

Dear Mayor Butt, Mayor-elect Martinez, Members of the City Council, & Councilmembers-elect [via Bcc]:

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 for a possible landslide. Residents reported a break line in the hillside that could potentially become a landslide due to the expected weather event. Due to the recent storm surges, the hillside above Seacliff Drive and Seaview Drive in the Brickyard Cove area became unstable.

In coordination with Public Works, photos of the area were reviewed by Cal Engineering & Geology Inc., who provided the following (photos below and attached):

Based on this interpretation, Cal Engineering & Geology Inc. strongly recommended that the eight (8) homes on Seaview Drive and seven (7) homes on Seacliff Way that are immediately west of and closest to Seacliff Drive be evacuated until the landslide can be more thoroughly evaluated. They stated that this should be done immediately to reduce the potential for life safety issues that could result for movement of the landslide, particularly considering the forecast amount of rain that is to fall tonight and over the next few days.

At 8:30 PM, the City of Richmond Emergency Operations Center was activated to support the incident.

I retained a second on-site inspection from Robert Stevens, PE, CSW. Mr. Stevens visited the site above Sea View Drive at approximately 10:00 PM. Upon arriving at the scene, Mr. Stevens met with a representative from the homeowner's association who had geotechnical reports and plans for the development. Based upon a review of the materials, it appears the slope above Sea View Drive was cut up to 20 feet deep and had a buttress fill placed at the toe. A brief review of the geotechnical report illustrated that in the area of earth movement, the pre constructed condition included 15 feet of silty clay atop the weathered fractured shale common in Point Potrero.

Mr. Stevens, a representative from the homeowner's association, and a fire department member walked up the access pathway. The slope has four tiers separated by about 30 vertical feet. Each tier has a concrete channel that directs runoff to catch basins. Each basin has a 12-to-15-inch pipe connected allowing water to flow down the slope.

Near the top of slope, there is a large crack that is a maximum of 12 inches wide with evidence of soil movement downhill. The crack spans approximately 100

feet parallel to the slope. Looking into the crevasse, the soil included shattered shale and a clay-silt material. There was no evidence of weathered bedrock at the surface.

Walking north there is evidence of cracking and slope movement. Higher up on the slope and to the north of the largest cracks, it appears there is a scarp from an earth movement that occurred many years ago. It appears that this material has re-mobilized.

Walking along the uppermost concrete ditch, it has significant cracking and movement on each side of the drain inlet. There is a large hole in the earth near the outside of the drain inlet. It appears that stormwater is entering the hole and potentially "piping" in the fill materials along the storm drainage pipe. On the next tier downslope, it appears that the concrete ditch has also shifted.

Based upon field observation, it appears that there is a shallow sloughing of soils near the top of the slope that has impacted the top two concrete ditches. This movement will prevent the proper conveyance of runoff to the underground system and potentially allow runoff to flow directly downslope.

Mr. Stevens is concerned that heavy rainfall as predicted in the coming days could cause additional slope movement. Due to damage of the concrete ditches, storm water is not effectively being conveyed, which could cause additional damage. A significant concern is that if the slope activates, a large rock common in the Point Potrero formation could mobilize and fall down the hill and into the adjacent homes.

Due to additional storms approaching with anticipated heavy rainfall, and out of abundance of caution, residents of Seaview Drive and Seacliff Way were asked to evacuate, which included a total of 15 impacted homes. Fire and Police personnel knocked on doors within the impacted area to inform residents of the potential danger and provided evacuation notices with instructions. Of the 15 households, City personnel were unable to contact five (5) households and nine (9) families decided to evacuate (with their pets). Due to heavy utilization of Red Cross throughout the State, City staff members were proactive and able to secure temporary shelter at the Hyatt Place in Emeryville, CA for evacuated residents.

The evacuations will result in the closure of the following roads:

- Seacliff Drive between Seacliff Way and Canal Blvd
- Seaview Drive from Seacliff Drive to Admiralty Way
- Seacliff Way from Seacliff Drive to Admiralty Way

The evacuations were strongly encouraged, and residents will be unable to access the area until further notice. Until the road closures are lifted, Seaview Drive and Seacliff Way will remain closed until further notice and Brickyard Cove and its adjoining neighborhoods will only be accessible via Dornan Drive and the Point Richmond Tunnel.

Richmond Police will staff the road closures for the duration of the incident. Residents are advised to avoid the area and to expect traffic delays. The City will have a geologist conduct an additional evaluation and it is anticipated that a contractor will implement measures to assist in stabilizing the slope.

Public Safety personnel and Emergency Operations staff will monitor the area and weather to determine additional response measures needed. I will provide an additional incident update as more information becomes available.

I would like to personally thank City of Richmond team members for their responsiveness and dedication to thoughtfully serving our residents.

Thank you,
Shasa

Shasa Curl

Richmond City Manager

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