

The Wrath Of The Mighty El Niño

El Niño is a climate-changing storm that usually produces heavy rain and winds. It carries on temperature changes that globally impacts the whole world.

El Niño goes through climate cycles at the Pacific Ocean with weather patterns that usually starts in late December. The cycle starts with warm water in the western tropical waters at the Pacific Ocean then shifts along the east towards the equator and the coastlines of South America. The effects of El Niño include drought, floods, economic changes, famine and an inability to grow crops. Some benefits about El Niño is replenishment of water in the southwest and fewer hurricanes.

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Running through the City

MADELEINE PARAGAS **Staff Writer**

Strong winds, mudslides and heavy rainfall are just some of the many words that are used to describe how big El Niño could be. But what will this really do for a city such as Los Angeles, where skyscrapers are as tall as mountains? With California experiencing one of the worst droughts recorded in history, El Niño may benefit us greatly but based on past storms, it may also destroy or create a big problem for LA.

Living in California means earthquakes and nice, warm weather. However, something as immense as El Niño will show us how unprepared we are for other types of weather. El Niño will bring about 60 to 70 percent chance of rain during the winter, which means we will have lots of rain. Heavy rainfall will result with mudslides and floods, two conditions in which many Southern Californians are not ready for. Many of the buildings in Los Angeles are earthquake proof, not tsunami or storm proof, so having skyscrapers and strong walls might not help in this case.

California has already felt part of El Niño, with strong winds rushing through giving us temperatures from 50 to 60 degrees, which to us is freezing cold. To survive a storm like El Niño, people will have to work together and prepare for it, especially with the aftermath that earlier generations experienced with past El Niños. With the past El Niños, it not only cost Californians money but also the value of their lives. If we can not handle weathers under 60 degrees, without complaining, then how will we handle El Niño? El Niño will cause LA lots of money to repair and restore the aftermath.

A Wet Californian Winter

KENNETH HOU **Staff Writer**

To many Southern Californian citizens, the name El Niño suggests that preparations should be made for a cooler and wetter winter season. Yet, even as summer turned to fall, Southern California still continued to experience immense waves of heat. Where is the rain and cool weather from El Niño going to come from?

El Niño is defined as a prolonged warming of the Pacific Ocean's sea surface temperatures. This warming lasts for approximately three months, while the El Niño itself is observed every two to seven years.

The warming that the Pacific Ocean experiences during El Niño is caused by the weakening of trade winds that normally blow from South America to Asia. These trade winds serve to keep the water surface temperature of the Eastern Pacific cool by displacing warm surface water to the Western Pacific. Consequently, the trade winds keep the waters of the Eastern Pacific Ocean cooler than the waters of the Western Pacific.

However, the weakening of the trade winds means that warm water is found all over the Pacific Ocean. This widespread distribution of warm water affects the climates and weather patterns all across the globe. In fact, it is the very reason that Southern California will come to experience more precipitation and a decrease in temperatures.

Due to unusually high Pacific Ocean temperature recordings, climatologists and meteorologists alike predict that this year's El Niño will be the most powerful to date. Though we have not felt the effects of the El Niño just quite yet, it is important to understand what may happen and be prepared for whatever it may bring.

Get Started Now

MICHELLE LIN **Staff Writer**

Although these natural disasters can be unpredictable, experts suggest and highly recommend that California residents start preparations because El Niño season could be severely destructive once it arrives.

It has been said that this El Niño will be the strongest since 1997, so the State Department of Water Resources is hosting many events with the California Volunteers, to encourage communities across the state to prepare for storms. The date for the next upcoming preparedness event County-wide Pre-Season Coordination Meeting has not been released yet. As for the City of Alhambra, Mayor Luis Ayala sponsored a workshop that was presented on Nov. 18.

Officials encourage residents to keep an emergency kit and organize a plan with family and neighbors. For families that own pets, it is recommended to keep them indoors with clean water and food supplies. If there is a need to contact others during the storm, it is encouraged to do so via texting instead of calling since it will be much easier to get through. Also, it is important to let others know whether or not you are in danger.

National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center and other organizations will continue to organize events to raise awareness for El Niño preparation. In the mean time, take action through communicating with your family before El Niño starts.

MOOR graphics by SAMMIE CHEN

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