AGN. NO._____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS OCTOBER 6, 2026

Proclaiming Flood Preparedness Week in Los Angeles County

The California Department of Water Resources has designated October 17-24, 2026, as California Flood Preparedness Week to raise awareness about flood risk and encourage communities and residents to prepare before storms arrive.

Los Angeles County has experienced significant rainfall events that have resulted in flooding, debris flows, property damage, and impacts to communities throughout the County. The 2022-23 and 2023-24 Water Years brought more than 220 percent and 130 percent of normal rainfall, respectively, demonstrating how quickly consecutive storms and saturated conditions can increase flood risk.

Although the 2024-25 Water Year was below average at approximately 44 percent of normal rainfall, the devastating January 2025 wildfires created new flood and debris-flow risks in communities including Altadena, Malibu, Pacific Palisades, and Topanga Canyon. Burned watersheds remain particularly vulnerable during periods of intense rainfall and can generate significant sediment and debris that impact roads, neighborhoods, and flood control facilities.

This year, flood preparedness takes on added importance as Los Angeles County enters the 2026-27 storm season under a strengthening El Niño. The National

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Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports a greater than 90 percent chance of a very strong El Niño during fall and winter 2026-27 and currently favors wetter-than-normal conditions across California during the winter months. While El Niño does not guarantee above-average rainfall or flooding in Southern California, the potential for significant storm activity reinforces the need for the County, cities, communities, and residents to be prepared.

On August 11, 2026, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion recognizing the potential impacts of a very strong El Niño and directing County departments to coordinate regional storm preparedness efforts, conduct a tabletop exercise with Board offices and local, state, and federal partners, provide preparedness resources to cities and local governments, and report regularly to the Board throughout the 2026-27 storm season.

Los Angeles County prepares for storm season year-round. Public Works inspects and maintains the regional flood control system, including debris basins, channels, reservoirs, dams, and pump stations; conducts flood risk assessments; prepares for postfire flooding and debris flows; and coordinates with cities, emergency responders, and regional partners before and during storms.

The County also provides postfire engineering advice to residents in recent burn areas, distributes flood risk information to residents in flood-prone communities, makes preparedness information available through County libraries and Building and Safety offices, and provides free sandbags at Los Angeles County Fire Department stations.

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Individual preparedness is also essential. Residents should understand the flood risks where they live and work, monitor weather conditions, prepare emergency supplies and evacuation plans, and follow instructions from emergency officials during severe weather.

Through participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, along with 86 cities in Los Angeles County, most residents, property owners, and renters are eligible to purchase federally backed flood insurance as financial protection against flood losses. Unincorporated Los Angeles County maintains a Class 6 rating under the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System, recognizing the County's floodplain management, infrastructure maintenance, emergency preparedness, and public outreach efforts. This rating provides eligible residents in unincorporated communities with discounts of up to 20 percent on flood insurance premiums.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim October 17-24, 2026, as Flood Preparedness Week in Los Angeles County and encourage residents to understand their flood risk, prepare their homes and businesses for the upcoming storm season, develop an emergency plan, and learn about flood insurance and other preparedness resources by visiting ready.lacounty.gov.

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