



LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR

LINDSEY

Horvath

THIRD DISTRICT

EL NIÑO

KNOW BEFORE THE STORM

TOWN HALL

SEPTEMBER 28, 2026



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LOS ANGELES

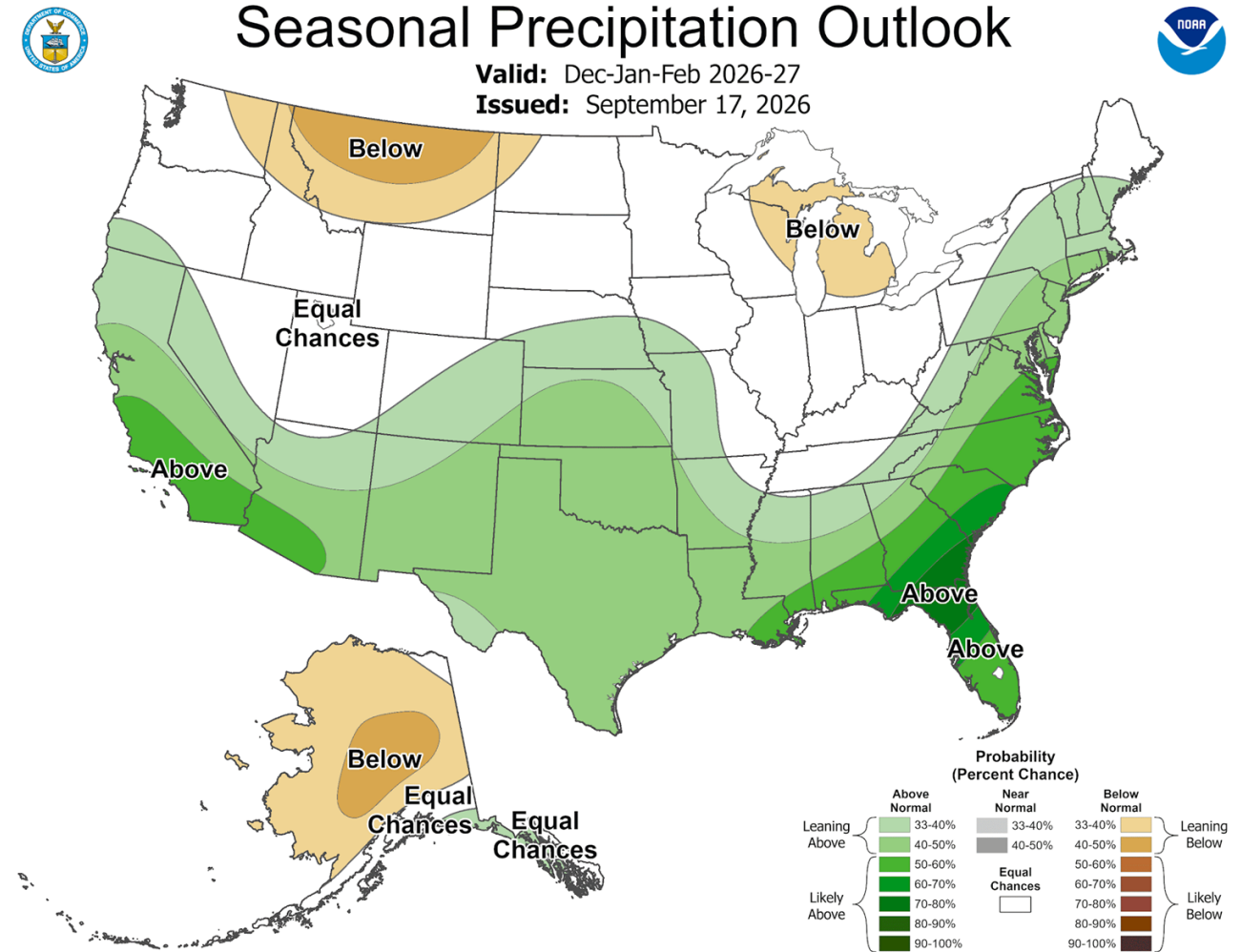


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El Niño is an *Oceanic* Phenomenon

- While record ocean warmth tilts the odds toward a wetter season and a more active storm track, **an active winter is far from guaranteed.**
- The atmosphere must actively 'couple' with that ocean heat, meaning **local impacts and hazards will depend on individual storms**, not just the seasonal backdrop.
- Because a disaster is not predetermined and there is much uncertainty, we want you to use these long-range outlooks for planning, and reserve your urgent response for imminent, event-driven alerts.





Our role as the National Weather Service

Accurate forecasts rely on short-range, high-resolution modeling and real-time observational data



Site-specific forecasts are delivered within a few days of a storm's onset, once the system enters a reliable window of predictability.



We focus on actionable probability distributions driven by reliable ensemble modeling, messaging reasonable worst-case scenarios only when sufficient scientific evidence and reliable probabilities exist.



What does a Warning, Watch, or Advisory Mean?



Warning	Watch	Advisory	Outlook
Weather hazard is occurring, imminent or likely	Risk of weather hazard in the near future	Weather hazard is occurring, imminent or likely	Risk of weather hazard in the next 7 days
Poses a threat to life/property	Could pose a threat to life/property	Could cause significant inconvenience	Could pose a threat to life/property
Take Protective Action	Have a Plan of Action	Use Caution	Prepare a Plan of Action



What Is El Niño and What Does It Means for Southern California?



NATIONAL
PREPAREDNESS MONTH

- El Niño is not a storm; it refers to oceanic warmth.
- A very strong El Niño does tilt the odds toward a wetter-than-normal winter from more Pacific storms, and increases the likelihood of severe-weather and coastal hazards.
- However, severe-weather impacts in Southern California are still uncertain; *possibility* and *certainty* are not the same thing.
- Preparation is vital because the risks of being caught unprepared can be significant if disaster occurs.
- Take action now by visiting [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov)
- *Preparation is a marathon, not a sprint.*



County of Los Angeles

Office of Emergency Management



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County of Los Angeles
**Office of
Emergency
Management**

OEM Preparedness Efforts

- Ensure LA County Readiness
 - Community Preparedness Activities
 - Sign up for Alerts at **alert.lacounty.gov**
 - Coordinate and Support Countywide Planning Process
 - Hazard and Operational Assessment
 - Emergency Management Council Meeting
 - Operational Area Coordination Meetings
 - Development of Concept of Operations Plans
 - City, COG and DMAC Coordination
 - Coordinate Efforts to Protect Critical Facilities

#LARain



Stay Updated
ready.lacounty.gov/rain



Sign up for emergency alerts
alert.lacounty.gov



Follow us on social media
@ReadyLACounty

Ready **LA County**





Public Works

LOS ANGELES COUNTY



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Public Works Preparedness

- **Ensure agency-wide operational readiness**
- **Prepare and empower our communities**
- **Strengthen regional readiness and coordination with partner agencies**











Potential Storm Impacts

- **Landslides**
- **Burn Area Debris Flows**
- **Urban and Riverine Flooding**
- **Wind Damage**
- **Surf and Coastal Erosion**



How Residents Can Prepare

- Know and understand your flood risk
- Stay informed of weather forecasts
- Follow guidance of emergency officials
- Engineering Advice
1-800-933-0930





DEPARTMENT OF

BEACHES & HARBORS

Caring for Our Coast

Los Angeles County



LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR

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Coastal Preparedness

PREPARE

Reduce risk before storms arrive



PROTECT

Respond when coastal hazards occur



PRESERVE

Invest in the future of LA County's coastline



Preparing for Winter

Seasonal Sand Berms

Protect facilities and low-lying areas from flooding

Lifeguard Towers

Relocate towers in vulnerable locations

Storm Drains & Waterways

Clear and monitor before and during storms

Routine Inspections & Coordination

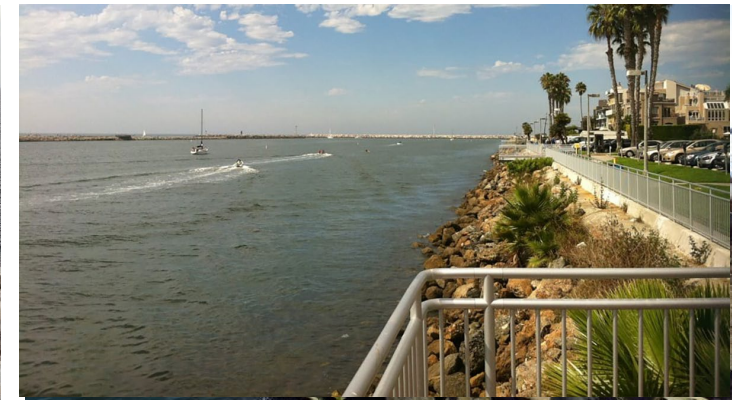
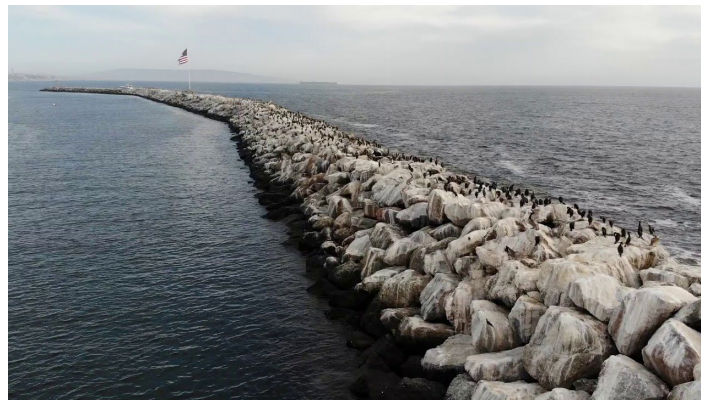
Identify potential hazards and coordinate with partner agencies



Marina del Rey Resilience

HARBOR PROTECTION

- Breakwater
- Jetties
- Seawalls



Responding to Coastal Change

TODAY

Responding to Immediate Impacts

- Emergency mitigation: Point Dume erosion



TOMORROW

Building Coastal Resilience

- Living shorelines
- Beach nourishment
- Long-term planning



OTHER DEPARTMENTS



County of Los Angeles

FIRE
DEPARTMENT



Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

dpss



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Q & A



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GET IN TOUCH

National Weather Service Los Angeles.....805-988-6610 | @NWSLosAngeles

LA County Office of Emergency Management.....213-555-1212 | @ReadyLACounty

LA County Department of Public Works.....626-458-5100 | @LaCoPublicWorks

Home Vulnerability Assessment Help.....1-800-933-0930

LA County Department of Beaches & Harbors.....424-526-7777 | @lacdbh

LA County Fire Department.....323.881.2411 | @LACoFD @LAcountyFD

LA County Sheriff Department.....213-229-1700 | @LASDHQ

LA County Department of Public Social Services.....866-613-3777| @LACo_dpss



QUICK RESOURCES:

Free Sandbag Locator:



dpw.lacounty.gov/dsg/sandbags

 **Ready LA County**

ready.lacounty.gov

Downed Tree? Blocked Road?
Call the DPW Operations Center:

1-800-675-HELP (4357)

Sign Up For Emergency Alerts:

ready.lacounty.gov/emergency-alerts