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Media Contact: Elisa Cox, Public Information Officer

Agency Name: City of Sierra Madre

Email: [city@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:city@cityofsierramadre.com)

Telephone Number: 626-355-7135

Website: [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com)

## **City to Host El Niño Preparation Workshop**

***Sierra Madre, CA. – December 2, 2015***

The City of Sierra Madre will host its first ever El Niño preparation workshop on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Residents from Sierra Madre and its surrounding communities will gather at City Hall this week to learn more about the impacts of El Niño and gain the knowledge necessary to manage the wetter season. From emergency kits to insurance coverage, the Sierra Madre Public Works Department will be on hand to provide useful tips to help protect your family and property.

Due to record ocean temperatures, many meteorologists are predicting that this year's El Niño could be powerful enough to rival the 1997 season. With the increased potential for high winds, rain and flooding, the City's public safety officials are actively preparing emergency plans to meet these challenges and encouraging residents to do the same. "Don't wait until it starts raining," said Public Works Director Bruce Inman. "The toughest time to find solutions to rain-related problems is during a rainstorm."

The Sierra Madre Public Works Department will answer questions and provide attendees with a guide to free resources, such as sandbags and weather tracking tools. The Department will also address the City's plan to safely capture stormwater in an effort to leverage the increased rainfall amid the drought. Residents will learn the do's and don'ts of safe rainwater capture on residential properties.

The workshop, titled "Preparing for El Niño in Sierra Madre", is free to the public and will be held in City Hall Council Chambers from 9:00-11:00AM on Saturday, December 5, 2015. Experts from the Sierra Madre Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will also be there to discuss the volunteer aspect of emergency preparation.

For more information about this event, please contact James Carlson by phone at 626-355-7135 or by email at [jcarlson@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:jcarlson@cityofsierramadre.com).

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