

City of Richmond Response to Seaview Incident Frequently Asked Questions

Incident Overview and General Update

On Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at 8:18 PM, the City of Richmond Fire and Police Departments responded to the 300 block of Seaview Drive on reports of a break-line in the hillside on land owned by the Seacliff Homeowners' Association (HOA). The HOA has retained experts to assess the extent of the slide and implement temporary stabilization efforts which, due to several anticipated storm surges, had the potential to develop into a landslide.

Following the storms, the hillside above Seaview Drive and Seacliff Way in the Brickyard Cove area became unstable. City staff and technical experts assessed the area. Out of an abundance of caution and due to concerns that additional storms were approaching with anticipated heavy rainfall, 15 residences on Seaview Drive and Seacliff Way were asked to evacuate. The City of Richmond Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated to support the incident.



Frequently Asked Questions:

1. When can evacuated residents return to their homes?

The City of Richmond plans to lift the Evacuation Orders on January 25, 2023 at 5 pm. Once that occurs, evacuated residents can make their own assessment of the risk and determine if they want to return to their homes.

Once the Evacuation Order has been formally lifted, a waiver of liability form will be issued to residents prior to returning to their property. If you have questions or concerns or need to

access the waiver of liability form, please contact the City of Richmond at EOCPIO@ci.richmond.ca.us or directly contact Battalion Chief Rico Rincon at (510) 719-8430.

Richmond Police Department personnel will continue to maintain a presence in the area through Friday, January 27, 2023, at 5:00 pm. After that, public safety personnel will no longer have a presence at the site.

2. What do I need to do once I return home?

In an abundance of caution, the City of Richmond requested the Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) turn off the gas for all impacted homes. For gas at each residence to be turned back on, the resident must contact PG&E directly at 1-877-660-6789 to schedule an in-person appointment. The City will work directly with Richmond Sanitary Services regarding garbage, recycling and green waste services.

3. Why did the City of Richmond issue an Evacuation Order?

The City initially issued an Evacuation Order on January 3, 2023. The Evacuation Order was primarily issued primarily due to the sustained force and longevity of the atmospheric river systems that hit California beginning in the end of December. For an evacuation order to be given, a jurisdiction must identify an extreme or emergent risk to life. The City made that determination based on the preliminary findings of a geologist and the predicted extreme weather and heavy rainfall.

On Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at 8:18 PM, the City of Richmond Fire and Police Departments responded to the 300 block of Seaview Drive on reports of a break-line in the hillside on land owned by the HOA.

Based on the information available at the time, and due to forecasts of several significant storm surges, the HOA, as owners of the property, and the City's consultants recommended stabilization efforts to mitigate concerns of a potential landslide. The City's consultants, Cal Engineering and Geology, Inc (CE&G), recommended that the eight homes on Seaview Drive and the seven homes on Seacliff Way (that are immediately west of and closest to Seacliff Drive) be evacuated until the condition of the hillside could be more thoroughly evaluated.

4. What mitigation measures are being done on the hillside?

The HOA retained Engineered Soil Repairs (ESR) to install temporary stabilization features that include plastic tarps and drainage mitigation measures on the hillside. The HOA also retained Alan Kropp and Associates (Kropp) to perform an evaluation of the site. Kropp, HOA's consultant, continues to monitor the site for any subsidence.

The City engaged Cal Engineering and Geology, Inc. (CE&G). CE&G collected preliminary site data that was shared with the HOA consultant. City engineering staff meets with the HOA president, HOA contractor, and HOA consultant, twice per week, to get an update on the work performed by HOA contractors and consultants. These are collaborative meetings.

It is the City's understanding that HOA president shared with the residents, via email, the information from the HOA consultant regarding the status and proposed next steps for hillside mitigation. In that email, the HOA consultant discussed five (5) elements they will work on within the next (two) 2 months. Residents should contact their HOA for additional information.

5. What are the criteria for lifting the evacuation? Which entity makes that decision?

The decision between lifting the evacuation order versus when residents can go back to their houses are two separate issues.

A. Lifting the Evacuation Order:

The City's decision to lift the Evacuation Order is based in part on the following criteria: (1) conclusion of the atmospheric river event, (2) installation of mitigation measures to stabilize the hillside, and (3) the assurance from the HOA that it is assessing any instabilities or issues with the hillside. Therefore, the immediate concerns and uncertainties underlying the decision to issue the Evacuation Order have lessened. The City, therefore, plans to formally lift the Evacuation Order. The lifting of the Evacuation Order reflects a determination that the immediate life-safety concerns caused by the unusual weather patterns appear to have ended.

The City's lifting of the Evacuation Order should not be interpreted as a determination that the hillside is safe. The lifting of the Evacuation Order reflects a determination that the immediate life safety concerns caused by the weather patterns have ended. Ultimately, the HOA is responsible for addressing any instabilities or issues with the hillside. Residents should address any safety concerns to the HOA but are free to make their own decision on whether and when to return.

B. Return of Residents:

Once the Evacuation Order is lifted, evacuated residents can make their own assessment of the risk and determine if they want to return to their homes.

While the condition and safety of the hillside remains under investigation, the residents of Seacliff Way and Seaview Drive, understandably have expressed the strong desire to return to their homes. Given that the HOA has assured the City that it is assessing any instabilities or issues with the hillside, the City has decided to lift the Evacuation Order, allowing each resident to individually determine what is best for them.

While the City anticipates that, in cooperation with the HOA, it will be able to update residents on the results of the ongoing investigation, it believes that the individual homeowners are best suited to determine their next course of action. Residents should address any safety concerns to the HOA but the decision-making authority, including the evaluation of the risks and benefits of returning to their property, rests with the property owner. Residents who choose to return should evaluate the risks and, if there are concerns, should retain their own inspectors.

6. How are we going to communicate better with residents?

The City is aware that this has been a frustrating process for residents, and we have taken great measures to communicate with residents. The City ensured that our Public Information Officers (PIOs) timely and accurate updates to residents, and also provided updates to the City Council on a continuous basis. Communication updates were provided in the form of emails, phone calls, notices and website updates available to the residents as well as to the community at large. In addition, PIOs always remained available to answer resident questions and met with residents during the times they were able to temporarily return to their homes and retrieve belongings.

While the Evacuation Order is in place, the City's Emergency Operations Center Public Information Officers shall serve as the point of contact for residents. Feel free to contact the City of Richmond at EOCPIO@ci.richmond.ca.us if you have questions or concerns. You can also directly contact Battalion Chief Rico Rincon at (510) 719-8430.

Once the Evacuation Order is lifted, the HOA should serve as the main point of contact for residents.

7. Can individual residents obtain assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)?

At this juncture, individual assistance from FEMA is not available.

The President of the United States, in consultation with the California Governor, must issue a Major Disaster Declaration ("MDD") before individual assistance from FEMA may be made available. Currently, there is no MDD for Contra Costa County.

Generally, when a disaster occurs, the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) conducts damage assessments to determine the extent of the incident. Cal OES then evaluates whether the disaster is beyond the capacity of the State to address. If that proves to be the case, the information is referred by the governor to FEMA, who refers the matter to the President, who then determines whether to move forward with a MDD. To qualify for FEMA assistance, Contra Costa County would need to determine that 25 or more homes or businesses sustained greater than 40% damage (Red Tagged) county-wide.

8. What are options for funding to help HOA pay for the hill?

The City is unaware of options for funding to help the HOA pay for the required stabilization of the hillside.

9. Can people leave the hotel and select a different location if the cost is same or lower?

The City of Richmond has contracted with the Hyatt Place in Emeryville that allowed for the immediate placement of evacuated residents. Since the Evacuation Order will be lifted on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, we do not believe there will be a need for residents to choose a different hotel. If residents are interested in selecting a different hotel, those expenses will be

the responsibility of the resident. Otherwise, residents are able to stay at the hotel through check-out on January 30, 2023, as previously shared.

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