

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13-C

MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT BOARD REPORT

DATE: June 3, 2026
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Jake Smith, Planning & Conservation Program Manager
REVIEWED BY: Eric Morgan, General Manager *E.M.*
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 work completed since late April 2026 and outlines construction activities that are planned through late June 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 began on April 20, 2026.

Work Completed (Reporting Period Late April– Late May 2026)

Construction Activities

- Continued Phase 2 construction following the April 20 start date.
- Continued biological and cultural monitoring during active construction.

- Completed additional construction fencing and environmentally sensitive area protection fencing.
- Continued site preparation, including grading of haul routes, staging areas, and construction access points.
- Conducted underground utility surveys and potholing to locate existing infrastructure before major earthwork.
- Continued delivery and staging of heavy equipment needed for Phase 2 construction.
- Began removing old cart paths and preparing former trail areas for removal and replacement.
- Continued clearing vegetation and invasive species, stripping and stockpiling topsoil, removing bank armoring, and preparing material staging areas.
- Coordinated short-term lane closures on Carmel Valley Road associated with large equipment deliveries. These closures are expected to be limited in duration and managed by the contractor.

Public access

- Opened the new temporary detour trail and access to Bridge 5 during the week of May 11.
- Closed the previous eastern detour route and shifted public access west of the active Phase 2 construction area.
- Installed updated wayfinding signs with directional arrows along the new detour route.
- Placed updated detour trail maps near trailheads.
- Moved project signs to new fence sections along the detour trail.
- Installed red pin flagging along the detour trail south of the Rancho Cañada Village housing development.
- Improved damaged sections of the cart path between Bridge 4 and Bridge 5 with woodchips.
- All trails within the Rancho Cañada Unit are now closed except for the temporary detour trail and Southbank Trail.
- No additional public access changes are expected until late June at the earliest, and possibly mid-July.

Upcoming Work (Late May – Late June 2026)

Planned Construction Activities

- Begin mass excavation on May 26, after remaining site preparation and equipment deliveries are complete.
- Begin construction of the temporary stream crossing.

- Begin moving large volumes of soil, with Teichert targeting approximately 20,000 cubic yards per day once mass excavation begins.
- Remove the old Multi-Benefit Community Trail.
- Construct new trail segments near the Discovery Center and gateway plaza.
- Continue removing old cart paths and former trail infrastructure.
- Continue short-term traffic coordination as needed for equipment deliveries and adjacent utility work.
- Continue biological and cultural monitoring during construction.



Photo 1: Contractor equipment mobilized and staged in the Park.



Photo 2: Rip Rap (large rocks armoring banks) being removed to prepare new temporary stream crossing for Phase 2.

Photo 3: First park user to officially cross bridge 5 after being opened to the public on May 11th.



Photo 4: Removal of asphalt and concrete former cart paths near entrance plaza.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None