

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

October 7, 2025

PROCLAMING FLOOD PREPAREDNESS WEEK IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

The California Department of Water Resources annually declares the third or fourth week of October to be California Flood Preparedness Week. Los Angeles County has seen rainfall events that result in devastating flooding and debris flows over portions of our communities, which should serve as a vivid reminder of the flooding threat we face and the need to prepare every year. During what has been the longest megadrought period in the last 1,200 years, there have been extreme or above-average rain events and flooding, as was the case with the 2022-23 and 2023-24 Water Years in Los Angeles County, which received over 220 percent and 130 percent of normal rainfall, respectively. Although the 2024-25 Water Year was below average and only 44 percent of normal rainfall, Los Angeles County underwent the worst wildfire disaster in its history, resulting in significant postfire debris flows in the County’s flood control reservoirs and debris basins and along roads in the Altadena, Malibu, Pacific Palisades, and Topanga Canyon areas.

On December 6, 2023, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion to improve our stormwater infrastructure’s resilience to climate change and prepare and inform residents on how to mitigate their flood risk. Each year, the County prepares for storm season assuming significant flooding could occur, and each resident should do the same to protect their homes and businesses. The County’s efforts include readying its extensive inventory of flood control facilities, providing postfire engineering advice to residents in recent burn areas, and sending annual mailings of flood risk information to residents in flood-prone communities. The County also provides free sandbags at Los Angeles County Fire Stations.

Due to the County’s ongoing participation in the National Flood Insurance Program,

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along with that of 85 cities, most residents are eligible to purchase federal flood insurance as financial protection against flood losses.

Unincorporated Los Angeles County is one of the limited number of National Flood Insurance Program communities in California with a Class 6 or higher in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System, which credits the County for its stormwater management facility maintenance program, emergency response efforts, floodplain management program, and high building standards. Unincorporated area residents can purchase flood insurance at a 20 percent discount due to the County's standing in the National Flood Insurance Program.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors declare the week of October 18-25, 2025, as Flood Preparedness Week in Los Angeles County and encourage residents to prepare for the upcoming storm season and find information on the availability of flood insurance by visiting the Ready LA County website at www.ready.lacounty.gov.

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