomes. (columbus.edu.co)

Everyone



Mental and Cognitive Benefits

Listening to or performing music stimulates almost all regions of the brain, strengthening neural connections and promoting neuroplasticity, which is the brain's ability to reorganize and form new connections. Music can improve learning, memory, and concentration, and even enhance verbal intelligence and academic performance. Exposure to music from an early age or active engagement in music later in life is associated with higher cognitive function, better learning ability, and improved mental well-being ([Harvard University](https://HarvardUniversity.edu) & [Lifehack+1](https://Lifehack+1.com) & [Healthline](https://Healthline.com))



Physical and Health Benefits

Music can reduce the perception of pain and promote relaxation, which is particularly beneficial before or after surgery and for chronic pain management. It can also enhance physical performance, such as improving endurance during exercise, and may support recovery in stroke patients. Additionally, music can positively influence heart rate, blood pressure, and overall physiological stress responses ([Healthline+1](https://Healthline+1.com) & [Lifehack+1](https://Lifehack+1.com))



Social and Community Benefits

Music fosters social connection and bonding, helping to prevent loneliness and strengthen relationships. Participating in group music activities or attending performances can enhance feelings of belonging and improve overall quality of life ([Harvard University](https://HarvardUniversity.edu) [Healthline+1](https://Healthline+1.com))

Community

The vision of Harmony Habitat and installation of instruments will meet the demand for the community's paramount needs & desires to advocate *Youth as our Future*. Giving access to creativity and family activities, supporting the essential foundation of Carmel.

- Carmel Residents Association
- Youth Librarians
- Community Members
- Sandpiper
- KSBW (March 31)
- Montage Health
- Carmel educators
- Carmel Youth Center
- Rotary Club luncheon
- Carmel Chamber of Commerce board
- City Council special meeting
- City of Carmel Public Works
- City Administrator
- Catalyst newsletter
- Peachjar
- Carmel businesses

Thank You

Harmony Habitat



Scan to donate on mobile

www.carmelchamber.org/lc2026/



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
Forest and Beach Commission
Staff Report

August 20, 2026
ORDERS OF BUSINESS

TO: Forest and Beach Commission

SUBMITTED BY: Justin Ono, City Forester

APPROVED BY: Shari Carlet, MSCE, Acting Public Works Director

SUBJECT: July 2026 Forester's Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation on the July 2026 Forester's Report

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY:

FISCAL IMPACT:

None at this time.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. July Foresters Report for the Aug 20 Mtg



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

Monthly Report

City Forester's Report

TO: Forest and Beach Commissioners
FROM: Justin Ono, City Forester
SUBJECT: July 2026 Forester's Report

Forestry, Parks, and Beach Highlights:

Carmel Forest Master Plan (CFMP):

- City consultant Dudek will give update at August 20, 2026 meeting on QEQA status.

Contractors:

- City Tree Contractor Community Tree Service performed Fire Fuel Reduction in Pescadero Canyon moving grass and vines and removing several dead trees.
- Landscape contractor Town and Country began weed whacking for fire fuel reduction throughout town.
- Town and Country installed a new irrigation system on one of the upper Ocean Ave islands.
- Tree Contractors have task orders waiting to be issued in the new fiscal year for pruning and removals in preparation for the upcoming winter, as well as large task orders for stump grinding and replanting.

City Staff and Crews:

- City Forestry Crew removed 5 dead, dying, or invasive trees, planted 3 trees, and pruned 15 trees providing clearance for roads and stop signs, as well as maintaining tree health.
- Fire Fuel Reduction: City crew continued work around various sites in town, including limbing up trees and weed whacking.
- Landscape: City Technician replaced irrigation valves and the irrigation controller in the Lincoln Street median between 4th and 5th, they also replaced a few broken sprinklers at Vista Lobos.

Permit Information

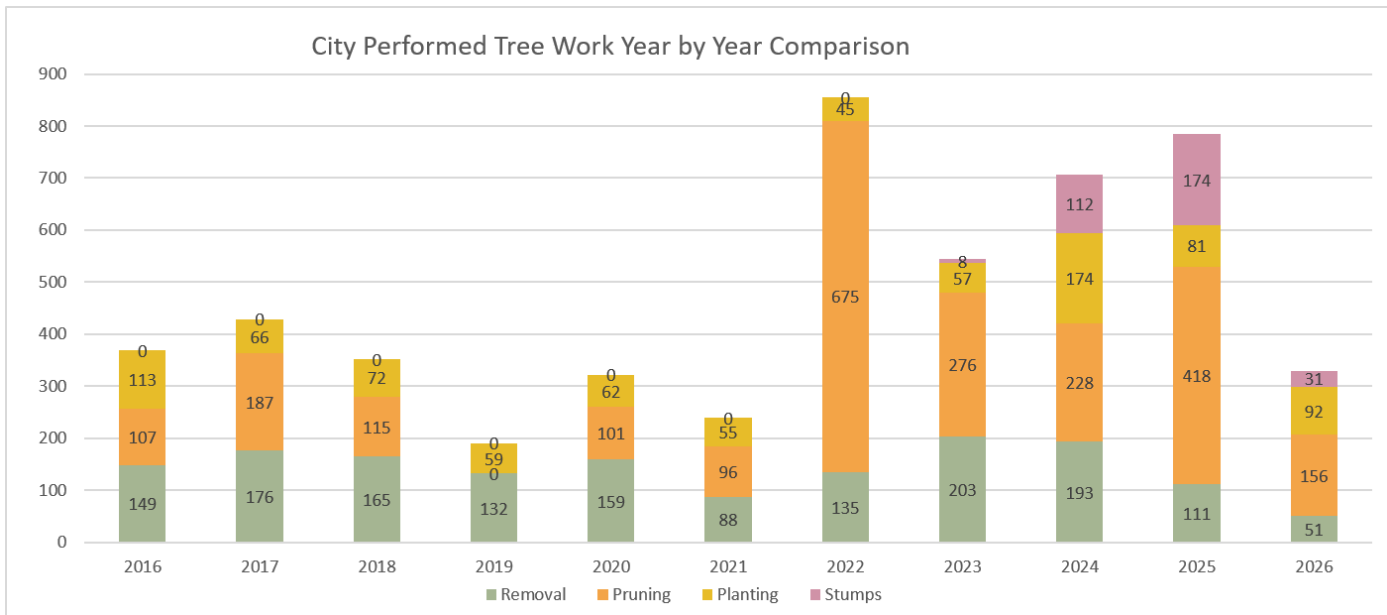
****June numbers are through June 26, 2026****

2026 Permitted removals, pruning, and required planting											
	Tree permits received	Tree permits Issued	Site Inspections Performed	Trees approved for pruning	Removal of Upper Canopy	Removal of Lower Canopy	Required to Plant Upper	Required to Plant Lower	No room for new tree	Meets Density Rec.	Total Number of Trees Required
January	29	22	5	14	8	13	9	14	1	1	23
February	15	6	1	6	3	4	0	2	1	1	2
March	31	20	7	12	7	13	13	16	0	2	29
April	24	17	6	12	5	12	6	12	0	1	18
May	23	13	5	15	4	11	7	7	0	1	14
June	21	13	3	5	1	16	1	12	0	0	13
July	28	14	3	2	4	12	6	11	0	0	17
August											
September											
October											
November											
December											
2026 Totals	171	105	30	66	32	81	42	74	2	6	116

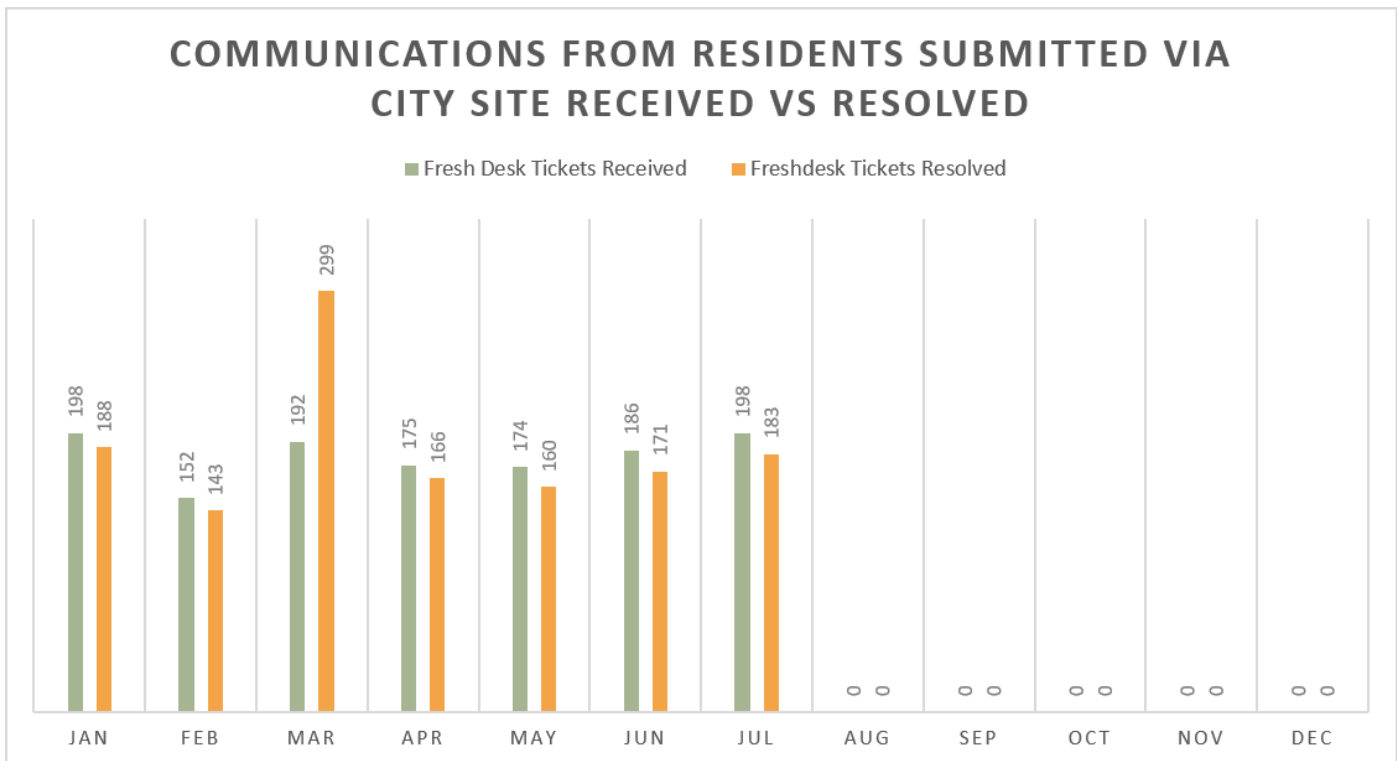
Historic permitted removals and required planting

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	222	102	120	160	72	88	72.07%	315
2026	113	32	81	116	42	74	102.65%	171

City Forestry, Parks, and Beach Activities



*Calendar year to date, stumps include contractors and will be updated upon completion of task orders.



*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.



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
Forest and Beach Commission
Staff Report

August 20, 2026
ORDERS OF BUSINESS

TO: Forest and Beach Commission

SUBMITTED BY: Justin Ono, City Forester

APPROVED BY: Shari Carlet, MSCE, Acting Public Works Director

SUBJECT: CFMP CEQA Update

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive an presentation and update on the CFMP from CEQA Consultant Dudek.

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY:

FISCAL IMPACT:

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Carmel Forest Management Plan-CEQA Review MEMO

MEMORANDUM

To: Justin Ono, City Forester, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
From: Stephanie Strelow
Subject: City of Carmel-by-the-Sea Forest Management Plan CEQA Review
Date: August 13, 2026
cc: Mary Bilse, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
Attachments: A. Comparison of Proposed 2026 Carmel Forest Management Plan
To Existing 2001 Carmel Forest Management Plan

This memorandum provides a review of the applicability of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines categorical exemptions for the proposed Carmel-by-the-Sea 2026 Forest Management Plan (2026 CFMP or Project). Specifically, CEQA Guidelines section 15307 (Class 7-Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources) and section 15308 (Class 8-Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment) appear applicable to the Project. This memo is organized in the following sections:

1. Background, including Project background and applicable City plans and regulations
2. Project Description
3. CEQA Review

1. Background

1.1 Carmel-by-the-Sea Forest Management Plan

The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea (City) adopted its first FMP in 1971, which was subsequently updated and adopted in 2001. The 2001 FMP is included as Appendix G in the City's General Plan as further described below.

Preparation of the proposed 2026 CFMP began in late 2021. The effort was led by the City Forester in the Division of Forest, Parks and Beach in the City's Public Work's Department. As indicated on the City's website, this Division is responsible for the maintenance of and improvements to the City's urban forest, all City parks, and Carmel beach. The Division manages over 13,000 trees growing on public property and provides staff support to the Forest and Beach Commission (<https://ci.carmel.ca.us/forest-parks-beach>).

Efforts to support preparation of the Project included completion of a citywide tree canopy assessment and updated tree inventory. A community survey also was conducted. A Steering Committee was formed to help guide/steer the process for preparing the CFMP. Draft CFMPs were prepared and reviewed at public meetings held by the Forest and Beach Commission.

1.2 Relevant City Plans and Regulations Regarding Forest Management

General Plan/Local Coastal Program

The City has an adopted General Plan as required by state law. Because the entire city is located within the coastal zone, the City also is required to adopt a Local Coastal Program (LCP) that requires certification by the California Coastal Commission (CCC). The LCP includes a Land Use Plan (LUP) and implementation components. The City received certification of a LUP in 1980, and complete certification of the LCP by the CCC was received in December 2002. The City has a combined *General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan* (GP/CLUP), and each goal, objective, and policy, as well as supporting text, which comes from the LUP is followed by the letters “LUP” enclosed within parentheses to indicate that it is part of the certified LCP.

The GP/CLUP includes a Coastal Resource Management Element that has a “Urban Forests, Parks and Open Spaces” section. Goal G5-3 of this Element seeks to protect, conserve and enhance the unique natural beauty and irreplaceable natural resources of Carmel, and accompanying policy, P5-47 seeks to continue Carmel’s tree preservation program. This Element also includes Goal G5-4 with accompanying objectives and policies, which specifically address forest resources. Table 1 summarizes existing objectives and key policies pertaining to forest management, all of which are included in the LUP.

Policy P5-49 calls for periodic review and revision to tree-related ordinances and policies in FMP/LCP to bring them into alignment with advances in urbanized forest management practice. The GP/CLUP text indicates that background information and policies contained in the CLUP are incorporated directly from existing plans and reports that address special topics, including the 2001 CFMP, which is included as Appendix G in the GP/CLUP. It is noted that the Coastal Resource Management Element also addresses open space and streetscape design in addition to forest management.

The Land Use and Community Character Element text also indicates that enhancing and protecting the Monterey pines, coast live oaks and other species of the natural environment that contribute to the high quality of life has been a dominant theme in the City’s development and continues to shape the City. Policy P1-50 in this element directs the City to establish landscaping standards to preserve the urban forest of Monterey pines, Monterey cypress, redwoods and coast live oaks.

Table 1. Existing Carmel-by-the-Sea General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan Goals, Objectives and Key Policies Related to Forest Management

Goal (G), Objective (O), Policy (P)	Description Summary
Coastal Resource Management Element	
G5-3 O5-8 P5-47	Protect, conserve and enhance the unique natural beauty and irreplaceable natural resources of Carmel and its Sphere of Influence, including its biological resources, water resources, and scenic routes and corridors. Protect, conserve and enhance designated open space, the urban Monterey pine forest, beach and shoreline, sensitive habitats and hillside areas. Continue Carmel's tree preservation program and encourage use of indigenous or native plants.
G5-4 O5-9 P5-49 P5-50 P5-51/-52 O5-10 / P5-53 O5-11 P5-55/56 P5-57 P5-58 O5-12 O5-13 O5-14 O5-15	Preserve and enhance urban forest of predominantly Monterey pine, coast live oak and Monterey Cypress. Maintain Forest and Beach Commission and City Department with responsibility for health of the forest. Periodically review tree-related ordinances and policies in FMP/LCP and propose changes to bring them into alignment with advances in urbanized forest management practice. Conduct forest program in accordance with coherent body of laws, goals, policies, and guidelines. Conduct urban forest program through City Forester. / Commit resources necessary to support forest programs. Maintain Citywide map and data base of trees. update every four years. Maintain, restore and enhance the upper and lower canopy of urbanized forest. Implement adopted tree density policies. / Establish and implement tree canopy policies. Maintain list of tree species that could qualify as indigenous upper and lower canopy trees. Maintain, restore, enhance indigenous forest of native Monterey pines and coast live oaks. Implement policies, standards and procedures to regulate removal, pruning and replacement of trees on private property. Perform all tree work in accordance with City codes and policies and uniform planting practices. Maintain a healthy forest. Educate and involve public on tree issues

City of Carmel-by-the-Sea Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation Plan

In 2022, the City adopted a *Climate Action Plan* and a *Climate Adaptation Plan*. The *Climate Action Plan* presents measures to aid the City in achieving its greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets. "Urban Forest Protection" is included as Goal 6. Measure 6.1. calls for urban forest maintenance, and Action 6.1.1, Urban Forest Maintenance and Improvement, calls for maintaining the health of the City's urban forest and updating the City's Forest Management Plan to include tree planting guidelines to promote tree health and maintain a healthy urban forest canopy.

The 2022 *Climate Adaptation Plan* establishes an adaptation strategy for the City to prepare for the anticipated impacts associated with climate change. In preparing this plan, the City followed the climate adaptation planning process recommended by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Goal 2 and supporting policy and

action, promotes the resilience of Carmel's forested landscape. Policy 2.1 seeks to protect and restore climate-vulnerable habitat and ecosystems. Action 2.1.2, Increase Urban Forest Resilience, specifically calls for updating and implementing the Forest Management Plan to: 1) review and consider modifications to the preferred urbanized tree species that would result in improved climate resilience and reduce wildfire hazard; 2) include planting and maintenance guidelines to improve tree health; 3) incorporate tree species that have greater drought and wildfire resistance; 4) include landscaping guidelines that reduce wildfire hazard on private property; and 5) enhance carbon sequestration potential.

City of Carmel-by-the-Sea Municipal Code

Chapters 12.28 of Title 12, Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places, and Chapter 17.48 of Title 17, Zoning, in the City's Municipal Code both provide explicit direction on the preservation of Carmel's native forest cover. As indicated in the proposed 2026 CFMP (Appendix D), these two ordinances speak to the management of tree and shrub resources and address City staff and Forest and Beach Commission responsibilities, as well as permitting and tree replacement protocols for cutting, removing and pruning trees. Chapter 17.48 requires permits for removing trees on private property and consequences are outlined for failure to obtain a permit in conjunction with construction. Trees that are removed are required to be replaced, preferably on site. Section 17.48.050.A.1.a. also references the existing 2001 FMP by requiring a tree removal permit for removal or replacement of any tree identified in the GP/CLUP Appendix G, which is the existing 2001 FMP.

Chapter 17.48 further outlines the location species, quantity, and maintenance requirements for replacement plantings, as well as planting specifications. The chapter requires public and private tree protection during construction activities, which include preventing stored materials within tree driplines, erecting protective barriers, preventing desiccation of exposed roots, using proper pruning practices, and providing treatment to Monterey pine tree trunks to prevent bark beetle damage. It also requires the protection and maintenance of new trees to be planted as a condition of construction permit approval. Additionally, Chapter 17.48 outlines the City Forester and Forest and Beach Commission's roles in permitted tree care, removals, and replacement plantings.

Other mention of tree protection and stewardship in the City's Municipal Code is noted in "Chapter 17.22 Community Plan Districts and Specific Plans," which encourages the conservation and improvement of trees.

2. Project Description

2.1 Project Overview

The proposed Project provides a comprehensive update to the current 2001 FMP that reflects evolving ecological conditions, current forest management practices and principles, and new climate realities. The 2026 CFMP includes six goals with supporting objectives and actions that address: 1) management of forest resources; 2) canopy cover; 3) community stewardship and education; 4) preservation of forest resources; 5) wildfire resilience; and 6) strengthening the City's administrative capacity in overseeing forest management. Table 2 summarizes the objectives and actions for each goal, which are further discussed below.

The text of the proposed 2026 CFMP provides a summary of current tree health and canopy conditions within the City, as well as species composition, based on a canopy assessment and tree inventory conducted in 2023 as part

of the process of updating the FMP. The 2026 CFMP provides new information on existing forestry operations within the City's Division of Forest, Parks and Beach. Six appendices to the Plan provide updated and new information: (A) review of the historic and ecological context of Carmel-by-the-Sea's forest; (B) description of the City's forestry operations; (C) recommended tree and shrub species list; (D) summary of City plans and Municipal Code sections that address forest stewardship; (E) planting and pruning guidelines; and (F) a review of the benefits of trees, native plants, and natural habitat areas within the City.

Table 2. Proposed Carmel-by-the-Sea 2026 Forest Management Plan Summary of Goals and Objectives

Goal	Objective	Description Summary
Goal 1		Proactively Manage Public Trees and Forest Resources
	1.1	- Tree Health and Diversity
	1.2	- Risk and Maintenance Planning
	1.3	- Pest Preparedness
Goal 2		Maintain a Minimum of 35% Canopy Cover and Seek to Increase Canopy Cover Where Possible
	2.1	- Strategic Planting
	2.2	- Private Property Engagement
	2.3	- Canopy Monitoring
Goal 3		Foster Community Stewardship and Education
	3.1	- Public Education
	3.2	- Volunteer Engagement
	3.3	- Recognition and Events
Goal 4		Preserve Carmel's Unique Forest Character and Natural Resources
	4.1	- Habitat Protection
	4.2	- Policy Alignment
	4.3	- Climate Resilience & Adaptive Forest Practices
Goal 5		Integrate Wildfire Resilience into Forest Management
	5.1	- Vegetation and Ladder Fuel Management
	5.2	- Strengthen Defensible Space
	5.3	- Home and Infrastructure Hardening
Goal 6		Strengthen Administrative Capacity and Operational Tools
	6.1	- Staffing and Workforce Development
	6.2	- Equipment and Infrastructure
	6.3	- Data and Technology systems
	6.4	- Operational Efficiency

2.2 Key 2026 CFMP Elements

The proposed CFMP provides an update to the existing 2001 FMP that is specifically recommended in Policy P5-49 of the City's GP/CLUP (Policy P9-202 of the existing FMP), which calls for periodic review and changes to the FMP and tree-related ordinances "to bring them into alignment with new advances in urbanized forest management practice." Overall, the proposed 2026 CFMP retains key provisions of the existing 2001 FMP and includes new objectives and actions to integrate forest management with current urban forest conditions, forestry management practices, climate adaptation and resiliency, and wildfire resilience, as well as updated information. A comparison of the existing FMP and proposed 2026 CFMP is included in Attachment A and summarized in this section.

The goals, objectives, and actions in the proposed 2026 CFMP continue to emphasize forest preservation with an emphasis on Monterey pine, Monterey cypress, and coast live oak trees. Goal 4 calls for preservation of Carmel's unique forest character and natural resources, and the proposed Plan further supports proactive management of forest resources with Goal 1 that seeks to "proactively manage public trees and forest resources to ensure long-term forest sustainability with proactive management to mitigate risk, improve ecological function, and maintain the urban forest's structure and diversity." Objective 1.1 promotes tree health and diversity, and supporting Action 1.1 calls for periodic updates to Recommended Species List, prioritizing Monterey pine, Monterey cypress and coast live oak. Objective/Action 1.3 calls for a program to enable the City to respond to emerging pest threats to the City's forest.

Both Goals 1 and 4 in the proposed 2026 CFMP are similar to the existing FMP Goal G9-13 that seeks to preserve and enhance the City's legacy of an urbanized forest, and proposed objectives continue to prioritize preservation and maintenance of Monterey pine, coast live oak and Monterey cypress as "foundational" to Carmel-by-the-Sea's urbanized forest. In describing Goal 4, the 2026 CFMP continues to recognize Carmel's forest as part of a rare and delicate coastal ecosystem that shapes the community's identity and specifically states that "the City will preserve and perpetuate Monterey pine, coast live oak, and Monterey cypress ("The Big Three") as foundational to Carmel-by-the-Sea's urbanized forest by prioritizing proactive maintenance, regeneration, grove-based planting where feasible, species specific pruning guidance, hazard assessment near infrastructure, and clear replanting policies following removals on public and private property." Objective and supporting Action 4.4 further calls for incorporating Carmel's ecological and cultural history into forest policies, recognizing that the community was built within an existing Monterey pine and oak ecosystem. In addition, the 2026 CFMP provides an updated description of existing/current conditions of the City's urban forest including forest conditions based on an updated tree and canopy inventory conducted in 2023.

The 2026 CFMP retains, and in many cases, expands upon the primary goals and objectives set forth the 2001 FMP as follows:

- The 2026 CFMP establishes Goal 2 that seeks to maintain a minimum 35% canopy cover throughout the City and increase canopy cover where possible, whereas the 2001 CFMP calls for establishing canopy policies only for the City's commercial district.
- The 2026 CFMP continues to support maintaining a citywide map and database of trees. Objective 6.3 calls for maintaining a GIS-based tree inventory and integrating it with municipal management systems. The now current GIS technology allows for ongoing updates as information becomes available.

- The 2026 CFMP maintains and expands the 2001 CFMP's discussion of the benefit of trees in a new Appendix F.
- The proposed 2026 CFMP includes an updated "Recommended Tree and Shrub Species List" (Appendix C) that favors native species that have proved successful in the City. Appendix E provides updated and streamlined planting and pruning guidelines.
- Implementation Guidelines are included in the proposed 2026 CFMP that provide new time horizons to carry out objectives, including canopy assessment updates.
- Goal 3 seeks to foster community stewardship and education. Objective/Actions 3.1 through 3.4 identify measures for community education via public education, volunteer engagement, special events and working with local agencies. Action 1.3 includes public outreach to encourage private property monitoring of pest issues. Objective/Action 2.2 includes measures to encourage community education and incentive programs for homeowners to preserve existing and plant new trees, including creation of a forest stewardship guide. Objective/Action 5.2 calls for the City to organize targeted workshops and demonstration projects to help residents understand defensible space principles regarding wildfire resilience measures that align with neighborhood character and ecological values.
- The 2026 CMFP continues to address and expands on the responsibilities for City administration of the forest management program. Goal 6 and supporting objectives and actions serve to strengthen administrative capacity and operational tools to maintain adequate staffing, training, technology and equipment to carry out goals of Plan. The Plan's Implementation Guidelines further expand on governance and accountability, establishing annual work programs, and funding. Appendix B provides a new, detailed overview of the City's Forestry Department services and operations.

The 2026 CFMP includes new objectives and actions that address climate and wildfire resiliency, issues of statewide concern that have emerged since adoption of the 2001 FMP. A new Goal 5 is included in the proposed CFMP to integrate wildfire resilience into forest management. Objective 5.1 calls for sensitive vegetation management for wildfire resilience in or adjacent to sensitive habitat areas, and Objective 5.2 addresses strengthening defensible space in concert with existing City regulations. It is noted that in 2024, the City adopted an amended Municipal Code, including provisions in Title 15, Chapter 15.55 (California Fire Code). The Fire Code establishes defensible space and other wildfire safety requirements intended to reduce hazardous conditions and protect life and property. As indicated in the proposed 2026nCFMP, implementation of Fire Code requirements may overlap with tree and vegetation stewardship objectives described in the proposed CFMP. In addition, Objective/Action 1.2 calls for risk planning regarding fire resiliency. Objective 1.1 promotes tree health and diversity, and Action 1.1 calls for periodic updates to the Recommended Species List with focus on native, drought-tolerant and climate-resistant species, while prioritizing Monterey pine, Monterey cypress and coast live oak. Objective/Action 4.3 calls for use of local genetic stock to support climate resilience efforts.

New objectives and actions support habitat and ecosystem enhancement. Objective 4.1 calls for habitat protection, and Action 4.1 seeks to enhance habitat connectivity and ecosystem health. Objective 4.4 calls for incorporating Carmel's ecological and cultural history in forest policies, recognizing community was built in an existing Monterey pine and oak ecosystem. Objective 5.1 calls for sensitive vegetation management for wildfire resilience in or adjacent to sensitive natural areas, and Objective/Action 1.1 supports biodiversity.

The 2026 CFMP eliminates two goals and their supporting objectives and policies that are included in the 2001 FMP. One goal (G9-14) addresses streetscape design with minimal reference to planting trees, and the second goal (G9-15) addresses preservation and acquisition of open space and parks. Neither goal directly addresses forest management, and these goals and supporting objectives and policies are included/retained in the City's CLUP.

The proposed Project consists solely of the 2026 CFMP and does not include revisions/amendments to the City's GP/CLUP or to regulations in the City's Municipal Code.

3. CEQA REVIEW

3.1 CEQA Overview

This section draws on information provided by the State of California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (2026) regarding CEQA requirements and processes. In general, CEQA requires state and local government agencies to inform decision makers and the public about the potential environmental impacts of proposed projects and ways to avoid or reduce those environmental impacts to the extent feasible. The laws and rules governing the CEQA process are contained in: 1) the CEQA statute within Division 13 of the Public Resources Code, starting with section 21000; 2) the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, starting with section 15000); 3) published court decisions interpreting CEQA; and 4) locally adopted CEQA procedures, including Chapter 17.60 (Environmental Review) of the Carmel-by-the-Sea Municipal Code.

CEQA requires government agencies to consider the environmental consequences of their actions before approving plans and policies or committing to a course of action on a project. This process is intended to: (1) inform government decisionmakers and the public about the potential environmental effects of proposed activities; (2) identify the ways that significant environmental impacts can be avoided or significantly reduced; (3) prevent significant, avoidable environmental damage by requiring changes in projects, either by the adoption of alternatives or imposition of mitigation measures; and (4) disclose to the public why a project was approved if that project has significant environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated to a less-than-significant level.

If an agency determines that a proposed activity is a project under CEQA, the agency will usually take the following steps: 1) determine whether the project qualifies for a statutory or categorical exemption from CEQA; 2) if the project is not exempt, prepare an initial study to determine whether the project would result in significant environmental impacts; and 3) prepare a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or EIR, depending on the findings in the initial study.

3.2 CEQA Exemption Review

Adoption and implementation of the proposed 2026 CFMP is a project subject to CEQA because it requires discretionary action by the City Council to adopt the Plan. The first step in the CEQA review process is to determine whether there are any statutory or categorical exemptions that are applicable to the project under consideration. There are two categorical exemptions in the CEQA Guidelines that appear applicable to the adoption and implementation of the proposed 2026 CFMP.

Section 15307 (Class 7), Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources: State CEQA Guidelines section 15307 states that the Categorical Exemption “Class 7 consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by state law or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. Examples include but are not limited to wildlife preservation activities of the State Department of Fish and Game. Construction activities are not included in this exemption.”

Section 15307 (Class 8), Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment: State CEQA Guidelines (section 15308 states that Categorical Exemption “Class 8 consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. Construction activities and relaxation of standards allowing environmental degradation are not included in this exemption.”

It is noted that other jurisdictions in California have used categorical exemptions for forest management plans, including urban forest plans, and protected tree ordinances based on a search on the State’s CEQAnet database of CEQA documents (<https://ceqanet.lci.ca.gov/>), Specifically, San Mateo County filed a Notice of Exemption (NOE) in 2024 for a Protected Tree Ordinance, using Classes 7 and 8. Other jurisdictions using NOEs for forest management plans and projects within the last 5-6 years) are outlined below. Many agencies used the Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land, and Class 6, Information Collection, categorical exemptions as some projects also included tree planting and data collection. However, it was determined that Classes 4 and 6 are not applicable to the proposed 2026 CFMP as no tree removal, tree planting, or alteration of the environment is proposed as part of the Project to qualify for the Class 4 categorical exemption, and the proposed Plan would be adopted by the City in which case the Class 6 exemption cannot be used as it is only for information collection without adoption or approval of plans.

- Alameda County Urban Forest Plan (2025/Class 4)
- City of Montebello Urban Forest Management and Fire Protection (2025/Class 4)
- City of Coalinga Urban Forest Management Plan (2025/Class 4)
- City of Rialto Urban Forest Management Plan (2025/Class 4)
- City of Chico Urban Forest Revitalization Program (2019/Classes 4 and 6)
- City of Oakland Tree Inventory, Urban Forest Master Plan and Tree Planting Project (2019/Classes 4 and 6)
- CAL FIRE for City of East Palo Alto Urban Forest Master Plan (2019/Classes 4 and 6)
- Yuba City Forest Management Planning Project (2019/Classes 4 and 6)
- Urban Forest Management Planning Project for City of Garden Grove (2019/Classes 4 and 6)
- Point Lobos SNR Pine Forest Management (2020/Classes 1 and 4): This also included some removal of young trees, dead woody material, small branches and invasive species.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt

Class 7 and Class 8 Categorical Exemptions apply to the Project because adoption of the proposed 2026 CFMP represents an action taken by a regulatory agency (City of Carmel-by-the-Sea) to maintain and enhance natural

resources and protect the environment (Carmel-by-the-Sea's trees and forest resources). The City's adopted General Plan and LCP, both required by state law, address forest management and specifically reference the existing FMP that was prepared to protect the City's urban forest. The directive to update the City's FMP is explicitly set forth in GP/CLUP Policy P5-49, which calls for periodic review of tree-related ordinances and policies in FMP/LCP and revisions to bring plans, policies and regulations in alignment with advances in urbanized forest management practice. The 2026 CFMP provides guidance to achieve the City's objective of maintaining a healthy forest as established in the GP/CLUP (05-14).

The 2026 CFMP also provides an update to the existing FMP that is recommended by the City's *Climate Action Plan* and *Climate Adaptation Plan*, which were adopted by the City in 2022 to address reductions in the City's GHG emissions and improve climate and wildfire resiliency. The City followed the climate adaptation planning process recommended by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, as documented in the 2020 California Adaptation Planning Guide, in preparing the *Climate Adaptation Plan*. The City plans to reduce GHG emissions are consistent with the state of California's 2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality, which identifies measures to meet the State's GHG emission reduction targets. The State's 2022 Scoping Plan details "Local Actions" in Appendix D, which includes recommendations for local government actions that align with the State's climate goals, with a focus on local GHG reduction strategies.

The 2026 CFMP is an update to the existing FMP as directed by City plans and policies, and the 2026 CFMP includes objectives and actions specifically directed to managing the City's forest resources that serve to protect the environment and the natural resources within the City's urban forest. As indicated in the City's GP/CLUP, Carmel's forest is an "urbanized" forest, which is a forest that existed before development and is characterized by the diversity of its species, ages, and the random distribution of trees. Goal 4 of the 2026 CFMP seeks to preserve Carmel's forest and natural resources. Other new objectives and actions included in the 2026 CFMP promote habitat protection and biodiversity. The Project maintains guiding principles set forth in the objectives and policies in the existing 2001 FMP and GP/CLUP policies and strengthens measures for environmental protection, including climate and wildfire resiliency compared to the City's existing 2001 FMP.

Exceptions to Categorical Exemptions

In reviewing a categorical exemption, consideration must be given to whether a project is subject to any of the potential exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption found at CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2. This section prohibits the use of categorical exemptions under the following circumstances, which are each reviewed below for the proposed 2026 CFMP:

- a) for certain classes of projects (Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11) due to location where a project is ordinarily insignificant in impact may in a sensitive environment be significant;
- b) when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time, is significant;
- c) where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances;
- d) where the project may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway;
- e) where the project is located on a state designated hazardous waste site; and
- f) where the project may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

A. Location

The exception applies to Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 categorical exemptions, which are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located; a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. This exception does not apply to the Project because Class 7 and Class 8 categorical exemptions are not subject to this location-based exception. Further, the Project consists of adoption of a citywide Forest Management Plan and does not involve any physical environmental changes at any specific location. Therefore, this exception does not apply to the Project.

B. Cumulative Impacts

Under CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2(b), a categorical exemption shall not be used when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant. There is no specific time requirement for the consideration of cumulative impacts “over time.” However, CEQA requires a lead agency to consider cumulative impacts from “reasonably foreseeable” projects (CEQA Guidelines section 15355(b)).

The 2026 CFMP updates the City’s 2001 FMP and retains basic goals and objectives of the existing FMP to preserve forest resources, while adding new objectives and actions that address new issues of climate and wildfire resiliency. Adoption and implementation of the proposed Project would not result in new development that would contribute to cumulative impacts. The proposed CFMP does not include site-specific recommendations for tree removal and would not result in or lead to approval or issuance of any permits that would result in a physical change to the environment that would contribute to cumulative impacts. Any removal or pruning of trees would continue to be subject to provisions in the City’s Municipal Code Chapters 12.28 and 17.48, and the proposed 2026 CFMP does not propose changes to existing regulations. The proposed 2026 CFMP is a citywide plan and would not result in issuance of any permit or any physical environmental changes at any specific location. Other adopted citywide plans have recommendations to update the City’s Forest Resource Management Plan, which the proposed Project does. Therefore, no cumulative impacts are anticipated as a result of successive projects of the same type or in the same place as the Project as none are known, and this exception does not apply to the Project.

C. Significant Impacts Due to Unusual Circumstances

Under CEQA Guidelines section 5300.2(c), a categorical exemption shall not be used where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to “unusual circumstances.” Unusual circumstances may be established by showing that the project has some feature that distinguishes it from others in the exempt class, such as its size or location, and that there is a reasonable possibility of a significant effect *due* to that unusual feature or circumstance, or by showing that the project would have a significant environmental effect. For the unusual circumstances exception to apply, it is not enough alone that there is a reasonable possibility the project would have a significant environmental effect; instead, there must be a reasonable possibility that the activity would have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

The Project updates and would replace the City’s existing FMP with the 2026 CFMP, which is consistent with policies and actions set forth in City plans that recommend updating the FMP. Adoption and implementation of the Project would not result in direct or indirect adverse impacts on the environment as no development or physical alterations are proposed or would be facilitated with adoption and implementation of the 2026 CFMP (see review of potential Project impacts below). The City periodically updates its plans and ordinances to address changed conditions within its geographical limits; accordingly, there are no unusual circumstances associated with adoption or

implementation of the 2026 CFMP, the purpose of which is protect the environment and natural resources associated with the City's urban forest. The City's proposed 2026 CFMP is similar in scope to other similar urban forest management plans adopted by other cities and counties in California. Therefore, the Project would not result in significant impacts due to unusual circumstances, and this exception does not apply to the Project.

Review of Potential Project Impacts. Adoption and implementation of the 2026 CFMP would not result in a direct physical change to the environment as no development is proposed and the CFMP does not include site-specific recommendations for tree removal. Additionally, the proposed CFMP would not indirectly result in or lead to approval or issuance of any permits that would result in a physical change to the environment, such as tree removal. Any removal or pruning of trees would continue to be subject to provisions in the City's Municipal Code Chapters 12.28 and 17.48, and the proposed 2026 CFMP does not propose changes to existing regulations.

The proposed 2026 CFMP provides goals, objectives, and actions to guide forest management within the City. The Plan calls for continued preservation of the City's forest and associated natural resources and seeks a minimum 35% canopy cover, consistent with historic trends in the City. The Plan promotes tree health and diversity and continues to prioritize preservation and maintenance of Monterey pines, coast live oaks, and Monterey cypress. Further, the proposed 2026 CFMP includes new objectives and actions that address habitat management and climate change and wildfire resiliency.

Appendix F of the proposed 2026 CFMP summarizes benefits to trees, native plants and habitat areas, some of which are detailed by the Davey Resources Group (2023b) as part of the tree assessment conducted during preparation of the Plan. Drawing on this review and summary in Appendix F, adoption and implementation of the proposed 2026 CFMP would not result in significant adverse effects on the environment, and in many cases would result in beneficial impacts as summarized below.

- **Aesthetics.** The proposed Project would not directly or indirectly result in new development or result in removal of trees. Furthermore, the proposed 2026 CFMP includes goals, objectives and actions to preserve and manage trees within the city, including a new goal for tree canopy coverage, which would continue to preserve and maintain the aesthetic quality that Carmel's forest provides to the City. The proposed Project also calls for refining potential planting areas and prioritizing sites that maximize environmental benefit and visual continuity (2.1).
- **Air Quality.** The Project would not directly or indirectly result in new development that would result in emissions of criteria air pollutants. The proposed objectives and actions to manage and preserve trees and Carmel's forest resources would result in continued maintenance of the City's forest that provides direct beneficial effects. Urban trees improve air quality through absorption of pollutants, such as ozone, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide and increase in oxygen levels through photosynthesis. While trees absorb pollutants, it is noted that trees also emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that contribute to ozone and carbon monoxide formation (Davey Resource Group 2023a).
- **Biological Resources.** The Project would not directly or indirectly result in new development or removal of trees that would result in impacts to sensitive habitat areas or special status species. The proposed 2026 CFMP includes Objective 4.1 and supporting actions that call for habitat protection, specifically to enhance habitat connectivity through strategic plantings to support biodiversity and ecosystem health.
- **Cultural Resources.** The Project would not directly or indirectly result in new development that would result in impacts to archaeological, historical or tribal cultural resources.

- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** The Project would not directly or indirectly result in new development that would result in GHG emissions. Because trees use carbon as a building component for wood and foliar growth, they can help offset carbon emissions and reduce GHG emissions (Davey Resource Group 2023a).
- **Wildfire.** As indicated above, the Project would not directly or indirectly lead to removal of trees. The proposed 2026 CFMP includes a new goal with supporting objectives and actions that address wildfire resiliency. Goal 5 seeks to integrate wildfire resilience into forest management, and this goal indicates that the City will integrate wildfire resilience into forestry practices in a manner that is risk-based, site specific, and compatible with Carmel-by-the-Sea's forest character and environmental setting. The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, along with Monterey and Pacific Grove, has a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, completed in November 2023, which identifies actions to reduce wildfire risk and increase community resilience. Objective/Action 5.1 in the 2026 CFMP calls for strategic, site-specific vegetation management that can reduce wildfire intensity and spread, particularly in wildland-urban interface conditions, with actions designed to protect both public safety and Carmel-by-the-Sea's forest character and ecological values. The action calls for treatments that are focused on targeted removal of ladder fuels, accumulation of dead and down material where it increases hazard, and management of invasive species, while retaining healthy canopy and supporting native species and age diversity with sensitive approaches developed in sensitive habitat areas. Thus, adoption and implementation of the 2026 CFMP addresses wildfire issues, while maintaining actions to protect the City's forest resources and associated habitat.
- **Other Potential Impacts.** As indicated above the Project would not directly or indirectly result in new development that would result in physical or environmental impacts related to energy use, geology and soils, stormwater, or noise. The Project would not directly or indirectly result in new residential or workforce populations that could lead to a demand and use of public services and utilities or result in impacts related to transportation and vehicle miles traveled.

D. Scenic Resources

Under CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2(d), a categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. The City of Carmel is located west of, but not immediately adjacent to, Highway 1 (State Route 1), which is a designated state scenic highway. Furthermore, the Project would not result in development, tree removal or activities that would result in damage to scenic resources. As indicated above, removal and pruning of trees is regulated under existing City regulations that are not being changed with the Project. Therefore, the Project would not result in damage to scenic resources within an officially designated, state scenic highway, and this exception does not apply to the Project.

E. Hazardous Waste Sites

Under CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2(e), a categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to section 65962.5 of the Government Code (i.e., the Cortese List). Adoption and implementation of the 2026 CFMP would not result in a direct physical change to the environment; it does not cause the specific issuance of any permits or approvals that would result in a physical change to the environment. Therefore, the Project would not result in the physical change to a site that may be located on a hazardous waste site as defined in Government Code section 65962.5, and this exception does not apply to the Project. It is also noted that a search of the data bases compiled pursuant to Government Code section

65962.5 revealed that there are three developed properties within the City that are on the list of leaking underground storage tanks, all of which have been cleared and the cases are closed.

F. Historical Resources

Under CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2(f), a categorical exemption shall not be used for a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. The proposed 2026 CFMP would not result in a direct physical change to the environment. The Project would not indirectly cause the specific issuance of any permits or approvals that would result in a physical change to the environment. Therefore, the Project would not affect a historical resource or result in a change in the significance of a historical resource, and this exception does not apply to the Project.

3.3 Conclusion

Based on the review and documentation provided in Section 3.2 of this Memorandum, the Project qualifies for the categorical exemptions found at CEQA Guidelines section 15307 (Class 7), Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources, and section 15307 (Class 8), Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment, and that none of the potential exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption apply to the proposed 2026 CFMP.

4. References

California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation. 2026. Getting Started with CEQA-CEQA Process Overview and CEQA 101. Available online at: <https://lci.ca.gov/ceqa/getting-started/>.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). 2025. California State Scenic Highways. Available online at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>.

California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). 2025. Cortese List Data Resources. Available online at <https://calepa.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/CorteseList/>.

Davey Resource Group. 2023.

- a. 2023. Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA Community Tree Resource Analysis. Prepared for City of Carmel-by-the-Sea.
- b. 2023. Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA Tree Canopy & Land Cover Assessment Summary Report. Prepared for City of Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Attachment A

Comparison of Proposed 2026 Carmel Forest Management Plan With Existing 2001 Forest Management Plan

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Comparison of Proposed 2026 Carmel Forest Management Plan to Existing 2001 Forest Management Plan

Existing 2001 CFMP		How Addressed in 2026 CMPF
Objective	Policy	
GOAL G9 - 13 Preserve and enhance the City's legacy of an urbanized forest of predominantly Monterey pine, coast live oak and Monterey cypress.		Goal 1- Proactively Manage Public Trees & Forest Resources to ensure long-term forest sustainability with proactive management to mitigate risk, improve ecological function, and maintain the urban forest's structure and diversity. Objective 1.1 promotes tree health and diversity. Action 1.1 calls for periodic updates to Recommended Species List, prioritizing Monterey pine, Monterey cypress and coast live oak. Goal 4-Preserve Carmel's Unique Forest Character and Natural Resources.
09-35 <i>Maintain Forest and Beach Committee with responsibility for forest, parks and beach.</i>	P9-202: Periodically review tree-related policies and ordinances and propose changes to bring them in alignment with advances in urban forest management practices	- Objective/Action 4.2 calls for updating municipal codes, the Tree Ordinance, and development standards to support updated forest management goals. - Proposed 2026 CFMP provides update directed in existing P9-202.
	P9-203-205: Conduct forest program with body of laws, goals, policies; coordinate forest program through Forest, Parks, Beach Director; commit resources necessary to support forest programs.	Goal 6-Strengthen Administrative Capacity and Operational Tools to maintain adequate staffing, training, technology and equipment to carry out goals of the Plan. - Objectives 6.1 through 6.4, and supporting actions, address staffing, equipment, data systems and operational efficiency for functioning of the City's Division of Forest, Parks and Beach. - Implementation Guidelines further expand on governance and accountability, establishing annual work programs, and funding.
09-36 <i>Maintain Citywide map and database of trees and landscaped areas to support tree planting and maintenance programs.</i>	P9-206: Complete Citywide survey and database update every 4 years.	- Objective 2.1-Strategic Planting/Action 2.1: Reassess and refine potential planting areas, prioritizing sites that maximize environmental benefit and visual continuity. - Objective/Action 6.3: Maintain GIS-based tree inventory and integrate it with municipal management systems-GIS technology allows for ongoing updates as information becomes available. - Implementation Guidelines provide new time horizons to carry out objectives, including canopy assessment updates. - Updated inventory and canopy assessment conducted as part of the 2026 CFMP.

Comparison of Proposed 2026 Carmel Forest Management Plan to Existing 2001 Forest Management Plan

Existing 2001 CFMP		How Addressed in 2026 CMPF
Objective	Policy	
09-37 Maintain, restore and enhance the upper and lower tree canopy of Carmel's urbanized forest.	P9-208: Implement adopted tree density policies.	2026 CMPF does not include tree density policies, but Municipal Code section 17.48.080.A.2 includes Table 17-48A that establishes tree densities for replacement trees. Objective 1.1 promotes tree health and diversity. Action 1.1 calls for periodic updates to Recommended Species List with focus on native, drought-tolerant and climate-resistant species, prioritizing Monterey pine, Monterey cypress and coast live oak and supporting biodiversity.
	P9-209: Establish and implement tree canopy policies for commercial district.	Goal 2- Maintain a Minimum of 35% Canopy Cover Where Possible. Goal indicates that city will monitor and periodically reaffirm appropriate minimum canopy benchmarks, and historical analyses indicate that approximately 35% canopy coverage has provided functional balance between ecological health, constraints, wildfire risk, and community character. - Objective/Action 2.1 calls for reassessing and refining strategic planting areas, not just in commercial districts. - Objective/Action 2.3 calls for canopy monitoring and assessment every 5 years. - Objective /Action 2.4 calls for establishing measurable forest management target metrics for tree maintenance and planting.
	P-210: Maintain tree species list for upper and lower canopy trees. P9-211: Maintain, restore and enhance predominantly indigenous forest of native Monterey pines and coast live oaks. P-216: Manage planting program to achieve uneven-aged healthy forest with emphasis on Monterey pines and coast live oaks.	- Objective/Action 1.1 calls for periodic updates to Recommended Species List with focus on native, drought-tolerant and climate-resistant species, prioritizing Monterey pine, Monterey cypress and coast live oak. Goal 4-Preserve Carmel's Unique Forest Character and Natural Resources seeks to preserve Carmel's unique forest character and supports preservation and proactive maintenance of Monterey pine, coast live oak and Monterey cypress as foundation to City's urbanized forest. - Appendix C provides updated tree and shrub species list, including tall and moderate-sized canopy trees.
	P-213, 215: Development review and use tree species adapted to size.	Objective/Action 4.2 calls for updating municipal codes, the Tree Ordinance, and development standards to reflect the goals of the Plan.

Comparison of Proposed 2026 Carmel Forest Management Plan to Existing 2001 Forest Management Plan

Existing 2001 CFMP		How Addressed in 2026 CMPF
Objective	Policy	
		- Action 4.2 calls for updating codes and development standards for tree protection and replacement - Appendix B text outlines services of the City's Division of Forest, Parks, and Beach within the Department of Public Works that includes development review, tree protection, and mitigation with expanded text that describes how City Forester coordinates with the Planning Division to review designs and conduct site inspections and make recommendations regarding design or tree removal mitigation.
	P-216: Manage planting program to achieve uneven-aged healthy forest with emphasis on Monterey pines and coast live oaks.	- Objective 1.1 promotes tree health and diversity. Action 1.1 calls for periodic updates to Recommended Species List with focus on native, drought-tolerant and climate-resistant species, prioritizing Monterey pine, Monterey cypress and coast live oak and supporting biodiversity. - Objective 5.1 includes measures for vegetation management for fire risks that support native species and age diversity. 2026 CFMP text describes existing tree age distribution in City.
09-38 Implement policies, standards and procedures to regulate removal, pruning, and replacement of trees on private property.	P9-218, 220, 221, 223: City Forester responsibilities for tree removal requests and monitoring replacement trees.	2026 CFMP text summarizes services of the City's Division of Forest, Parks, and Beach within the Department of Public Works - Appendix B provides a detailed outline of City staff services that includes development review, tree protection, and mitigation with expanded text that describes how City Forester coordinates with the Planning Division to review designs and conduct site inspections and make recommendations regarding design or tree removal mitigation. - Appendix E provides updated/streamlined planting/pruning guidelines. Standards and procedures for tree removal and pruning are established in Municipal Code Chapters 12.48 and 17.48 as summarized in Appendix D of the 2026 CFMP.
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Comparison of Proposed 2026 Carmel Forest Management Plan to Existing 2001 Forest Management Plan

Existing 2001 CFMP		How Addressed in 2026 CMPF
Objective	Policy	
	P9-222: Require appropriate landscaping and tree planting on all sites.	- Action 1.1 calls for periodic updates to Recommended Species List, prioritizing Monterey pine, Monterey cypress and coast live oak. - Appendix C provides updated tree and shrub species list. - Appendix B describes services of City's Forestry Department including development review.
	P9-224: Evaluate, protect and preserve all trees (and root zones) on sites prior to, during and after construction.	Standards and procedures are established in Municipal Code Chapters 12.28 and 17.48, including public and private tree protection during construction activities (Sections 12.28.340 and 17.48.110) as summarized in Appendix D of the 2026 CFMP.
09-39 Perform all tree work and landscaping within City in accordance with City codes and policies and uniform planting practices.	P9-225, 228: Cooperation with public agencies, tree services, utilities.	- Objective/Action 1.2 includes continuing partnerships with public agencies and utilities to address and proactively respond to risks. - Objective/Action 3.4 includes developing relationships and partnerships with regional organizations and agencies regarding stewardship and management.
	P9-227: Provide comprehensive training program for City staff.	Objective/Action 6.1 includes City staff training programs.
	P9-19d: Promote the undergrounding of utilities where feasible.	Measure is included in City's 2022 <i>Climate Adaptation Plan</i> , which establishes an adaptation strategy for the City to prepare for the anticipated impacts associated with climate change. Goals 2 and 3 incorporate language that promotes the resilience of Carmel's forested landscape, including underground of utilities, as summarized in Appendix D of the 2026 CFMP.
09-40 Maintain a healthy forest.	P9-229: Work with other foresters, arborists and researchers on forest health issues.	Not specifically addressed.
	P9-230: Monitor tree pest and disease problems and take appropriate measures.	Objective/Action 1.3 Pest Preparedness: Establish Forest Pest Monitoring and Response Program to detect and manage emerging pest threats as proactive approach to protect forest health, preserve native biodiversity and reduce long-term maintenance costs; coordinate with CAL FIRE and other agencies, supported by public outreach.

Comparison of Proposed 2026 Carmel Forest Management Plan to Existing 2001 Forest Management Plan

Existing 2001 CFMP		How Addressed in 2026 CMPF
Objective	Policy	
	P9-231: Foster healthy and disease-resistant trees; avoid widespread application of pesticides.	Same as Objective/Action 1.3 stated above.
	P-232: Discourage trucks from using streets with low tree limbs.	Not specifically addressed.
	P9-233: Plant native Monterey pine seedlings.	Action 1.1 calls for periodic updates to Recommended Species List, prioritizing Monterey pine, Monterey cypress and coast live oak. Municipal Code section 17.48.080.A.3 requires replacement Monterey pine trees to be of local genetic stock.
	P9-235: Properly dispose of diseased trees and recycle tree waste.	Not specifically addressed.
	P9-226: Require all City departments, utility companies, tree service companies, landscapers to adhere to adopted Tree Maintenance Standards, policies, and guidelines.	Appendix E provides updated/streamlined planting/pruning guidelines. Standards and procedures for tree removal and pruning are established in Municipal Code Chapters 12.48 and 17.48 as summarized in Appendix D of the 2026 CFMP.
09-41 Educate and involve the public in tree issues.	P9-231: Undertake active community outreach and education program. P9-243: Involve citizen groups in forestry programs.	Goal 3–Foster Community Stewardship and Education - Objectives 3.1 through 3.4 identify measures for community education via public education, volunteer engagement, special events and working with local agencies. 1.3: Includes public outreach to encourage private property monitoring of pest issues. - Objective/Action 2.2-Private Property Engagement: Includes measures to encourage community education and incentive programs for homeowners to preserve existing and plant new trees, including creating a forest stewardship guide. - Objective/Action 5.2 calls for the City to organize targeted workshops and demonstration projects to help residents understand defensible space principles regarding wildfire resilience measures that align with neighborhood character and ecological values.

Comparison of Proposed 2026 Carmel Forest Management Plan to Existing 2001 Forest Management Plan

Existing 2001 CFMP		How Addressed in 2026 CMPF
Objective	Policy	
		Objective 5.7 reiterates community engagement and education with annual events, publishing materials and volunteer management.
	P9-240: Publish tree care articles. P9-241: Encourage monetary and other contributions to support urban forest program.	- Objective 5.7 includes publishing Private Forest Stewardship Guide and core educational materials. - Section 5.4 of the Implementation Guidelines outline a funding strategy. - Objective 5.4 calls for the City to seek state and federal grants to support wildfire risk reduction.
	P9-242: Provide annual information on tree surveys, forest conditions to City Council and Planning Commission.	- Objective 3.3 calls for publishing an annual “State of the Urban Forest” report. - Section 5.1 of the Implementation Guidelines includes annual report to the City Council. - Annual reporting of tree inventory required in Municipal Code Chapter 17.48 as summarized in Appendix D of the 2026 CFMP.
GOAL G9-14 Maintain and Enhance the Informality of Streetscapes.		Not included, but existing goal and associated objectives and policies address hardscape and street design issues, not forest management issues.
GOAL G9-15 Preserve and Acquire Open Space and Parks.		Not included, but existing goal and associated objectives and policies address park and open space acquisition and management, including public access and use of public parks, not forest management issues.
GOAL G9-17 Conserve Water and Minimize Storm Runoff.		Not included, but existing goal and associated objectives and policies address water conservation and stormwater management, not forest management issues.
Appendices		
Appendix B – Tree Pruning Standards		Included in Appendix E, Planting & Pruning Guidelines, with reference to professional standards.
Appendix C – Tree Planting Guidelines		Included in Appendix E, Planting & Pruning Guidelines
Appendix D – City Tree Inventory		Provided in separate 2023 reports, which included tree inventory and canopy assessment, and were conducted in support of the 2026 CFMP.

Comparison of Proposed 2026 Carmel Forest Management Plan to Existing 2001 Forest Management Plan

Existing 2001 CFMP		How Addressed in 2026 CMPF
Objective	Policy	
Appendix E – Tree Removal Criteria		Not included but addressed in Municipal Code Titles 12.28 and 17.48.
Appendix F – Policies		Included in Appendix D, Municipal Plans, Codes and Policies
Appendix G – Tree Species List		Included in Appendix C, Recommended Tree and Shrub Species List
Appendix H – List of Compatible Plants Under and Around Native Trees		Included in Appendix C, Recommended Tree and Shrub Species List
Appendix I – Business District Planting Policy		
Appendix J – Pitch Canker Task Force Position Papers		Objective/Action 1.3 Pest Preparedness: Establish Forest Pest Monitoring and Response Program to detect and manage emerging pest threats as proactive approach to protect forest health, preserve native biodiversity and reduce long-term maintenance costs; coordinate with CAL FIRE and other agencies, supported by public outreach.
Appendix K – Controlling Bark Beetles in Wood Residue and Firewood		Same as above.
Appendix L – Monterey Pine Seed Collection Planting		Objective/Action 2.2-Private Property Engagement: Includes measures to encourage community education and incentive programs for homeowners to preserve existing and plant new trees, including creating a forest stewardship guide regarding tree care best practices, planting techniques, and a recommended species.
		NEW Goal 5 – Integrate Wildfire Resilience into Forest Management - Objective 5.1 calls for vegetation management to reduce wildfire intensity and spread and treatments to target removal of ladder fuels while supporting native species and age diversity. - Objective 5.2 calls for creating and strengthening defensible space in partnership with CAL FIRE and Monterey County and public workshops and demonstration projects. - Objective 5.3 calls for promoting fire-resistant building materials and landscaping practices. - Objective 5.4 calls for policy and funding alignment regarding wildfire resilience efforts. New and/or Expanded Objectives: <i>Habitat and Ecosystem Enhancement</i> - Objective 4.1 calls for habitat protection, and Action 4.1 seeks to enhance habitat connectivity and ecosystem health.

Comparison of Proposed 2026 Carmel Forest Management Plan to Existing 2001 Forest Management Plan

Existing 2001 CFMP		How Addressed in 2026 CMPF
Objective	Policy	
		- Objective 4.4 calls for incorporating Carmel's ecological and cultural history in forest policies, recognizing community was built in an existing Monterey pine and oak ecosystem. - Objective 5.1 calls for sensitive vegetation management for wildfire resilience in or adjacent to sensitive natural areas, such as Mission Trail Nature Preserve, riparian corridors and other habitat areas.
		<i>Climate Resilience</i> Objective 1.2: Risk and Maintenance Planning: Develop Tree Risk Management Strategy to reduce liability and protect public safety, including inspections to identify hazards with focus on replacing hazardous trees with appropriate species to maintain canopy and ecological integrity.
		Objective 4.3 calls for prioritizing species tolerant to drought, heat and pests using local genetic stock.
		<i>New Appendices</i>
		A – Forest Landscape: Historic and Ecological Context
		B – Forestry Department Services and Operations
		F – Benefits of Trees, Native Plants and Natural Habitat Areas



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

Public Works Department

July 2026 Report

TO:	Forest and Beach Commission
SUBMITTED BY:	Shari Carlet, MSCE, Acting Public Works Director
SUBMITTED ON:	July 2026

Public Works Director

- Fuel Management work for Pescadero Canyon has been completed including removal of dead and dying trees, vegetation, and shrubs, thinned dense brush to break continuous fuel remove canopies to 6'-10', remove low branches and ladder fuels, clearing of the grass and low vegetation, clear fuels directly under trees, vertical clearance for emergency vehicles access, and vegetation clearing along the canyon and the south shoulder of the Casanova Fire Road. Biological survey was performed and a CDP permit was also obtained for this work but only applicable to city-owned properties.
- El Nino and Winter Preparedness planning is underway. Participated in the CERT meeting to discuss some El Nino scenarios. This preparedness will be on-going.
- Significant preparation and coordination took place among Public Works, Police, Executive and Community Events staff, and volunteer groups for Car Week. Public Works played a major role in planning and executing public parking and the Mission Church shuttle, street closures, landscape replacements, signage, speed bumps, porta-potties, trash bins, janitorial services, and more.
- 13th Avenue vegetation clearing for the Wildfire Evacuation Route is underway. Inspection and notification forms have been prepared for field visits and distribution to residents.
- The RFP for architectural services for the Police Department/Public Works facility has been reviewed, and the top four firms have been selected. Council has approved moving these finalists forward for interviews and the next phase of the selection process.
- One Project Manager has been hired and began work on August 3, 2026.
- Recruitment for the Public Works Director: tentative start date of September 1st
- Public Works currently has 5 vacancies: Public Works Director, Capital Program Manager, Permit Technician, and two Maintenance Worker positions (one in Forestry and one in Street Maintenance).

Environmental Program

- Draft Coastal Hazards Report
 - Joint meeting between Planning and F&B Commission has been set up for August 20, 2026.
 - Staff had a booth at the farmers' market every Thursday and may plan to do more to get input, feedback and answer questions about the policy.
 - Report has been posted on the city website for Community review and comment.
- Plastic Bag Ordinance Changes:

- August 2026 CC Meeting Agenda- 1st reading in August.
- SB 1383 MOU with ReGen for GY 26/27 and Greenwaste Rate Increases
 - Agreement is processed.
- Climate Change Action and Adaptation
 - Council approved an operating budget of \$5K for Environmental operations to be part of the Regional Climate Project Working Group.

Facility Operations and Maintenance

- Emergency repairs at the Police Station have been completed with the help of Public Works Staff and contractors (Evidence room, ventilation, flooring, etc...)
- The city has acquired a Janitorial services agreement with Bright Building Maintenance. They started work on July 1, 2026. Reports have been good feedback with the work performed by this new Janitorial company on all the city facilities and the frequency of service shas been increased to 4 times a day
- City Hall: All proposals for window and shingle replacement have been received; awaiting follow-up information from Brandon.
- City Hall: Planned work termite-tenting contractor regarding upcoming treatment.
- Flanders: Coordinating with the contractor to review required roof repairs.
- Purchased and delivered new tables for the City Hall chambers and removed the old tables.
- Scout House: Received all quotes for window and siding replacement; project awarded to selected contractor.
- Fire Station: Replaced dishwasher and kitchen sink/faucet.
- Public Restrooms: Performed hydro-jetting and drain maintenance at Del Mar, Murphy, and Devendorf facilities.
- Replaced deteriorated doors at Forest Hill Park, Piccadilly Park, and the Del Mar ATV garage.
- Forest Theater: Installed door closers at the public restroom
- Vista Lobos- Obtained quotes for installation of Transfer Switches for generator for EOC.

Street and Sidewalk Operation and Maintenance

- All hands- on board for the July 4th and Car Week Preparation Work.

Flow Line Adjustment

- Lowered the flow line at Santa Lucia and Mission using a rented grinder.

Street Maintenance

- Continued annual street legend painting (red zones).
- Continued street name sign painting in the southwest section.

City Facility Repairs

- Repaired trash enclosure at the Del Mar lot.

Wildfire Fuel Reduction

- Removed five piles of fire fuel in MTNP.

Asphalt & Roadway Work

- Applied 8 tons of hot-mix asphalt for cut-outs and overlays at Mission south of 10th, berm work at 5th & Torres, and overlays on Ladera and Rio.

Sidewalk & Drainage Improvements

- Repaired sidewalk at Junipero center island.
- Installed new concrete drainage swale at Torres and 10th.

Capital Improvement Program

- CIP-Beach Stairs: Project received 4 bids on July 21, and the successful lowest bidder is Silcon Constructors.
- CIP – Conglomerate Paving Project: The paving and microsurfacing work is complete. Punchlist items and 2 sidewalk replacements still need to be completed.
- CIP- 4th Ave Outfall & Sand Ramp:
 - Sand redistribution work was completed in June. Operations pushed sand at the bottom of the sand ramp. The second sand redistribution will be completed by end of September.
- Priority - Emergency Repair of 11th Ave shoreline erosion:
 - Preliminary design has been drafted. Sourcing riprap is being planned and inquiries to be started.
- CIP - EV Chargers / Panel Upgrade Project: ADA compliance is being reviewed and will be designed as part of this project.
- Fire Station upgrades are moving forward, with window replacements and kitchen improvements now completed.
- Work continues with the permitting and repairs at Scott House, including replacement of window frames and siding to address rot and leaks—especially important as we prepare for potential El Niño conditions.
- Planning for the Upcoming design of the Sidewalk Improvement Project.

Additional Capital and External Agency Improvement Projects:

- An ADA ramp and parking have been fully designed, 3 quotes have been received, and installation at the Scenic and Santa Lucia site is tentatively scheduled for August.
- Public Works is assisting and coordinating with Library staff on their temporary relocation to the Wayfarer Church, including the scope of required tenant improvements.
- ADA layout modifications for the Del Mar Restroom are currently under review.
- Private Development: The Ulrika Project remains active, with periodic street closures on Dolores Street between 5th and 6th Avenues.
- Completed a site walk-through with the Pine Inn project manager and design team regarding proposed sidewalk improvements around the Pine Inn block.
- Held initial meetings with PG&E to discuss upcoming utility construction and planned tree-related work within the City.

FY25-26 CIP Projects Completed:

- Fire Station Upgrade
- Forest Theater Stage
- Sunset Center Painting Phase 2
- ADA Upgrade Year 8 (Railing on steps at Devendorf Park)
- Rio/Junipero Media
- Park Library Window Repair
- Yoga Center Re-roof
- Forest Plan Implementation Year 2
- Resurfacing Sunset Center Parking Lot
- Devendorf Park Improvements
- Sidewalk Repairs: Precision Grinding completed

Forestry and Parks: See Forester's Report