



El Niño 2015-16 Update

BOS Hearing
October 13, 2015

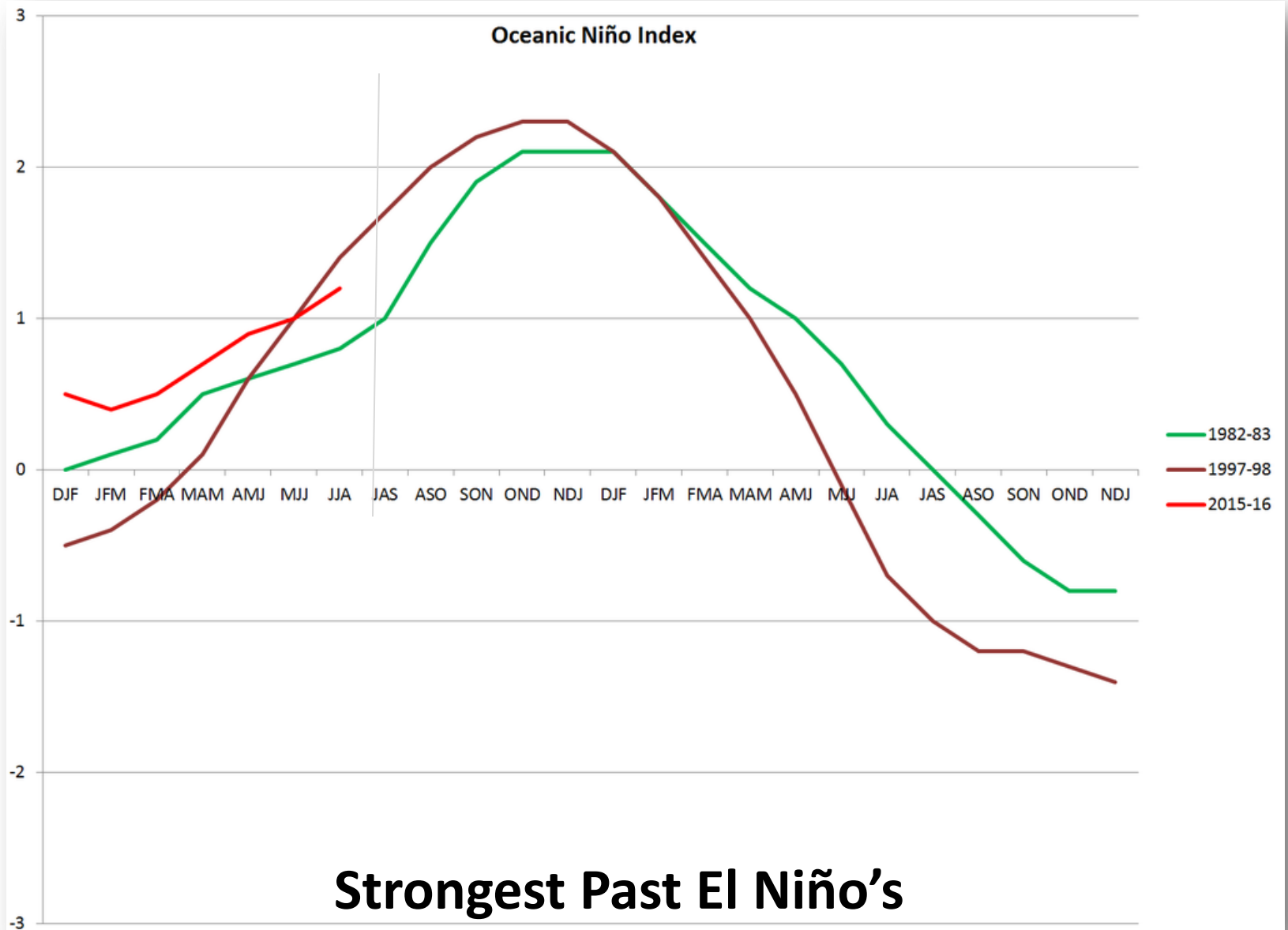
Latest ENSO* Information

October 2015
El Niño Advisory in effect

- Ocean continues to reflect sustained and strengthening El Niño conditions
- Greater than 95% chance of El Niño this winter
- Forecasters unanimously favor a “**strong**” category

* ENSO stands for El Niño Southern Oscillation

Where Does This El Niño Rank?





- Emergency Operations Center
- Flooding Concept of Operations Initiative
- Training
- Damage Assessment
- Cost Recovery
- Upgraded Mass Notification System

El Niño Coordination among County Departments and Partner Agencies

- Coordinating Departments
 - Public Works
 - County Fire
 - County OEM
 - Sheriff's Office
 - Community Services
- Coordinating Agencies
 - Cal OES
 - CA Dept Water Resources
 - FEMA
 - National Weather Service
 - Corps of Engineers
 - Cities
 - Neighborhood Groups



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

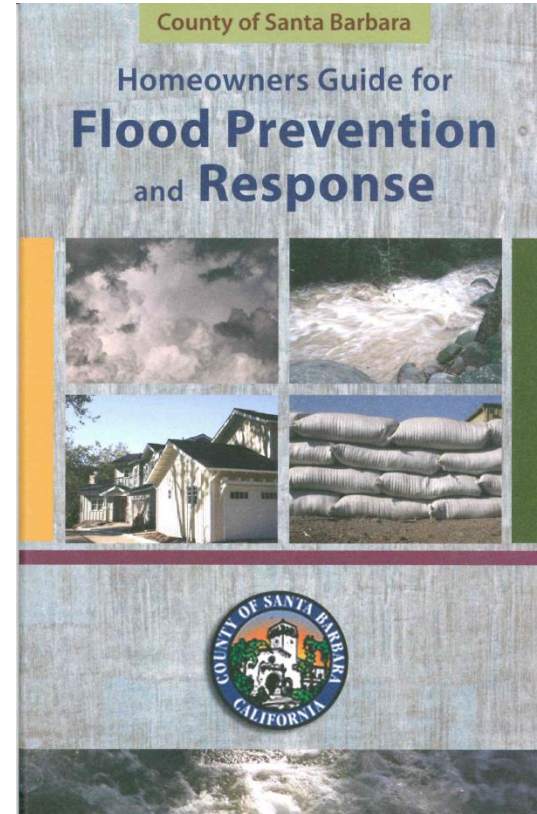


**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers®**



Flood Control District Preparations

- Annual Maintenance Plan
- Coordination with multiple Agencies
- Preset Contracts in Place
- El Nino Resources Webpage – Public Outreach
- Homeowners Guide for Property Protection
- Sand Bag Distribution
- Site visits with Property Owners
- Monitoring of On-going Construction Projects
- Close Coordination with County OEM and County Fire
- Training Sessions on Levee Patrol, SY River Flood Forecast
- Response to Increase in calls



Public Works - Transportation

- Maintenance crews are first responders – clear debris, assess needs, setup traffic control and road closures
- Contractors on call to supplement and assist in response
- First priority is emergency opening for single-access roads
- Engineering teams evaluate bridges and other structures
- Coordinate with OEM, Sheriff and Fire on road conditions



Santa Barbara County Fire Capabilities

- 35 Advanced Water Rescue Personnel make up the Water Rescue Team - three Jet Ski's for support
- All fire personnel trained in shore-based water rescue
- 24-person Hand Crew has now been trained in shore-based water rescue
- Air Support Unit has three hoist-capable helicopters
- Zodiac Inflatable Rescue Boat staged in Goleta
- Bulldozers and an excavator
- Sandbags deployed at all necessary Santa Barbara County Fire Stations
- 90 personnel trained in USAR with full compliment of equipment



Training/Preparation

- Water rescue training occurs year-round, but will now ramp up significantly with emphasis on El Niño potential
- Focus this year has been on choke points, drainages, and stranded motorist scenarios
- Good communication with Flood, Public Works, OEM
- Area Fire Chiefs in active discussions regarding mutual aid and coordination
- Coordination and intelligence gathering from the National Weather Service
- Optimize the department's website to keep the public informed of El Niño concerns.



Community Services Department

- **ALL PARKS:**

- Clear drainage basins and culverts of debris – completed or scheduled
- Tree work where was high likelihood of failure due to wind and rain – completed or scheduled – Isla Vista, Toro Canyon, Cachuma, Waller, Miguelito, Los Alamos, Nojoqui, others
- Equipment maintenance and safety check
- Ensure that staff has appropriate weather gear
- Minor grading to improve drainage
- Building sand berms to protect Goleta and Jalama Beaches.

- **HOUSING:**

- Working with homeless shelters to ensure available beds



El Niño Communications Plan

- **Maintain response communications with local partners**
 - Regular communications with County EPIC members
 - CAPIO crisis communications workshop and El Niño communications strategy discussion session
- **Partner with traditional media**
 - KEYT/KCOY/Univision coverage of storm season kick-off meeting
 - Media interviews and tours with County staff and local partners

Use County produced media

- Storm season website information
- Flood control and water resources videos distributed through social media, the County's website, and CSBTv
- Display ads/Spanish language outreach for Storm preparedness/Flood preparedness



Thank you

www.countyofsb.org/stormprep

Are you ready? STORM SEASON IS COMING

Storms can bring flooding to coastal areas as the storm system moves over land. Know the risks in your community and get insured.

- Keep roof gutters clean and clear.
- Keep yards and driveways clear of debris.
- Have trees pruned or removed if they are in danger to you or your neighbor's property.
- Make repairs to walls, roof, and drainage systems before the rain arrives.
- Have heater and fireplaces cleaned and checked for safety before winter season.
- Stay off the roads during strong storms.
- Consider buying flood insurance.



For information, visit Santa Barbara County's storm preparation website at www.countyofsb.org/stormprep