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****SPECIAL MEETING - WEDNESDAY 1/4****

City of Pacifica to Hold Special Council Meeting to Approve Contract to Demolish 310 Esplanade

City to Hold Special Council Meeting on Contract Approvals to Demolish 310 Esplanade at 6:45 pm, Wednesday, January 4, in City Council Chamber, 2212 Beach Blvd., Pacifica

Time/Date: **Wednesday, January 4, 6:45pm.**

A representative from the City will be available to media after the Council meeting to answer questions.

Where: Pacifica City Council Chamber
2212 Beach Boulevard, Pacifica

What: The City of Pacifica City Council will hold a special meeting to consider approval of a recommended contract to abate hazards and ultimately demolish 310 Esplanade Ave.

Last week, the San Mateo County Superior Court issued an abatement warrant for the City of Pacifica to abate the public safety hazard created by the eroding bluff under the apartment building located at 310 Esplanade Ave. The City notified property owner, Mr. Millard Tong, on Wednesday, December 28, 2016, that it would be accessing his property to take that action. Notices have also been posted on the property with information about the demolition.

Since then, the City has been gathering cost estimates from contractors to perform the removal of hazardous materials from, and demolition of, the building. At tomorrow night's Special Council Meeting, the City will present the cost estimate information gathered as well as the contract with the lowest bidder for Council's consideration and expected approval.

The contractor will need approximately 72 hours to mobilize the needed equipment and staffing to complete the removal of hazardous material and the subsequent demolition of the building. Pending Council's approval, this work will most likely begin the week of January 9, 2017.

Who: Lorie Tinfow, Pacifica City Manager and Director of Emergency Management

Background: In 2010, major storms caused the City of Pacifica to evacuate and "red-tag" the 20-unit apartment building at 320 Esplanade Avenue and the 12-unit building at 330 Esplanade Avenue after progressive coastal erosion forced the City to determine both to be uninhabitable. Both buildings were left vacant, teetering on the edge of a quickly eroding coastal bluff.

On January 22, the City Manager declared a state of local emergency and on Jan. 25, 2016, the City of Pacifica determined the apartments at 310 Esplanade Avenue were uninhabitable due to coastal erosion. Pacifica Chief Building Official Mike Cully "yellow-tagged" the apartments and several private residences, meaning residents were allowed to access buildings only to remove belongings.

On Feb. 18, 2016, the adjacent 330 Esplanade was demolished by the building's owner. The accelerated erosion of the bluff created an imminent hazard to public safety and caused the City to take action to demolish the apartments at 320 Esplanade on Mar. 12, 2016.

Millard Tong, who owned the apartment building at 320 Esplanade Avenue and also owns 310 Esplanade Avenue, filed for bankruptcy in 2015 and has largely neglected the properties.

The building at 310 Esplanade Avenue is now at risk of crumbling over the eroding cliff and threatening public safety. The City's geotechnical consultant and Building Official have determined the need to demolish this building as soon as possible.

The City will be seeking reimbursement of the demolition costs from Mr. Tong.

During the El Nino storms of last winter, the City infrastructure sustained damage in 12 locations. With help from County, State and Federal elected officials, the City sought and has received significant grant funding to assist with the needed repairs. Those grant funds, plus City insurance and other direct funding have been sufficient to pay for the repairs which are underway now.