



COUNTY OF MONTEREY

CAO Weekly Report

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SPECIALREPORT



County crews at work at the Carmel Lagoon.

RMA Crews Face El Niño

County Notes

- > Got horse? The Sheriff's Mounted Unit is looking for recruits. Find out more [here](#).

It's one thing to be watching the recent El Nino storms from the safety of our living rooms, it's quite another to be part of the solution for the havoc being wreaked by Mother Nature over the last few weeks.

Long before the storms hit, RMA staff was working to prepare trouble spots around the county to avoid storm-related troubles.

RMA has a mere 42 "boots-on-the-ground" operation staff members supported by 14 administrative staff members to keep the more than 1,200 miles of county roads and 173 bridges safe and open for business. In the office and out in the field, management personnel constantly monitors the weather, rivers, agricultural areas, burn areas and drainage systems to identify trouble spots and stay one step ahead of each storm. This all requires constant coordination within the agency and with partner agencies including Monterey

County Water Resources Agency, state and federal wildlife agencies, Caltrans, local cities, State Parks, California Highway Patrol, Sherriff's dispatch and various fire agencies.

Here is a 'tour' of county trouble spots that have kept RMA crews busy since El Niño storms arrived:



Trouble spots RMA crews have worked on during recent storms: Elkhorn at Amaral Road in North County (above), Nacimiento-Ferguson Road in South County (below).

In North County, the road crew worked to keep roadways open by clearing drainage ways in order to help divert floodwaters and sediment off the roads. The Operations team must work closely with RMA's Code Compliance and Environmental Services teams, private landowners and other partners to address these problem spots. Crews have had to close Harrison Road three times already this winter due to drainage problems.

Moving south, the Greenfield Road Crew has been busy with landslides on Elm Avenue, Arroyo Seco Road and Gloria Road. The San Ardo Road Crew has had to narrow and constantly maintain Nacimiento-Ferguson Road, the primary exit route for the Big Sur community when Highway 1 is blocked.



The Monterey Road District has cleared slides off Old Coast Road to keep it safe and clear and have seen recurring flooding along River Road. This crew also helps manage the lower Carmel River and Carmel Lagoon.

On January 19th, county crews successfully created a 60' by 60' swale (a flat, wide area) on the southern end of the sandbar at Carmel River State Beach and lowered the barrier by one and a half feet. The goal: to allow the river to breach the sandbar barrier in the most ecologically sensitive, natural way possible before homes flood. Options were extremely limited this year due to King Tides over the holidays which stripped most of the sand off the beach. Crews monitored the area day and

night throughout that weekend and pumped water from roads north of the lagoon to make sure homes did not flood while waiting for the lagoon to rise high enough to connect to the ocean.

Nearby, substantial sand loss and erosion due to sea heights and King Tides is being closely monitored along Scenic Road. These conditions put the roadway at risk of washing away, taking with it a major sanitary pipeline and other utilities buried just three feet from the road edge.

The Bridge Crew has continuously monitored bridge conditions – all 173 of them -- during storms and removed debris from abutments which can create risks for flow blockages that can potentially compromise the bridge integrity. To boot, this crew has deployed more than 2,000 pre-filled sandbags to Monterey County communities in the last few weeks.

The three-member Tree Crew performed emergency tree removal and routine maintenance. The Sign Crew moved swiftly to deploy temporary traffic controls in response to winter storm hazards and road closures across the county.

RMA-Public Works crews deserve a big “Thank You” for working quickly, day and night, to keep roads and bridges safe and homes from flooding, all the while being careful to protect species and habitat in the creeks, rivers and sloughs.

County Museum Preps for Accreditation

The Monterey County Agricultural and Rural Life Museum (MCARLM) has been creatively pushing the boundaries of what people think of as a ‘typical’ museum for some time now. The next step for MCARLM is to embark on a year-long effort to increase its prestige in the museum world by taking part in an academy which will prepare staff for an accreditation bid.

MCARLM has been selected to participate in the Small Museum Accreditation Academy, a program sponsored by the National Endowment of the Arts and the American Alliance of Museums. It was one of just ten in the nation and the only museum in California selected to participate in the program.

Why accreditation? Accreditation, which by definition means an act of granting recognition which proves a general standard of quality, increases a museum’s credibility and value to funders, policy makers, insurers, community and peers. It is a way to be recognized for high standards and helps facilitate loans between institutions, meaning MCARLM could increase its exhibit offerings.



Spreckels House is one of many historic structures at MCARLM.

The Academy will begin next month and last for a year. The focus will be to strengthen the Museum's five core documents and a culture of excellence. Those five core documents include:

- A Code of Ethics
- Mission Statement
- Strategic Plan
- Disaster Preparedness Plan
- Collections Management Policy and Plan

Staff will participate in 8 live webinars, write and/or revise the five core documents and complete all activities and assignments. Once the Academy has been completed, MCARLM can take that next step and apply for accreditation.

Judging by the requirements for the accreditation process, you can see why an academy would give a museum a head start. The accreditation application includes gathering data and documents regarding the following topics:

- Organizational data
- Operational data
- Educational role
- Public service role
- Collections stewardship role
- Long term and near term planning
- Organizational health

The Health Department recently went through the accreditation process, which required volumes of data and documents to be collected and assembled. Acceptance into the Academy gives the Museum a head-start because much of the required information will be 'pre-collected.'



NMC Names Chief Nursing Officer

A familiar face is taking the reigns as Natividad Medical Center's (NMC) Chief Nursing Officer. Nancy A. Bushcher, DMP, RN has been named to the position, which she has served as interim for the past two years. Her appointment was effective as of the end of 2015.

"We are very fortunate to have Nancy on board in this significant role," says hospital CEO Dr. Gary Gray. "Her wealth of experience and talent has already made a positive impact at NMC. I am confident that her professionalism and leadership skills will continue to be a great asset to our team."



Nancy A. Bushcher

Nancy's knowledge of clinical practice and quality improvement will help ensure that we remain responsive to our patients' needs.”

Buscher received her doctorate in Nursing Leadership from Rush University in Chicago, Illinois. She also received a master's degree in Nursing Administration from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Prior to Natividad, Buscher served for thirteen years as CNO/Vice President of Patient Care at Three Rivers Health in Three Rivers, Michigan. She was Interim Director of Telemetry and IMCU at Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital in San Antonio, Texas, and Interim Director of multiple units at Good Samaritan Hospital in San Jose, California.