Storm Preparedness – Project Planning and Emergency Work in an El Niño Year



Presented by CA Department of Fish and Wildlife

Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Program

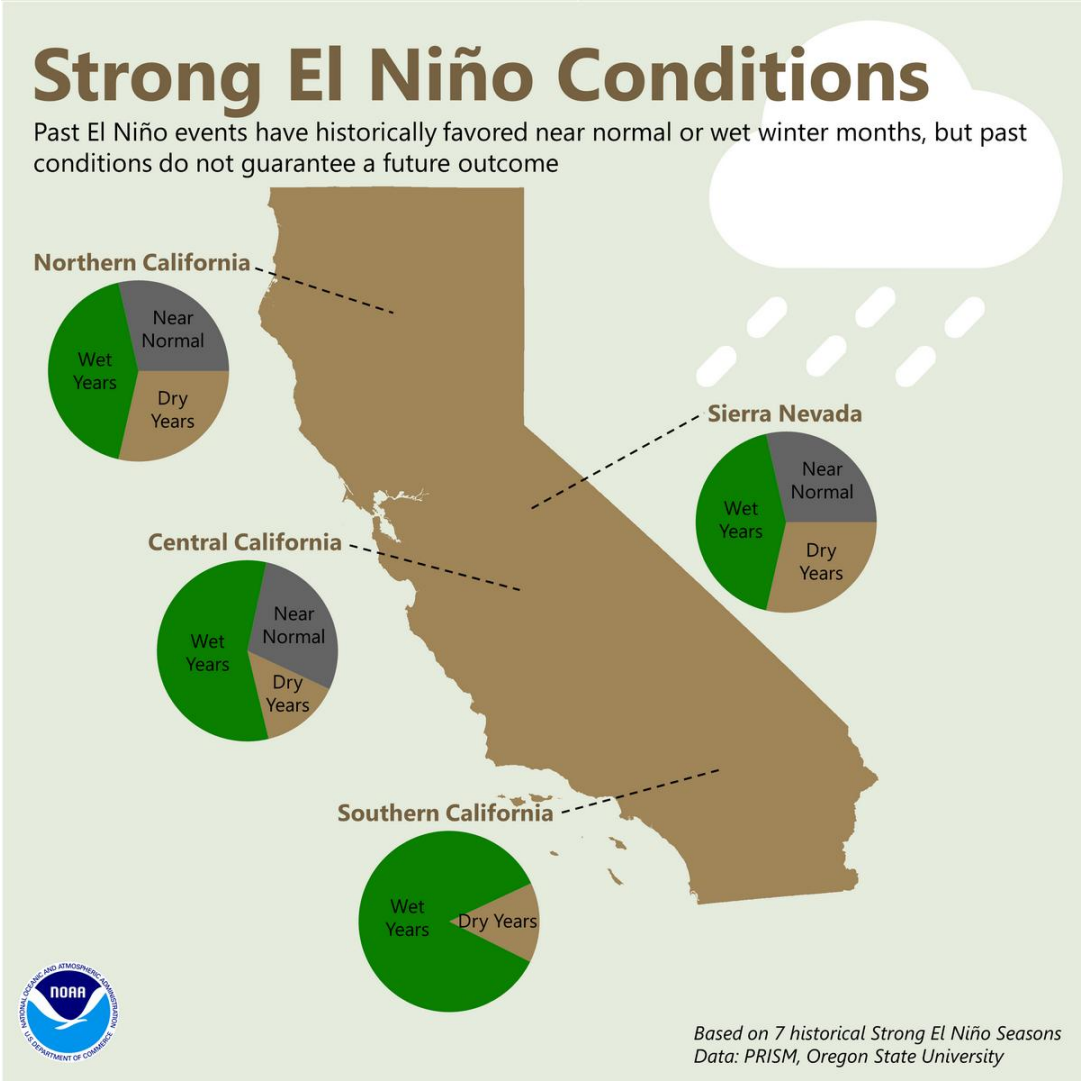
Outline

- Introduction
- Executive Order N-14-26
- Fish and Game Code section 1610
- Questions



Best Practice – Plan Ahead!

- Recent observations of large areas of sea surface temperature anomalies in the Pacific
- National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center – high possibility of very strong El Niño from October to December 2026
- Prepare **now** for the precipitation-related hazards that may occur



Governor State of Emergency

September 2026 State of Emergency

- For developing 2026–2027 El Niño Event
- Accelerate storm preparedness
- Staging emergency supplies
- Preparing roads, structures, and communities
- Coordinating with state agencies

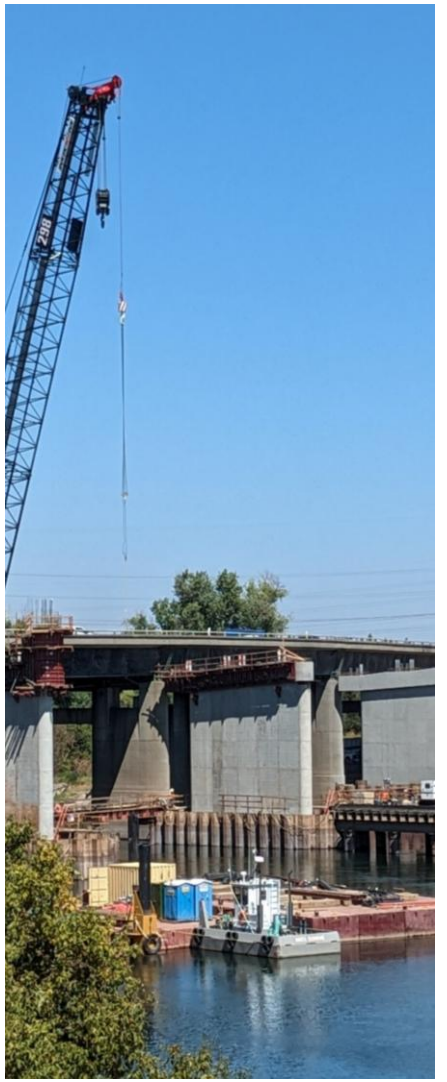


CDFW LSA Program

- Work with local agencies to streamline their preparation efforts
- Contact CDFW regional office

Governor Executive Order (EO) N-14-26

- **Purpose:** expedite **public agency actions**
  - **Actions:** prevent or mitigate impacts from flooding (including coastal flooding), landslides, mud and debris flows, or erosion (including coastal erosion) caused by El Niño
- **Action:** Suspends CA Natural Resource Agency statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements under jurisdictions of all boards, commission, councils, departments, and offices
- **Required:** Request to CNRA Secretary (specific form required); must include "reasonable and feasible" measures
- **Required:** Abide by conditions listed in the EO



Emergency Work Notification



Fish and Game Code section 1610 exempts certain types of emergency work from section 1602

CDFW must be notified within 14 days after emergency work begins

Notify for Emergency Work using the **EPIMS Permitting Portal**

What is an Emergency?

- Defined in CA Public Resources Code Section 21060.3
- "a sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services."
- "…includes such occurrences as fire, **flood**, earthquake, or other soil or geologic movements…"
- **Immediate actions** taken during or immediately after an emergency for the in-kind repair of a structure or facility, or to remove debris from a water course

What Qualifies?



Immediate emergency work necessary to protect life or property



Immediate emergency repairs to public service facilities because of disaster with proclaimed state of emergency



Emergency project activities to existing highways within one year of a disaster

Fish and Game Code section 1610(a)

§1610(a)(1)

- Life
  - Human
  - Wildlife
- Property
  - Private
  - Public
  - CDFW-owned
- Inland spills



§1610(a)(2)



- Repairs to public service facilities
  - Libraries
  - Schools
  - Parks
  - Utility infrastructure
- Proclaimed State of Emergency

§1610(a)(3)

- Emergency highway maintenance & repair projects
- Damaged due to fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide
- Work must occur within 1 year of disaster
- Undertaken, carried out, or approved by a state or local government agency



Notification Process for Emergency Work

Applicant determines project qualifies as Emergency Work

EPIMS account creation

Create and submit Emergency Work Notification within 14 days of starting work

LSA Program Notification Review

The Applicant submits Notification



- There are no fees for Emergency Work Notifications
- No mitigation or conditions - work must occur/have occurred exactly as described in Notification

☑ Upon receipt CDFW can:

- Do nothing (most common)
- Request more information
- Indicate that project does not meet the conditions of 1610

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 699.5

Already have another notification submitted?

- Emergency notifications can be submitted even if you are already in the process of obtaining an LSA Agreement*
- When possible, get CDFW consultation before beginning or during emergency work
- We can identify ways to minimize impacts on resources and minimize the need for any remedial actions



*as long as the work qualifies under section 1610 as described earlier

CDFW Regions https://wildlife.ca.gov/Regions

1 - Northern Region

Serving Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity counties

(530) 225-2300 | askregion1@wildlife.ca.gov

2 - North Central Region

Serving Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lake, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento*, San Joaquin*, Sierra, Sutter, Yolo* and Yuba counties
*Note: These counties are split between regions. See detailed map.

(916) 358-2900 | R2Info@wildlife.ca.gov

3 - Bay Delta Region

Serving Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Sacramento*, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, San Joaquin*, Solano, Sonoma, and Yolo* counties
*Note: These counties are split between regions. See detailed map.

(707) 428-2002 | askbdr@wildlife.ca.gov

4 - Central Region

Serving Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Stanislaus, Tulare and Tuolumne counties

(559) 243-4005 | reg4assistant@wildlife.ca.gov

5 - South Coast Region

Serving Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties

(858) 467-4201 | AskR5@wildlife.ca.gov

6 - Inland Deserts Region

Serving Imperial, Inyo, Mono, Riverside and San Bernardino counties

(909) 484-0167 | AskRegion6@wildlife.ca.gov

7 - Marine Region

Serving the entire California coastline from border to border

(831) 649-2870 | Email CDFW's Marine Region

LSA and EPIMS Resources

- LSA Program Page
- EPIMS Login
- EPIMS Help
- EPIMS Q&A



Thanks for listening!

Questions?

Please send additional questions to LSA@wildlife.ca.gov

