



# San Diego Fire-Rescue Office of Emergency Services & Stormwater Department

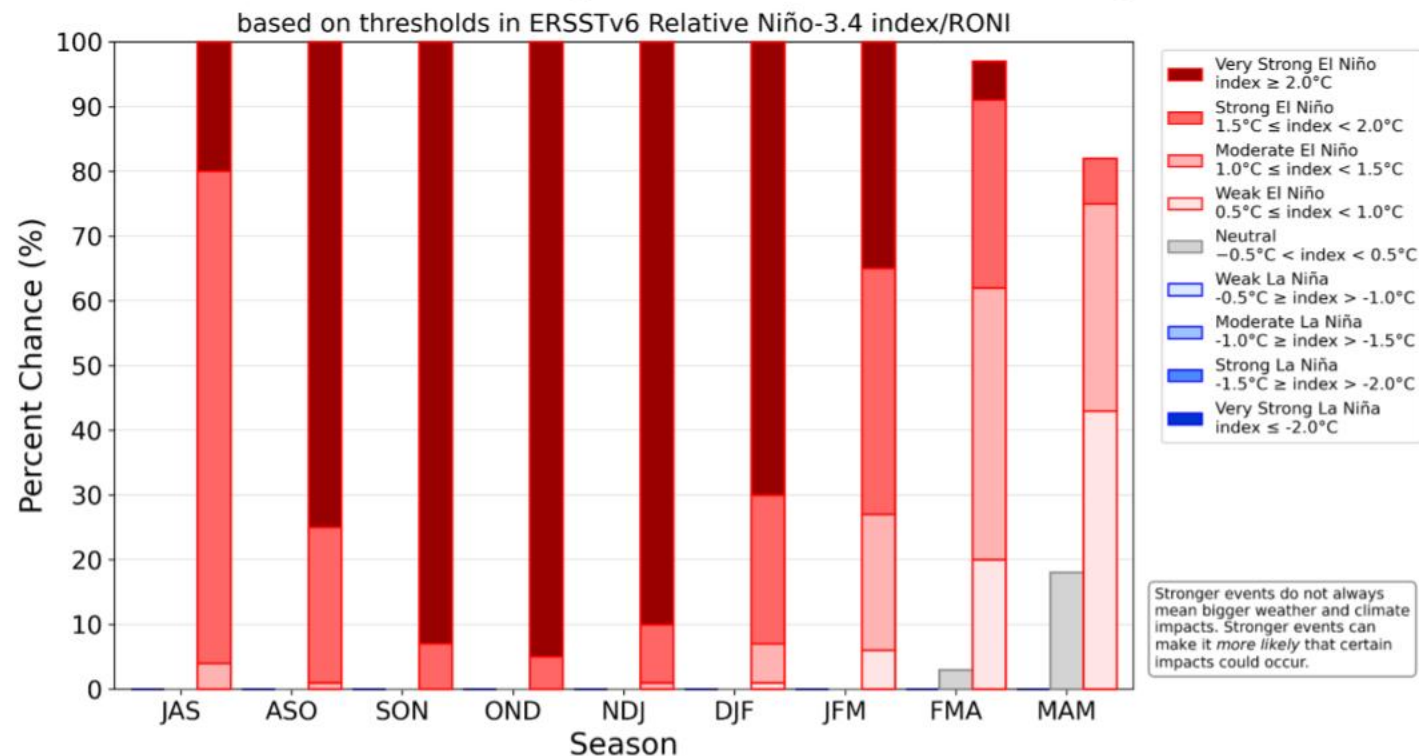
## El Niño Preparations Resiliency Advisory Board

October 22, 2026

# El Niño conditions are present

Weather Forecast Office  
San Diego, CA  
Tuesday, August 18

## NOAA CPC ENSO Strength Probabilities (issued August 2026)



**El Niño Advisory** is in effect. Alongside model forecasts, a strong coupling of the atmospheric and oceanic circulation across the Pacific contributes to very high confidence that El Niño will continue through early 2027. During the October-December 2026 season, **there is a 69% chance of a historic event** that would exceed the strength of previous El Niño events dating back to 1950 (+2.5°C or more for a 3-month RONI value). With an event of this magnitude, the chances of experiencing impacts consistent with El Niño are larger, but they are not guaranteed (see CPC outlooks for probabilities of seasonal anomalies). In summary, El Niño is strengthening, with a greater than 90% chance of a very strong event during the Northern Hemisphere fall and winter 2026-27.

# Citywide El Niño Preparedness Objectives

1. Identify and analyze gaps in current capabilities, and deliver clear, actionable recommendations to resolve identified deficiencies.
2. Coordinate across City departments to develop integrated plans and procedures, and propose policy enhancements that support citywide preparedness.
3. Design and implement a comprehensive public communications campaign that promotes personal preparedness, informs the community of the City's readiness efforts, and highlights available resources.
4. Ensure all projects, initiatives, and communications adhere to City policies and meet standards for accessibility, equity, and inclusiveness.
5. Enhance interagency collaboration by strengthening coordination with external partners, including governmental agencies, NGOs, faith-based organizations (FBOs), and community-based organizations (CBOs).

# Citywide El Niño Preparedness Working Group

## Sub-Groups:

1. Communications / Webpage / Mapping
2. Community Engagement
3. Sandbags
4. Evacuation
5. Emergency Access Points
  - Flood Monitoring & Prediction
6. Extreme Temperature Response
7. EOC Logistics and Finance
8. Debris Removal
9. Shoreline and Bay Protective Berms

El Nino Working Group

+ New ▾ Page details Preview Analytics



CITY OF SAN DIEGO

### El Niño Working Group

This page was created to provide a collaborative space for City departments to coordinate preparedness efforts for El Niño activity in our city.

> General ▾ Share ... + Create or upload

All D... ▾

| Name ▾                               | Modified ▾         | Modified  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Administration                       | Monday at 11:51 AM | Ivers, Du |
| Communications and Webpage Sub-Group | July 2             | Ivers, Du |
| Debris Management Sub-Group          | July 2             | Ivers, Du |
| Emergency Access Points Sub-Group    | July 2             | Ivers, Du |

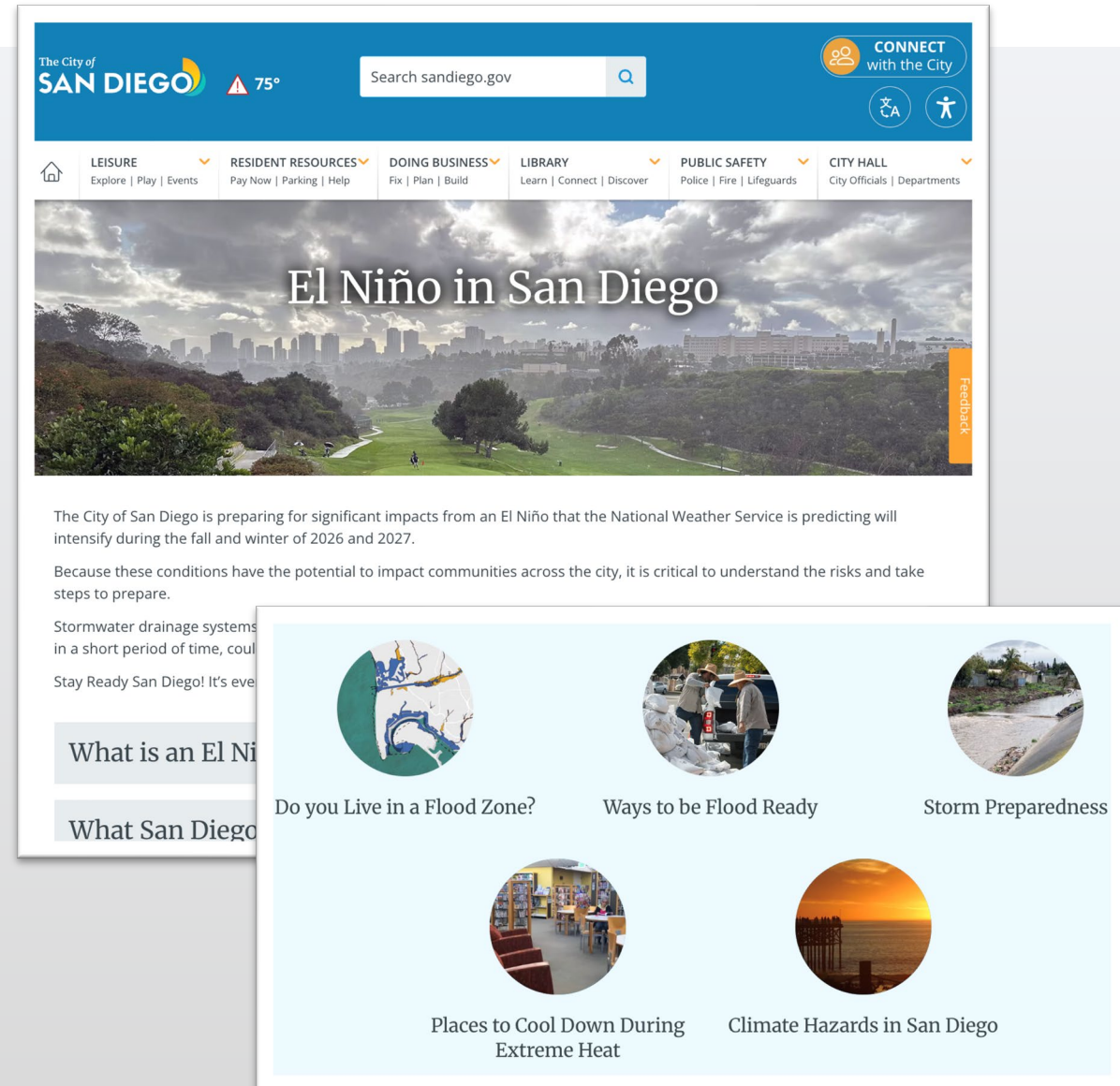
Resources

- Planner\_El Nino Working Group
- Contact List
- Meeting Agenda Archive
- Email OES Program Manager
- 2\_Sub Group Project Charter
- 1\_Sub Group Work Plan

# El Niño Preparedness Public Outreach Campaign

## In collaboration with the City's Communications Department:

- Published [SanDiego.gov/elnino](https://SanDiego.gov/elnino) to share information & resources available
- Educating and engaging with residents on how to prepare
- Providing preparedness information through digital platforms, flyers, handouts, news media, etc. in multiple languages
- Toolkit for Council offices to share information



# **Stay Ready San Diego!**

## **It's everyone's responsibility.**



**Make a Plan**



**Build a Kit**



**Stay Informed**

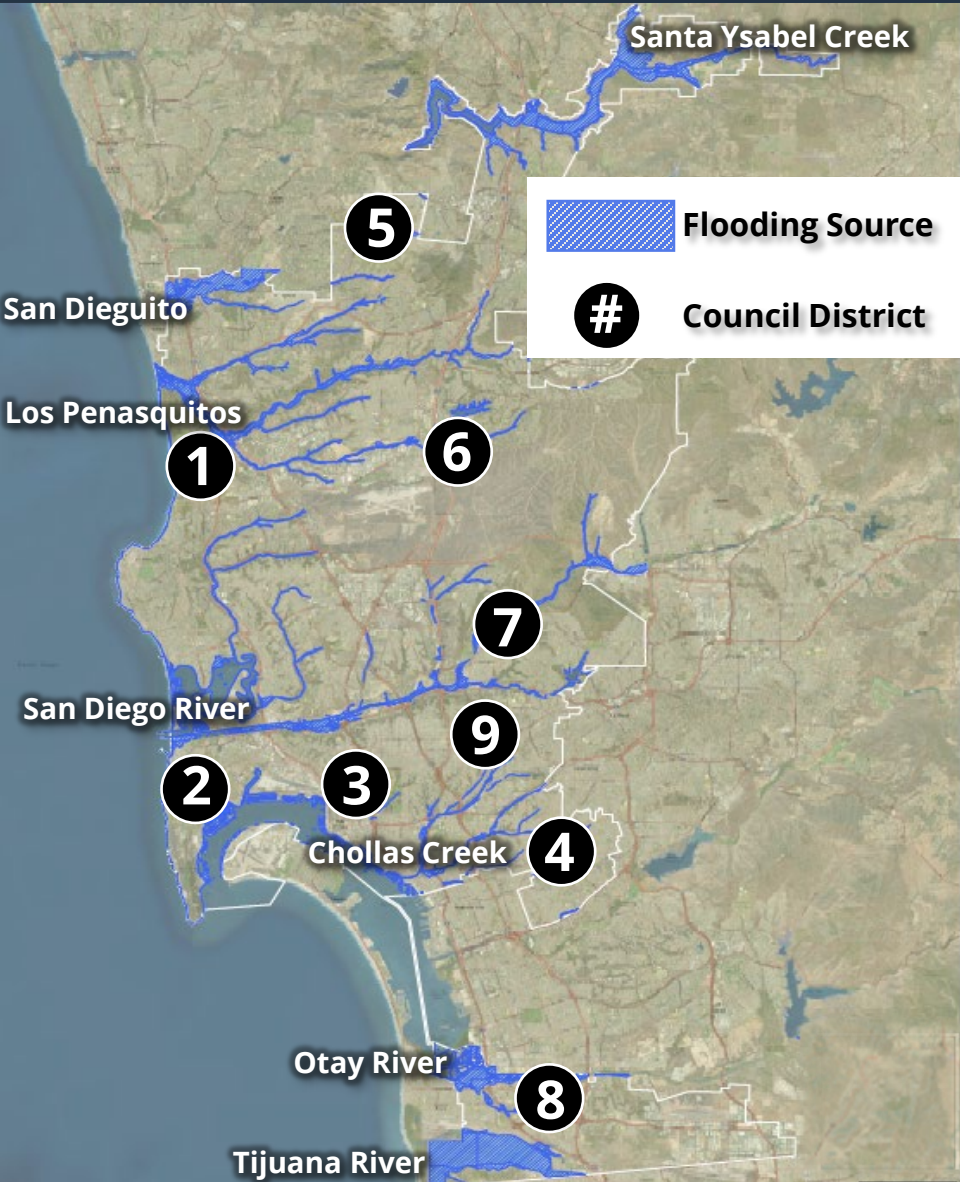


# Stormwater Department El Niño Preparations

*Resiliency Advisory Board  
October 22, 2026*



# Special Flood Hazard Areas



→ **15,000**

ACRES OF HIGH FLOOD RISK AREAS



→ **6,900**

PARCELS WITH INSURABLE STRUCTURES AT RISK



→ **11,000**

FAMILIES AND BUSINESS OWNERS AT RISK



→ **\$10B**

BILLIONS IN ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE AT RISK

*APPROXIMATE VALUES BASED ON BEST AVAILABLE DATA AS OF SEPTEMBER 2025*

# PREPARE FOR FLOODS

## BEFORE IT RAINS

- ✓ Create a household emergency plan
- ✓ Sign up for alerts at [alertsandiego.org](https://alertsandiego.org)
- ✓ Purchase flood insurance
- ✓ Know your evacuation routes
- ✓ Safeguard important documents
- ✓ Dedutter your drains and gutters
- ✓ Assemble a Go Kit



## WHEN IT RAINS

- ✓ Do not walk through flowing water
- ✓ Do not drive through flooded areas
- ✓ Stay away from electrical wires
- ✓ Look before you step - debris could be harmful or slippery
- ✓ Tune in to weather advisories on local TV and radio
- ✓ If you feel unsafe at any time, evacuate and go to higher ground



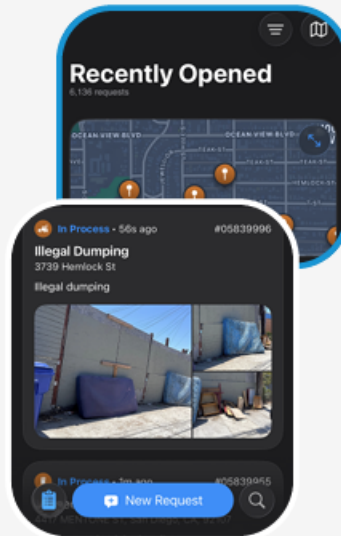
The City of  
**SAN DIEGO**  
Stormwater Department  
9370 Chesapeake Dr. STE 100  
San Diego, CA 92123

FLOOD  
PREPAREDNESS

# UNDERSTAND YOUR FLOOD RISK

Low-lying areas such as floodplains are vulnerable to flooding year-round, with heightened risk during the rainy season.

## USE GET IT DONE



REPORT ISSUES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

**Get It Done San Diego** is the official app for reporting non-emergency issues to the City of San Diego.

Through the app, users can report problems such as flooding, clogged storm drains, and over-irrigation, while connecting directly to the City's tracking system.

Visit [www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done](https://www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done) or scan the QR code below to get started.

VERSIÓN EN ESPAÑOL



GET IT DONE



# Flood Preparedness Flyer

DID YOU KNOW?



During a strong El Niño, the Pacific Ocean warms up significantly, turning our coast into a pathway for heavier winter storms and higher king tides that can lead to local flooding.

Typical homeowner's insurance does **NOT** cover flood damage, so it's important to have flood insurance to help you recover.

ACT NOW: GET FLOOD INSURANCE

All property owners and renters are eligible for an automatic **15% discount** on their NFIP flood insurance policy, thanks to the City's participation in the Federal Community Rating System (CRS) program for floodplain management.

To find an NFIP insurance provider, scan the QR code and click on **Get a Quote** (30-day waiting period).



## MAXIMUM NFIP PAYOUT

HOMEOWNERS



**Building:**  
\$250,000  
**Contents:**  
\$100,000

RENTERS



**Contents:**  
\$100,000

BUSINESSES



**Building:**  
\$500,000  
**Contents:**  
\$500,000

FACT VS. MYTH

**26%** **FACT** ✓  
Chance of flooding during a 30-year mortgage

**MYTH** ✗  
My property is not in a flood zone, so I am not at risk

BE PREPARED YEAR-ROUND RESOURCES



FACEBOOK UPDATES



INSTAGRAM UPDATES



SANDBAG INFORMATION



EMERGENCY ALERTS



COASTAL WATER LEVELS



WEATHER FORECASTS



FILE A FLOOD CLAIM



INFORMATIONAL VIDEO

## SAN DIEGO WATERSHEDS AND CITY JURISDICTION



**213k** Acres  
**86k** Storm Drain Assets  
**6** Watershed Areas

**DRAINAGE CHANNELS**  
**69+**miles  
Channels

**15**  
Stomwater Pump Stations

**LEVEES**  
**6+**miles  
USACE  
**6+**miles  
FEMA

**STORM DRAIN**  
**1k+**miles  
Storm Drain Pipe  
**55**  
Dry Weather Diversions

**391**  
Structural BMPs

# CITY OF SAN DIEGO STORM DRAIN SYSTEM

The City manages a large municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) that conveys storm water runoff from natural and developed areas to receiving waters such as lakes, rivers, creeks, streams, lagoons, and the Pacific Ocean.

The City's MS4 system is an interconnected system of natural drainages and constructed drains, pipes, and channels. Collectively, the MS4 functions to convey drainage flows from impervious

surfaces to receiving waters to protect the life and property of the City's citizens from potential flooding.

Federal, state, and local regulations require the City to meet specific water quality standards in receiving waters, and the City complies by conducting studies, developing plans, and implementing pollution prevention programs and MS4 improvement projects.

# Expanded Stormwater Channel Maintenance

- Historical production: 4-5 segments, 2-3 miles per year
- FY25: Emergency maintenance of 15+ channel miles following Jan 2024 flooding
- FY26: Maintenance of 30 channel segments (11.5 miles)
- FY27: Targeting maintenance of 67 segments (20+ miles)
- 9.7 miles completed since July 1, 2026
- Key factors in ramp up:
  - MWMP plus expedited agency approvals
  - \$1.1M in additional FY27 budget
  - Crews working 6-7 days/week, 12 hours/day
  - Crews on loan from in-house pipe team
  - \$10M/year ongoing wetland mitigation investment

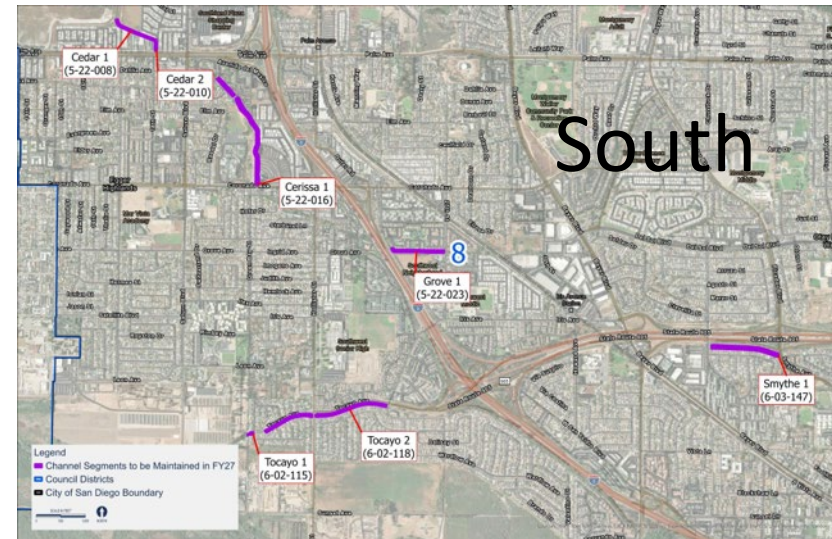
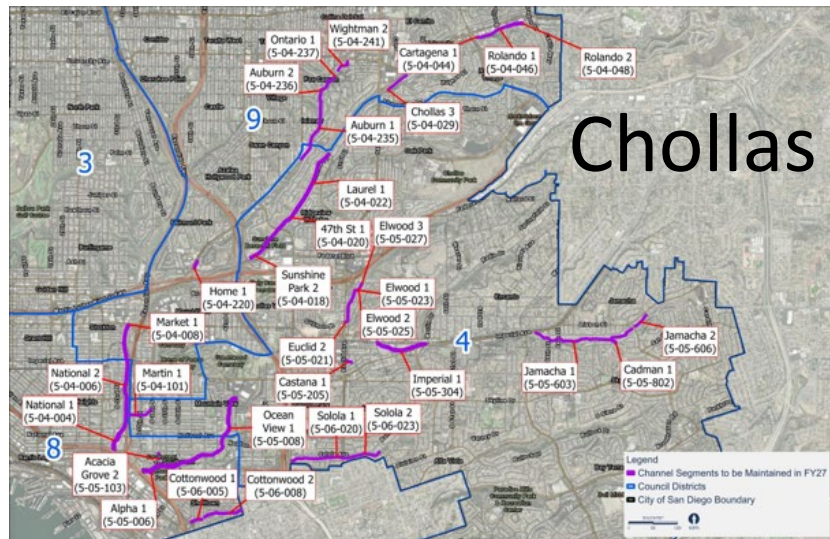
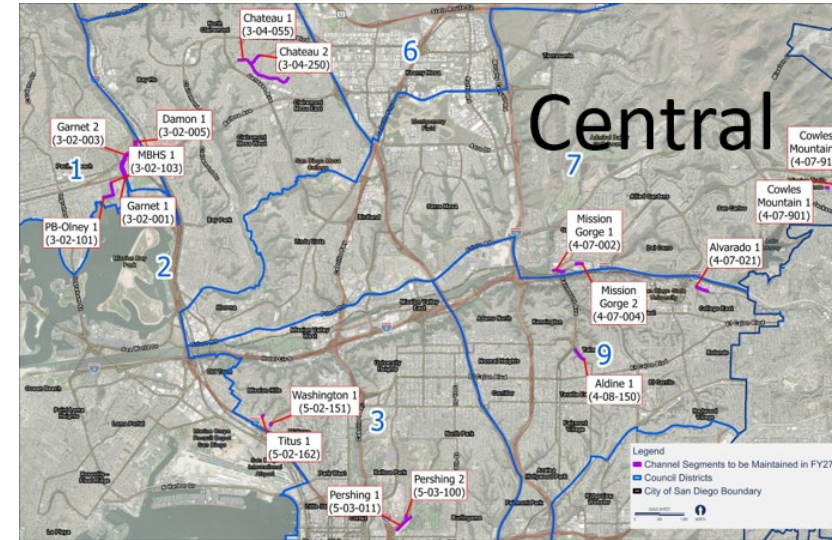
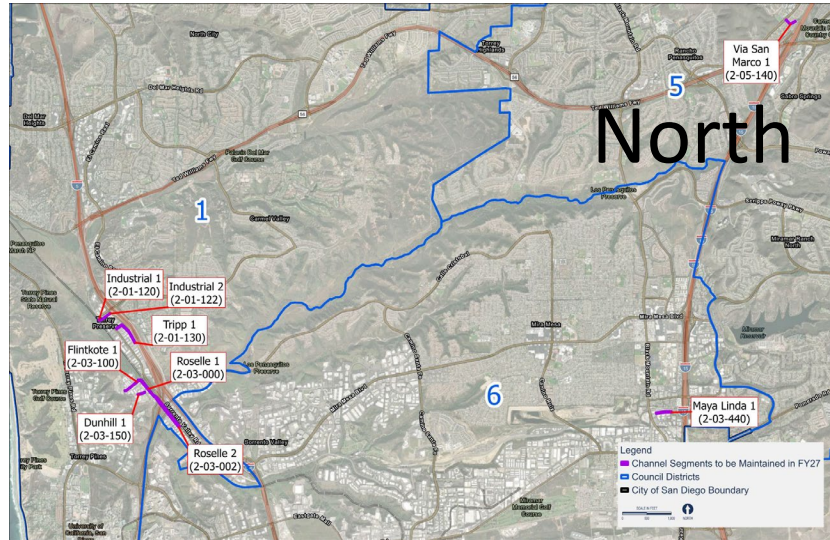
Before and After



Before and After



# 67 Channel Segments Targeted for Maintenance in FY27



# Stormwater Infrastructure Capacity Limitations

## Channels

17% sized to today's standard (100-year)

## Pump Stations

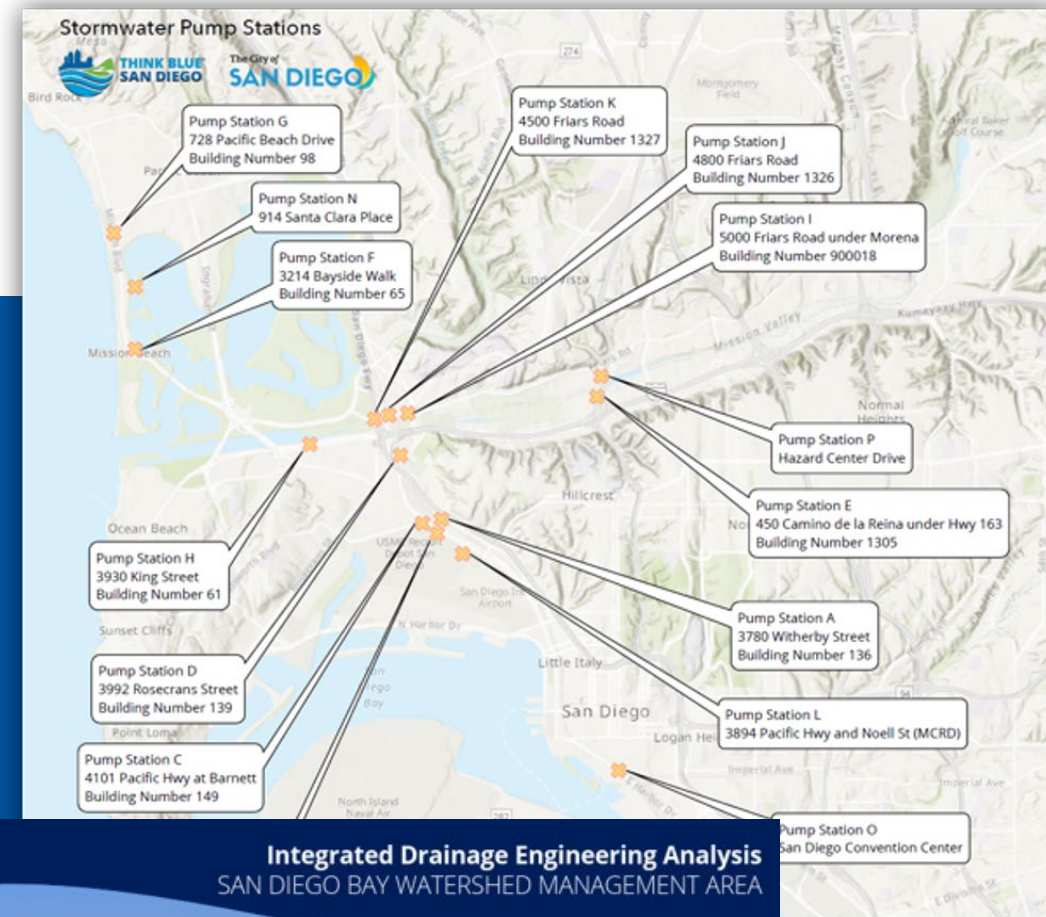
7% sized to today's standard (100-year)

## Storm Drains

| Watershed                         | Estimated % of Pipes Sized to Convey 100-Year Storm |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| San Diego Bay (excluding Chollas) | 34%                                                 |
| Chollas Creek                     | 66%                                                 |
| Mission Bay                       | 70%                                                 |
| Los Peñasquitos                   | 94%                                                 |

### Notes:

1. Chollas Creek and Los Peñasquitos: Analysis only included pipes and culverts with diameters of 18 inches and larger.
2. Interpreting pipe capacity: % Capacity alone does not necessarily indicate a deficient system. This means that a pipe reaching 100% capacity does not automatically indicate a risk of flooding. During heavy rainfall, water levels may increase within the pipe, but they can still stay below the established flooding threshold.



# Stormwater Capital Improvements

## WIFIA Project Status

10 completed

7 in construction

53 in design

Secured additional \$37M from SRF

**\$733 M**  
WIFIA Total  
Amount

## Project Portfolio

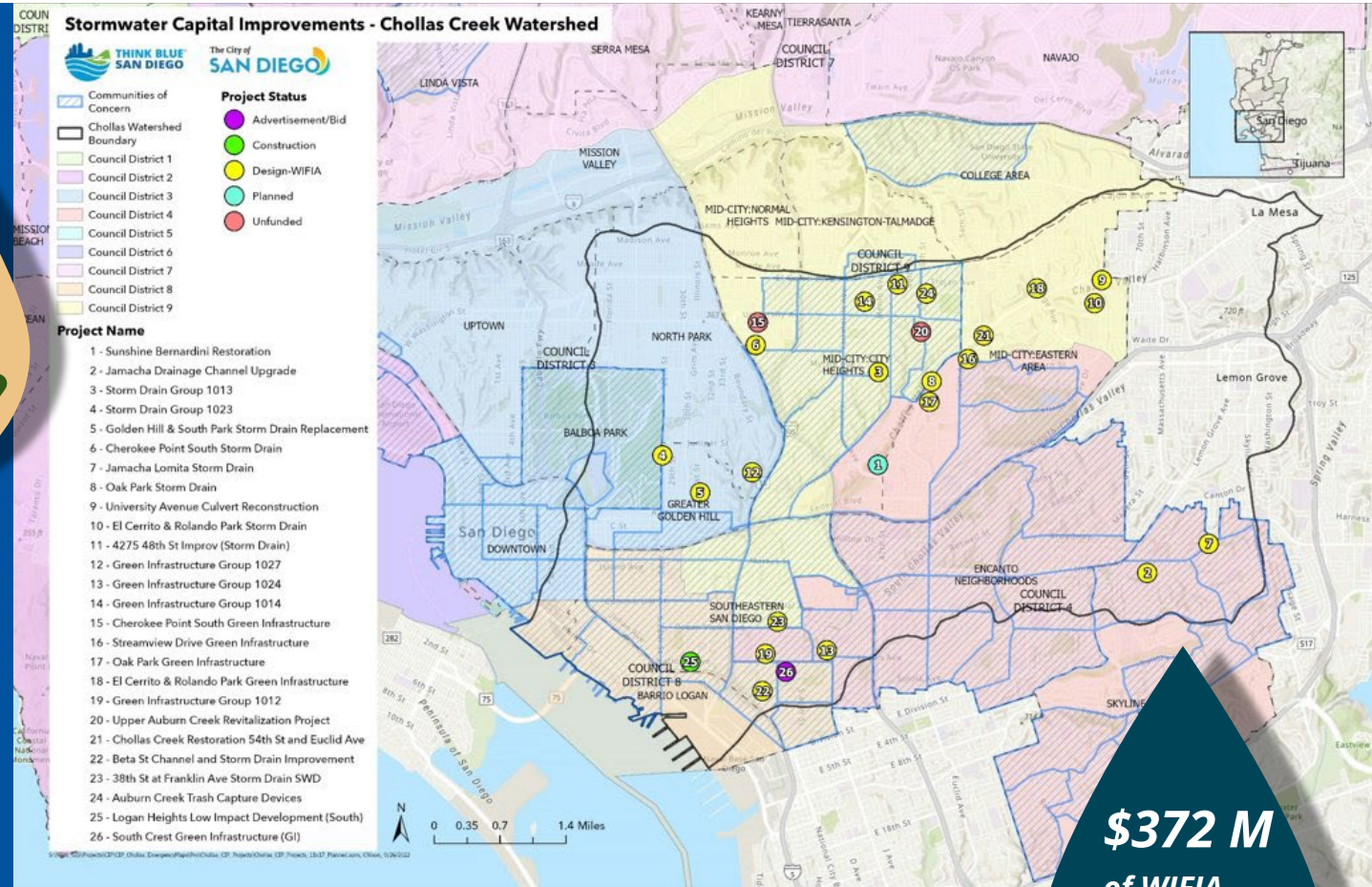
48 Corrugated Metal Pipe Replacement

12 Green Infrastructure/Water Quality

4 Stormwater Rehabilitation

4 Stream Restoration

1 Pump Station

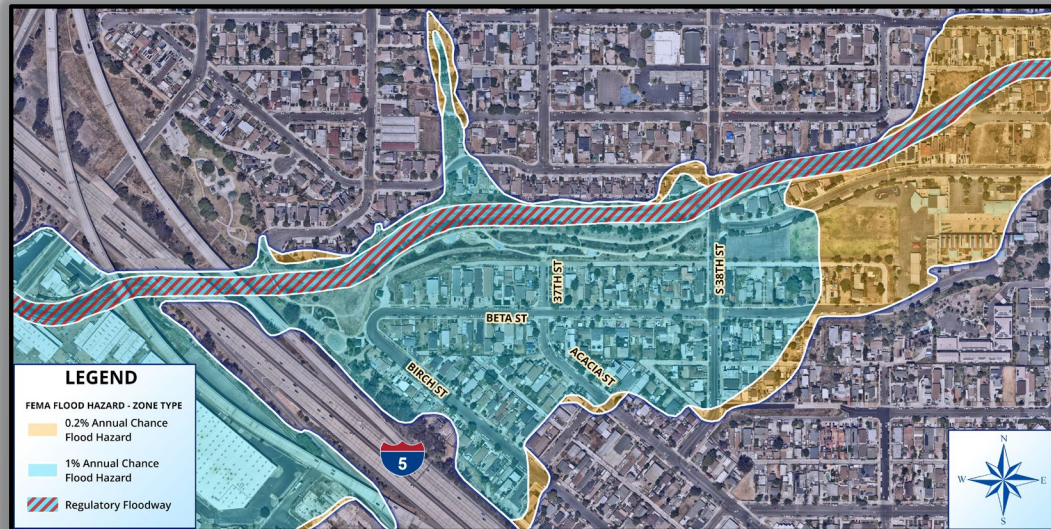


Chollas Creek Watershed:  
**25 Ongoing & Future Capital Projects**

**\$372 M**  
of WIFIA  
invested in  
Chollas Creek

# High Priority Capital Improvements

Alpha Channel (Southcrest) – 30% Design



Jamacha Channel (Skyline) – 60% Design



South Mission Beach – Construction Phase

