



Date: October 8, 2015
To: Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.M.*
Subject: Preparations for El Nino Storms

It has been widely reported that scientists are predicting that the El Nino climate pattern occurring in the Pacific Ocean will bring frequent and powerful storms to Southern California this coming winter and spring. I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on the City's preparations for these storms, and how each department plans to respond during and after significant storm events.

GENERAL PREPARATIONS

The following preparations are being undertaken by all departments (where applicable):

- Reviewing storm response procedures and staffing needs;
- Participating in regular planning meetings facilitated by the Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Communications Department;
- Reviewing and updating procedures and protocols for communicating with the public and media;
- Inspecting buildings for potential roof leaks and other areas of water intrusion. Repairs are being made where possible. Where not possible, plans for temporary water protection (e.g., sandbags, plastic sheeting) are being made;
- Documenting current building conditions to provide comparison basis for FEMA and insurance claims;
- Clearing rain gutters of buildings;
- Clearing drains and culverts;
- Relocating equipment and supplies from known flooding areas, where possible;
- Purchasing and stockpiling emergency supplies;
- Securing contracts for emergency equipment (e.g., loaders, dumpsters);
- Servicing or replacing emergency equipment as needed;

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- Checking in-place sump pumps for proper operation;
- Continuously monitoring weather patterns and conditions.

Some departments are making preparations that are specific to their operations and assets. These preparations are summarized in Attachment A, as are the general actions each department will take when responding to actual storm events.

Please let me know if you require additional information.

PHW:GH

Attachment

cc. Charles Parkin City Attorney
Douglas P. Haubert, City Prosecutor
Laura L. Doud, City Auditor
Tom Modica, Assistant City Manager
Arturo Sanchez, Deputy City Manager
Jyl Marden, Assistant to the City Manager
City Department Heads

DEPARTMENT PREPARATIONS & STORM RESPONSE PROCEDURES

The following is a summary of the preparations individual departments are making that are specific to their operations and the actions they will take when responding to actual storm events:

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Current Preparations

- Facilitate inter-departmental planning meetings to coordinate emergency response and recovery;
- Disseminate storm preparation information to the general public.

Storm Event Preparations

- Distribute weekly situation status report with weather forecast;
- Coordinate with Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management on County preparedness plans;
- Coordinate the development of EOC staffing plans as warranted;
- Communicate with community partners regarding readiness and response plans.

Storm Event Response & Recovery

- Activate Emergency Operations Center as warranted;
- Serve as City liaison to community partners (e.g., Red Cross, Salvation Army, LBUSD) and neighboring municipalities;
- Provide storm-related updates through social media and traditional forms of communication;
- Support field operations and prioritize resources citywide.

FIRE

Current Preparations

- Identifying areas with potential access issues for a Swiftwater Rescue Team;
- Inventory and maintain personal protective equipment and Swiftwater Rescue Team equipment;
- Conduct drills between Urban Search & Rescue, and Marine Safety regarding swiftwater rescue responses;
- Conduct training throughout the Fire Department on swiftwater rescue techniques, personal protective equipment and inspect each station's equipment;

DEPARTMENT PREPARATIONS & STORM RESPONSE PROCEDURES

FIRE (CONT.)

Storm Event Preparations

- Prepare and communicate storm staffing plans;
- Pre-deploy vehicles and equipment as warranted;
- Patrol rivers and identifying areas with homeless encampments, and work with Health and Human Services to relocate homeless to emergency shelter locations;
- Pre-deploy Swiftwater Rescue boats for river and in-city flooding;
- Monitor tidal and wave forecasts;
- Maintain 45-minute readiness for our OES Task Force deployment with USAR;
- Activate CERT teams to distribute storm-related information, and to fill and deploy sand bags;
- Pre-deploy sand and sand bags at Beach Operations and 72nd Pl. for public use.

Storm Event Response & Recovery

- Provide emergency response as required;
- Monitor marinas and harbor areas for unsecured vessels;
- Monitor beach activity to ensure safety of residents and onlookers;
- Assist in the identification of storm damage and risks to public safety.

POLICE

Storm Event Preparations

- Prepare and communicate storm staffing plans;
- Pre-deploy vehicles and equipment as warranted.

Storm Event Response & Recovery

- Provide emergency response as required;
- Provide traffic control on major thoroughfares due to flooding, power outage, obstruction, or other safety hazard;
- Patrol areas of special need due to storm damage or power outage;

DEPARTMENT PREPARATIONS & STORM RESPONSE PROCEDURES

POLICE (CONT.)

Storm Event Response & Recovery (Cont.)

- Activate Search and Rescue to provide sandbagging and other emergency response support and/or to assist in the evacuation of neighborhoods;
- Barricade or isolate areas of damage posing a risk to public safety;
- Assist other departments as requested.

PUBLIC WORKS

Current Preparations

- Clearing 3,800 catch basins;
- Cleaning and testing 26 pump stations;
- Preparing to make sand available to the public for sandbags;
- Reviewing service contracts for emergency services.

Storm Event Preparations

- Prepare and communicate storm staffing plans;
- Supply and monitor sand to sand bin locations: Public Works Service Yard (1651 San Francisco Ave.), Fire Station #7 (2295 Elm Ave.), Fire Station #12 (1199 E. Artesia Blvd.), Fire Station # 14 (5200 Eliot St.). Sand Bags are provided at Fire Stations;
- Install and monitor Naples seawall plugs during high tide events of 6.2 feet or above, enhance monitoring during storm and high tide events.

Storm Event Response & Recovery

- Conduct inspection of local street flooded calls for service and monitor known flooding locations. Clear catch basins openings or refer locations to contractor for clearing. Install "Street Flooded" signs and provide street closures as needed and respond to other storm related calls for service;
- Respond to emergency tree and limb failure calls for service and staff observations;
- Monitor pump station systems and respond to system alarms;
- Respond to traffic signal failure calls for service and staff observations;
- Respond to calls for service for building leaks and flooded areas;

DEPARTMENT PREPARATIONS & STORM RESPONSE PROCEDURES

PUBLIC WORKS (CONT.)

Storm Event Response & Recovery (Cont.)

- Coordinate with Southern California Edison in the event of a power outage;
- Deliver and operate emergency generators as needed;
- Assist other City Departments as needed;
- Commence debris removal efforts for streets and non-park areas. During multiple storm events, efforts to remove palm fronds will be enhanced with Environmental Service Bureau (Street Sweeping/Parking Control) employees;
- Barricade or isolate areas of damage posing a risk to public safety;
- Assess damage and commence repairs to buildings and City amenities.

PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE

Current Preparations

- Inspecting and clearing all drains and culverts in parks, beaches, and marinas;
- Removing dead or dying trees in high use areas of the parks;
- Pruning various trees to improve stability under high stress weather;
- Removing/reducing lake vegetation to increase water movement (flow) between the lakes in order to minimize localized flooding;
- Communicating with boat owners regarding emergency preparations and safety precautions;
- Communicating with parks, beach, and marina and beach lessees regarding proper preparations for storm events.

Storm Event Preparations

- Prepare and communicate storm staffing plans;
- Communicate with maintenance contractors to ensure coordination of storm response and recovery efforts;
- Deploy sand bags and plastic sheeting as needed;
- Build berms to protect low-lying sections of the beach;
- Deploy debris booms in Rainbow Harbor and Golden Shore Marine Reserve;
- Lower lake water levels to reduce the potential for flooding;

DEPARTMENT PREPARATIONS & STORM RESPONSE PROCEDURES

PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE (CONT.)

Storm Event Preparations (Cont.)

- Communicate with live-aboard boat owners regarding possible alternative housing as warranted;
- Turn off irrigation systems;
- Monitor tidal and surf forecasts.

Storm Event Response & Recovery

- Man the debris boom at Rainbow Harbor for 24 hours prior to, during and immediately after the event;
- Dig trenches to redirect/control water flow in parks and beaches as needed;
- Monitor marinas for damage and unsecured vessels;
- Remove downed park tree limbs impeding vehicle traffic;
- Repair beach berm breeches;
- Deploy additional sandbags and plastic sheeting as warranted;
- Open and operate emergency shelters as warranted;
- Rescue/retrieve animals in peril;
- Inventory navigational aids and initiate recovery efforts as needed;
- Commence debris removal efforts for parks, beaches, and marinas;
- Barricade or isolate areas of damage posing a risk to public safety;
- Assess damage and commence repairs to buildings and park amenities;
- Re-nourish washed-out beach areas;
- Assist Public Works as requested.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Storm Event Response & Recovery

- Inspect construction sites to ensure that they adhere to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements (e.g., sand bagging, silt fencing in place);
- Inspect projects for flood damage as warranted.

DEPARTMENT PREPARATIONS & STORM RESPONSE PROCEDURES

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Current Preparations

- Providing preparedness information to the community on building a kit and developing a plan for communicating during an emergency;
- Training the public health workforce on responding to an emergency while continuing core public health services provided by the department;
- Winter Shelter Program for the homeless will begin one month earlier than last year.

Storm Event Response & Recovery

- Disseminate health education information through the department's website and social media platforms;
- Inspect/approve food service operations performed by relief agencies or other City departments;
- Conduct outreach to homeless to advise them of sheltering opportunities;
- Assist the Red Cross in opening and staffing shelters, if an emergency is declared;
- Evaluate impacted restaurants and other food facilities to ensure they are safe to open to the public;
- Evaluate salvaged food from restaurants, food banks and other food facilities;
- Advise/provide information to Long Beach residents on appropriate precautions to take with flood damaged food products;
- Control disease causing vectors due to flooding and other water intrusion issues;
- Issue "Rain Advisories" after heavy storms to protect residents from potential exposures to contaminated water;
- Respond to sewage spills impacting our local waters (e.g., beach closures, advisories).

HUMAN RESOURCES

Storm Event Response & Recovery

- Monitor for City property damage due to storms;
- Act as safety consultant for departments responding to storm related emergencies (e.g., identification of hazards, selection of proper personal protective equipment, safe work practices).

DEPARTMENT PREPARATIONS & STORM RESPONSE PROCEDURES

AIRPORT

Current Preparations:

- Advising any and all Airport construction sites to ensure storm water best management practices are in place;
- Coordinating with airlines and tenants in securing items that can become a hazard during elevated winds;
- Validating tenant and staff contacts for the Emergency Notification System (ENS).

Storm Event Preparations

- Prepare and communicate storm staffing plans;
- Install non-slip matting in terminal and other public areas.

Storm Event Response & Recovery

- Monitor Lakewood Blvd. and Spring St. tunnels for flooding/mud flows;
- Monitor runway braking action and ponding of water for aircraft safety;
- Monitor wildlife activity that is attracted by storm effects;
- Observe storm water discharge and obtain samples as required by the Airport's storm water industrial permit;
- Monitor water runoff around passenger traffic areas and deploy sweeper, personnel and vacuums as necessary;
- Place sandbags and/or sump pumps and hoses as necessary to divert, contain or remove water away from passenger traffic areas;
- Check aircraft movement areas for foreign object debris (FOD), flooding or damaged pavement;
- Monitor streets and sidewalks for flooding;
- Monitor terminal and airfield tenant areas for any issues and provide assistance;
- Secure failed gates as necessary;
- Check for build up or condensation in security system sensors and other equipment;
- Conduct facilities checks for all airport-operated and tenant vehicle/pedestrian gates;

DEPARTMENT PREPARATIONS & STORM RESPONSE PROCEDURES

AIRPORT (CONT.)

Storm Event Response & Recovery (Cont.)

- Verify line of demarcation sensors, camera feeds, and remote gate readers;
- Commence debris removal efforts;
- Barricade or isolate areas of damage posing a risk to public safety;
- Assess damage and commence repairs to buildings and amenities.