



How To Prepare for El Nino

The El Nino is the warming of ocean currents in the tropical Pacific Ocean. This warmer water increases air moisture and affects weather. When El Nino is active, there is a greater than normal probability of monsoon-like rains along the Pacific Coast of California. These rains, if they develop, can result in small urban streams and washes overrunning their banks, as well as regional and large scale flooding.

What You Can Do:

- Prepare your home and contents. Open drains and keep ditches and other water collection ways clear of leaves and debris. Clean your rain gutters of all leaves, debris, and dirt. Have any trees that appear weakened by drought inspected by an arborist. Have roof repairs made and other leaks fixed before it starts to rain.
- Prepare emergency provisions and have an emergency evacuation plan in place for your family. Have a dry place to store storm supplies. Consider having tools and rain clothing on hand (i.e.

shovel, heavy rake, rain boots and rain gear).

- Store "long life" non-refrigerated provisions. This includes emergency cooking equipment, food, water, and fresh batteries. Localized flooding, mud slides and downed trees may prevent you from moving about the community by automobile until public works staff and emergency services can mobilize and get roadways cleared.
- If your property is low-lying or is impacted by high runoff volumes, know where to find sandbags and other emergency provisions. Check with local emergency service agencies before you have an emergency and know where to tune in for emergency broadcasts and official information.
- Consider flood insurance. Homeowner's policies typically do not cover flood damage. Most flood policies require a 30-day waiting period. Make an itemized list of personal property, which includes clothing, furnishings, and valuables. Take photographs of your home, both inside and out, and store in a safe place. This will help an insurance adjuster to settle any claims and to help you prove uninsured losses.

- Know the non-emergency number to use for your local public safety communications center. If you have a storm related problem and it is not a life threatening emergency or fire, you should use the dispatch center's non-emergency line.

General Plan Meeting

On Thursday, November 19 at 6pm at the Center for the Arts at 282 South High Street there will be an 'open house' for the City's General Plan update. The General Plan expresses long-term City policy for future development.

The General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) has been working for many months to formulate proposed General Plan policies. The open house is an opportunity to talk with the City's consultants, ask questions, and make comments on the draft policies.

In early 2016 the Planning Commission and City Council will hold a series of meetings to review the GPAC's work, after which the formal draft General Plan, along with an Environmental Impact Report, will be prepared for public comment. The current schedule calls for the process to be completed by the end of 2016.



Water Rates

During a drought, the City relies on its customers to preserve its scarce water supply through extraordinary water conservation. At the same time, the City faces increased costs to maintain essential water services.

If you are conserving water, you'd think you'd end up with a smaller water bill. However, many residents are seeing that, even after months of curbing water use, their costs are still going up.

This is because, after a number of years with no rate changes, the City implemented a series of water rate increases over the past few years, starting in fiscal year July 2012.

The City has adopted increased water and sewer rates to provide revenue needed to fund the cost of providing clean, safe, and reliable water services.

Additionally, the City's water system is mandated to maintain stringent standards in order to protect our community's health and safety, as well as the environment.

Provision of water is one of the most critical functions of the City of Sebastopol.

Operating a public water system includes the requirement of investment in significant ongoing operational, maintenance, and capital improvement programs and projects.

Is there good news in these increases? Yes! While rates may need adjustment in the future, the fiscal year 2015/16,

beginning July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, is the last in this series of painful water and sewer increases.

To learn more about our water/sewer rate increases, please visit our website at the link below to read the staff report labeled "Water and Sewer Reports for Proposition 218".

<http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/webform/water-and-sewer-utility-contact-information>

You can learn more about how the City calculates your utility bill at the following link.

http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/sites/default/files/pattiem/how_does_the_city_of_sebastopol_calculate_your_utility_bill.pdf

The City of Sebastopol would like to thank you for your continuing support as we address these water rate increases.

Living Peace Wall

On October 11, the Living Peace Wall was dedicated in the City park area in front of Rialto Cinemas.

The Peace Wall proposal went through an extensive City review process. Every year, new persons will be honored for efforts to promote peace.

Information about the nomination process and the project may be found at: <http://www.sebastopolivingpeacewall.com/>

Laguna Cleanup

On October 18, nearly 100 volunteers converged on the City's Laguna Preserve and gathered a small mountain of trash from the park. Meanwhile, the City is working on a Management Plan for the Preserve to identify needed maintenance resources and restoration and trail projects.

Formula Business Ordinance

The City Council has adopted a 'formula business' or chain store ordinance. With a couple of exceptions, the ordinance does not ban formula businesses. It takes a balanced approach, and allows for formula businesses in several shopping centers, but for most formula businesses, it requires a special review process to protect the local economy and unique character of Sebastopol.

City of Sebastopol, 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, California 95472, 707 823-1153

[HTTP://CI.SEBASTOPOL.CA.US/](http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/)



Like us on Facebook

[facebook.com/CityofSebastopolCA](https://www.facebook.com/CityofSebastopolCA)



Follow us on Twitter

@SebastopolCity