



City Manager Lorie Tinfow contributes a regular column to the *Pacifica Tribune* to connect with local residents and keep Pacificans informed on issues that are of current interest in the City of Pacifica. Below is the submission for the February 1, 2017 edition of the *Pacifica Tribune*, which focuses on all levels of government working together to support Pacifica's efforts to repair and mitigate storm damage.

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### **This is Government Working**

Last Wednesday, the City held a press conference with Congresswoman Jackie Speier to announce some good news about help from the State and Federal levels of government related to our emergency issues. Standing in front of the Mayor, City Council members, and representatives from Senator Hill's and Assemblymember Mullin's offices, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State's Office of Emergency Services, she said, "***This*** is government working." I couldn't agree more.

A year ago, we declared a state of local emergency after being battered by the El Niño storms. Over the course of the winter and spring, we sustained damage to city infrastructure in twelve different locations that included everything from sink holes along the Beach Blvd. sea wall and promenade, to a broken 7-foot outfall pipe, to pier damage that forced closure of part of the structure.

We immediately reached out to our County, State and Federal elected officials to ask for support and assistance with funding for the repairs. We also contacted the County and State Offices of Emergency Services. Everyone responded immediately.

We learned about various resources that were possible to help us fix the damage. We submitted the repair projects to two different State grant programs and contacted the Army Corps of Engineers to seek its help.

The total estimated cost of repairs to the twelve damaged sites is \$3.6 million. We have been notified by the State Office of Emergency Services that we qualify for \$1 million in grant funds under the California Disaster Assistance Act. In addition, we will receive approximately \$2 million in insurance coverage with the remaining \$600,000 or so coming directly from the City.

We have also been notified that another project needed to protect the street and utilities along the 300 block of Esplanade Avenue is being given favorable consideration by the State's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. If we receive the grant it will reimburse us for 75% of the cost, which is estimated to be \$5 million.

Most recently, we were notified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (US ACE) that three larger, longer term projects have been approved to be evaluated under its programs; the three projects include the same Esplanade Avenue project that I just mentioned, retrofitting the Milagra Creek Outfall pipe located just south of the RV Park on Palmetto Ave. (estimated at \$1.2 million), and the Beach Blvd. sea wall and promenade where we have seen repeated problems (no cost estimate at this time). The USACE's

process has multiple steps and requires matching funds from the City but for projects of this scale, is our best hope of resources to help us protect these vulnerable areas over the long term.

We are not out of the woods, of course. None of the funding is 100%, so the City will need to contribute a portion in each case. In addition, the US ACE process is not immediate and we know that expecting Mother Nature to hold off damage for two years in our vulnerable areas is unlikely. So, we will continue to be vigilant in terms of monitoring our City's condition, proactive in preventing damage as much as possible, and seek out resources along the way.

Even so, I am thrilled to be able to share some good news on this topic after the year we have had. I am so thankful for the help of our County, State and Federal partners in working together to take care of our community. This is, indeed, government working.

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