COUNTY of VENTURA

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
DAVE WARD
Planning Director

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2026-2027 El Niño Preparation and Governor's State of Emergency Proclamation

El Niño Declarations and County of Ventura Preparation

According to the September 10, 2026 El Niño advisory issued by the Climate Prediction Section, National Weather Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, there is a greater than 90% chance of a very strong El Niño event in the Northern Hemisphere during fall and winter 2026-2027. Additionally, the World Meteorological Organization has projected that the 2026-2027 El Niño event will result in impacts to rainfall and temperature patterns and fuel extreme weather. Potential impacts may result in floods, drought, and extreme heat.

On September 11, 2026, the California Coastal Commission prepared an information memo regarding the 2026-2027 Winter El Niño. Per the memo, communities preparing for the El Niño should reach out to Coastal Commission staff (email: SouthCentralCoast@coastal.ca.gov) and the local jurisdiction to determine what permits may be required for shoreline protection. As outlined in the memo:

- Permits for repair and maintenance for shoreline protective devices (see page 5)
- Permits for preventative actions (see pages 6 and 7)
- Emergency Coastal Development Permits (see page 6)

On September 21, 2026, Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency directing state agencies to prepare for the 2026-2027 El Niño event. This proclamation directs the Coastal Commission to expedite review of development proposals to prepare for the El Niño event.

On October 6, 2026 (See Item 39), the County of Ventura Board of Supervisors received a presentation regarding the status of County preparations for a strong storm season resulting from predicted El Nino conditions. Before the winter storms, community members are encouraged to:

- Sign up for emergency alerts through VC Alert at ready.venturacounty.gov.
- Address erosion-prone slopes and areas on private property.
- Clear privately owned drainage paths, ditches, and culverts and clean roofs and gutters.
- Monitor the county's Flood Warning System and prepare a family emergency plan, stock supplies such as food, water, medications, and flashlights and have a "Go Kit" ready in case of evacuation.

Limited Ministerial Repair and Maintenance Application

For preventative maintenance of shoreline protective devices, this Zoning Clearance Application authorizes the restacking of up to 20 percent of dislodged rocks and the application of protective coatings to seawalls in accordance with the Coastal Zoning Ordinance (CZO) Sec. 8174-6.3.2(b)(1) and Sec. 8175-5.12.3. Proposed repairs or maintenance activities that exceed the scope of these ministerial allowances may require additional review and approval through one of the following pathways:

- Coastal Development Permit for repair and maintenance (CZO Sec. 8174-6.3.2(b)(1) and Sec. 8175-5.12.3).
- Emergency Coastal Development Permit in response to an emergency, which is considered a sudden unexpected occurrence demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss or damage to life, health, property, or essential public services (CZO Sec. 8181-3.7).

For additional information regarding permits for El Nino preparation, please contact the Planning Counter at (805) 654-2488 or by email at Plan.Counter@VenturaCounty.gov.

References

- National Weather Service El Niño Advisory: September 10, 2026
- World Meteorological Organization Press Release: September 3, 2026
- California Coastal Commission Information Memo: September 11, 2026
- Governor Proclamation of Emergency: September 21, 2026
- County of Ventura Receive and File Presentation on County Preparations for El Niño: October 6, 2026