

City declares emergency on Pebble Beach Drive

February 20, 2024



The City declared an emergency resolution due to continuous slide activity and the failure of Pebble Beach Drive between 7th and 8th Streets and authorize the City Manager to act pursuant public contract code.

The December 2016 storms caused significant Beach cliff erosion within the City along Pebble Beach Drive from Preston Island to 6th St. This was evidenced by the visible road cracks indicating loss of road foundation and loss of bluff.

By August of 2021, the design contractor had achieved 30 percent plans and the first Coastal Development Permit (CDP) application was submitted. Based on Coastal staff's responses, the scope of the project increased from a soil nail truss system with riprap to a soldier pile retaining wall with tiebacks over the 6th to 8th street and the 9th to Preston Island portions of the project.

The 9th street section of Pebble Beach Drive (containing the Brother Jonathan lookout) was modified to use a rip rap stabilization for bluff stabilization. These changes were necessitated to minimize environmental impacts. The resulting increase in scope complexity increased the project cost estimate to \$32.6 million.

The report was updated and submitted in January 2022 but not received by has not received Federal Highway Administration approval. A means to finance these repairs and finalize the CDP needs to be accomplished prior to moving forward with the larger bank stabilization project.

On January 14, during a winter rainstorm, a 75 foot section of the bluff supporting Pebble Beach Drive, slip down to the beach between 7th and 8th streets undermining the ocean side of the bike lane. Last week, during a subsequent winter storm. A second slide occurred north of the January 14 slide, requiring additional emergency protective measures.

The total impacted slide is approximately 250 feet. The City has and continues to meet with Cal Trans Division of Local Assistance.

Estimates for emergency repair are approximately \$3 million, according to City Manager Eric Wier. The City Manager cautioned any emergency repairs are temporary. Funding breakdown breaks down to 88 percent Federal Highways, 9 percent Cal Trans and 3 percent to local cost to the City. All of the above financials have yet to be approved. Emergency funding must be utilized within 270 days.

The City continues to caution all vehicles and pedestrians to avoid this immediate area as unstable and dangerous.

The Council unanimously passed the Emergency Resolution.