



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Carmel-By-The-Sea Proclaims Local Emergency to Prepare for Potentially Historic El Niño Winter

City accelerates storm preparations, and invites residents to October community meetings.

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA, Calif. – Following Governor Gavin Newsom's September 21 statewide emergency proclamation, the City of Carmel-By-The-Sea has proclaimed a local emergency to assist preparations for a potentially historic El Niño winter. The proclamation strengthens the City's ability to coordinate resources with the State, opens the door to possible funding, and may help streamline regulatory steps for storm preparation, especially along Carmel Beach.

Forecasters give a greater than 90 percent chance of a very strong El Niño this winter and a 69 percent chance it will reach historic strength, surpassing every event on record since 1950. For a coastal village like ours, that means a higher risk of flooding, high surf, beach and bluff erosion, and downed trees.

"We can't control the weather, but we can control how ready we are. Our crews began preparing earlier this fall and will continue throughout the season. The City's leadership team is taking the uncertainty of this winter seriously and working hard to ensure our community is ready for whatever comes our way," said **Brandon Swanson, Acting City Administrator**.

How the City is preparing

- Clearing storm drains and inspecting trees near roads and homes
- Monitoring Carmel Beach and bluffs; staging pumps and generators
- Making sandbags available at Vista Lobos and Sunset Center
- Readyng warming centers for cold, wet weather
- Coordinating with The County of Monterey, Monterey Fire, Volunteer Groups, PG&E and the State

Join Us for Two October Preparedness Community Meetings:

1. **Carmel Prepares for El Niño Community Meeting**
Monday, October 12, 5–7 p.m. | Sunset Center, Carpenter Hall
An El Nino focused event where residents will learn and get practical winter storm preparation tips from City staff and partner agencies.
2. **Shaken, Soaked & Prepared**
Saturday, October 17, 10–11 a.m. | Sunset Center, Carpenter Hall.
A broader focused natural disaster preparedness event covering earthquakes, tsunamis, and winter storms with Dr. Gary Griggs and Police Chief Todd Trayer.

Keeping residents informed

Visit the City's website (ci.carmel.ca.us/carmel-prepares) for additional storm related information as we approach winter.

During storms, updates will be shared through Alert Monterey County, City Website, City email and social media. Residents are urged to register for Alert Monterey County now.

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