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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0516

June 12, 2026

Mr. Robert J. Fenton
Senior Official Performing the Duties of FEMA Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C St SW, Washington, DC 20472

Dear Mr. Fenton,

On June 4th, a large crack appeared in the Pacifica Municipal Pier, forcing the City of Pacifica to close the pier and the adjoining cafe to protect residents' safety. The indefinite closure of the pier, a local landmark and hub for recreation and the local economy, is yet another reminder of the urgent needs facing Pacifica's coastal infrastructure, including the pier, roads, small businesses, utilities, and homes threatened by flooding and storm surges. Given the cost of the necessary repairs and the City's modest tax base, the City requires federal support to ensure the safety of its residents.

Beach Boulevard Infrastructure Resiliency Project

In the 1980s, the City built a seawall immediately adjacent to the pier to protect a nearby sewer line, city hall, and homes and small businesses in the Sharp Park neighborhood. In the four decades since its construction, coastal erosion has caused multiple failures in the north section of the seawall, and major storms have caused overtopping and flooding as recently as January 2023.

The Beach Boulevard Infrastructure Resiliency Project will rebuild the seawall, including the pier's sheet pile wall, to better protect public infrastructure and the nearby community. While FEMA short-listed this project under the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program (subgrant ID EMF-2022-BR-044-0019) it has not awarded funding because FEMA halted the BRIC program. While I appreciate that FEMA has reinstated BRIC, it's unfortunate that Pacifica has lost valuable time on a project that would prevent damage exactly the damage that occurred at the pier last week.

Now that BRIC has resumed, it is my understanding that the project is undergoing environmental and historic preservation review, after which FEMA will process the application for award. I ask that you give this project your full and fair consideration consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

Esplanade Infrastructure Preservation

The Esplanade Infrastructure Preservation project will strengthen an eroding coastal bluff that required the City to red-tag and demolish three multifamily apartment buildings due to extreme wave force scour and bluff failure. The proposed sheet pile wall, cap beam, and shotcrete wall

will protect vital City infrastructure including a roadway and underground utilities supporting residents, small businesses, and visitors in Pacifica. However, federal funding for this project is now at risk due to factors outside the City's control.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), the State Administrative Agency, submitted a time extension request for DR-4240-PJ0053 in September 2025, and FEMA granted a partial extension of the period of performance through March 30, 2026. The agency also advised CalOES to resubmit its appeal only for subawards for which the state could provide a clear justification demonstrating how those projects would be completed in a fixed timeframe. Consistent with this guidance, CalOES did not include the Esplanade Infrastructure Preservation project in its appeal. Because the factors that prevent CalOES from providing a fixed timeframe for project completion are outside the City's control, I encourage FEMA to reconsider its guidance.

The City of Pacifica is executing geotechnical investigations, environmental review – incorporating agency and public feedback – and acquiring land to begin project construction. Unfortunately, circumstances outside of the City's control created delays that prompted the request for a time extension.

1. The California Coastal Commission forced the City to significantly alter its design, delaying the project for three years until CalOES approved funding for the change.
2. Approval of the Environmental Impact Report took several years, due to extensive feedback from the public and the California Coastal Commission, Coastal Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and State Lands Commission.
3. Property acquisition has faced protracted legal challenges. The City began the eminent domain process in 2018, and the property owner sought an exorbitant land valuation, which resulted in a court-ordered valuation of \$2 million. The Court of Appeal issued its final decision in late 2024, and the City is currently negotiating with the property owner for a more reasonable settlement.

Despite all of these challenges, Pacifica is committed to protecting its residents and completing this project. As ground zero for coastal erosion in California, the City has a proven track record of high-quality coastal infrastructure investments. I urge you to grant an extension through January 31, 2027, consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

Sincerely,



Sam Liccardo
Member of Congress
16th District of California