

## MEDIA ALERT



For Immediate Release

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*Images Available*

### **CARMEL AREA WASTEWATER DISTRICT TO IMPROVE CARMEL MEADOWS SEWER SYSTEM**

*Project Will Eliminate Spills and Protect the Environment*

**Carmel, Calif., June 29, 2023**— Following an extensive public outreach and evaluation period, followed by listening to residential and public agency opinions, the Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) voted to reaffirm its support of the Carmel Meadows Gravity Sewer Replacement Project and after listening to public concerns, have concluded that CAWD will own and operate ejector pumps required for the project.

“Our agency’s board of directors would like to thank the public and numerous agencies who provided comment and opinion on this important and environmentally critical project,” said Ken White, CAWD Board President. “By engaging in the process and listening to the public, we feel the project has been improved significantly by reducing the burden on individual parcel owners.”

The Carmel Meadows sewer main is over 60 years old and is the CAWD’s worst source of sewer spills. The 6-inch main, located in an environmentally sensitive area adjacent to the Carmel River and Lagoon, does not have enough capacity for the increasing number of connections. Additionally, landslides and hillside erosion have created foundational instability and a dangerous environment for CAWD employees to provide maintenance and repair. The project addresses multiple security and operational concerns while improving overall sewer service for the community.

“Although this project was approved in 2019, our staff and consultant team have taken the feedback received and made positive changes to how this project will operate,” commented Barbara Buikema, General Manager of the CAWD. “ We are thankful for the public’s interest and look forward to completing this important project.”

For more information on the project and to sign up for alerts visit: [www.cawd.org/active-current-projects](http://www.cawd.org/active-current-projects) or [www.cawd.org/carmel-meadows-sewer-replacement-community-outreach-portal](http://www.cawd.org/carmel-meadows-sewer-replacement-community-outreach-portal)

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*The Carmel Area Wastewater District is a special district dedicated to the protection of the public health and the environment through the cost effective collection and treatment of wastewater and the return of clean water to the environment.*