



California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways
California Coastal Commission
**El Niño Preparedness
Recommendation for Boating Facilities**

El Niño is a large-scale ocean–atmosphere climate pattern associated with warming sea surface temperatures across parts of the Pacific Ocean. These conditions often bring strong storms, heavy rainfall, and coastal impacts to California.

Marina and harbor managers should prepare early. Each facility should maintain a storm preparation plan tailored to its layout, infrastructure, staffing needs, and safety protocols.

Make sure every employee is familiar with this plan. Most importantly, keep **safety** in mind and **never risk human life for the sake of protecting property.**

Preparedness Actions for Boating Facilities

Emergency Supplies and Staffing

- Make sure every employee is familiar with your storm preparation plan.
- Stock food and water to last up to one week for individuals who may need to stay on-site.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit including a flashlight, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, medications, cell phone and charger, blankets, and cash.
- Update staff contact lists with complete, current information.

Securing Facility Grounds

- Gather and secure loose items such as trash cans, tarps, and stockpiled supplies. Relocate picnic tables to a safe place.
- Consider purchasing plywood to protect exposed windows, and ensure all windows are shuttered.
- Inspect and safeguard air-conditioning or heat-pump units.
- Move vehicles into enclosed or otherwise secure locations.
- For marinas with covered slips what about inspecting roofs to ensure they are securely fastened.

Tenant Coordination and Vessel Safety

- Communicate with slip tenants about removing or securing boats, lowering masts, and removing sails. Ensure they also remove or secure loose items such as dock boxes, canvas covers, and portable equipment, before major storms.



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- Update tenant contact information and confirm slip assignments and the locations of all vessels.
- Establish a secondary communication system—such as a website, a recorded marina phone message, or an email list—to provide updates during storms.

Power and Flood Management Preparedness

- Consider renting a generator and ensure familiarity with its operation.
- Identify where to obtain or rent pumping systems should flooding occur.
- Verify that adequate tools and supplies are available for post-storm cleanup.

Environmental Protection and Waste Management

- Review and restock spill-response materials such as fire extinguishers, oil absorbents, and booms. Consult the [Marinas and Yacht Clubs Spill Response Communication Toolkit](#) for additional guidance.
- Pump sewage from all boats remaining in slips or at anchor.
- Ensure that any hazardous waste stored at the facility is properly closed, contained, and protected.
- Ensure fuel docks are secured; turn off dispensers and tie down hoses.

Emergency Contacts and Contractors

Develop and maintain an updated list of contractors and service providers who may be needed during storm events, including:

- Crane truck operators for heavy-item removal
- Bulldozer services
- General contractors
- Generator rental companies
- Salvage companies
- Tree removal companies
- Vessel Assists: **(800) 367-8222**



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Additional Resources

Please share this information. For more information on El Niño and storm preparation:

- www.storms.ca.gov
- www.weather.gov
- dbw.parks.ca.gov
- [California Coastal Commission](#)