

## Consultant: Rising sea levels will threaten homes

By MARY SCHLEY

WHILE COASTAL erosion is a perennial problem along the California coast, consultants told the Carmel Forest and Beach Commission last Thursday that ocean levels increasing by 2 to 4 feet during the next 55 to 75 years could make the problem much worse, undermining 45 homes along Scenic Road, along with water mains, parking areas, public bathrooms, sewers and other infrastructure.

Hired by the city to study the potential impacts of sea level rise and how to prepare for them, the consultants used information from city reports and documents dating back to the 1970s to get an idea of the rate of erosion in the past, coupled with state guidance and science estimating that sea levels will rise by 4 feet by 2100. (In 2018, the state guidance estimated ocean levels would be 7 feet higher by then, but the science and guidance are being updated this year, according to the consultants.)

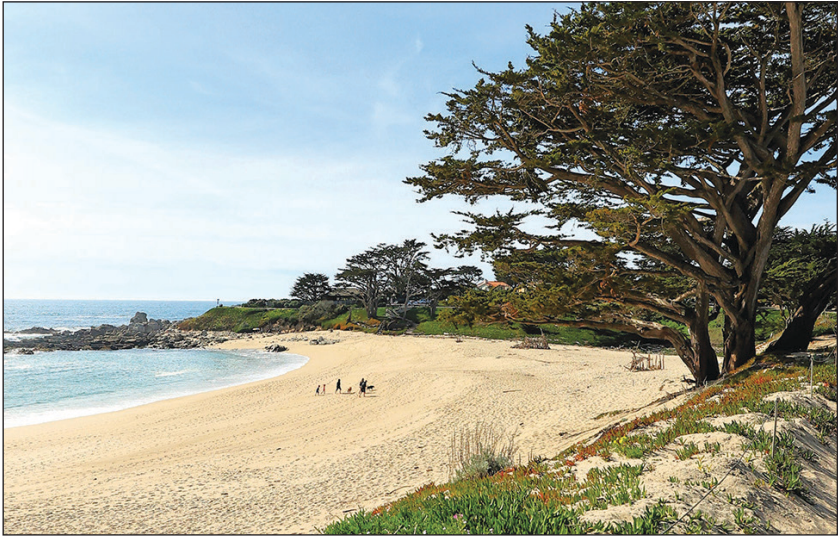
### What it means

David Revell, the principal of Integral Corp, told commissioners erosion is driven by tides, waves breaking against the sea walls and bluffs and washing back out, and surf topping the bluffs to hit Scenic

Road, the pathways and the parking lot. While wave over-topping only occurs occasionally along Carmel Point, it will become increasingly common as sea levels rise. The report estimated erosion rates ranging from .2 foot per year to .7 foot per year and stated the width of the beach will narrow between 50 and 60 feet per foot of sea level rise.

According to the study, based on an estimated 3 feet of sea level rise occurring as early as 2070 — and assuming

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PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Rising sea levels may threaten Scenic Road, but some residents are concerned a majestic Monterey cypress (at right in photo) will be sacrificed so the road can be protected. See page 17A.

## Nielsen Bros. market welcomes new owners

By MARY SCHLEY

A COUPLE who owned a market in the Twitter building in San Francisco before the pandemic and held key positions in the Whole Foods and Andronico's empires, Susan and Michael Cohen, have purchased Nielsen Bros. Market. The sellers, Azniv and Tigran Amirkhanian, bought the store from longtime owners Merv and Nancie Sutton in 2009 and are planning to retire.

"My husband and I just love that place," Azniv said Tuesday, adding that they also adore the customers and employees, and have no intention of moving away, but after 15 years of seven-days-a-week work, it's time to let someone else take over.

"We just want to enjoy the fruits of our labor before we need walkers or anything," said Azniv, who has also been on the boards of the Carmel Chamber of Commerce and the nonprofit Carmel Foundation, which serves members aged 55 and older.

The Amirkhanians have been married for 51 years and have owned and run several businesses as a team.

The sale came about after the Amirkhanians' son, who is a business broker in Los Angeles, convinced them

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## CHS grad gets MBFC contract



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

At age 22, Carmel High alum Pierce Gallaway (Class of 2019) has taken a big step toward achieving his dreams — and you can watch him play this weekend. See page 12A.

## You, too, can save motherless opossums

By CHRIS COUNTS

THE LIFE of a baby opossum is a very fragile thing, especially if it's no longer cared for by its mother. Yet against all odds, the SPCA Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center last year rescued nearly 100 baby opossums after their mothers were hit by cars or killed by dogs or cats.

With nine rescued baby opossums under its care, the SPCA is asking the public for help to save as many of the tiny marsupials as possible.

If you're driving and accidentally hit an adult opossum, it could be a mother carrying babies. And even if she's been killed by the collision, there's hope that at least some of her babies will survive — but only if you lend a hand.

"You can help," the SPCA suggests. "If you hit an opossum with your car, or see one lying on the side of the road, please check on the opossum."

### Small as honeybees

If the opossum is alive but injured, call the SPCA at (831) 264-5427. If the animal is deceased, and if you're safe from traffic, check its gender.

"Their anatomy is easily apparent," the SPCA explained. "If the opossum is female, use gloves and a towel, rag or washcloth to gently open the pouch and check for babies. They can be as small as honeybees, but they will be pink and squirming."

If you see live baby opossums, call the SPCA as soon as possible. They can survive for several hours on their own after their mother has died.

"Please don't attempt to remove the babies yourself as you could seriously injure their tiny mouths," the SPCA recommends. "Be sure to always wash your hands afterward."

Cute and funny-looking, opossums play an important

## WATER DISTRICT SAYS RECLAMATION CAN PROVIDE ENOUGH WATER FOR NPS CENTER

### ■ 20 acre-feet for 290,000sf building

By KELLY NIX

THE MONTEREY Peninsula Water Management District has promised more than 6 million gallons of water per year for a massive innovation center that the U.S. Navy wants to build at the Naval Postgraduate School. But if that falls through, the military will explore other options, including purifying water from Lake Del Monte.

The Navy has proposed a 289,916-square-foot, three-level Naval Innovation Center at the Naval Postgraduate School that Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro has explained would serve as a "premier military education facility tailored to innovation and experimentation, serving as a technology resource for Navy and Marine Corps war-fighting development commands — as well as a go-to partner of the defense industrial base, the technology sector and academia."

### 'Assurance' of H<sub>2</sub>O

But like local homeowners who want to add sinks or toilets to their houses, or someone who would like to build on a single-family lot that's been vacant for decades, the Navy needs a water allocation from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District for the proposed innovation center. The requirement is spelled out in a lengthy draft environmental review for the project.

"Because the new building would be an intensification of use of drinking water, a permit from the water district would be required before the start of construction," the Navy document says.

The facility would require about 20 acre-feet of water (1 acre-foot amounts to about 326,000 gallons) per year. Based on use estimates for office projects, planners multiplied the square footage of the proposed center by 0.00007 to figure how much water it would need.

Fortunately for the U.S. Navy, however, the water

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role in the ecosystem, according to the SPCA. "They are beneficial to our local environment, as they eat pests like cockroaches, mice, rats, snails and slugs, and just one opossum can consume as many as 5,000 ticks in a single season," the group added.



PHOTO/SPCA MONTEREY COUNTY

These adorable baby opossums were rescued by the SPCA Monterey County, which is asking people for help in its efforts to save more of them.