The City of SAN DIEGO
Mayor Todd Gloria

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, Nov. 20, 2026

City of San Diego Preparing for High Tides and Coastal Flooding Starting This Weekend

KELVIN WAVE EXPECTED TO INTENSIFY KING TIDES, RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AND AVOID BEACH AREAS

SAN DIEGO – With king tides expected to arrive in San Diego on Monday, Nov. 23, and continue through Thursday, Nov. 26, the City of San Diego is reminding everyone about the potential impacts of coastal flooding and erosion along the shoreline. Additionally, the Kelvin wave, driven by an El Niño weather pattern, is anticipated to intensify conditions along the coast.

City teams are taking steps to prepare for coastal flooding and urging residents to do the same.

Last week, San Diego Fire-Rescue Lifeguards made more than 175 rescues, including 22 on Saturday as powerful waves reaching up to 20 feet in some areas crashed down along the city's 17 miles of coastline.

"During last weekend's powerful surf, our lifeguards responded to dozens of calls and rescued several people who entered the water in dangerous conditions," said Daniel Orloff, Lifeguard Chief for San Diego Fire-Rescue. **"Our lifeguards remain ready to respond, but we urge everyone to remain alert and aware of their surroundings along the coastline, especially during these unprecedented El Niño conditions. We ask that beachgoers do not test their skill or abilities in the ocean during large swell events, and please keep a safe distance from cliffs, coastal bluffs, and areas prone to water surge during the upcoming King Tides for their safety."**

Strong waves combined with high tides may cause localized flooding in low-lying areas of Mission Beach, Pacific Beach, Ocean Beach and other coastal neighborhoods. Road closures are possible, particularly near Frontage Road and Pacific Coast Highway in the Midway area. Travelers should follow detour signs and never drive or walk through flooded streets.

Coastal cliffs are especially vulnerable when rain and pounding waves accelerate erosion. El Niño conditions can further raise sea levels, increase wave size and worsen flooding, affecting public infrastructure, coastal access, beaches, natural habitats and the shoreline's long-term stability.

Parks and Recreation Department crews are using heavy equipment to reinforce protective sand berms on beaches and along Mission Bay. Visitors should not walk or climb on the berms because gaps or depressions can allow water to pass through.

Stormwater Department crews are cleaning and maintaining storm drains and channels, monitoring pump stations, and positioning equipment and personnel in flood-prone areas. Storm patrol teams will provide traffic control for streets commonly impacted by high tides, monitor low-lying areas, and respond if needed.

"Our teams have been actively preparing to make sure our crews are in position to help alleviate King Tide impacts," said Todd Snyder, Stormwater Department Director. **"While we work hard to prepare for high tides, residents should prepare in advance by protecting their properties, avoiding flooded roads, obeying traffic control and not parking in areas known to flood."**

The Office of Emergency Services is coordinating the City's El Niño Preparedness Working Group. Departments and operational teams are identifying vulnerabilities, strengthening emergency plans and coordinating with partner agencies.

With support from community organizations, prefilled sandbags are available to San Diego residents while supplies last. Households may receive up to 10 sandbags at the following locations from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays:

- Robb Athletic Field, 2525 Bacon St.
- Encanto Recreation Center, 6508 Wunderlin Ave.
- Mountain View–Neal Petties Community Center, 641 S. Boundary St.
- Southcrest Recreation Center, 4149 Newton Ave.
- City Heights Recreation Center, 4380 Landis St.

City staff will also deliver sandbags to older residents and those with disabilities, prioritizing people in flood-prone areas. To request delivery, call 619-525-8247.

San Diegans are encouraged to take steps now at home to prepare for the possibility of heavy rain and flooding over the next few months. In addition to obtaining sandbags where appropriate, residents are encouraged to clear debris from drainage areas on their property, secure outdoor belongings, prepare emergency supplies, sign up for emergency alerts and develop a family emergency plan.

The City's Stay Ready San Diego initiative provides information and resources to help residents prepare before storms arrive, stay informed during severe weather and recover safely afterward.

Report flood-related issues in the public right of way by using the Get It Done app or by calling 619-527-7500. If it is a life-threatening emergency, call 911. For more information and resources on how to properly prepare before a storm, visit the City's El Niño webpage.



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