



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060-4073  
(831)454-2000 | [www.santacruzcountyca.gov](http://www.santacruzcountyca.gov)  
Nicole D. Coburn, County Executive Officer

## News Release



**Date:** October 14, 2026

**Contact:** Jason Hoppin

[Jason.Hoppin@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:Jason.Hoppin@santacruzcountyca.gov)

### BOARD TO HOLD HEARING ON EL NIÑO PREPARATION

What could El Niño mean for Santa Cruz County this winter, and how are local agencies preparing?

On Tuesday, October 20, at 10:45 a.m., the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors will receive a presentation on this season's El Niño forecasts, potential winter weather impacts and countywide efforts to prepare for severe storms.

El Niño can increase the likelihood of a wetter winter in California, bringing the potential for heavy rainfall, flooding, landslides, downed trees and power outages. While a strong El Niño does not guarantee above-average rainfall in Santa Cruz County, the County is preparing for potentially severe winter weather and encouraging residents to do the same.

The presentation will provide an overview of current El Niño predictions, potential local impacts and steps County departments and partner agencies are taking to prepare for winter weather. It will also highlight information and resources available to help residents protect their homes, families and businesses.

Residents are encouraged to attend the presentation in person or watch online.

**Date:** Tuesday, October 20, 2026

**Time:** 10:45 a.m.

**Location:** Board Chambers, 5th Floor, 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz

**Online:** <https://santacruzcounty-us.zoomgov.com/j/1601236676>

The County encourages all residents to prepare for winter weather by signing up for emergency alerts at [CruzAware.org](http://CruzAware.org), reviewing evacuation information, preparing emergency supplies and taking steps to protect their properties from storm-related hazards.

For information about El Niño, winter preparedness, emergency notifications and other resources, visit <https://www.santacruzcountyca.gov/living/elniño.aspx>.

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