

San Clemente Dam Removal **Fact Sheet**

Media Contacts: Trish Chapman
tchapman@scc.ca.gov
(510) 286-0749

Laura Engeman
lengeman@scc.ca.gov
(949) 361-8929

About the Carmel River

- The Carmel River is a 36 mile river on the Central Coast of California in Monterey County that drains a watershed of about 255 square miles. The river originates in the Santa Lucia Mountains and flows northwest through the Carmel Valley. It lets out at the Pacific Ocean south of Carmel-by-the-Sea, and is considered the northern boundary of Big Sur.
- The river is home to hundreds of animal species, including the threatened California Steelhead Trout and the Red-Legged Frog.
- In his 1945 novel 'Cannery Row,' John Steinbeck wrote "The Carmel is a lovely little river. It isn't very long but in its course it has everything a river should have."

About the San Clement Dam

- The San Clemente Dam, built in 1921, is a 106-foot-high concrete arch dam located approximately 18.5 miles from the Pacific Ocean on the Carmel River in Monterey County. The confluence of the Carmel River and San Clemente Creek is located just upstream of the dam.
- The dam is owned and operated by California American Water (CAW).
- The dam's reservoir has been filled by more than 2.5 million cubic yards of sediment, leaving a reservoir storage capacity of approximately 70 acre-feet (as of 2012).
- The California Department of Water Resources Division of the Safety of Dams issued a safety order for the dam structure in the early 1990s, determining that the structure could potentially fail in the event of either the maximum credible earthquake or probable maximum flood.



About the Project

- The Carmel River Reroute & San Clemente Dam Removal Project, an innovative public/private partnership, is the culmination of a long-term effort to resolve the public safety and environmental issues associated with the existing San Clemente Dam.
- The project is expected to cost \$83 million. More than 80% of the \$34M in public funding has been secured.
- According to CAW, their ratepayers will see an increase of approximately 6.7 percent (or \$2.55 per month for an average residential customer), to offset their portion of the project costs (\$49M).
- The project is expected to begin in September 2012, and will take approximately three to four years to complete.

Project Benefits

- The Dam removal will restore the Carmel River and provide comprehensive restoration of the natural character and function of the valley bottom.
- The project will restore the natural steelhead fish passage, and allow improvements that fish biologists have determined will support recovery of the federally threatened species.
- The removal will eliminate the dam's seismic safety hazard, thus ensuring that public safety concerns are eliminated.
- The project will save or generate over 900 jobs in Monterey County, which has been hard hit by the recession and currently has an unemployment rate over 12%.

Project Partners

- California American Water
- National Marine Fisheries Services
- State Coastal Conservancy

Supporters of the Project

Elected Officials

- United States Senator Barbara Boxer
- United States Congressman Sam Farr
- California Assemblyman William Monning
- State Senator Sam Blakeslee
- Monterey County Supervisor Dave Potter

Nonprofit Organizations

- American Rivers
- Big Sur Land Trust
- CalTrout
- Carmel River Steelhead Association
- Carmel River Watershed Conservancy
- Friends of the River
- Monterey Coastkeeper
- National Wildlife Federation
- Planning & Conservation League Foundation
- Trout Unlimited

Agencies

- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Natural Resources Agency
- California Wildlife Conservation Board
- Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency
- Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District
- Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association
- United States Bureau of Land Management
- United States Bureau of Reclamation
- United States Fish & Wildlife Service

Resources for Additional Information

- Project Website: <http://www.sanclementedamremoval.org/>
- Project Media Gallery: http://www.sanclementedamremoval.org/?page_id=14
- CAW Brochure: http://www.amwater.com/files/CA-Mtry_SanClementeDamRemoval-brochure_FINAL.pdf
- State Coastal Conservancy Website: <http://scc.ca.gov/2010/01/07/san-clemente-dam-removal-project/>
- Department of Water Resources Website: <https://sanclementedam.water.ca.gov/>