Web Version



Please forward this newsletter to your friends, or encourage them to sign up **here**.

Dear neighbors,

This winter is shaping up to be a doozy, and I'd rather you hear it from me now than from your garage later.

So here's what's on my mind…

1. A very strong El Niño is on the way, and it could bring a wet winter.
2. King Tides plus storms could be a double whammy for our sewer system resulting in flooding.
3. I'm hosting free sandbag giveaways in the Marina on two upcoming Saturdays (Nov 7, and Nov 21).
4. The SFPUC will help pay for flood protection at your home (up to $100,000).
5. Here's how to get alerts and if the worst happens.
6. This Thursday at 10am, we're convening a hearing to ensure City departments are ready for the storms ahead. Tune in on SFGovTV.
7. The City Is playing the long game on sea level rise, and we want your input.

LARGE STORMS ARE COMING

A very big El Niño is coming…

For the weather nerds among us: El Niño happens when tropical winds shift over the Pacific and warm the ocean's surface. That disrupts marine life and tends to bring stormier weather to California.

Federal forecasters now say there's a better than 90% chance this one will be "very strong," and a 69% chance it will be the strongest since records began in

1950. That would put it ahead of the 2015–16 El Niño storms. *And we all remember what the 2022–23 'Bomb Cyclone' did to San Francisco.*

Now, the honest caveat: El Niño tilts the odds toward a wetter winter, but it doesn't guarantee a flood. Still, after our recent dry spells, the ground is less able to soak up a big downpour, so I'd rather over-prepare than apologize later. Here's what that could mean:

1. **Flash floods and landslides.** Heavy rain can overwhelm hillsides and low-lying streets quickly. The Bay Area can expect the biggest storm swells from mid-December to late February.

2. **Disruptions at home.** Think power outages, shutdowns of city infrastructure, and risks when you're out on the road.

3. **Property damage.** Leaves and debris can clog storm drains, and when the water has nowhere to go, it can back up toward your doorstep, garage, or basement**.**

KING TIDES ADD FLOOD RISK

King Tides: the other half of the whammy…

Every year we get King Tides, the highest tides of the year. If a big storm lands on top of one, our combined sewer system (which sends excess rainwater out to the Bay) has nowhere to put all that water. This year's King Tides are projected to be the highest on record in 18 years.

This year's King Tides are expected on:

- **Thanksgiving: November 24–26, 2026**
- **Christmas: December 23–25, 2026**
- **The week of MLK Jr. Day: January 21–22, 2027**

Free sandbags, on me (well, on the City)**. I'm hosting free sandbag distribution events at 180 Marina Blvd along the Marina Green** with SFPUC and SF Public Works:

- **Saturday, Nov. 7 from 8am to 2pm**
- **Saturday, Nov. 21 from 8am to 2pm**

GET UP TO $100K FOR FLOOD PROTECTION

If your home is prone to flooding, come grab some! You may also be eligible for the SFPUC's Floodwater Grant Program, which reimburses eligible property owners up to $100,000 for flood protection projects.

Interested in learning more or figuring out if you qualify? Just reply to this email, and we'll help walk you through your options!

RESOURCES TO SAVE & SHARE

The City is taking this seriously, and there's plenty you can do on your end too:

- **Get alerts**. Sign up for AlertSF by texting your ZIP code to 888-777 or visiting alertsf.org. You can also follow @SF_Emergency on X, Threads, and Instagram.
- **Do a home check.** Look over your roof, clean your gutters, and make sure nothing leaks. Clear stray branches and loose leaves from your yard so they don't clog drains.
- **Adopt a drain on your street** to keep it free of debris. There are more than 25,000 citywide and we can't keep them clear without your help.
- **Stock Up.** Keep foods with a long shelf life on hand, plus sandbags and tarps**.**
- **Lost power?** File a claim at pge.com/claims or call PG&E at 800-743-5000.
- **Business owners**: The Office of Small Business is here for you at 415-554-6134 or sfosb@sfgov.org
- **CalFresh recipients**: Grocery vouchers are available through the Human Services Agency at 855-355-5757 or food@sfgov.org
- **Want to go deeper?** Check the City's urban flooding preparedness guidelines**.**

SMALL BUSINESS STORM PREPAREDNESS TIPS

The City will host a free business preparedness webinar on Wednesday, November 4 at 10am.

Attendees will receive clear, practical guidance on emergency planning, insurance considerations, documenting losses, operating during power outages, and keeping food safe - key steps to help protect businesses and minimize disruptions this winter.

Find additional resources and register for the webinar on the Office of Small Business' website.

LONG TERM SOLUTIONS TO SEA LEVEL RISE

The long game on sea level rise…

Storms will pass, but the sea level is rising, and the City will be planning for it over the decades to come. I welcome you to get involved so our kids can inherit our great city:

- **Shoreline Adaptation Plan.** We're developing a plan to protect our coastline from sea level rise and extreme weather like El Niño flooding.
- **Ocean Beach Nourishment.** The City partnered with the US Army Corps of Engineers to add additional sand to Ocean Beach previously lost to erosion in order to protect the Great Highway and wastewater infrastructure.
- **Downtown Coastal Resilience Project.** The Port is proposing upgrades to make the Embarcadero waterfront more resilient to floods and earthquakes. This matters because the waterfront is at high risk of flooding and is home to BART and Muni underground transit and the WETA and Golden Gate Ferry terminals.

Lastly, my colleagues and I are convening a hearing to hold City departments accountable and ensure they are ready for the storms ahead. Tune in on SFGovTV this Thursday at 10am to the special meeting of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee.

To weather the coming storms, we need to have each other's backs. If you have questions about any of the resources above, just reply to this email and a

member of my team will follow up. Stay dry.

Warmly,



Stephen Sherrill
San Francisco Supervisor, District 2

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