



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 14

Issue Date: November 6, 2015

Subject: El Niño Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

The ability of the City of Los Angeles to support a unified, efficient, and effective emergency preparedness, response, and recovery process is critical to the resilience of our social and economic vibrancy. Of the sixteen types of natural disasters outlined in the federal Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, thirteen are possible in the City of Los Angeles.

This season's adverse weather pattern, El Niño, is expected to be among the strongest on record, significantly influencing weather and climate patterns and increasing the likelihood of significant storms. While the frequency, number, and intensity of these events cannot be predicted with certainty, we must prepare for the immediate effects and subsequent consequences associated with such severe weather, including short and intense storms, multiple days of continuous rain, coastal erosion, large wave actions, flooding, and mud and debris flows.

During the 1998 El Niño, Los Angeles experienced its wettest month on record, and the severe weather resulted in seventeen deaths and more than half a billion dollars in damage. In early 1983, El Niño was so powerful that storms decimated piers all along the coast and damaged one thousand homes between Santa Barbara and the Mexican border.

The actions we take as a City to prepare proactively for any and all of these impacts have the potential to affect our livelihoods directly for days and years to come. We have forged the following private-sector partnerships to enhance the City's ability to ensure effectively that we account for the needs of all Angelenos:

- My Office orchestrated the signing of a memorandum of understanding by wireless service providers AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon to share their networks in the aftermath of an emergency, enabling voice and data traffic to be carried on any functioning network regardless of a customer's service provider.
- My Office led the City to contract with two national companies with expertise in large-scale disaster mitigation and recovery—AshBritt Environmental and CTI Environmental—to provide on-call response and recovery services during catastrophic incidents. In the event that City resources are exhausted after an emergency, these providers will mobilize to provide emergency essential needs to City residents and City recovery efforts.

These partnerships are just two examples of the many actions the City has taken already to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impact of disasters. In anticipation of the current El Niño, I am now directing City Departments to take further actions.

Accordingly, I hereby order as follows:

- I hereby create the City El Niño Task Force. The City El Niño Task Force shall:
 - ensure that City agencies have the resources to take actions necessary for public safety, and are accountable for doing so;
 - ensure effective coordination and cooperation of City agencies in addressing El Niño; and
 - liaise with county, state, federal, and other entities as necessary.
- The General Manager of the Emergency Management Department shall chair the City El Niño Task Force, which shall meet at least weekly until I direct otherwise. The City El Niño Task Force shall include members from and designated by my Office as well as senior managers from the following Departments/Offices as designated by their General Managers or Heads of Departments/Offices:
 - Building and Safety
 - City Administrative Officer
 - Disability
 - Emergency Management
 - Fire
 - General Services
 - Housing and Community Investment
 - Information Technology
 - Police

- Public Works
 - Recreation and Parks
 - Transportation
 - Water and Power
- Each General Manager or Head of Department/Office, whether or not listed above, immediately shall designate a Mayor's El Niño Liaison for the Department/Office, and immediately shall notify the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety of that person's name and contact information (including when there is a subsequent personnel change or change to that person's contact information). The Mayor's El Niño Liaisons shall participate in meetings and other activities involving planning, response, and recovery efforts as directed by my Office or the City El Niño Task Force.
 - I invite each City Councilmember to designate a Mayor's El Niño Liaison to participate in meetings and other activities involving planning, response, and recovery efforts when requested by my Office or the City El Niño Task Force. I ask each City Councilmember who chooses to designate a Mayor's El Niño Liaison to notify the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety of that person's name and contact information (including when there is a subsequent personnel change or change to that person's contact information).
 - All General Managers and Heads of Departments/Offices are generally required to complete their annual reviews, revisions, and submissions to the Emergency Management Department's Operations Division of their Continuity of Operations Plans and Department Emergency Plans by the end of January each year. This year, however, they shall submit their Continuity of Operations Plans to the Emergency Management Department's Operations Division by December 1, 2015; their Department Emergency Plan submissions to the Emergency Management Department's Operations Division are due on January 29, 2016.
 - All General Managers, Heads of Departments/Offices, and Commissions of City Government shall ensure within thirty days that their full-time and part-time employees are up-to-date in their training as Disaster Service Workers with signed oaths or affirmations on file. In the event of an emergency, employees may be asked to participate in disaster service activities.
 - All departmental Public Information Officers shall work closely with the City's Chief Public Information Officer to develop and disseminate El Niño preparedness, response, and recovery information as necessary.
 - In coordination with the Chief Public Information Officer, all departmental Public

Information Officers shall disseminate information regarding elninola.com, which is the City's online center for information about El Niño, and registration with NotifyLA, which is the City's mass notification system for emergencies. These efforts shall include, but are not limited to, links to elninola.com and the display of NotifyLA registration information on all public-facing websites, social media, and other digital and print platforms.

- The General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment shall work closely with the General Manager of the Emergency Management Department and the City's Chief Public Information Officer to disseminate El Niño preparedness, response, and recovery information to the neighborhood councils and community stakeholders.
- The General Manager of the Emergency Management Department shall organize El Niño Town Hall Meetings that include participation by the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Bureau of Sanitation, the Bureau of Street Services, the Department of Water and Power, and any other City entities that the General Manager of the Emergency Management Department designates. The Town Hall Meetings shall provide information about City services and resources available to support Angelenos in El Niño preparation, response, and recovery. The information shall be tailored to address the needs of each geographic community (particularly those at higher than normal risk, such as flood-prone areas, hillsides, and drainages).
- The General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment shall notify each neighborhood council of El Niño Town Hall Meetings in and near its neighborhood.

In addition, I encourage all Angelenos to take the following actions to prepare and to stay safe this El Niño season:

- Go to elninola.com for updated emergency preparedness, response, and recovery information.
- Register for NotifyLA at notifyla.org to receive free emergency alerts by text, email, and phone of hazards and warnings in the City of Los Angeles.
- Review homeowner, rental, and vehicle insurance policies to ensure that flood and water damage are included.
- Restock and replace items as necessary in emergency kits.
- Repair any roof and window leaks.

- Address drainage issues at homes and businesses, including rain gutters, backyards, and driveways.
- Clean up debris that may obstruct storm drains and outlets.
- Call 3-1-1 or use the My311 mobile app to notify the City of debris that could block storm drains, create flooded areas, or cause injury or damage.
- Consider installing rain-capture devices such as cisterns, rain barrels, and rain gardens.
- Heed warnings and alerts from government agencies and officials—they are intended to keep you and your loved ones safe.

Finally, because there is an approximately 95% chance that El Niño will weaken gradually through the spring of 2016 and its effects are likely to conclude within one year, this Executive Directive shall be deemed automatically rescinded on November 6, 2016, unless I order otherwise.

Executed this 6th day of November 2015.



ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor