

MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

**DATE:** October 2, 2024  
**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Rafael Payan, General Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Presentation: Bridge to Everywhere (Barbara Buikema – CAWD)

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**SUMMARY:**

The Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) will provide MPRPD's Board a presentation on the "Bridge to Everywhere." CAWD is seeking MPRPD's support for this project. The Bridge to Everywhere may serve as a connector to lands owned by CAWD, the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, California State Parks, and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Not Applicable

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

Not Applicable

**FUNDING BALANCE:**

Not Applicable

**DISCUSSION:**

CAWD, in partnership with several jurisdictions, has an extraordinary opportunity to elevate our community's quality of life by connecting trails from Carmel-by-the-Sea to nearby State Parks south of the Carmel River and MPRPD's Palo Corona Regional Park.

A new community walking trail and pedestrian bridge across the Carmel River would connect several currently disconnected trails and parks. This project requires no land purchase; all the connectivity points are in public ownership.

Each of these dispersed geographic connection points has existing parking, allowing users to select their choice of access to the new trail system. This new trail will significantly enhance walking, hiking, and, where appropriate, bicycle access to the natural beauty of our coast and uplands.

Each section along this new trail is unique and compelling. That's why CAWD calls it the "Bridge to Everywhere." CAWD owns the bridge, and believes that the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea is willing to share Rio Park with other jurisdictions for a very low impact/no infrastructure trail network. Discussion with California State Parks will be forthcoming. The Bridge to Everywhere has the potential to make a hike from Palo Corona Regional Park's Rancho Canada Unit to the ocean a reality.

CAWD is seeking MPRPD's support of the Bridge To Everywhere and will be discussing the potential conveyance of portions of this proposed trail network to MPRPD or another jurisdiction.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

It is recommended that the Board receive CAWD's presentation and provide staff direction on how to proceed with this potential partnership.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Not Applicable