



CITY OF DEL REY OAKS

650 CANYON DEL REY BLVD., DEL REY OAKS, CALIFORNIA 93940
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DATE: October 27, 2026
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: John Guertin, City Manager
SUBJECT: Local Emergency Declaration and Preparedness for Anticipated 2026-27 El Niño Storm Impacts

Recommendation

Adopt the attached resolution declaring a local emergency due to threatened 2026–2027 El Niño storm impacts, adopting the separate proclamation as Exhibit A, and authorizing the City Manager to coordinate lawful storm preparedness and assistance requests. Direct staff to return for Council review within 60 days after adoption, or earlier as required by applicable law or changing conditions.

Summary

The proposed action establishes a local emergency framework before anticipated severe weather intensifies. It authorizes coordinated preparedness, resource requests, and public information while retaining applicable budget, purchasing, permitting, and Council oversight requirements. The proclamation is a Council action executed by Mayor Scott Donaldson; it does not depend on a separate declaration by an individual official.

On September 21, 2026, the Governor proclaimed a statewide emergency related to the developing 2026–2027 El Niño event. The supplied proclamation directs state preparedness, resource staging, interagency coordination, and support for local protective work. It also recognizes that strong El Niño events do not produce uniform statewide outcomes. Actual conditions in Del Rey Oaks will depend on storm tracks, rainfall intensity and duration, wind, and local drainage conditions.

The proposed action would support early coordination with Monterey County and regional partners, prioritize protective work, and provide a process for reporting changing conditions and resource needs to the Council.

Discussion

The City's coastal location creates exposure to flooding, high winds, erosion, downed trees, roadway hazards, power outages, and interruptions to essential services. Successive or prolonged severe storms could require drainage maintenance, emergency response, traffic control, sheltering, and restoration of services at the same time. These concurrent demands are the basis for the proposed finding that threatened conditions are likely to exceed City capabilities and require assistance from other jurisdictions.

The resolution addresses the threatened existence of an emergency in advance of anticipated storm impacts. Specific local impacts will depend on actual weather and coastal conditions. Staff will monitor forecasts and operational needs and adjust readiness activities accordingly.

The resolution authorizes the City Manager, within lawful authority and available appropriations, to coordinate drainage inspections and maintenance, protection of public facilities, staging of flood

response supplies and equipment, and planning for traffic control, evacuation support, sheltering, debris removal, and continuity of operations. Staff would coordinate with the Monterey County Operational Area, public safety agencies, utilities, and mutual aid partners, and adjust readiness to forecasts and operational needs.

Authorized preparedness activities include inspecting and maintaining drainage facilities; protecting roads, public facilities, and critical infrastructure; staging sandbags, pumps, generators, barriers, and other supplies; and planning for road closures, evacuations, sheltering, debris removal, and service interruptions.

The City Manager may request mutual aid, technical assistance, equipment, personnel, and other resources and seek available funding consistent with applicable program requirements. A local proclamation supports emergency coordination but does not guarantee state or federal reimbursement.

The declaration does not itself waive competitive bidding or create an unrestricted purchasing authority. The City Manager would continue to follow City purchasing and budget requirements. If emergency public works contracting becomes necessary, staff must separately address the applicable Public Contract Code section 22050 findings, vote, delegation, and review requirements. Routine seasonal maintenance should continue through normal procedures when time permits.

The declaration does not itself waive competitive bidding or create an unrestricted purchasing authority. The City Manager would continue to follow City purchasing and budget requirements. If emergency public works contracting becomes necessary, staff must separately address the applicable Public Contract Code section 22050 findings, vote, delegation, and review requirements. Routine seasonal maintenance should continue through normal procedures when time permits.

Following adoption, the Mayor will execute the proclamation on behalf of the Council and the Clerk will certify the resolution and attach the proclamation as Exhibit A. Staff will transmit both to the Monterey County Department of Emergency Management for Operational Area coordination and transmittal to Cal OES.

Staff will track incident dates, protective measures, damages, labor, equipment, contracts, insurance, and other costs. If damaging incidents occur, staff should promptly coordinate with the Operational Area and Cal OES regarding incident-specific reporting, application deadlines, eligible work, and any supplemental declaration or assistance request.

Fiscal Impacts

Adoption does not appropriate additional funds. Staff proposes to perform initial preparedness work within available departmental appropriations, subject to verification of balances and operational needs. Potential additional costs include overtime, supplies, equipment rental, contracted services, emergency protective work, and repairs. The amount is not yet known and will depend on actual conditions. Staff will seek Council approval of necessary budget adjustments and contracts as required and report emergency costs during continuing reviews. No state or federal reimbursement is assumed.

Recommendation

Adopt the attached resolution declaring a local emergency due to threatened 2026–2027 El Niño storm impacts, adopting the separate proclamation as Exhibit A, and authorizing the City Manager to coordinate lawful storm preparedness and assistance requests.

Attachments

1. Draft resolution
2. Proclamation of a Local Emergency, to be attached to the resolution as Exhibit A.

Respectfully submitted,
John Guertin
City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DEL REY OAKS PROCLAIMING THE THREATENED EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO ANTICIPATED 2026–2027 EL NIÑO STORM IMPACTS AND AUTHORIZING STORM PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS

WHEREAS, Government Code § 8558(c) defines a local emergency, and Government Code § 8630(a) and Del Rey Oaks Municipal Code Chapter 2.28 provide authority for the City Council to proclaim a local emergency; and

WHEREAS, Del Rey Oaks Municipal Code Section 2.28.050(a) defines an emergency to include the actual or threatened existence of conditions of disaster or extreme peril caused by flood, storm, or other conditions that are or are likely to be beyond the control of City services, personnel, equipment, and facilities, requiring the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat; and

WHEREAS, Del Rey Oaks Municipal Code Section 2.28.050(a) authorizes the City Manager to request that the City Council proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the City Council is in session; and

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2026, the Governor proclaimed a statewide state of emergency due to the developing 2026–2027 El Niño event and directed advance preparedness for potential severe weather, flooding, coastal impacts, erosion, and related hazards; and

WHEREAS, Del Rey Oaks is a coastal community in which severe storms can cause flooding, high winds, erosion, downed trees, roadway hazards, power outages, infrastructure damage, and interruptions to essential services; and

WHEREAS, successive or prolonged severe storm events may place concurrent demands on emergency response, drainage maintenance, transportation access, sheltering, and restoration of essential services; and

WHEREAS, advance coordination with Monterey County, mutual aid partners, utilities, and state agencies is necessary to identify vulnerabilities, stage resources, prepare public facilities, and communicate preparedness information to residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, based on the anticipated storm hazards and the preparedness information presented to the City Council, conditions of extreme peril to persons and property are threatened within Del Rey Oaks and are likely to exceed the capability of City services, personnel, equipment, and facilities, requiring assistance from other political subdivisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Del Rey Oaks as follows:

1. Proclamation of Local Emergency. The foregoing recitals are incorporated as findings. Pursuant to Government Code § 8630 and Del Rey Oaks Municipal Code Chapter 2.28 the City Council hereby proclaims the threatened existence of a local emergency within the territorial limits of Del Rey Oaks due to the anticipated impacts of the developing 2026–2027 El Niño event and associated severe weather.

2. Emergency Coordination. The City Manager, as Director of Emergency Services, shall coordinate City preparedness and carry out those portions of the adopted Emergency Operations Plan necessary and appropriate to the threatened conditions. The Director may activate the Emergency Operations Center at a level appropriate to forecast conditions and operational needs and coordinate with the Monterey County Operational Area and mutual aid partners.

3. Storm Preparedness Actions. The City Manager is authorized to direct City departments, within their lawful authority, to undertake appropriate preparedness activities, including inspection and maintenance of drainage facilities; monitoring and protection of roads, public facilities, and other critical infrastructure; staging sandbags, pumps, generators, barriers, and other necessary supplies; planning for road closures, evacuations, sheltering, debris removal, and service interruptions; and coordinating readiness and service restoration with utilities and partner agencies. Preparedness shall include accessible and multilingual public information and coordination to assist residents who face additional risks during severe weather.

4. Outside Assistance. The City Manager is authorized to request and coordinate mutual aid, technical assistance, equipment, personnel, and other resources through the Operational Area and appropriate state, federal, and regional partners, and to seek available funding consistent with applicable program requirements. This resolution does not establish entitlement to reimbursement.

5. Expenditures and Contracting. To the extent authorized by applicable law, the Del Rey Oaks Municipal Code, City purchasing policies, and applicable emergency contracting authority, the City Manager may incur expenditures and procure materials, equipment, services, and supplies necessary to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the threatened emergency conditions. The City shall maintain records of personnel time, equipment use, purchases, contracts, and other emergency costs. It shall present emergency expenditures and procurements to the City Council for review or ratification as required by law. Any emergency public works contracting undertaken pursuant to Public Contract Code § 22050 shall comply with that section's applicable findings, voting, delegation, and continuing-review requirements. This resolution does not independently waive competitive bidding requirements.

6. Applicable Laws and Council Oversight. All actions shall comply with applicable law, including environmental and permitting requirements, except to the extent lawfully waived by an authorized agency. Any emergency rules or regulations issued by the Director shall be submitted to the City Council for confirmation at the earliest practicable time as required by Del Rey Oaks Municipal Code section 2.28.050(a).

7. Continuing Review and Termination. The City Council shall review the need to continue the local emergency at least once every 60 days in accordance with Government Code § 8630 (c) and (d). The City Manager shall present information on conditions, preparedness, resource needs, and expenditures sufficient to support that review. The City Council shall proclaim termination at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

8. Effective Date and Notice. This resolution takes effect immediately upon adoption on October 27, 2026. The City Clerk shall certify its adoption and transmit it to Monterey County emergency management, Cal OES, and other appropriate partner agencies.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Del Rey Oaks duly held on the 27th day of October 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:	COUNCIL MEMBERS:
NOES:	COUNCIL MEMBERS:
ABSENT:	COUNCIL MEMBERS:
ABSTAIN:	COUNCIL MEMBERS:

APPROVED:

Scott Donaldson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen Minami, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Alex Lorca, City Attorney

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS in the past several years, California has experienced increasingly severe and destructive storms, including atmospheric river events that have caused widespread flooding, mud and debris flows, landslides, high winds, power outages, road and highway closures, evacuation orders, damage to homes and critical infrastructure, and disruption of essential services; and

WHEREAS climate change is intensifying these weather and hydrologic extremes in California, contributing to increasingly severe swings between drought and flooding, and heightening the risks that extreme storms pose to communities, infrastructure, natural resources, and the economy; and

WHEREAS California is entering the 2026–2027 wet season amid the ongoing development of a strong and likely historic El Niño event in the Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center, in its August 13, 2026, diagnostic report, found that the El Niño event is strengthening, with a greater than 90 percent chance of a very strong event during Northern Hemisphere fall and winter of 2026–2027; and

WHEREAS the Climate Prediction Center projected a 69 percent chance that the event will reach historic strength during the October through December 2026 season, defined as a three-month Relative Oceanic Niño Index, and exceeding the strength of all prior El Niño events in the historical record beginning in 1950; and

WHEREAS the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center has found that atmospheric conditions over the tropical Pacific are consistent with a strengthening El Niño, including changes in equatorial winds and an eastward shift in enhanced convection and rainfall toward the central and eastern Pacific, making it more likely that at least some parts of California will experience stronger storms in coming months; and

WHEREAS elevated baseline coastal water levels, combined with high tides, large waves, high surf, and coastal storms, can increase risks of coastal flooding, beach erosion, bluff erosion, transportation disruption, and damage to public and private infrastructure; and

WHEREAS California has already begun to experience effects attributed to this El Niño event, including unusual precipitation and significant coastal flooding; and

WHEREAS historical experience demonstrates that very strong El Niño events do not produce uniform statewide outcomes, but can be associated with exceptionally wet and destructive winter conditions in California; and

WHEREAS California's recent experience with atmospheric rivers, debris flows following wildfires, flash flooding, coastal erosion, inundation, and damage to transportation and flood-control infrastructure demonstrates the importance of procuring and positioning resources, clearing waterways, and taking additional actions to prepare before severe storms arrive; and

WHEREAS areas affected by recent wildfires are particularly susceptible to flash flooding, mud and debris flows, erosion, sediment transport, and road closures during high-intensity rainfall; and

WHEREAS in light of that experience, local governments, local water agencies, and local flood control authorities have requested action now to enable them to move quickly to begin preparations for preventing and responding to the impacts of potential flooding; and

WHEREAS low-income communities, farmworker families, rural residents, seniors, persons with disabilities, residents with limited transportation access, people experiencing homelessness, and communities in flood-prone, coastal, or post-fire areas may face disproportionate risks; and

WHEREAS the demonstrated potential for a very strong or historic-strength El Niño event to cause elevated coastal water levels and high-impact storms in California warrants early, coordinated, and targeted preparedness actions to protect Californians, critical infrastructure, agricultural lands, natural resources, and the State's economy; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to the developing El Niño event; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the developing El Niño event is likely to cause conditions that, by reason of their magnitude, are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8625(c), I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the extreme peril posed by the developing El Niño event; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the developing El Niño event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist statewide due to the developing 2026–2027 El Niño event.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. All agencies of the state government are to utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency Plan. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services shall coordinate statewide preparedness activities for potential severe weather, flooding, coastal flooding, erosion, mud and debris flows, and related impacts associated with conditions resulting from the El Niño event, including atmospheric rivers and other severe storm systems. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services shall work with local and tribal governments to support emergency planning, resource coordination, and requests for state assistance. To protect their safety, all residents are to obey the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency.

2. As necessary to assist local governments and for the protection of public safety and the environment, state agencies shall enter into contracts to arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, and services necessary to quickly assist with the response to and recovery from the impacts of this emergency. Applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code, including but not limited to travel, advertising, and competitive bidding requirements, are suspended to the extent necessary to address the effects of this emergency.
3. The California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency, including boards, departments, and offices within those agencies, are directed to prioritize work to help local agencies prepare for anticipated impacts from the El Niño event. In particular, those state agencies are directed to prioritize permitting, consultation, and technical assistance to support local efforts to prevent or mitigate impacts from anticipated or potential flooding, landslides, and mud and debris flows, including local efforts to expedite levee and other flood management infrastructure repairs, vegetation management, debris removal, sediment management, bridge scour protection, and channel-capacity improvements. State agencies are directed to work with local agencies to issue any necessary permits or other approvals for such efforts as quickly as possible, including by identifying and invoking existing emergency authorities or other pathways for streamlined review. On or before October 16, 2026, the Secretary for Environmental Protection and the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency shall submit a joint recommendation to my office as to whether further action or emergency suspensions are necessary to support and expedite this work.
4. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services shall coordinate the State's preparation for and response to the developing El Niño event, including by working with the Department of Water Resources and other appropriate government agencies to prepare to pre-position personnel, equipment, supplies, commodities, and other resources based on forecast conditions, local needs, and identified risks. In particular, this work shall draw on the Department of Water Resources' guidance regarding flood-risk-reduction activities.
5. The Department of Water Resources shall take appropriate action to procure, maintain, stage, pre-position, distribute, and replenish flood-fight supplies, equipment (including, but not limited to, sandbags, riprap and other rock materials, plastic sheeting, and pumps), and other materials necessary to support statewide flood preparedness, response, and protective actions in connection with the El Niño event. The Department of Water Resources shall coordinate with appropriate government agencies to identify priority areas for flood-fight material staging and plans to make these materials available where they are needed, when they are needed.
6. The Department of Water Resources, through its Division of Safety of Dams, shall conduct outreach to owners of jurisdictional dams regarding potential severe conditions during the El Niño event and shall reiterate to dam owners their responsibilities to inspect, operate, maintain, repair, and safely manage their dams and appurtenant structures in accordance

with applicable law, permit conditions, emergency action plans, and directives of the Division of Safety of Dams.

7. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services, in coordination with the Department of Water Resources, shall conduct outreach to counties, cities, and relevant local agencies that are responsible for levees, flood-control facilities, and associated structures that may be vulnerable to impacts of the El Niño event to take appropriate actions to procure, maintain, stage, pre-position, distribute, and replenish flood-fight supplies, commodities, equipment, and materials necessary to support flood preparedness, response, and protective actions.
8. The Department of Water Resources, in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, shall conduct outreach and education to advance groundwater recharge projects and to use flood flows to recharge groundwater aquifers under existing law with the goal of reducing flood impacts and strengthening local water supplies.
9. Consistent with Paragraph 3 of this Proclamation, the Coastal Commission is directed to expedite review and action on proposed development by coastal communities to prepare for the impacts of this El Niño event. Coastal communities are encouraged to submit permit applications, as appropriate, to facilitate timely Coastal Commission review, technical assistance, and other support for El Niño preparations. After an application is received, the Commission shall respond with notification of any incomplete items within five days. After an application is complete, it shall be scheduled for hearing at the next Commission meeting. For emergency permit requests, the Commission shall accept both written and oral requests to its district offices. When necessary to address an urgent need related to this emergency, the Commission shall take action on emergency permit requests as quickly as possible and within twenty-four hours of receipt.
10. The California Department of Transportation and California State Transportation Agency shall identify those state highways, bridges, culverts, drainage facilities, slopes, and other transportation infrastructure most at risk of flooding, erosion, debris flows, rockslides, mudslides, or other significant impacts from severe storms caused by the El Niño event, and transmit to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services a prioritized list of projects to address such risks within 30 days of this Proclamation.
11. The California Department of Transportation shall develop plans to pre-position personnel and materials (including directional signage, traffic-control devices, road-closure devices, warning signs, delineators, emergency communications equipment, and other resources) at or near locations that may be identified as at risk of severe impacts from the El Niño event. This shall include plans to prepare and pre-position snow-removal, snow-control, and ice-control equipment as appropriate, including snowplows, snow blowers, graders, loaders, chain-control equipment, salt, sand, and other materials necessary to maintain safe travel and restore access on state highways during the El Niño event.
12. The Adjutant General and the California Military Department shall, in coordination with the Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency

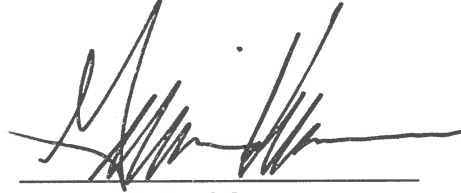
Services, identify California National Guard personnel, equipment, and capabilities that may be available to support state and local emergency operations, if activated or tasked, in relation to this El Niño event. Such planning shall include readiness for high-water vehicle operations; aviation operations, including reconnaissance, search and rescue, transport, and heavy-lift support, as appropriate; engineering support; emergency communications; transportation and logistics; evacuation support; flood-fight activities; debris removal and route clearance; commodity distribution; shelter support; and other life-safety and emergency-support missions.

13. California Volunteers, in coordination with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and other appropriate agencies, shall prepare to mobilize volunteers and trained service members, consistent with their training, mission, safety requirements, and applicable law, to support state and local preparedness, response, and recovery activities in connection with the El Niño event.
14. The California Conservation Corps shall prepare to deploy Corpsmembers, consistent with its statutory mission, training, available resources, safety requirements, and applicable law, to support severe weather preparedness and response activities in connection with the El Niño event.
15. The California Energy Commission, the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, and the State Water Resources Control Board and regional water quality control boards are directed, and the California Public Utilities Commission is requested, to coordinate, consistent with their respective authorities, with electrical, natural-gas, water, wastewater, telecommunications, transportation, and other critical-service providers to enhance readiness and support timely restoration of essential services following storm impacts.
16. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services, in consultation with relevant state agencies, shall expand accessible, multilingual public preparedness communications related to severe weather, flooding, emergency alerts, evacuation readiness, power outages, safe travel, disaster assistance, and household emergency planning.
17. Agencies under my direct authority shall cooperate in their response to this emergency. Other agencies are requested to assist in responding to this emergency, as appropriate.
18. The restrictions set forth in Penal Code section 396, which are automatically triggered upon proclamation of a state of emergency, are suspended, and no such restrictions are imposed, with respect to this El Niño event, at this time.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

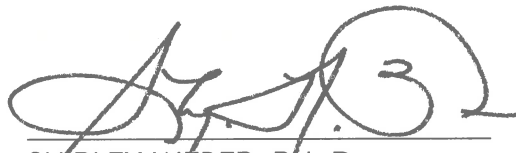
IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have
hereunto set my hand and caused
the Great Seal of the State of
California to be affixed this 21st day
of September 2026.



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California



ATTEST:


SHIRLEY WEBER, PH. D
Secretary of State