

WHARF FAQs

March 8, 2024

WHAT'S THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE WHARF PROJECT?

Construction began in September 2023. As of March 2024, the contractor has completed the widening of the Wharf and has replaced decking up until the structures on the Wharf. The next phase is demolition of the two structures. The demolition of the buildings will involve internal stabilization, clean-up, and removal of the structure and foundation. Upon completion of the demolition work, the piles below the buildings will be repaired and these areas will receive new decking.

WHY DO WE NEED TO DEMO THE BUILDINGS?

Storm damages in January 2023 and December 2023 caused severe structural deficiencies and immediate hazardous conditions at the Wharf House Restaurant and severe structural deficiencies at the Capitola Boat and Bait building. These assessments were completed by City staff and confirmed by an independent engineer.

WHO IS CONDUCTING THE DEMO WORK?

Cushman Contracting, who was already contracted to complete the Wharf Resiliency Project, is completing the demolition. Given their existing mobilization at the site and qualifications for the task, it was both the most cost-effective and efficient option for them to carry out the demolition.

WHAT DOES DEMOLITION INVOLVE?

Because the buildings are located over the Pacific Ocean, demolition involves more than a typical wrecking ball. It's important to take demolition little by little so that a contractor can safely remove the building material and address hazardous materials (such as asbestos). As demolition progresses, small equipment will transport debris from the site to ensure it is disposed of properly.

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HOW IS THIS PROJECT BEING FUNDED?

The project is predominantly financed through a combination of federal grants, state funding, and local Measure F funds. The City is also seeking emergency funds from CalOES and FEMA in response to the storm damages incurred in January and December 2023.

WILL THE BUILDINGS BE REBUILT?

The future of the Wharf looks bright but requires public input. The Wharf Re-Envisioning Process will start this Spring to collect public input as to how to best utilize this valued coastal space. If you'd like to receive information about that process, please sign up for City newsletters on the City website.

DOES THIS ADD TIME TO THE PROJECT TIMELINE?

Yes, this is estimated to add 6-8 weeks to project completion. The project is still anticipated to be completed by Fall 2024.

HOW CAN I STAY UP-TO-DATE ON THIS PROJECT?

Updates are regularly shared on the City's social media accounts, official website, and through community newsletters. Individuals can subscribe to email updates on the City's website for direct notifications about project milestones and developments.