



Scenic Pacifica
Incorporated Nov. 22, 1957

CITY OF PACIFICA

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Pacifica Announces Demolition of Hazardous Coastal Apartments at 310 Esplanade

Demolition Comes Days After City Announces Federal and State Assistance for 2016 Storm Damage

Pacific, Calif. (27 January 2017) — The City of Pacifica announced the scheduled start of demolition of the coastal apartments at 310 Esplanade Avenue. Due to the building's imminent threat to public health and safety, the City has taken immediate actions to remove the structure which could risk falling due to continued bluff erosion.

Abatement of the building for lead, asbestos and other hazardous materials began in mid-January, and has now been completed. Demolition of the building will begin on Monday, January 30. The City is aiming to complete the demolition of the apartments in one day, however, debris removal will be ongoing for approximately 2 to 3 days.

"The vacant building at 310 Esplanade poses a significant risk to public health and safety, and the City is stepping in to demolish the structure," said Lorie Tinfow, Pacifica City Manager and Director of Emergency Management. "Recent storms and ongoing deteriorating conditions on the adjacent bluffs present a clear danger to the public. By demolishing the structure now, we will prevent further complications and expense associated with the clean-up," Tinfow said.

Built in the 1960s, the building contained hazardous materials that City officials say would present a significant threat to public health should another major storm, earthquake or other destabilizing event force portions of the building to fall. The property owner, Millard Tong, has been aware of the bluff's deteriorating condition and had ample opportunity to shore up the cliff but has long neglected to take responsibility for the building.

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

On January 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 Dec. 15, 2016, the City announced the need for demolition of 310 Esplanade due to the building’s imminent threat to public safety, and began the process to make sure the building was removed in a safe manner.

The demolition comes days after the City announced significant progress in securing assistance and funding for 12 sites that were damaged in last winter’s storms.

Joined by Congresswoman Jackie Speier, representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), and state legislative offices, the City announced last Wednesday, January 25 that three sites will be studied by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the first steps towards receiving Federal funds. One of the three projects under consideration by the Army Corps involves reinforcement/revetment of the bluff face on the 300 block of Esplanade Ave. for the purpose of protecting the adjacent street and utilities. The City also will receive about \$1 million through the California Disaster Assistance Act and \$2 million from its insurance company for storm damage repair.

“I thank Congresswoman Jackie Speier and her staff for all the assistance they have done for the City of Pacifica,” said Pacifica’s Mayor, Mike O’Neill. “This commitment is the first step towards the City Council’s promise to our residents that we will do all we can to protect the City infrastructure. We have some more work to do to move forward but this help from the Federal Government will help us build momentum towards our success.”

Storms with heavy rains and king tides this year continue to erode cliffs and cause sink holes. The City of Pacifica is monitoring conditions closely as storms continue to batter the California coast and accelerate coastal erosion along the Pacifica bluffs.

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