

MOTION

PUBLIC WORKS

As referenced in Council File 26-1169 The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts there is a greater than 90% chance of a very strong or "super" El Niño event in the Northern Hemisphere in 2026-27, including California. The impacts of this complex cycle have already arrived in Los Angeles and are expected to peak from October to November.

A very strong El Niño event increases the likelihood of regional drought and flood events, along with extreme heat. In early February 2024, a citywide state of emergency was declared due to torrential rainfall that caused flooding, as well as utility and infrastructure failures, posing challenges to public safety. These challenges were especially significant in the hillside communities of Bel Air, Beverly Crest, and Beverly Glen, particularly when a house fell into the middle of a road. This experience demonstrated a clear crisis of inter-departmental communication that many other neighboring Council Districts experienced as well.

The City learned from these experiences. Preparing for all the impacts, but especially the increasing risk of severe precipitation in the coming months, is essential.

Additionally, many parts of the City experience systemic flooding during regular rain events, impacting accessibility for residents and businesses. While the Bureau of Sanitation has standing wet weather protocols, these should be updated to reflect the additional resources likely needed in an El Niño year.

In 2015, CF 15-0887-S1 directed the Emergency Management Department, the Department of Public Works, Los Angeles Fire Department and the Los Angeles Police Department, to prepare and present an El Niño Emergency Preparedness Plan for the city. Each department prepared and presented a comprehensive plan. Given the potential danger that El Niño storms pose to the City, especially due to exacerbated impacts from climate change, it is appropriate that all City departments take the necessary steps to update these emergency preparedness plans for multiple eventualities, such as flooding, mud and debris, to ensure the safety of all City residents.

It is equally as important that hillside communities and other areas subject to flooding, mudslides and debris, are provided the necessary information as they prepare for anticipated El Niño storms.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Emergency Management Department, in coordination with the Department of Public Works, Los Angeles Fire Department and Los Angeles Police Department, to prepare and present to Full

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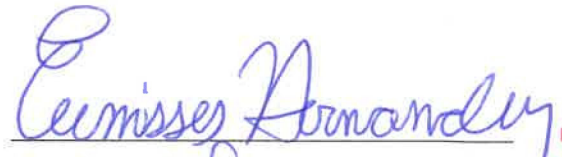
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Council an updated El Niño Emergency Preparedness Plans for the City of Los Angeles that also provides informational guidelines and instructional material to assist hillside property owners, and others, in their own preparation for potential flooding and mud/debris flows resulting from winter storms; such report to be submitted within 30 days, including what steps need to be taken before the arrival of the winter storm season, and the current state of City preparedness.

PRESENTED BY:


KATY YAROSLAVSKY
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SECONDED BY:


for
Council president

ORIGINAL