







## Joint Statement from the City of Pacific Grove, City of Monterey, Monterey County Sheriff's Office, and U.S. Coast Guard FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## UPDATE: SEARCH SUSPENDED FOR SWIMMER MISSING OFF LOVERS POINT IN PACIFIC GROVE ON DECEMBER 22

Pacific Grove, Calif. – The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), Pacific Grove Police Department (PGPD), Monterey Fire Department (MFD), and Monterey County Sheriff's Office suspended their search Monday afternoon for a swimmer reported missing off Lovers Point in Pacific Grove on Sunday, December 21. The missing swimmer was identified as Erica Fox, age 55, a resident of Monterey County. Her family has been notified.

The decision to suspend the search was made following a total of more than 15 hours of search operations covering an area of more than 84 square nautical miles.

"The Coast Guard extends its deepest condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones affected by this tragic incident," said Captain Jordan Baldueza, Coast Guard Sector San Francisco commander.

Rescue crews involved in the search included multiple boat crews from USCG Station Monterey, multiple air crews from USCG Air Station San Francisco, and a boat crew from the USCG Auxiliary. Five Pacific Grove Police Department personnel, including a commander and several officers, responded to the incident, along with four members of the Monterey County Sheriff's Office dive team, including one commander. A total of 21 Monterey Fire Department personnel responded to the incident, including a chief officer and the Monterey Fire Department's fire boat.

"While coordinated search operations have concluded, detectives will continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the disappearance," said Commander Brian Anderson, Pacific Grove Police Department. "We remain committed to determining what happened and following every available lead."

"On behalf of the cities of Monterey and Pacific Grove and our first responders, we extend our heartfelt sympathies to Erica's family and loved ones" said Monterey Fire Chief Andrew Miller. "This is a deeply felt tragedy for our community. We are grateful to all the agencies and first responders who joined the search and provided their support during this incident."

Lovers Point Beach in Pacific Grove, and McAbee and San Carlos Beaches in Monterey will remain closed through Tuesday, December 23. A beach advisory will remain in place for Asilomar State Beach, Monterey Municipal Beach, Del Monte Beach, and Monterey State Beach through December 23.

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