

Winter Wave Event Preparedness for Capitola

Overview of
preparations and
response strategies for
potential coastal
flooding during the
2024-25 winter season.

Chief Andrew Dally



Background

Key partners:

Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department

Central Fire District

Weather Forecasts from NOAA – PW
monitoring of Soquel Creek

Santa Cruz County OR3 – Office of Response,
Recovery & Resilience



**Overview of typical winter weather
patterns from October to March.**

**Winter Weather Watch / High Surf
Advisories / Coastal Flooding / Creek
Levels**



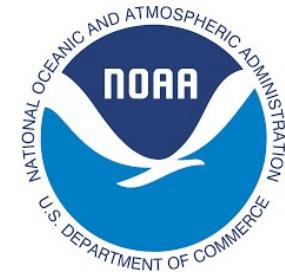
Capitola's Concern is Flooding - Key Flooding Factors

Tides: Impact of king tides and high tides (e.g., king tides between November 15-17, December 13-15).

Storm Surge: Effects of strong Pacific Ocean storms and low-pressure systems.

Swell/Surf: Influence of long-period swells and wave heights over 18 feet with 17-second intervals.

Soquel Creek Flow Rate: Monitoring creek levels, especially above 1000 CFS.



Pre-Storm Event Preparations – Plan and Prepare

Nature of Event: Heavy Rain Event, Large Waves, Tsunami, Coastal Flooding....

- City will assign a county representative to monitor weather forecasts.

Public Works will conduct infrastructure inspections (storm drains, sump pumps, seawalls).

Pre-position resource: Sandbags, barricades, signage at City Hall and Police Department.

Begin Notification: Public warnings through CruzAware and social media (Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor, Nixel).



Business and Community Preparedness

Coordination with local businesses (Capitola BIA) and homeowners' associations (Venetian HOA).

Guidance on securing goods, using sandbags, and early closures.

Encouraging community sign-ups for CruzAware for real-time alerts.





During a Severe Weather Event

Activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for centralized coordination.

Local – Capitola EOC

Regional – Santa Cruz County OR3 - EOC

Real-time monitoring of conditions: swell heights, storm surges, creek flow rates.

Deployment of sandbags and flood barriers in high-risk areas like Capitola Village and Riverview Drive.

Consistent messaging for the community.

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COASTAL FLOOD WARNING

Water flooding is threatening safety & impacting travel

Some roads may become impassable. Some properties (including homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure) could be inundated.

Reference Point	Reference Water Level
Key West (State College)	2.1 ft above MHHW
Key West (State College)	2.1 ft above MHHW
Key West (State College)	1.15 ft above NAVD88



Florida Keys National Weather Service

Public Safety and Communication

Managing public access: road closures (Esplanade), detours, and possible evacuations.

Continuous updates through emergency alerts, social media, and coordination with regional partners.

Ensuring public safety: standby first responders and rescue operations – people first, property second.



Summary

Winter storms are dynamic and need a flexible response plan.

Timely communication with residents and businesses – vital for success.

No fiscal impact noted.

Questions and Discussion.