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JUN 12 2012

PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION

Tsunami debris is washing up on our nation's shores. Just last week a 66-foot-long dock from Japan floated onto a beach near Newport, Oregon. This is the latest in a growing wave of debris from the earthquake and tsunami that hit the Japanese coast in March 2011.

The tsunami debris in this case is 66 feet long, 19 feet wide and seven feet tall, covered with reinforced concrete, and something of this nature and magnitude will require careful handling. This pier is only the latest in what scientists say may be 1 million to 2 million tons of tsunami debris drifting across the Pacific. In April, the U.S. Coast Guard used cannon fire to sink a ghost ship found floating off the coast of Alaska after being cast adrift by the tsunami in Japan. A shipping crate containing a Harley-Davidson motorcycle turned up in British Columbia this year.

In light of the very real likelihood that Los Angeles will also now begin to have some tsunami debris washing up on our shores, some of which may be radioactive, it is important that we are prepared to safely and appropriately address the issue.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Harbor Department with the participation of the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Fire Department, the Emergency Preparedness Department and the Bureau of Sanitation, be directed to report on their protocol for responding to Tsunami debris washing up along the Los Angeles coastline, including such areas as Venice Beach, Hyperion Treatment Facility, and the Port of Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY:



JAN C. PERRY
Councilwoman, 9th District

SECONDED BY:



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