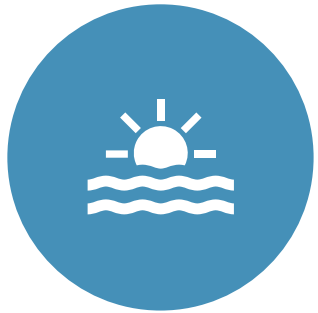


CITY COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 20, 2026

2026-27 EL NINO AND WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS

Public Works

WHAT IS EL NIÑO AND WHAT CAN IT MEAN FOR WEST COVINA



El Niño is a natural climate pattern linked to warmer-than-average tropical Pacific Ocean waters.



El Niño can increase the potential for heavier rainfall and back-to-back storms in West Covina and all of Southern California.



A wet winter is not guaranteed; preparedness is a prudent step before storms arrive.



Storm season typically runs from mid-October into early spring.

WHAT CITY DEPARTMENTS AND STAFF DO TO PREPARE FOR STORM SEASON



Annual storm season preparedness activities include:

- Inspection and maintenance of City-owned storm drains, catch basins, drainage paths, and other stormwater infrastructure.
- Review procedures for receiving, prioritizing, and responding to reports of blocked drains, localized flooding, fallen trees, and other storm-related hazards.
- Check staff communication and coordination procedures for severe-weather events, including after-hours response where applicable.

WHAT RESIDENTS CAN DO NOW

- Sign up for emergency alerts and monitor official forecasts.
- Create a household evacuation and communication plan.
- Prepare food, water, medications, and essential supplies for up to 10 days. List key supplies and where the items are stored. Include special items for infants, older adults, those with medical needs and family pets. Prepare food, water, medications, and essential supplies for up to 10 days.
- Clean gutters and private drainage paths; repair roof leaks and consider sandbags before rain.
- Know local flood and mudflow risks; consider separate flood insurance if appropriate.

BUILDING YOUR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KIT

- **First aid kit:** Include prescription medications — check the expiration dates.
- **Medical information:** Include copies of your insurance cards and medical information.
- **Sanitation items:** Pack items like hand sanitizer and moist towelettes.
- **Bottled water:** Experts recommend a gallon per person per day.
- **Flashlights and fresh batteries:** Have extra batteries for all battery-powered equipment. Store them where you can easily find them.
- **Non-perishable food:** Choose items that don't require cooking or heating.
- **Manual can opener:** Select safe-cut can openers that don't have sharp, jagged edges.
- **Special needs items:** These include special items for infants, older adults, those with medical needs, people with disabilities and family pets.
- **Battery-operated radio or hand-crank radio:** A radio will keep you abreast of vital breaking news.
- **External rechargeable battery pack:** Use a battery to charge cellphones and other electronic devices.
- **Phone numbers:** Keep a written or printed list of important phone numbers nearby (e.g., hospital, doctor, relatives).



SANDBAGS FOR WEST COVINA

Sand and sandbags are available to West Covina residents (24-hours) at the following Fire Station locations:

Fire Station No. 121 / City Yard

819 S. Sunset Avenue
West Covina, CA 91790

Fire Station No. 124

1815 S. Azusa Avenue
West Covina, CA 91792

Fire Station No. 122

2441 E. Cortez Street
West Covina, CA 91790

Fire Station No. 125

2650 E. Shadow Oak Drive
West Covina, CA 91792



There is a 10-bag limit per household on free sandbags.

DURING HEAVY RAIN: PUT SAFETY FIRST

- Never drive, walk, or bicycle through flooded roadways or moving water.
- Stay away from downed power lines and flooded areas.
- Watch for rising water, mud, and debris; move to higher ground when necessary.
- Follow evacuation orders and instructions from emergency officials.
- Check on neighbors and people who may need help preparing or responding.

OFFICIAL RESOURCES & USEFUL LINKS

- **LA County El Niño & Rain Preparedness:** <https://ready.lacounty.gov/rain/>
- **Ready LA County – Emergency Preparedness:** <https://ready.lacounty.gov/>
- **Alert LA County – Emergency Alerts:** <https://alert.lacounty.gov/>
- **LA County Storm Season Resources:** <https://waterforla.lacounty.gov/storm-prep/>
- **LA County Flooding Preparedness:** <https://ready.lacounty.gov/flooding/>
- **LA County Public Works Homeowner's Guide for Flood, Debris and Erosion Control:** <https://dpw.lacounty.gov/landing/em/docs/HOMEOWNERSGUIDE.pdf>
- **National Weather Service – Los Angeles/Oxnard:** <https://www.weather.gov/lox>
- **Southern California Edison Download Preparedness Kit:** <https://www.sce.com/outages-safety/outage-preparedness/emergency-preparedness>
- **West Covina sandbag locations:** <https://westcovina.gov/170/Public-Works---Maintenance>
- **City of West Covina – Report an Issue:** <https://www.westcovina.gov/336/Report-an-Issue>

QUESTIONS?

