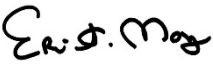


AGENDA ITEM NO. 8-C
MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD REPORT

DATE: May 6, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jake Smith, Planning & Conservation Program Manager

REVIEWED BY: Eric Morgan, General Manager 

SUBJECT: Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project Monthly Progress Report

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on construction progress for the Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project. Phase 2 of the project began on April 20, 2026. This report outlines working completed from the start of Phase 2 and outlines construction activities that are planned through late May 2026.

REPORT

Project Background

The Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project is restoring approximately one mile of the Carmel River by reconnecting it to its historic floodplain. This multi-year project is transforming a former golf course into thriving river, wetland, and upland habitat that will:

- Support native wildlife, including threatened steelhead trout
- Help reduce flood risk by allowing the river to spread more naturally during high flows
- Create future opportunities for public recreation and outdoor learning

The project is being completed in three phases over three years. Construction of Phase 2 (year 2) began on April 20, 2026.

Work Completed (Reporting Period April 20 – April 27, 2026)

Construction Activities

- Construction of Phase 2 began on April 20, 2026
- Initiation of ongoing biological and cultural and monitoring
- Placement of construction fencing and environmentally sensitive area protection fencing
- Initial site preparation and grading of construction haul routes, staging areas and access points
- Underground utility surveys and “potholing” (excavation)
- Initial equipment mobilization

Upcoming Work (Late April – Late May 2026)

Planned Construction Activities

- Construction of new operations gate and access point from Carmel Valley Road
- Concrete cart path and trail demolition and removal
- Creation of interim “detour” trail corridor routing the public west of the project area until new trails are constructed and opened later this summer
- Construction of new trail segments near entrance plaza
- Removal of large rocks and boulders serving as “rip rap” armoring on riverbanks
- Surveying and laying out footprint of phase 2 floodplain
- Stripping and salvaging clean topsoil
- Additional heavy equipment mobilization



Photo 1: Phase 2 kickoff construction coordination meeting held in the field.



Photo 2: New trail alignments marked with stakes prior to construction.



Photo 3: Construction staging area preparation activities.



Photo 4: New construction fencing placed around the project perimeter.



Photo 4: Flagged off public trail corridor within Phase 2 area prior to mass excavation activities.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None