

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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General Checklist for Property Preparedness for El Niño

1. **Yard clean-up:** Make a general inspection of your entire yard area for dead trees or dead limbs, yard debris, outdoor furniture, or other objects that could be blown by storm winds. An afternoon spent tidying up the yard and either storing furniture and other loose items indoors or securing them can prevent a frantic scramble to collect items that have landed on your roof or in your neighbors' yards.
2. **Drains and gutters:** Make sure all drains and gutters are cleared of debris and functioning properly before the storm season. If buildings do not have gutters and drains, consider having them installed. Storm water runoff from impermeable surfaces (e.g., roofs, driveways, and patios) should be directed into appropriate drainage control areas, including the use of a collection system to avoid excessive soil saturation where applicable.
3. **Roofs:** Inspect your roof, or hire a roofing contractor, to check for loose tiles, holes, or other signs of trouble.
4. **Retaining walls:** Visually inspect all retaining wall drains, surface drains, culverts, ditches, *etc.* for obstructions or other signs of malfunction, before the storm season, and after every storm event.
5. **Slopes:** Visually inspect all sloped areas for signs of erosion, gullying, surface cracks, slumping, *etc.* Also inspect patios, retaining walls, garden walls, *etc.* for signs of cracking or rotation. Such signs might be indications of slope movement, and if you notice any problems, it would be prudent to have the site inspected by a geologist or geotechnical engineer.
6. **Bare ground:** Make sure your yard does not have large bare areas that could be sources for mudflows during a storm event. The fall is a good time to put down mulch and establish many native plants; it may be possible to vegetate these bare areas before the storm season. Mounds of loose soil or fill material should be covered and secured (e.g., with visqueen, jute, or geo-fabric matting).
7. **Storm drains:** Visually inspect nearby storm drains, before the storm season and after every rain. If the storm drains are obstructed, clear the material from the drain or notify the local Department of Public Works or other agency responsible for drain maintenance.
8. **Preparedness actions that could require a permit:** If, after taking prudent steps to prepare your property for winter storms, you still have some concerns about slope stability, flooding, mudflows, *etc.*, **contact Commission staff** about the possible use of

sand-bags, plastic sheeting, or other materials that can be used to construct temporary, low flood barriers or to cover slopes to prevent gullying or soil loss.

For information on locations and **contact information** for the Coastal Commission Offices, please visit: <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/contact/#/>.

2023 – 2024 Winter High Tides

Based on past El Niño events, some of the most damaging storms are those that coincide with times that have higher than normal tides. Some of the highest tides for the 2023-24 winter season are identified in the attached table.

Dates of Significant High Tides at Major Tide Stations, Winter 2023-24

		San Diego	Los Angeles	Santa Barbara	Monterey	San Francisco	Humboldt	Crescent City
NOV	Tides > 6 ft	13 – 16 24 – 29	12 – 16 24 – 29	13 – 16 24 – 29	14 – 15 24 – 29	1, 12 – 16 23 – 29	most of month	most of month
	Tides > 7 ft						1, 11 – 17 23 – 30	1, 11 – 17 23 – 30
	Tides > 8 ft						26 – 27	25 – 27
DEC	Tides > 6 ft	11 – 15 23 – 27	10 – 16 23 – 28	11 – 15 23 – 27	11 – 15 23 – 27	10 – 16 21 – 28	most of month	most of month
	Tides > 7 ft						9 – 17 21 – 29	9 – 17 21 – 29
	Tides > 8 ft						12 – 14 24 – 26	12 – 13 24 – 25
JAN	Tides > 6 ft	9 – 13	9 – 14 23 – 25	9 – 13	9 – 13 22 – 23	7 – 14 18 – 25	most of month	most of month
	Tides > 7 ft						7 – 14 17 – 27	7 – 14 16 – 27
	Tides > 8 ft						10 – 13	10 – 13
FEB	Tides > 6 ft	7 – 11	7 – 11	7 – 11	7 – 10	6 – 11 14 – 16	most of month	most of month
	Tides > 7 ft						5 – 18, 22	5 – 17
	Tides > 8 ft						8 – 10	8 – 10
MAR	Tides > 6 ft	8 – 9	8 – 10	8 – 9		7 – 15	most of month	most of month
	Tides > 7 ft						7 – 15	7 – 15
APR	Tides > 6 ft	9	8 – 10	9 – 10		9 – 12	most of month	most of month
	Tides > 7 ft						7, 9 – 13	7, 9 – 13

Source: Developed from NOAA Tide Predictions (https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/tide_predictions.html)