MONTARA WATER AND SANITARY DISTRICT AGENDA

For Meeting Of: **November 19, 2026**

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: Clemens Heldmaier, General Manager

SUBJECT: Update on Water Emergency Preparedness in Advance of Possible El Nino Storm Events

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According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Pacific Ocean's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is arguably the most influential climate driver on Earth. Its cycles of warm and cool waters in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific alter where ocean heat is released into the atmosphere, influencing atmospheric circulation, temperatures, precipitation and other weather events that affect agriculture, wildfires and marine fisheries around the globe.

A historic El Niño has developed in the Pacific Ocean in 2026. NOAA expects conditions in the Pacific Ocean to continue to strengthen through December, possibly fueling the strongest storm season in recorded history. Ahead of the potential impacts, Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency to begin mobilizing resources.

The Governor's emergency proclamation directed state agencies to begin protecting vulnerable communities, prepare roads and critical infrastructure, including water and wastewater infrastructure, stage emergency supplies, and help local partners reduce flood, landslide, and coastal risks. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services works with local and tribal governments to support emergency planning, resource coordination, and requests for state assistance, including but not limited to:

- Entering into contracts to arrange for procurement of materials, goods, and services that are needed to quickly to respond to and recover from the impacts.
- Directing CNRA and CalEPA to prioritize permitting, consultation, and technical assistance to support local efforts to prevent or mitigate impacts.
- Directing CEC, the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, CPUC, as well as the State and Regional Water Boards to coordinate (within their respective authorities) with electrical, natural-gas, water, wastewater, telecommunications, transportation, and other critical-service providers to enhance readiness and support timely restoration of essential services.

The District, on its own and in cooperation with the neighboring agencies and San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services, has been preparing for several month to be equipped in addressing the impacts of the ENSO.
The Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside (SAM) has posted a Statement of Interest to compile a contact database of local businesses and organizations available to support SAM in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from potential storms and anticipated flooding impacts to SAM facilities resulting from the historic El Niño developing in the Pacific Ocean. SAM is seeking local vendors to provide services and support in response to the Governor's emergency proclamation.

The District plans to utilize SAM's database to augment its own emergency preparedness efforts.

MWSD's water system has sufficient drinking water storage to continue providing uninterrupted water supply to its residents for a few days, in case of a power outage. This emergency storage was constructed to secure 48 hours of MWSD's maximum day demand (MDD), however, as demands expected to be much lower than MDD during the ENSO, the storage may offer 72 to 80 hours of supply to the residents, while without power.

To further augment the storage, the District secured emergency generators and a temporary fuel storage tank to continue providing service to its ratepayers during the ENSO. Additionally, the District has stockpiled materials and supplies for the emergency outage situation.

District's staff is placed on alert and will be available to support any needed.

Recommendation: Review report and comment. This is an informational item and no action by the Board is required.