



Scenic Pacifica
Incorporated Nov. 22, 1957

CITY OF PACIFICA

170 Santa Maria Avenue • Pacifica, California 94044-2506
www.cityofpacifica.org

MAYOR
Sue Digre

MAYOR PRO TEM
Mike O'Neill

COUNCIL
Karen Ervin
Mary Ann Nihart
John Keener

PRESS RELEASE

February 11, 2016

Pacifica City Council Approves Emergency Work on Beach Blvd. Sea Wall and Promenade

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Pacifica, CA) 11 February 2016—

At its Monday, February 8, 2016, meeting, the Pacifica City Council approved a recommendation to begin the repairs to the Beach Blvd. sea wall and promenade as soon as possible. Doing so required the City Council to make findings that authorized the regular public works project bidding requirements to be suspended. The City Council also appropriated funds for these stabilizing repairs at an estimated \$450,000.

“The work that will be done is just to stabilize the area and will not fully restore it to its pre-disaster condition,” said Public Works Director Van Ocampo. “The cost to reconstruct the wall and promenade to its pre-storm condition is estimated at \$2 million. The City has requested grant funds from the State of California and we are hoping all of the work qualifies for grant funds.”

On Sunday, January 17, 2016, high tide and swells combined with strong waves caused the sea wall located at Beach Blvd. and Santa Maria Avenue to fail and undermine the promenade above. This was followed by another storm system that hit the coastline on January 22, which resulted in the collapse of the sea wall cap and handrail as well as significantly expanding the damage to the promenade. Subsequent to the initial sea wall and promenade damage that occurred in January, a second section of the promenade located at Beach Blvd. and Paloma Avenue failed on February 4, 2016, and most recently, a third, smaller, hole in the sea wall between the first two was discovered on Monday, February 8, 2016.

“The sea wall continues to deteriorate and action to stabilize the damage needed to be taken quickly,” said City Manager Lorie Tinfow. “The City Council recognized the need to act fast to protect not only the sea wall and promenade but also the City street and the adjacent homes.”

The City’s Department of Public Works engaged Moffat & Nichol Engineers to develop a structurally engineered repair solution that could be bid out to a highly qualified contractor with extensive experience in coastal environment construction. Moffat & Nichol Engineers’ design concept was part

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of the information presented to the Council at its February 8, 2016 meeting. Work is expected to begin within two weeks.

In addition, City staff presented information about the original construction of the sea wall and promenade more than 30 years ago, including vintage photos taken during the construction.

The sea wall along Beach Blvd., north of the Pacifica Pier was constructed in 1984 using a system of 5 foot by 5 foot by 7 inch thick concrete tiles that interlock much like puzzle pieces. The tiles sit on a shallow concrete leveling course and are held back to land's edge by a system of metal straps.

The sea wall south of the Pacifica Pier was constructed later, in 1987, utilizing a different engineering design. In this case, solid concrete panels measuring approximately 15 feet wide by 8 feet high by 8 inches thick were installed on deeper concrete footings supported by concrete piers, making this section of wall stronger and able to withstand the extreme wave action as well as other elements of deterioration.

So far, El Nino storms have caused damage to the Pacifica Pier, the Milagra Watershed Outfall, and three areas of the Beach Blvd. sea wall and promenade, which are vital City infrastructure.

The City Manager declared a local emergency on January 22, 2016, and the City Council confirmed the declaration on January 25, 2016. The City has requested assistance from both State and Federal levels of government for the cost of repairing the damage to City structures. Grant applications have been filed and are under consideration.

For more information, contact: City Manager Lorie Tinfow at (650) 738-7409 or (650) 350-2114 or via email at ltinfow@ci.pacifica.ca.us.