

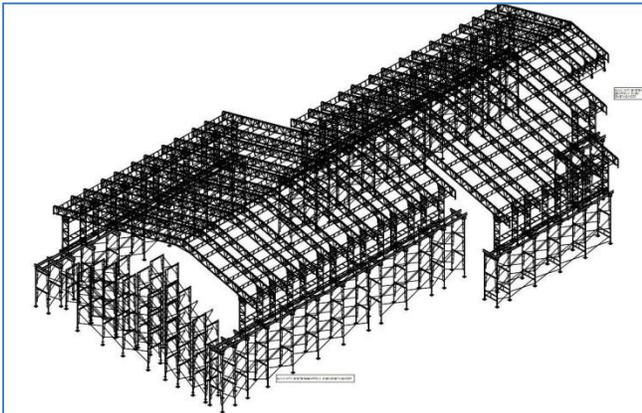


CARMEL MISSION FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MEDIA AVAILABILITY DAY PLANNED FOR CARMEL MISSION SEISMIC RETROFIT

Carmel, California – September 27, 2012 – A media availability day is planned for October 5, 2012 at the Carmel Mission in order to provide news media an opportunity to observe and learn more about the \$5 million seismic retrofit of the Carmel Mission Basilica. On this date a massive crane will be lifting and placing large components of the skeletal weather protection structure being built above the Basilica to protect the ceiling from the weather during the period the roof is removed. Strengthening of roof trusses and knee braces will then commence, as well as core-drilling of the 220-year-old walls for insertion of over 300 steel strengthening rods.



Weather protection structure to be built over Basilica



Core-drilling one of the buttresses

In addition to having the opportunity to visually document the placement of the weather protection structure, senior members of the project, the general contractor, Blach Construction Company, and the Carmel Mission Foundation will be available for interviews and to answer questions. If you would like to participate in this media availability day, please contact Vic Grabrian, President of the Carmel Mission Foundation, to coordinate the preferred time for your visit.

The \$5 million seismic retrofit of the Carmel Mission Basilica, a National Historic Landmark, resulted from a successful fundraising campaign by the Carmel Mission Foundation. The money was raised in record time thanks to the generosity of over 3,000 parishioners and friends throughout the local community and beyond, coupled with grants from public and private foundations, including a \$650,000 *Save America's Treasures* matching grant administered by the National Parks Service, Department of Interior.

In addition to the seismic retrofit work, a \$2.2 million project to repair the Basilica's walls, towers and dome plus infrastructure upgrades will be launched concurrently, provided a significant portion of these funds can be raised in the very near future. Taking advantage of the scaffolding and construction infrastructure already in place for the seismic stabilization project would enable significant savings.

The Basilica seismic retrofit and repair work is the first part of an estimated \$20 million, multi-year project to restore and preserve the Carmel Mission complex.



Deterioration of tower due to time and weather



Roofing tiles stored on elevated platforms

About the Carmel Mission Foundation

The Carmel Mission Foundation was founded in 2008 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and is independent from any religious organization. Its purpose is to fund the restoration and maintenance of the historic Carmel Mission structures, art and artifacts, ensuring their preservation into perpetuity.

The Carmel Mission (Mission San Carlos Borroméo del Rio Carmelo) was founded in 1771 and served as the headquarters for the California Mission System. It is the repository of generations of culture, tradition and history, as well as a highly significant part of California's heritage. The Mission is a major tourist attraction and a significant economic engine for the Monterey Peninsula.

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