



Councilmember David Alvarez District 8

NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
November 16, 2015**

**Contact:
Lisa Schmidt 619-210-9499
lschmidt@sanidiego.gov**

City Council Declares State of Emergency in Advance of El Niño Storms

SAN DIEGO, CA (November 16, 2015) – The City Council today unanimously approved a declaration for a local State of Emergency in the City of San Diego in order to expeditiously prepare at risk coastal areas, as well as storm channels that have been identified as high flood risks in advance of winter storms. The Council also requested the Governor to declare a State of Emergency in order to expedite maintenance and preparation for El Niño.

“Declaring a State of Emergency in anticipation of intense El Nino conditions this winter will ensure that the City is doing all it can to safeguard residents and businesses from flooding,” said Alvarez. “The latest El Nino projections have made it abundantly clear that we need to take action now. The conditions in the identified high risk channels put people’s life and property at risk in a year where we expect heavy rains.”

According to scientists at Scripps, there is at least a 95% chance that El Niño weather conditions will hit San Diego this winter and very likely continue through the spring. Historically, El Niño’s have resulted in a wide range of California precipitation during the water year and represent the strongest odds of wet winter in Southern California.

Declaring a State of Emergency allows the City to have quicker access to state and federal funding if any emergency conditions develop. It also clearly communicates the City’s position to State and Federal Regulators, Governor Brown and the public.

Alvarez has created a website with information to assist residents with any questions and resources needed to prepare for El Niño, including up-to-date maps of high risk areas: **bereadysandiego.org**

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