



CITY OF  
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES

**CITY MANAGER'S CORNER**

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**Preparing for El Nino**

With California still in the grip of years of drought, many are hopeful that the coming winter will be one of higher than average rainfall. This hope is boosted by the long awaited and often predicted El Nino weather pattern which most weather experts believe will be particularly strong this year. With the blessings that more rain would bring to our parched state, there is also the chance for severe flooding, mudslides, downed trees and other hazards associated with heavy rains. So, what can you do to prepare for the potential problems that may come with El Nino?

First of all, you should always be prepared for any emergency with flashlights, a battery operated radio and enough food, water and necessary medications to last for three to ten days if emergency service providers become overwhelmed.

Know your neighbors and any special needs that they may have. Good communication will also help identify resources such as tractors and power tools or expertise such as medical professionals or ham radio operators.

Many hillside properties have natural drainage courses, swales or improved private storm drains to carry water downstream. Be certain that these facilities are free from obstruction before the rains come.

If you have areas of your property that are prone to flooding, place sandbags appropriately to direct water away from critical structures such as your house. The City has sand and sandbags available at the City's maintenance yard at Howlett Park on Hawthorne Boulevard and Fire Station 106 on Indian peak Road.

If you have large trees on your property, trim them back properly as a well-maintained tree is less likely to fall during high winds than one which is overgrown. Have a chain saw on hand in the event you must clear a downed tree.

Report trees that have grown into power lines to Southern California Edison so that they can be safely cleared. Also, report downed power lines immediately and keep clear of them as they may be live.

Monitor weather reports regularly.

The City has posted links to El Nino preparation information which can be found at:

<http://ci.rolling-hills-estates.ca.us/index.aspx?page=23&recordid=416&returnURL=%2findex.aspx>

As we do in preparation for each rainy season, the City's Maintenance Department routinely inspects and clears all storm drain outlets and inlets. In addition, all catch basins are cleaned twice per year, once during the dry weather season and again during the wet weather season. During a storm, our Maintenance Department crew is on call to respond to any emergency, such as fallen tree limbs or downed trees.

Given the age of the City's infrastructure, our engineers recently completed a Storm Drain Inventory and Condition Assessment. We will soon be soliciting proposals from contractors to clean, video inspect and assess the condition of selected storm drain pipes. This proactive approach will allow the City to plan for any needed repairs.

With these and other common sense precautions, we can all get through the predicted El Nino event safely.