



## PREPARING FOR THE PREDICTED 2015/16 EI NINO STORM EVENTS

### ARE YOU STORM READY?

The City of Goleta is preparing for an “El Niño” season this fall and winter. Weather forecasters are expecting that Southern California, including the Central Coast, will face one of the most severe El Niños.

#### *What is El Niño?*

The term El Niño refers to the weather pattern linked to a periodic warming in sea surface temperatures across large parts of the Pacific Ocean.

Typical El Niño effects are likely to develop over North America during the upcoming winter season. Those include warmer-than-average temperatures over western and central Canada, and over the western and northern United States. Forecasters predict a strong possibility of increased rain as a result.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREPARE:

#### **Know your Flood Risk!**

Protecting yourself today means having sources for information, preparing your home or workplace, developing an emergency communications plan, and knowing what to do when a flood is approaching your home or business. Taking action today can save lives and property!

- Learn whether you live, work or travel through areas that are prone to flooding. To help communities understand their risk of flooding, FEMA creates flood maps to show the locations of high-risk, moderate-to-low-risk, and undetermined risk areas. Consider purchasing flood insurance if you are in a flood plain. To check your flood risk, go to [www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov).
- Flood Insurance – Purchasing flood insurance provides financial protection for the cost of repairs due to flood damage. Standard insurance policies do not cover flooding, but flood insurance is available for homeowners, renters and business owners through the National Flood Insurance Program.

#### **Stay Informed!**

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will release updated floor maps that show new changes in some areas in our community. With the release of the new maps, some property owners will learn that their risk is higher or lower than they thought. Be sure to check [www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov) for more information.
- Have important City and County contact numbers close at hand. Click on the link below for a summary of contact numbers and a list of other local resources that will help you prepare for the rainy season.
- To sign up for emergency alerts regarding winter storm impacts including street closures and important detours via email/text in English, visit <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAGOLETA/subscriber/new> or text Goleta Emergency to 468311. To register for alerts via landline or cell phone, call 805-961-7500, email [GoletaCityAlert@cityofgoleta.org](mailto:GoletaCityAlert@cityofgoleta.org). Finally, to sign up for email/text alerts in Spanish, visit <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAGOLETA/subscriber/new> and check Goleta en Espanol or text Goleta Spanish to 468311.

## **Prepare Now!**

- Make or update your emergency kit including important documents, medication and emergency contact information.
- The City of Goleta offers community training and education opportunities on emergency preparedness. For more information, call 805-961-7558.
- Think about how you will stay informed if there is a power outage. Have extra batteries for a battery-operated radio and your cell phone. Consider having a hand crank radio or cell phone charger.
- Know your evacuation routes, plan your transportation and a place to stay. The safest way to survive a flood is to evacuate the area if advised to leave. To ensure that you will be able to act quickly should the need arise, you need to plan ahead.

## **Important Information**

- Two self-service sandbag stations are open during daylight hours in Goleta. They are located at Station 14--320 Los Carneros Road and Fire Station 11--6901 Frey Way. Bags and sand are available to residents and are limited to 20 bags per household.

## **Homeowner Flood Preparation Information**

- Flood Insurance Information  
<http://cosb.countyofsb.org/pwd/pwwater.aspx?id=44630>  
<http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>
- Flood Preparation at Home - [http://water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/docs/brochure\\_floodfightingathome.pdf](http://water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/docs/brochure_floodfightingathome.pdf)
- Homeowners Guide to Flood Prevention and Response -  
[http://cosb.countyofsb.org/uploadedFiles/pwd/Water/HomeownersGuide\\_Final.pdf](http://cosb.countyofsb.org/uploadedFiles/pwd/Water/HomeownersGuide_Final.pdf)