

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation

September 17th, 2026

LOVERS POINT PIER REHABILITATION

Project No. 26-042-01

Project Manager: Irvin Tang

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to \$750,000 to the City of Pacific Grove to undertake the Lovers Point Pier Rehabilitation Project, consisting of repairing and enhancing the resiliency of the Lovers Point Pier for continued public access in Monterey County.

LOCATION: Lovers Point, Pacific Grove, Monterey County

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Location Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [Photos](#)

Exhibit 3: [Project Letters](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution and findings.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) to the City of Pacific Grove (“the grantee”) to undertake the Lovers Point Pier Rehabilitation Project, consisting of repairing and enhancing the resiliency of the Lovers Point Pier for continued public access in Monterey County.

Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.
3. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding and Proposition 4 as the source of that funding.
4. Evidence that all permits and approvals required to implement the project have been obtained.

Findings:

Based on the accompanying staff recommendation and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 7 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the restoration of urban waterfronts.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

PROJECT SUMMARY

Staff recommends the Conservancy authorize a \$750,000 grant to the City of Pacific Grove to undertake the Lovers Point Pier Rehabilitation project (“project”), consisting of repairing and enhancing the resiliency of the Lovers Point Pier for continued public access in Monterey County. Lovers Point Pier is a small 100-foot long pier located at the popular Lovers Point Park and Beach in Pacific Grove, Monterey (Exhibit 1).

The Lovers Point Pier (“Pier”) juts out from the south end of Lovers Point Beach. The Pier is about 100 feet long and is made from concrete that sits on rip-rap revetment placed along the ocean side of the structure (Exhibit 2). The Pier is accessible by the public and has an upper walkway and lower deck with stairs leading into the water. It is a beloved spot to swim from, and provides a unique access point to the coastline as it extends out to the protected waters of Monterey Bay.

During a large wave event in January 2021, large pieces of the concrete footing that capped the Pier were dislodged, exposing internal structural components to damaging direct wave impact. After the damage, the City of Pacific Grove conducted studies to understand the repair options for the Pier. The studies found that if nothing is done, the damage will get worse in the coming decade, compromising the longevity of public use of the Pier and possibly resulting in the eventual loss of the Pier and the rip-rap revetment. Loss of the Pier would also adversely impact Lovers Point beach. The 100+ year old Pier and rip-rap revetment support beach creation and sand retention at Lovers Point beach. If the Pier ceased to exist, alterations to the littoral processes, including coastal sediment flow and accumulation patterns in the vicinity, would adversely impact the protected cove and sandy beach of Lovers Point Beach, located behind the Pier. Without a structurally sound Pier, the public could lose access to an iconic stretch of coast, including both the Pier and beach.

The project consists of repairs to the exposed structure, removal of the damaged concrete deck and vertical wall, and installation of a new wall face, concrete footing, concrete deck, and guardrails. The damaged section of exposed structure will be reinforced with a new concrete shell. The improvements will support the structure against sheer force of wave impact during storm surges. Once completed, the project will deliver a rehabilitated Pier with the resiliency to last an estimated 20 years or more. This is considered an interim repair and will give the City of Pacific Grove adequate time to evaluate and conduct planning for larger structural repair alternatives for longer-term resiliency.

Site Description: The City of Pacific Grove’s Lovers Point Pier, in Monterey County, is located on the north side of the Monterey Peninsula, facing eastward into Monterey Bay (Exhibit 1). The Pier is part of the City of Pacific Grove’s 4.4 acre Lovers Point Park and Beach which provide visitors and locals direct access to the water. The 100+ year-old Pier creates a protected cove and sandy beach popular with casual beachgoers and active ocean recreationists such as swimmers, kayakers, and S.C.U.B.A. divers. Besides the Pier and sandy beach, Lovers Point Park and Beach feature other amenities, including a large lawn area, a beach volleyball court, a children's swimming pool, rocky outcrops, a restaurant, and a snack bar.

This iconic stretch of coastline is connected to the shore by the scenic 18-mile Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail that runs from Castroville to Lovers Point Park and Beach. It is part of the Lovers Point-Julia Platt State Marine Reserve, a protected marine ecosystem just under a half square mile that includes sandy beaches, nearshore reef, and kelp forest habitat. In the waters adjacent, are a network of three other Marine Protected Areas, all of which contribute to a healthy and resilient ocean ecosystem.

Grant Applicant Qualifications: The City of Pacific Grove has received and administered numerous state grants including a State Coastal Conservancy awarded grant for the Point Pinos Trail Project that was completed in 2022, as well as Proposition 84 grants awarded by the State Water Resources Control Board. After the completion of the proposed project, the Pier will be maintained and regularly inspected by the City’s planning, building, and engineering department.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Project Selection Criteria, last updated on September 23, 2021, in the following respects:

Selection Criteria

1. Extent to which the project helps the Conservancy accomplish the objectives in the Strategic Plan.

See the “Consistency with Conservancy’s Strategic Plan” section below.

2. Project is a good investment of state resources.

The project will repair a public pier to ensure its structural viability, allowing it to remain a landmark spot for tourism, recreation, and coastal access, even as the effects of climate change intensify. The repairs include reinforcing the structure with a new concrete shell which will protect the structure against sheer force of wave impact during storm surges. This aligns with the State Agency Sea-Level Rise Action Plan for California, Principle 4 “Support Local Leadership and Address Local Conditions” which identifies prioritizing projects that protect and increase the resiliency of public assets with multiple benefits.

3. Project benefits will be sustainable or resilient over the project lifespan.

Engineering assessments of the Pier have determined that encasing the Pier with a new concrete shell will withstand wave impact for an additional 20 years. The improvements will

reinforce the Pier’s resiliency to sheer force and the greater storm surges expected to come with climate change. Additionally, improvements will enhance resiliency to the Lovers Point Beach and Park located behind the Pier.

4. Project delivers multiple benefits and significant positive impact.

The project will help make the Pier more resilient to sea-level rise and storm surge and provide additional multiple benefits, such as: ongoing recreational opportunities for visitors; increased viability for the local economy of the Lovers Point Beach and Park through tourism; and ongoing access to the coast as refuge from inland areas with greater heat or poor air quality.

5. Project planned with meaningful community engagement and broad community support.

The Pacific Grove City Council has held early engagement meetings and harnessed community member support for repairs to the Pier. The project will continue to engage the community throughout the construction phase of the Pier with updates such as public board hearings and project informational meetings.

PROJECT FINANCING

Coastal Conservancy	\$750,000
City of Pacific Grove	\$750,000
Project Total	\$1,500,000

The anticipated source of Conservancy funding for this project is an appropriation of the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, also known as the 2024 Climate Bond or Proposition 4 (Public Resources Code, Sections 90000 to 95015). These funds are available as described in Section 92015 of the Public Resource Code. The funds are available for “the purpose of coastal and combined flood management projects and activities for developed shoreline areas, including areas with critical community infrastructure, including, but not limited to, transportation and port infrastructure at risk of current flooding and flooding due to sea level rise.” The project is consistent with this funding source because it will repair a damaged public pier structure to address sea level rise, coastal flooding, and storm surge impacts at the Lovers Point Beach and Park, a heavily used public waterfront that provides coastal access. The project is a multi-benefit project that will improve public safety, enhance public access, and help protect Lovers Point Beach.

The City of Pacific Grove will contribute \$750,000 to the project cost. Unless specifically identified as “Required Match,” the other sources of funding are estimates. The Conservancy does not typically require matching funds or in-kind services, nor does it require documentation of expenditures from other funders or of in-kind services. Typical grant conditions require grantees to provide any funds needed to complete a project.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION

The proposed project will be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 7 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code (Sections 31400-31410), regarding the restoration of urban waterfronts, as follows:

Section 31307 authorizes the Conservancy to award grants to public agencies for the restoration of urban coastal waterfront areas. The proposed grant will enable the City of Pacific Grove to enhance the economic and cultural vitality of the area's waterfront facilities.

The proposed project is also consistent with section 31316, which authorizes the Conservancy to undertake projects and award grants for activities that are compatible with the preservation, restoration or enhancement of ocean, coastal or watershed resources within urban coastal areas. Projects or activities include development of infrastructure consistent with the purpose of the funding source. The proposed project will repair a damaged pier in an urban coastal area, restoring and enhancing the resilience of Lover's Point Pier infrastructure and amenities.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S [2023-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

Consistent with **Goal 2.6 Piers and Waterfronts**, this project will implement improvements to increase resiliency of the Lovers Point Pier.

CEQA COMPLIANCE:

The proposed project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15301 (Existing Facilities), which exempts the restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures. Implementation of the proposed repair project does not expand the use of the existing facility beyond former use.

Upon approval of the project, Conservancy staff will file a Notice of Exemption.