

# **Belmont Park Deck Demolition Without Permits**

## **INVESTIGATIVE REPORT: STRUCTURAL DANGERS AND PUBLIC SAFETY FAILURES (2025)**

**Prepared for Public Oversight – May 2025**

### **Executive Summary**

This report documents direct observations and professional opinions regarding dangerous unpermitted demolition work on the beachfront deck at Belmont Park. Critical structural elements were removed without permits, inspections, or Coastal Commission approval. The Mayor's Office has failed to enforce basic safety laws, leaving the public at risk. Immediate action is necessary to prevent potential injuries or catastrophic failure.

### **Observations and Findings**

- Demolition of three major deck sections: one approximately 20' x 11' and two approximately 10' x 6'.
- Removal of critical 6" x 10" structural beams without replacement or visible support.
- Jackhammering and removal of major concrete footings.
- Stormwater drains buried under approximately 2 feet of unengineered sand.
- New block walls dry-stacked without mortar or structural engineering.
- No visible building permits posted. No inspection markings. No Coastal Development Permit.

### **Worker Safety Observations**

- Workers operating heavy machinery directly on the boardwalk without protective barriers or pedestrian controls.
- No Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) observed on workers (helmets, vests, eyewear).

- No designated safety lookouts managing work zones in public areas.

## **Applicable Violations**

- Unpermitted Structural Demolition – California Building Code §105.1
- Unauthorized Coastal Zone Development – California Coastal Act §30600
- Drainage System Alterations Without Coastal Review – California Coastal Act §30231
- Failure to Maintain Structural Integrity During Construction – California Building Code §1607
- Worker Safety Violations (No PPE, No Traffic Control) – OSHA Construction Standards 29 CFR 1926

## **Public Safety Risks**

- Risk of partial or complete deck collapse under public crowd loads.
- Inadequate drainage may cause flooding and water damage to coastal infrastructure.
- Immediate danger to pedestrians and beachgoers from unsecured demolition activities.

## **Oversight Failures**

- The Mayor's Office has dismissed permit and safety concerns despite visible violations.
- No enforcement actions, no inspections, and no public advisories have been issued.
- Public trust and safety have been ignored in favor of unchecked development.

## **Recommendations**

- Immediate structural assessment of all impacted deck areas by a licensed engineer.
- Full Coastal Commission enforcement investigation into unpermitted coastal development.
- OSHA safety investigation for workplace violations and pedestrian endangerment.
- Immediate closure of affected deck sections pending formal safety certification.

## **Disclaimer**

This report is based on site observations, photographic evidence, and professional interpretation. All findings are assumptions and opinions subject to verification by appropriate regulatory agencies. No accusations of criminal conduct are made.