



SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Regular Meeting of the SFCJPA Board of Directors

September 24, 2026

San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority



Meeting Agenda

Members of the Public may speak on any agenda item for up to three minutes

1. ROLL CALL
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Changes or additions to the agenda
3. Appointment of Labor Negotiator Regarding Conference with Labor Negotiator (Interim Executive Director)
4. CLOSED SESSION

Meeting Agenda

Members of the Public may speak on any agenda item for up to three minutes

5. PUBLIC COMMENT: Individuals may speak on a non-agendized topic for up to three minutes on a topic within the SFCJPA's jurisdiction.

Members of the public speaking in person should submit a speaker card to the Clerk of the Board, indicating which agenda item or items they wish to speak about, in order to be recognized. When the agenda item is called, please stand at the podium and speak clearly.

Members of the public speaking via video conference should raise their hand, indicating their desire to ask a question or comment. They will be recognized by the Clerk of the Board and once unmuted and recognized, please speak clearly.

Agenda Item 6 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

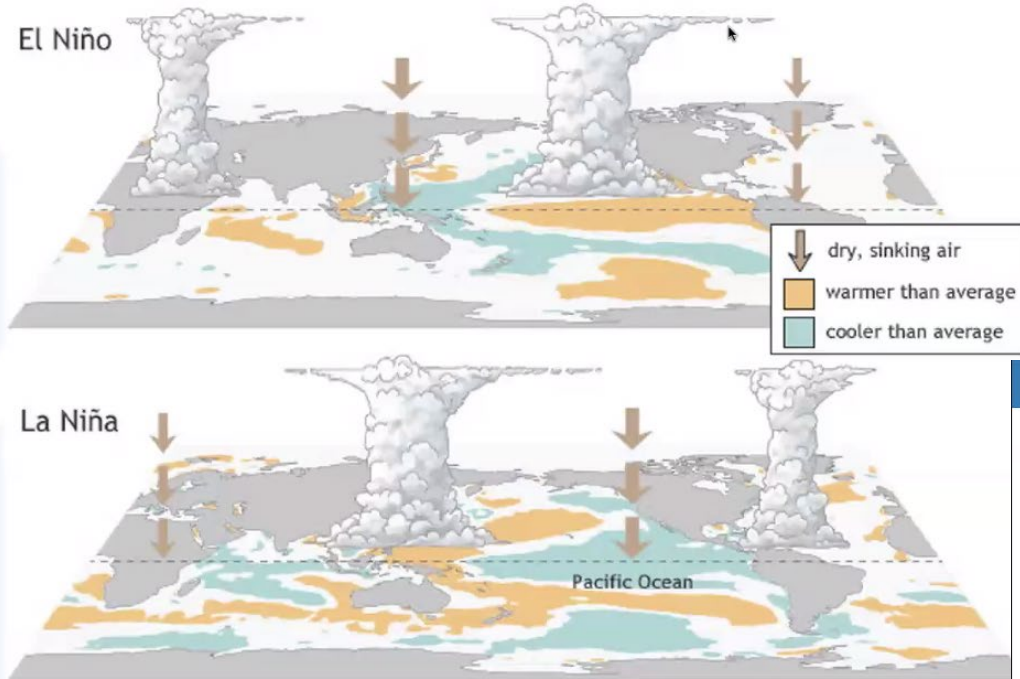
Agenda Item 7A

Action Item

7.A. – Winter Storm Preparation and Discussion of Planned and Potential Preparation Efforts in response to Predicted El Niño conditions

What is an El Niño?

ENSO (El Niño Southern Oscillation) Overview

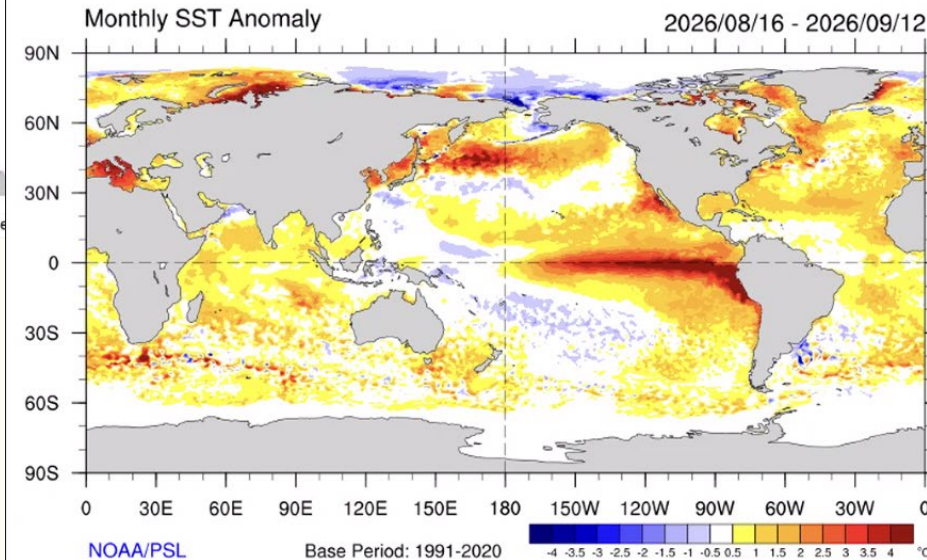


<https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/enso/what-el-nino-southe>

Credit: Dr. Mike DeFlorio, Lead Researcher
Scripps Western Weather and Water Extremes
"Special Update on El Niño", 9/17/2026

San Francisco Creek Joint Powers Authority

Current Monthly SST anomalies: 16 August 2026 – 12 September 2026



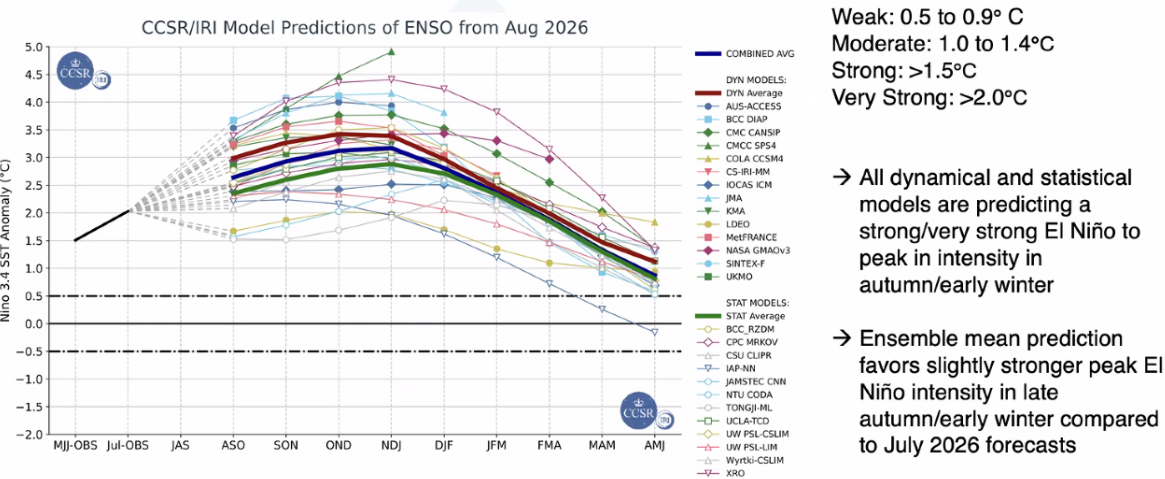
→ An El Niño has been officially declared as of June 2026
→ latest magnitude anomaly = 1.8°C (~3.2°F)

→ Sea surface temperature anomalies are rapidly warming throughout most of the tropical Pacific (where ENSO is defined).

→ Very warm sea surface temperatures have persisted over the last several months off the California coast.

Predicted Effects of El Niño

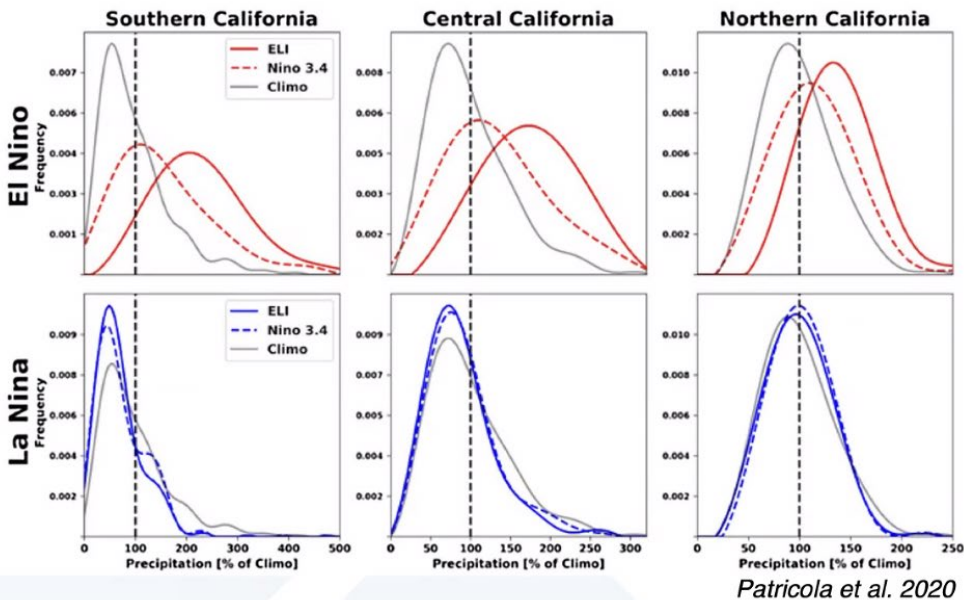
Latest ENSO Forecasts: August 2026



Credit: Dr. Mike DeFlorio, Lead Researcher
Scripps Western Weather and Water Extremes
"Special Update on El Niño", 9/17/2026

- Strong El Niño confirmed.
- Peak ocean temperatures are late fall
- Higher tides are likely
- Can tilt odds throughout rainy season but large uncertainty exists.

How do strong El Niños skew the probability of DJF precipitation across California?

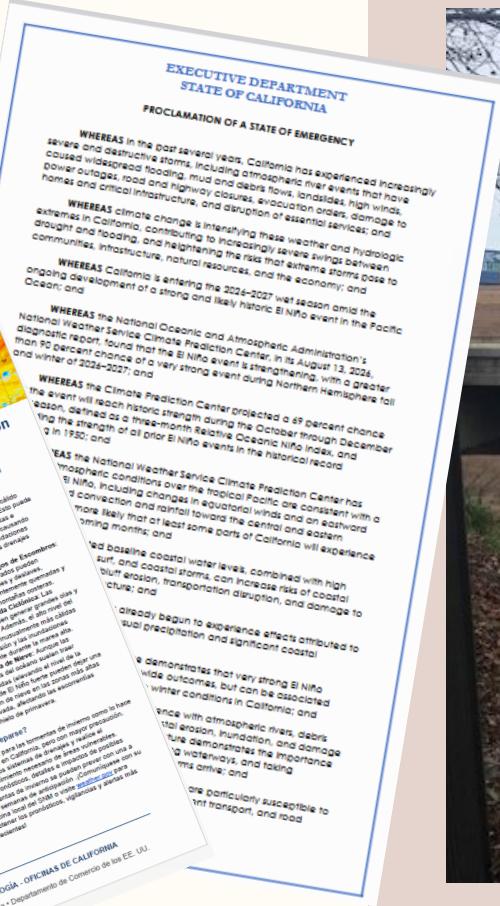
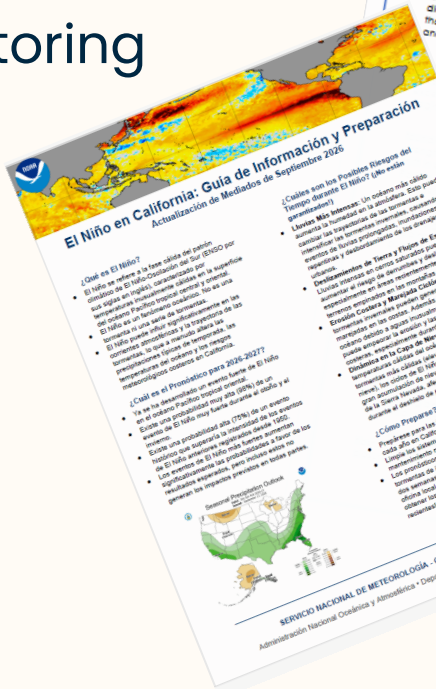


Strong El Niño years tend to shift the odds toward wetter Southern California winters, but the relationship weakens farther north and does not guarantee specific outcomes.

Wet El Niño response is stronger and more consistent than dry La Niña response, likely due to the disruptive role of atmospheric rivers (Luna-Niño et al. 2025, CW3E).

What are we doing to prepare?

- Pre-storm preparations
- Storm Monitoring
- Emergency Response



Hwy 101 Bridge over San Francisquito Creek

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2026/09/21/governor-newsom-proclaims-state-of-emergency-to-bolster-statewide-el-nino-preparedness-protect-california/>

Pre-storm preparations

- Annual Creek maintenance
- Trash and debris removal
- Coordinated Public outreach meeting
- Cities inspecting and clearing storm drains
- Sandbags and temporary flood barriers



Storm Monitoring

- San Francisquito Creek Multi Agency Coordination (MAC)
- Mission: Prevent, Protect, Mitigate, Respond, Recover.
- Cross jurisdictional boundaries
- MAC Subject Matter Experts
- Coordinated response and messaging



Table 4: SFC MAC Progression Triggers

#	Progression Level	Potential Trigger	Notify	Authority and Activity	Location
0	Preparedness Non-threatening conditions exist	Non-emergency	Agency Coordinators (AC)	Information monitoring and information exchange; training	Remotely in meetings or with virtual tools
1	Monitoring Conditions exist from predicted storms that could cause flooding	Weather forecast and gauge readings	Subject Matter Experts (SME)	SMEs conduct formal monitoring, based on conditions and/or guidance SMEs confer with ACs to determine need to activate Watch Level	Remotely in meetings or with virtual tools
			Public Information Officers (PIO)	Provide public information as needed	Remotely with virtual tools
2	Watch Conditions exist from storms that indicate flooding may occur	Determined by Palo Alto AC; while consulting the SMEs	Agency Coordinators (AC)	ACs confer with each other to determine response coordination needs and resource requests; ACs confer need to activate Warning Level	Remotely with virtual tools
			PIO	Provide information to the public; consider use of a Joint Information System or Center (JIS or JIC)	Remotely with virtual tools
3	Warning Conditions exist that flooding is imminent or has occurred	Determined by Palo Alto AC, especially if the creek is nearing capacity at known flood points	Agency Representative * (AR)	ARs meet and confer. Among issues listed on page 2 of this plan and the requirements of their jurisdictions' EOC, ARs discuss common priorities and actions, address limited or scarce resources, and collaborate on addressing public safety.	Prefer at a MAC Facility; if needed, remotely with virtual tools
			PIO	Provide information to the public; consider use of a JIS or JIC; coordinate w.r.t. NWS messaging	Prefer at a MAC Facility; if needed, remotely with virtual tools

<https://www.paloalto.gov/files/assets/public/v/5/o/es/plans/sfc-mac-op-plan-severe-storms-and-flood.pdf>

Emergency Response

- Excavators can be staged at Pope Chaucer and University Avenue Bridges as in past
- Coordinated response by Cities
- Postmortem



San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority



MAC Command Center at new Palo Alto Police Station

Agenda Item 7 B– Action Item

7.B. – Consider and Approve a Resolution (26-09-24-B)
Authorizing the Interim Executive Director to negotiate and
execute a no-cost Amendment Number 4 to add to the
scope of Task Order 4 of HDR Inc.'s Master Service
Agreement for the SAFER Bay Project

Agenda Item 8 – Information Items

8.A. – Interim Executive Director's Report

- Reach 2 Project
- Caltrain Project Status
- Newell Road Bridge Replacement

Reach 2 Project

- Three alternatives are being brought to 15% design- January 2027
- Public outreach February- March 2027
- Preferred alternative to SFCJPA Board- April 2027
- 100% design and bid October 2030



Residents, SFCJPA, and member agency staff at Pope-Chaucer Bridge during Reach 2 project tour April 26, 2025

Caltrain Project Status

- Bank Stabilization and in-stream work accepted on 9/22, will finish ahead of schedule
- Initial planning has begun for trestle replacement
- January 2027: Alternatives Analysis
- 2033 construction



Before, 2021

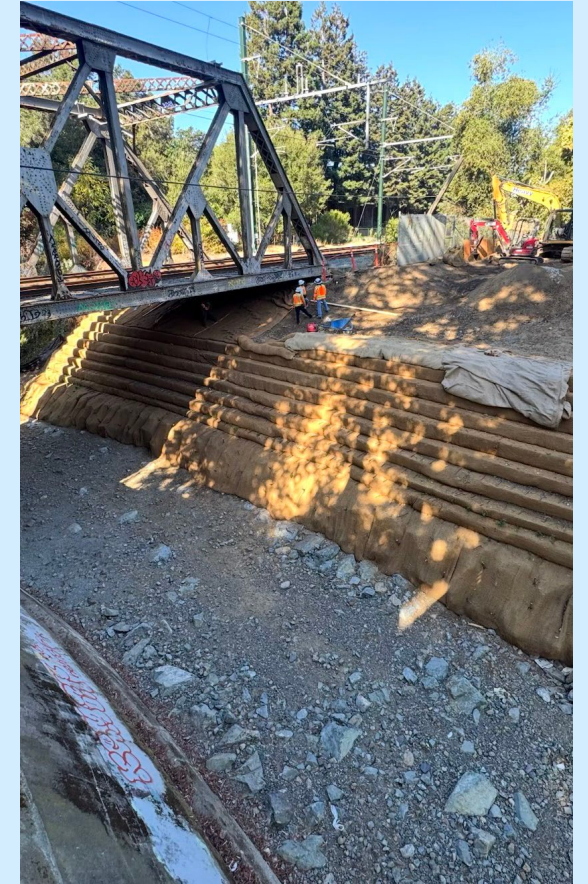


Photo provided by Letitia Yeung, Caltrain, taken on 9/14/2026

Newell Road Bridge Replacement

- Replacement bridge completion March 2027, City of Palo Alto updates at: <https://www.paloalto.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Engineering-Services/Engineering-Projects/Newell-Road>
- Water Board permit is under SFCJPA
- CDFW permit is under both City and SFCJPA
- SFCJPA managing Reller parcel mitigation
- Native plants are growing in upper watershed
- Contract executed to bring landscape plans to 100%, bid and award end of 2026



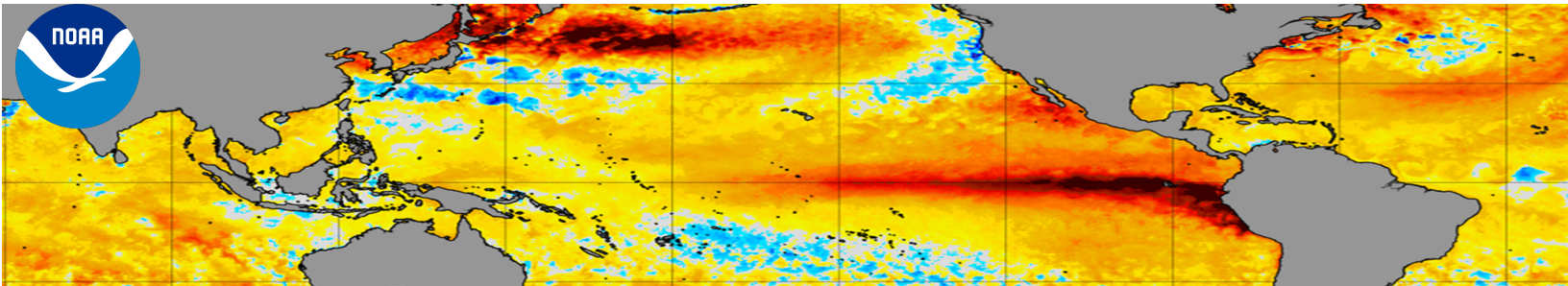
New bridge deck

Agenda Item 9

Board Member Announcements, Reports,
Information Items, and Requests (Information
Only)

Agenda Item 9

Adjournment



El Niño in California: Information & Preparedness Guide

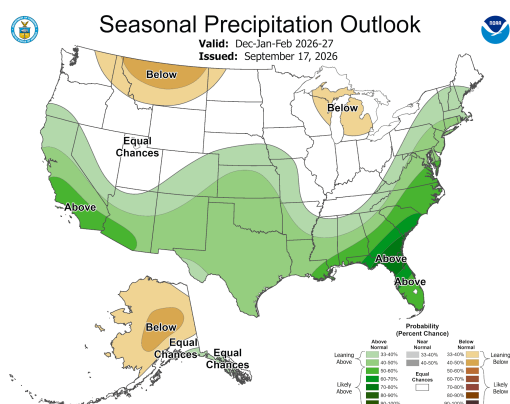
Mid-September 2026 Update

What is El Niño?

- El Niño refers to the warm phase of the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) climate pattern, characterized by unusually warm ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
- El Niño is an oceanic phenomenon. It is not a storm or a series of storms.
- El Niño can significantly influence atmospheric steering currents and storm track, often altering typical seasonal precipitation, ocean temperatures, and coastal weather hazards in California.

What is the Forecast for 2026-2027?

- A strong El Niño is strengthening in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
- There is a very high likelihood (98% chance) of a very strong El Niño event through the fall and winter.
- There is a high likelihood (75% chance) of a historic event that would exceed the strength of previous El Niño events dating back to 1950.
- Stronger El Niño events can more significantly tilt the odds in favor of expected outcomes but even very strong El Niño events do not lead to the expected impact everywhere.

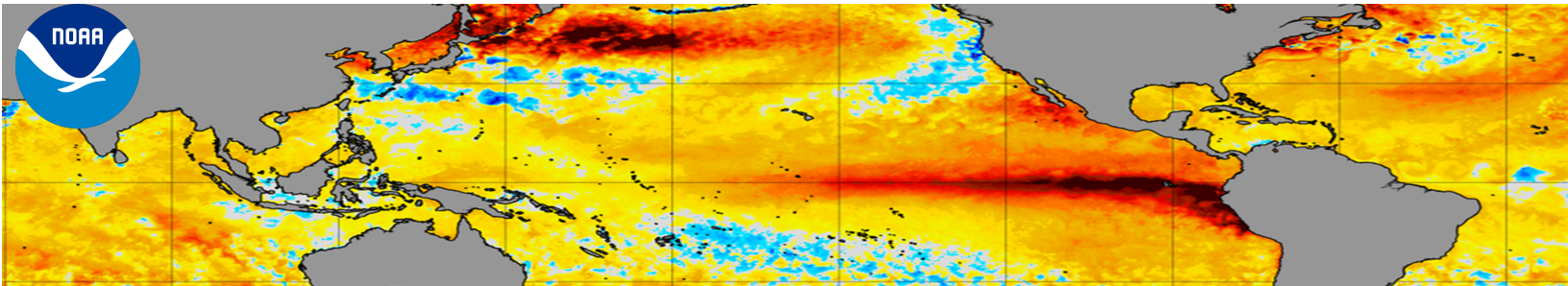


What are the *Potential* Weather Hazards during El Niño? (These are not a guarantee!)

- **Enhanced Heavy Rainfall:** A warmer ocean increases the amount of available moisture in the atmosphere. This can shift global storm tracks and enhance precipitation in winter storms, leading to prolonged rain events, flash flooding, and urban drainage overflow.
- **Landslides and Debris Flows:** Heavy rainfall on saturated hillsides can increase the risk of mudslides and debris flows—especially in recent burn scars and steep topography across coastal ranges.
- **Coastal Erosion & Storm Surge:** Winter storms can bring large waves and storm surge to coastlines. In addition, higher ocean levels due to warmer than normal waters can lead to more severe coastal erosion and coastal flooding, especially during periods of high tides.
- **Snowpack Dynamics:** While warm ocean temperatures often bring warmer storm systems (raising rain-snow elevations), strong El Niño cycles can yield heavy Sierra Nevada snowpack at higher elevations, impacting spring melt runoff.

How Should You Prepare?

- Prepare for winter storms like you do every winter in California with heightened awareness.
- Clear storm drainage systems and complete maintenance on vulnerable infrastructure.
- Forecasts, details, and impacts from potential winter storms come into view in the one to two week forecast. Coordinate with your local NWS office for briefings or visit [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) for the latest forecasts, watches, and warnings!



El Niño en California: Guía de Información y Preparación

Actualización de Medios de Septiembre 2026

¿Qué es El Niño?

- El Niño se refiere a la fase cálida del patrón climático de El Niño-Oscilación del Sur (ENSO por sus siglas en inglés), caracterizado por temperaturas inusualmente cálidas en la superficie del océano Pacífico tropical central y oriental.
- El Niño es un fenómeno oceánico. No es una tormenta ni una serie de tormentas.
- El Niño puede influir significativamente en las corrientes atmosféricas y la trayectoria de las tormentas, lo que a menudo altera las precipitaciones típicas de temporada, las temperaturas del océano y los riesgos meteorológicos costeros en California.

¿Cuál es el Pronóstico para 2026-2027?

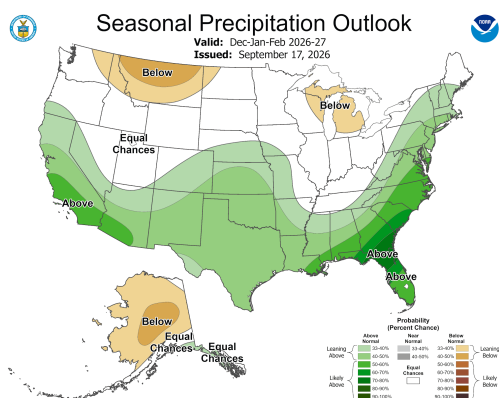
- Ya se ha desarrollado un evento fuerte de El Niño en el océano Pacífico tropical oriental.
- Existe una probabilidad muy alta (98%) de un evento de El Niño muy fuerte durante el otoño y el invierno.
- Existe una probabilidad alta (75%) de un evento histórico que superaría la intensidad de los eventos de El Niño anteriores registrados desde 1950.
- Los eventos de El Niño más fuertes aumentan significativamente las probabilidades a favor de los resultados esperados, pero incluso estos no generan los impactos previstos en todas partes.

¿Cuáles son los Posibles Riesgos del Tiempo durante El Niño? (¡No están garantizados!)

- **Lluvias Más Intensas:** Un océano más cálido aumenta la humedad en la atmósfera. Esto puede cambiar las trayectorias de las tormentas e intensificar las tormentas invernales, causando eventos de lluvias prolongadas, inundaciones repentinas y desbordamiento de los drenajes urbanos.
- **Deslizamientos de Tierra y Flujos de Escombros:** Lluvias intensas en cerros saturados pueden aumentar el riesgo de derrumbes y deslaves, especialmente en áreas recientemente quemadas y terrenos empinados en las montañas costeras.
- **Erosión Costera y Marejada Ciclónica:** Las tormentas invernales pueden generar grandes olas y marejadas en las costas. Además, el alto nivel del océano debido a aguas inusualmente más cálidas puede empeorar la erosión y las inundaciones costeras, especialmente durante la marea alta.
- **Dinámica en la Capa de Nieve:** Aunque las temperaturas cálidas del océano suelen traer tormentas más cálidas (elevando el nivel de la nieve), los ciclos de El Niño fuerte pueden dejar una gran acumulación de nieve en las zonas más altas de la Sierra Nevada, afectando las escorrentías durante el deshielo de primavera.

¿Cómo Prepararse?

- Prepárese para las tormentas de invierno como lo hace cada año en California, pero con mayor precaución.
- Limpie los sistemas de drenajes y realice el mantenimiento necesario de áreas vulnerables.
- Los pronósticos, detalles e impactos de posibles tormentas de invierno se pueden prever con una a dos semanas de anticipación. ¡Comuníquese con su oficina local del SNM o visite [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) para obtener los pronósticos, vigilancias y alertas más recientes!



SERVICIO NACIONAL DE METEOROLOGÍA - OFICINAS DE CALIFORNIA

Administración Nacional Oceánica y Atmosférica • Departamento de Comercio de los EE. UU.