City Manager Newsletter

October 12, 2026



As we prepare for the potential impacts of El Niño this winter, the City is taking steps to protect Malibu and help residents prepare. Recent coastal erosion and dangerous beach conditions underscore the need to act early, especially for properties along the shoreline and in areas affected by the Palisades Fire.

City departments are working together and coordinating with regional partners. Every household also has a role. Please use the resources in this issue to prepare your family and address vulnerabilities on your property before significant storms arrive.

I encourage you to check on neighbors who may need assistance. Thank you for doing your part to help our community prepare.

Respectfully,

Joe Irvin
City Manager

Preparing Your Household and Property

Prepare now, before a storm is in the forecast. The Community Development Department is working with homeowners and building professionals, including those rebuilding after the Palisades Fire, to address potential storm damage. Property owners are responsible for monitoring and maintaining their private properties, including drainage systems and seawalls.



Household Readiness

- Make an emergency plan with evacuation routes and family reunification locations. Plan for pets, and check on neighbors who may need assistance.
- Prepare emergency supplies and a go bag with essential documents, medications, clothing, first aid supplies and pet necessities.
- Sign up for **City of Malibu alerts** and **LA County alerts**. Follow local weather reports and keep a battery, solar or vehicle AM/FM radio, which will work during power outages.
- When storms are forecast, keep vehicle gas tanks full and be ready to evacuate.
- Review your home insurance with your agent, including coverage limits and flood coverage. **Look up your property's flood risk** and review the **California Department of Insurance's flood information**.



Property Preparation

- Clear gutters, surface drains, culverts and retaining wall drains. Check roofs for damage and direct runoff to appropriate drainage areas.
- Inspect slopes for erosion, cracks or slumping. Watch for movement in buildings, patios and retaining walls. If you suspect slope movement, consult a California licensed geologist or geotechnical engineer.
- Check seawalls and other shoreline structures before storm season and after each storm. Look for damage, blocked drainage, missing material or exposed reinforcing steel. Consult a California licensed engineer about significant concerns.
- Secure loose soil and address bare areas that could contribute to erosion. Arrange professional assessments and any needed work early.

Construction, drainage and erosion control measures may require permits or other approvals. Contact Community Development early for guidance. If you observe a structural failure on your property or a neighboring property, contact the Department right away at 310-456-2489, ext. 390.

Visit the El Niño Preparedness Webpage



New Sandbag Pickup Location - Equestrian Center in Western Malibu

The County's sandbag distribution location has moved from the Malibu Library parking lot to the **Malibu Equestrian Center in Western Malibu**, where fully assembled sandbags are available beginning October 5. The site served as a distribution point for emergency supplies and information during the Palisades Fire, and this winter's operation expands its use as a community resource.

Residents can also obtain free sandbag materials at LA County Fire Stations with proof of residency, while supplies last. Stations may offer sand, bags or both, but do not provide filled sandbags. Check availability and place sandbags before storms arrive.

- Map to Equestrian Center - 6225 Merritt Dr
- Watch Video on Proper Sandbag Placement

Find More Sandbag Locations



How Malibu is Preparing for Winter Storms



The City began preparing in early summer for potential flooding, debris flows and coastal impacts.

A September 9 tabletop exercise brought staff together to practice emergency coordination and identify potential challenges. The City is also working with Los Angeles County Public Works, Fire, and Sheriff's departments, Caltrans and other partners.

On September 29, the City Council declared a citywide local emergency, giving the City greater flexibility to coordinate with other agencies and obtain resources for preparation and response.

Before storms

The City Public Works team uses forecasts tailored to Malibu's terrain and coastline to guide preparations. Crews inspect and clear drainage systems and culverts, monitor roads and hillsides, and position heavy equipment and concrete barriers for deployment.

October's street maintenance work includes resurfacing and slurry sealing, which will reduce flooding and improve safety for drivers. The Encinal Canyon Road 60 inch Storm Drain Project is also underway to improve drainage during heavy runoff.

During and after storms

Crews patrol roads and drainage areas, clear mud and debris when conditions allow, and monitor traffic signals. Backup generators are available for designated locations. After storms, crews inspect infrastructure, remove debris and address remaining hazards.

The City also issues alerts about dangerous beach conditions, including powerful waves, rip currents and debris in the water.

Watch the Sept 29 Workshop

How do you like the new City Manager Newsletter?



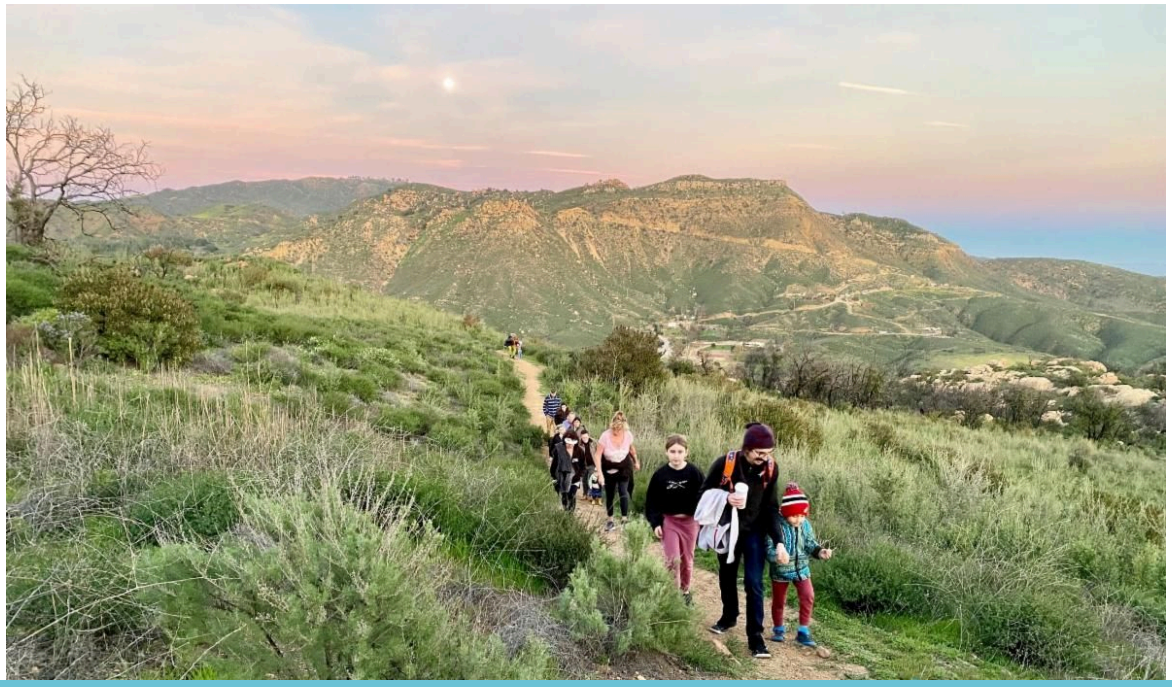
Protecting Malibu's Parks and Waterways

Legacy Park is part of Malibu’s stormwater system as well as a place to enjoy nature. Its detention basin captures and holds stormwater, helping prevent pollution from reaching Malibu Creek, Malibu Lagoon and the ocean.

In October and November, the City will remove overgrown vegetation to help the basin function properly while maintaining healthy wetland habitat. This work supports both winter preparedness and the park’s role as a home for birds and other wildlife.

Winter rain can replenish soil moisture and support native plants, but heavy storms can also damage trails and park facilities. Community Services staff will monitor conditions throughout the season. Some areas, particularly trails at Charmlee Wilderness Park, may close temporarily for inspections or repairs. Please stay on designated trails and respect posted closures.

Residents can also help protect waterways by being mindful of the home and garden chemicals used on their properties, where runoff can carry pollutants into creeks and the ocean. Check out the **EPA's guide to greener products** for information on environmental labels and product choices.



Upcoming Preparedness Workshops and Free Programs

These opportunities can help residents prepare their properties for the upcoming winter and the next fire season.

Firescaping Workshop
October 13, 6-8 PM
Malibu City Hall

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Malibu City Hall. Learn about fire resistant landscaping, native plants and defensible space. **Register for the workshop here**!

Free Rain Barrels
November 14

Registered Malibu residents can receive up to two free 50 gallon rain barrels to capture rainwater and reduce runoff. **Sign up here!**

Free Native Garden Kits
December 15
Malibu City Hall

Pick up a kit at City Hall with 10 native plants and a planting guide. Eligible first time participants may qualify for a $75 household rebate. **Register for a garden kit here**!

El Nino Preparedness Workshop
Date TBA
Malibu City Hall

Hear from LA County Sheriff's, Fire, and Flood Control Departments, Waterworks District 29, and MRCA about forecasted conditions, recommendations on how to prepare, and hear how public agencies

are preparing. Details will be [posted on the El Niño webpage](#).

Check Out All City Events & Meetings





Community Resources

Recreation for all ages.

Explore adaptive programs, arts and culture, youth activities, sports, camps, after-school, senior and adult programs.

[Find events and register online](#), visit Malibu Bluffs Park or call 310-456-2489, ext. 349.

Malibu Senior Center.

Find cultural outings, wellness activities, social gatherings and technology assistance.

[Explore senior programs](#).

Public meetings and events.

Visit the [City calendar](#) for upcoming meetings and activities, and sign up for text or email notifications.

CONTACT US

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