NEWS RELEASE

City Manager's Office
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, CA 910024
(626) 355-7135

SIERRAMADRECA.GOV

For Immediate Release
Media Contact: sconchas@sierramadreca.gov

SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL PROCLAIMS THREATENED LOCAL EMERGENCY IN PREPARATION FOR 2026-27 EL NIÑO

October 15, 2026 – The Sierra Madre City Council on October 13 proclaimed the threatened existence of a local emergency related to the anticipated 2026-2027 El Niño event and approved a $100,000 supplemental appropriation from the General Fund Reserve to support storm preparedness and response activities.

The action is intended to ensure the City has the resources and administrative flexibility necessary to respond quickly if winter storms result in flooding, debris flows, erosion, fallen trees, infrastructure damage, or other emergency conditions.

Sierra Madre faces heightened storm-related risks because of its location along the San Gabriel Mountains, steep terrain, drainage infrastructure, and proximity to the Eaton Fire burn scar, where heavy rainfall can increase the potential for rapid runoff, erosion, and debris flows.

"This is about anticipating potential emergencies and taking the necessary steps to be prepared and proactive before we are in the middle of an emergency," said Mayor Kris Lowe. "Sierra Madre knows the importance of being ready for natural disasters. Taking these steps now gives our staff and First Responders the tools and resources they need to protect our community if we experience significant winter storms."

The City has already begun preparing for the upcoming rainy season. Public Works crews have been inspecting and clearing storm drains and drainage easements, removing accumulated sediment and debris, installing erosion-control measures, and monitoring areas of concern. Crews recently removed a significant accumulation of sediment and debris from the storm drain at Foothill Avenue and Grandview Avenue and installed straw wattles at the Yucca Basin Trail retention structure. Sand and sandbags are also available to residents at the City Yard and Fire Station.

“Residents should use this opportunity to prepare their homes and families before the heavier winter storms arrive,” said Fire Chief Brent Bartlett. “Clear gutters and drains, know how water moves around your property, have emergency supplies available, and make sure your family has a plan. Do not drive through mud or debris, as your vehicle could become stuck and impede emergency response efforts. Most importantly, sign up for the City’s emergency alerts and know your evacuation zone before an emergency occurs.”

The City encourages residents to:

- Clear gutters, downspouts, drains, and other drainage areas around their property.
- Use sandbags or other appropriate measures where property may be susceptible to runoff.
- Secure outdoor objects that could be displaced by wind or water.
- Maintain emergency supplies and a go-bag for family members and pets.
- Know more than one route out of their neighborhood.
- Sign up for **Nixle emergency alerts** by texting their ZIP code to **888-777**.
- Familiarize themselves with **Genasys Protect** by visiting protect.genasys.com or downloading the Genasys Protect mobile app and identify their evacuation zone before an emergency occurs.

The City will continue monitoring weather conditions and local infrastructure throughout the rainy season and will adjust preparedness and response activities as conditions warrant.

The local emergency proclamation follows similar actions taken by jurisdictions throughout California in response to the anticipated El Niño season, including Los Angeles County and several nearby cities.

For additional emergency preparedness information and to sign up for alerts, residents can visit the City of Sierra Madre’s Emergency and Safety Hub at sierramadreca.gov/safetyhub.

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About Sierra Madre

Nestled against the scenic foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains and adjacent to the Angeles National Forest, Sierra Madre is a close-knit, village-like community with a population of just under 11,000. Located 15 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles, Sierra Madre offers easy access to regional transportation corridors while maintaining the charm and tranquility of a small mountain town. The City is known for its historic downtown, iconic Wistaria vine, walkable neighborhoods, and vibrant community traditions, including its beloved Fourth of July and Mount Wilson Trail Race events. With its strong volunteer spirit, highly engaged residents, and a longstanding commitment to preserving its unique character, Sierra Madre continues to be recognized as one of the most desirable places to live in the San Gabriel Valley—offering a quality of life that truly feels like "Village Living in the Foothills."

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