



Scenic Pacifica
Incorporated Nov. 22, 1957

CITY OF PACIFICA

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PRESS RELEASE

January 22, 2016

City of Pacifica Declares Local Emergency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Pacifica, CA) 22 January 2016—

City Manager Lorie Tinfow, in her role as Director of Emergency Services, declared a state of local emergency in the City of Pacifica today.

“El Nino is hitting the City’s coastline very hard and creating almost daily reports of impacts to both public and private property,” Tinfow said. “We need State and Federal assistance to respond to the growing list of failing public infrastructure including the Beach Blvd. sea wall failure.”

Since December 15, 2015, the City has seen damage to the Pacifica Pier, the Milagra Watershed Outfall and, perhaps most dramatic, the failure of the sea wall along Beach Blvd. near the intersection of Santa Maria Avenue. Funding for repairs to all three structures remains to be determined.

Private properties located on Esplanade Avenue and Palmetto Avenue have also been affected. The owners of two properties were notified in the past 10 days that their structures were not safe to inhabit. Other areas along the cliff are experiencing significant loss of bluff top as well.

Previously the apartment buildings at 330 and 320 Esplanade were deemed uninhabitable and the City has been working with the property owners to demolish them. The structural integrity of 310 Esplanade is being closely monitored for the safety of the current residents.

The City is watching closely the status of the facilities along the coast edge as a precursor to protecting its roadways. “Our investment in City streets and public utilities is also at risk as the erosion undermines the existing structures.” Tinfow said. “We hope all property owners along the City’s coastline are aware of how fluid the weather situation is and take appropriate precautions.”

The City Council will be asked to confirm the existence of a local emergency at its meeting on Monday, January 25, 2016.

For more information, contact: City Manager Lorie Tinfow @ (650) 738-7409 or
ltinfow@ci.pacificaca.us

Distribution: City Council, City staff, *Pacifica Tribune*, media outlets

PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Section 4-2.01 *et seq.* of the Pacifica Municipal Code empowers the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the City Council is not in session, subject to confirmation by the City Council at the earliest possible time; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager is the Director of Emergency Services of the City of Pacifica; and

WHEREAS, the winter of 2015/2016 has seen the strongest El Nino ocean temperature rise since 1998; and

WHEREAS, the resulting thermal water expansion has caused elevated ocean levels and tides off the coast of Pacifica; and

WHEREAS, recent ocean conditions include combined 25 foot King Tides with very high swell exceeding 15 feet offshore; and

WHEREAS, recent El Nino storm activity has also saturated the earth, including bluffs and surrounding earth at the ocean's edge; and

WHEREAS, a long series of El Nino-induced storm fronts have brought warm pineapple-convection storms from the southwest, as well as additional cold winter fronts from the northwest; and

WHEREAS, extensive top-of-bluff retreat is occurring at several locations along the Pacifica Coast; and

WHEREAS, predicted significant storms through February 2016 are anticipated to bring significant additional coastal erosion within Pacifica, including but not limited to the coastline from Westline Drive to the end of Beach Blvd.; and

WHEREAS, these conditions present extreme peril and threaten the safety of persons and property, including critical public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, recent storm activities and extreme wave heights for extended periods have caused ground subsidence (sinkhole) contributing to the failure of the sea wall at Beach Boulevard and Santa Maria Avenue, including undermining of adjacent promenade and road closure; and

WHEREAS, these storm activities and extreme wave heights have also caused a section of concrete railing along the City pier to fail, resulting in partial closure of the pier; and

WHEREAS, these storm activities and extreme wave heights have also caused undermining and displacement of a 7 foot diameter storm drain outfall and the massive concrete headwall for the discharge of Milagra Creek drainage to the ocean; and


WHEREAS, such conditions are or are likely to be beyond the financial and handling capability of the City's services, personnel, equipment, and facilities, requiring the combined forces of the other political subdivisions to combat; and

WHEREAS, the City provides this written notification to the San Mateo County and State CalEMA's Regional and Headquarter offices of a proclamation of local emergency; and

WHEREAS, such proclamation shall be subject to confirmation by the Pacifica City Council at the earliest possible time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that, in accordance with State Law and the City of Pacifica Municipal Code, the Director of Emergency Services proclaims the existence of a local emergency along the Pacifica coastline from Westline Drive to the end of Beach Blvd.

DATED: January 22, 2016

By: 
Lorie Tinfow
Director of Emergency Services