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CARMEL RIVER WATERSHED CONSERVANCY

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Our outdoor spaces are more important than ever. We continue dedicated to protecting and restoring the beauty and health of and Carmel River and its watershed. This newsletter highlights some of our newest and most exciting initiatives. Click on each story to read more, or check out our new virtual tours!

Please share!

[Visit the CRWC Website](#)

[Watershed Virtual Tours](#)

Can you support our wildfire mitigation work and watershed health? Consider donating to CRWC this holiday. Every little bit helps!

[A GIFT FOR THE RIVER](#)

FIRST CARMEL RIVER WATERSHED REPORT CARD RELEASED



[Read more here from our website](#)

The end of October 2020 marked the completion of the first version of the Carmel River Watershed health report card. The report card summarizes the conditions and trends of key watershed health indicators including water chemistry, steelhead counts, aquatic habitat, and streamflow patterns. Each indicator's condition is based on a scale of zero to 100 and may be used for prioritizing and gauging the efficacy of restoration activities within the watershed. It will also make our progress more easily understood by the public.

WATERSHED FIRE PREVENTION AND PLANNING INITIATIVES

The Carmel River Watershed Conservancy (CRWC) and other area groups are working on several wildfire prevention and planning initiatives after an unprecedented wildfire season in California and in Monterey County. The CAL FIRE California Climate Investments Program recently granted nearly \$1 million in funds to the Fire Safe Council for Monterey County for fuel reduction, and approximately \$4.8 million to the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC) to reduce fuel around County homes, maintain strategic fuelbreaks, increase forest and vegetation community resiliency, and control invasive plant species.



Photo credit to David Rodriguez, via thecalifornian.com

[Read more here from our website](#)

CARMEL RIVER LAGOON PROGRESS

Many of you readers have followed for decades the reports of “solutions” to the problems caused by the barrier beach and periodic flooding of the homes along the Lagoon. A Draft EIR had stalled since early 2017, caused

mostly by County budget shortfalls, further delayed progress on solutions. Recently, however, hope has been rekindled by the County's decision to provide funding to complete the EIR process, boosted by a \$100k funding contribution from the County Service Area 1 (Carmel Point). A long term solution is now well on its way.



[Read more here from our website](#)

VIRTUAL CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE DAY COMING MARCH 2021

It has been an incredibly challenging year, but with every challenge comes new adaptations. This year due to the pandemic, we were not able to celebrate California Wildlife Day (CWD) 2020 in person. Though our event was cancelled, we were still able to honor the student science, art, and poetry celebrating California animals and the environments they live in through social media and our website's [digital gallery](#). As we look forward to 2021, we are excited to announce California Wildlife Day Virtual Celebration March 20-21, 2021. We hope that in 2022 we can return to our regular in-person event.

[Read more here from our website](#)

STEELHEAD UPDATE!



DURING THE 2020 SEASON, THE CARMEL RIVER STEELHEAD ASSOCIATION RESCUED **12,182** FISH, OF WHICH **2,631** WERE OVER 1 YEAR OLD.

