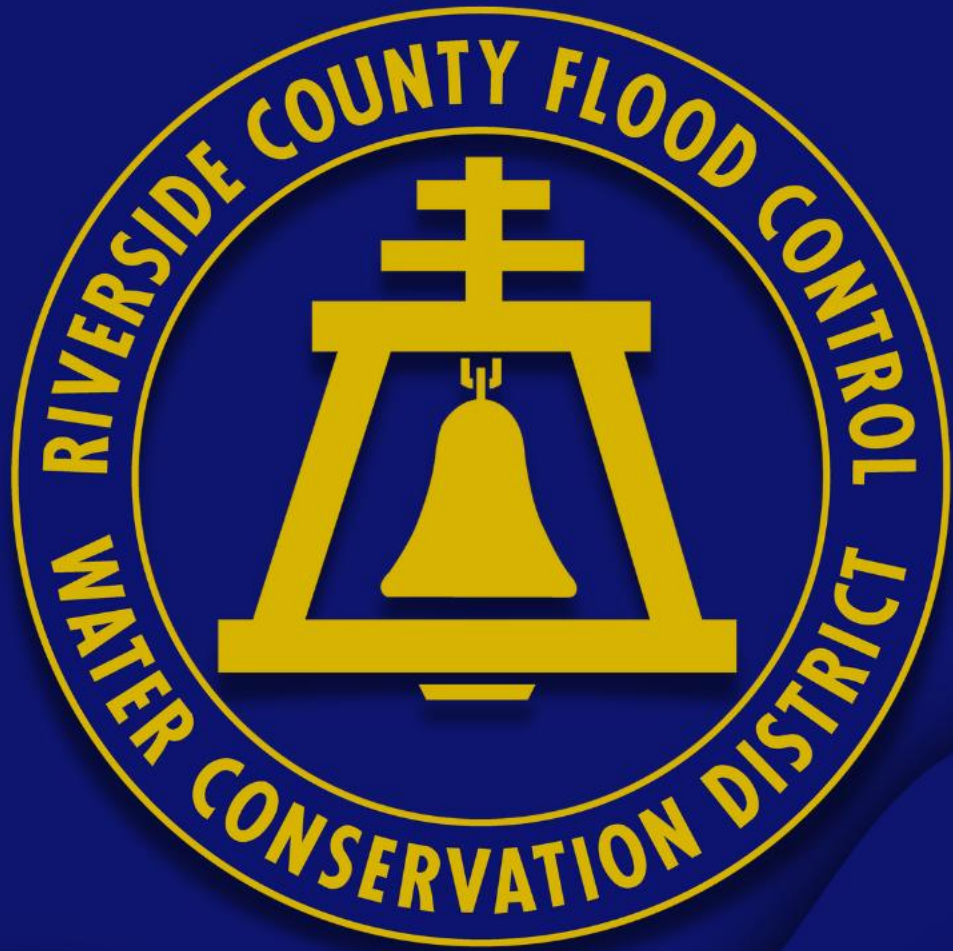




El Niño 2026 Update for San Geronio Pass Water Agency

Edwin Quiñonez
Assistant Chief Engineer

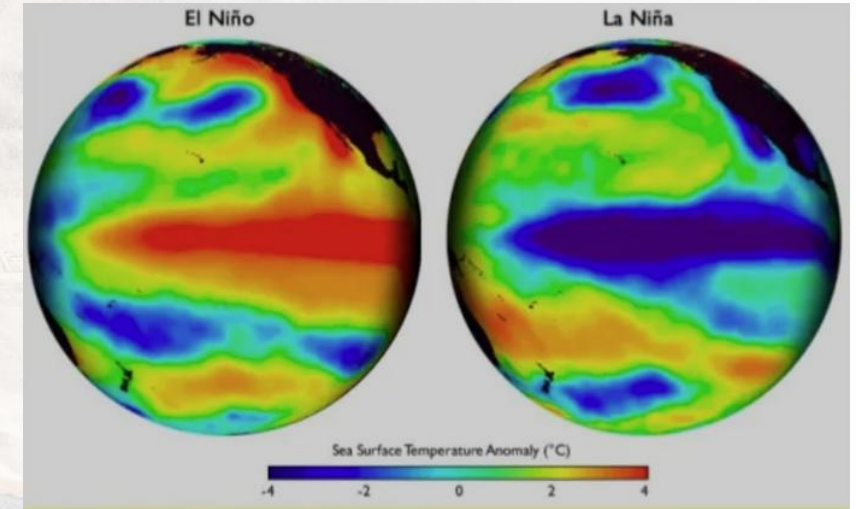
August 17, 2026

El Niño 2026 Update



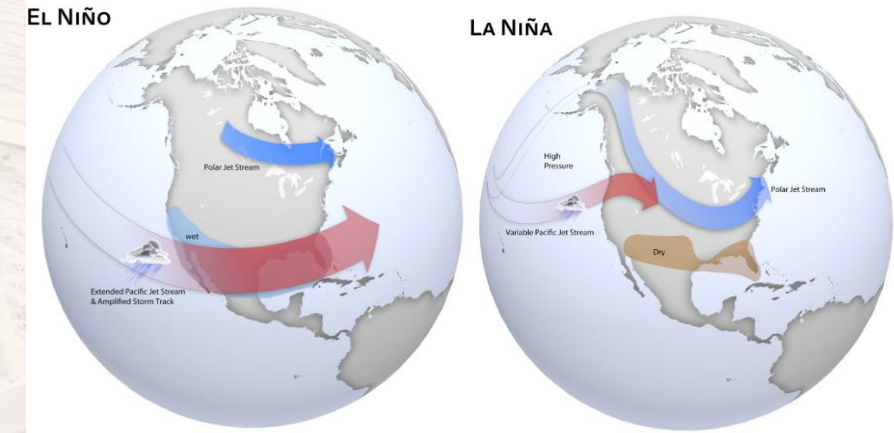
What is El Niño?

El Niño is a climate pattern that is characterized by the unusual warming of surface waters in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. During an El Niño, the easterly trade winds that normally blow warm surface waters from the Americas to Asia reverse. This causes the warm water to build up against South America.



How Does El Niño typically impact southern California?

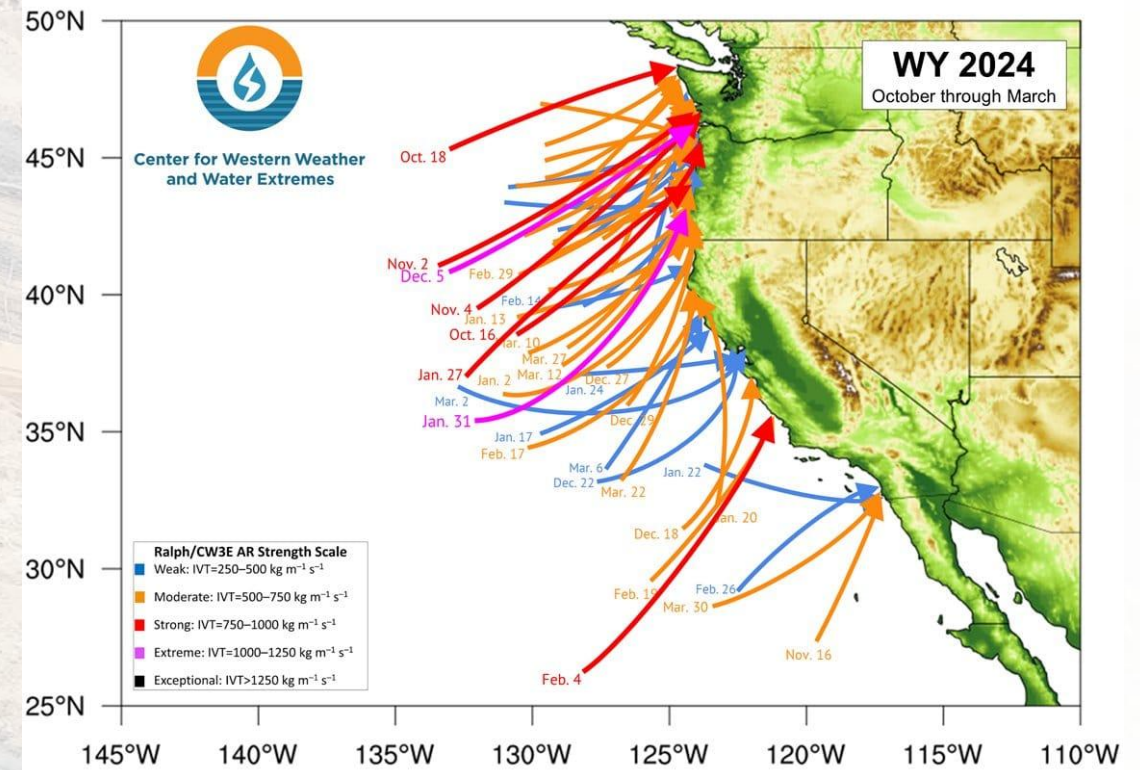
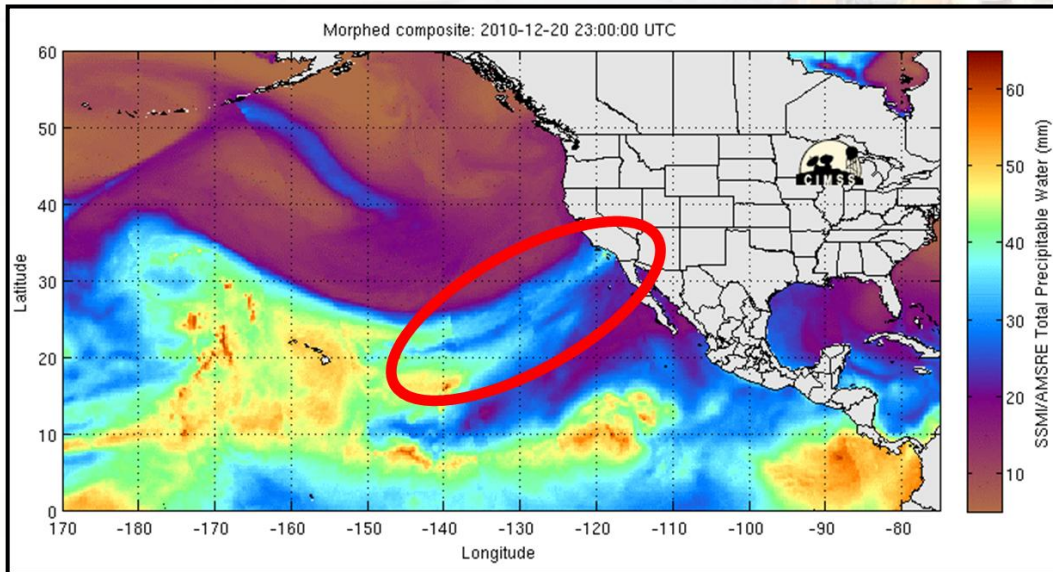
- Delayed summer monsoon, but typically stronger overall
- Increased strength and number of Pacific Tropical Storms
- Warmer winter
- Stronger and more frequent winter storms



El Niño 2026 Update



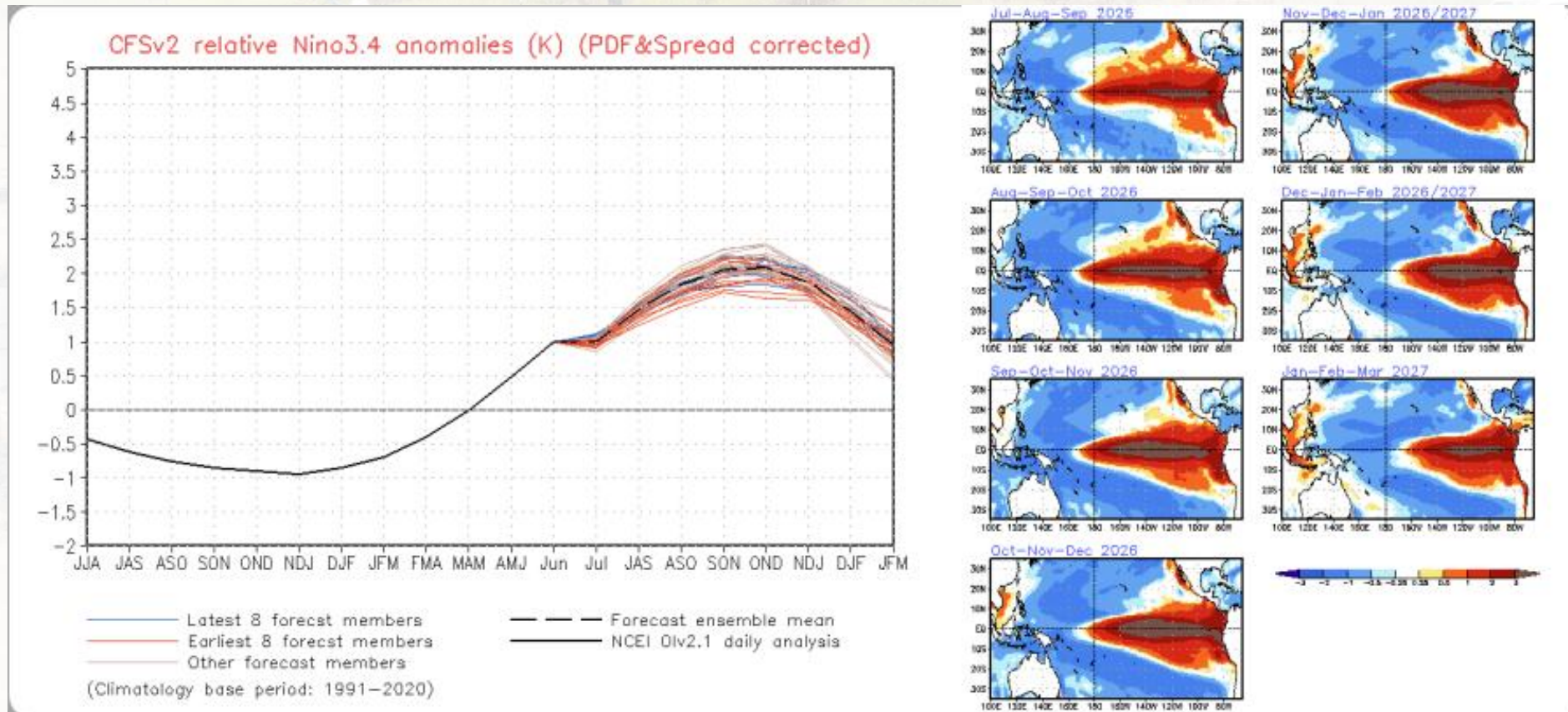
Warmer Ocean can strengthen Atmospheric Rivers
Question Remains: Where will they land?



El Niño 2026 Update



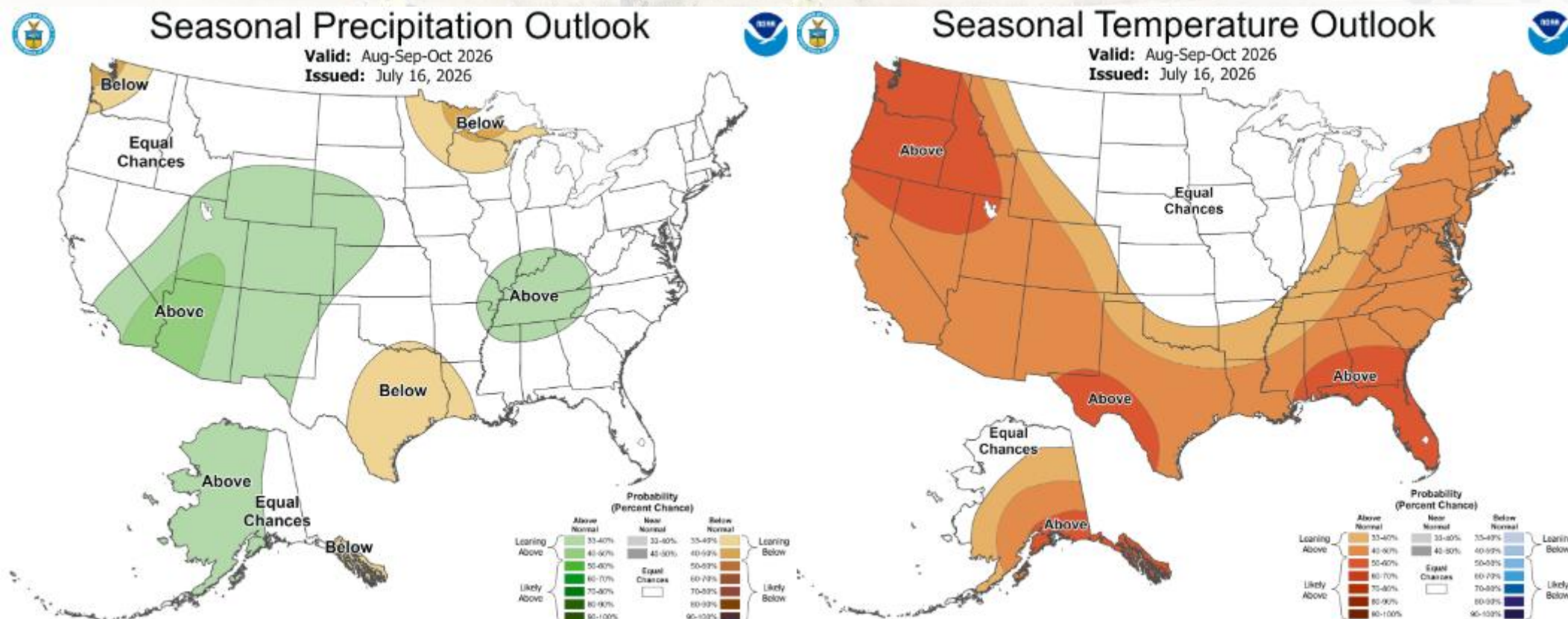
What is the Prediction for this Winter?



El Niño 2026 Update



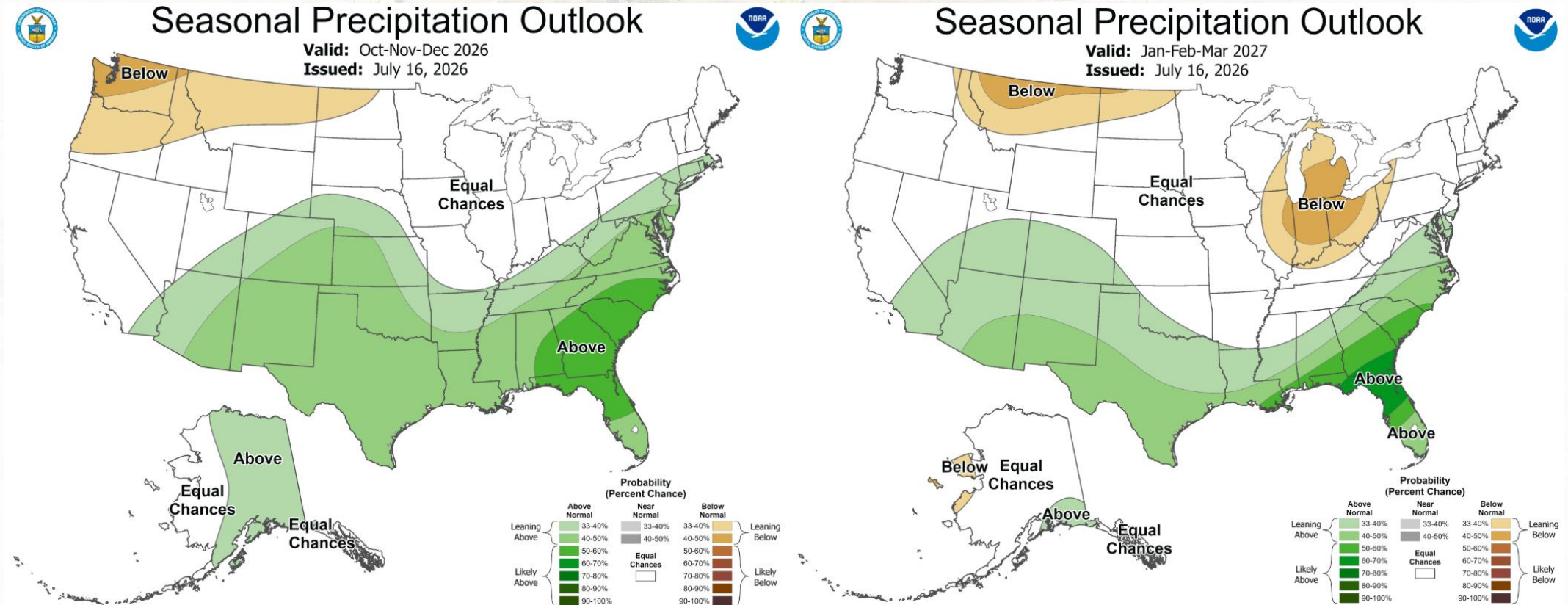
Current Prediction: Chances are leaning to a wetter monsoon driven by tropical moisture



El Niño 2026 Update



Current Prediction: Chances are leaning to Wetter
January - April



El Niño 2026 Update



ECMWF Seasonal Forecast

Mean precipitation anomaly

Forecast start is 01/08/26, climate period is 1993-2016

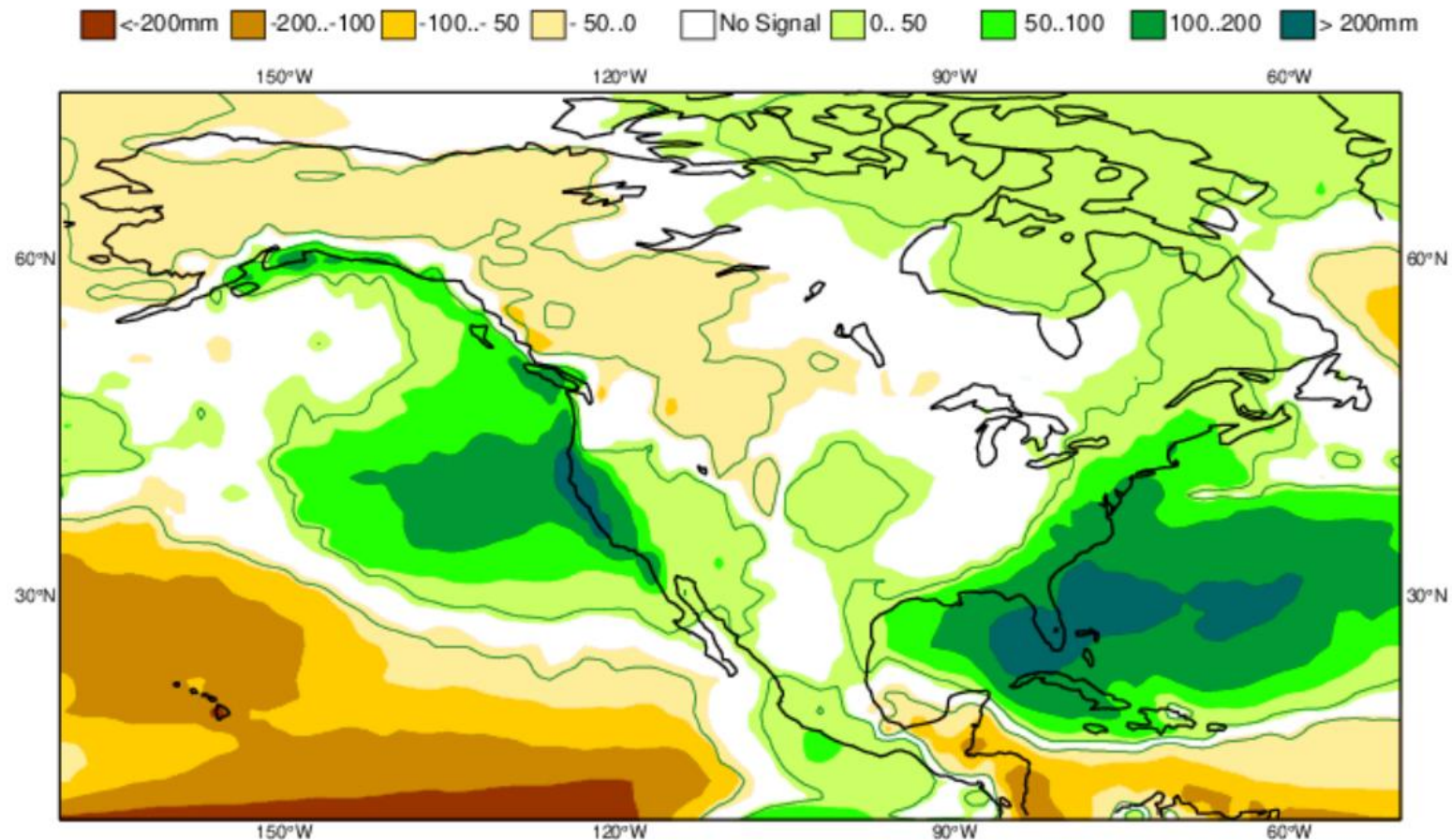
Ensemble size = 51, climate size = 600

System 5

DJF 2026/27

Shaded areas significant at 10% level

Solid contour at 1% level



El Niño 2026 Update



What have Previous El Niño's Looked Like in the Pass Area?

Winter Season	Relative El Niño Strength	Calimesa (17")	Beaumont (16")	Banning Bench (20")	Notes
1972/73	2.3	17.9"	21.4"	No Data	
1982/83	2.5	33"	30.5"	45.9"	Mostly 5-10 year individual storms, 10-day durations ranging up to 25-year return interval
1991/92	2.3	18.8"	16.7"	18.6"	
1997/98	2.4	28.5"	29.6"	35.8"	Series of 5-10 year individual storms 20-day total pushing 10-year return interval
2015/16	2.4	13.6"	13.6"	16.5"	
2022/23	N/A	21.5"	22.3"	27.6"	Not El Niño year
2026/27	Estimated 2+	4-7" above AVG			Rainfall total could be similar to 2023

Flood Control Preparations



- Complete inspection of facilities
 - Flood-fight training for staff
 - Mock-storm drills
-
- Emergency contracts with contractors and rock and equipment suppliers
 - Public Outreach (Brochures, websites, presentations)
 - Coordinating with City/County Departments and other local, state and federal emergency management agencies

El Niño 2026 Update



Information for Homeowners if Subject to Flooding

*Flood insurance takes
30 days to take effect*

Visit rcflood.org to learn more



Purchase and review your plan now
to protect your family for the future!



The complex block contains a promotional graphic for flood insurance. It features a dark blue background with yellow dotted patterns. At the top, the text "Flood insurance takes 30 days to take effect" is written in a mix of white and yellow fonts. Below this is a yellow banner with the text "Visit rcflood.org to learn more". The center of the graphic shows a photograph of two women sitting on a couch, smiling and looking at documents. At the bottom, the text "Purchase and review your plan now to protect your family for the future!" is written in white. In the bottom right corner, there is a small circular logo for the Riverside County Flood Control Water Conservation District.

Standard homeowner policies do not cover flood damage!

- Purchase Flood Insurance offered by the National Flood Insurance Program
 - 1-888-Call-Flood
 - www.floodsmart.gov

El Niño 2026 Update



Preventable El Nino Rain Impacts:



- **Unprotected slope** failures
- Retaining wall failures from **blocked drain holes**
- Collapsed commercial building roofs due to **plugged roof drains**
- **Fallen trees**
- Localized flooding from **blocked drainage courses**

Before the Storm – Clear private drainages of obstructions

- Most flood-prone drainage areas of low-lying property will have a natural water courses that must remain clear of obstruction.
- Failure to maintain drainage areas can contribute to flooding of adjacent property.

Riverside County Unincorporated Community Drainage Task Force

- Homeowner guidance for watercourse cleaning and slope stabilization;
- Guidance for removal of structures/walls/debris blocking drainage;
- Assistance with regulatory permitting; and
- Drainage junk/debris removal support.

(951) 955-2004

Before the Storm – Sand Bagging

Sand Bagging

- Stage and store sand and sandbags before the storm
- You can obtain sand and sandbags from your **local fire department**
- **Sandbags will last** if they don't have a hole. **Keep the bags** for the next major rainstorm if reusable
 - To discard, distribute sand in a flower bed or over a lawn, and then throw away the empty bags.
- It is **illegal to dump** sand in a stream, in the gutter, or the storm drain system.



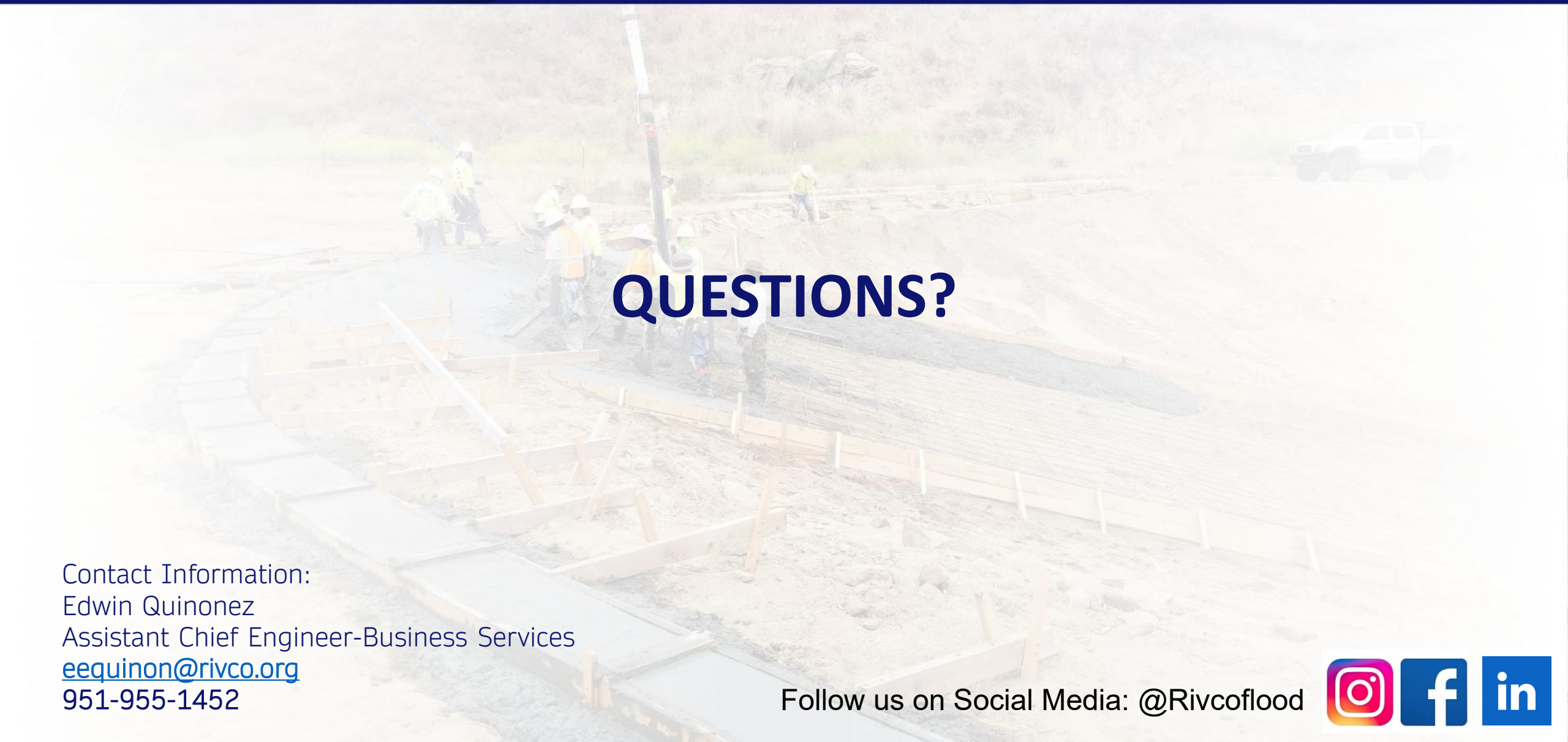
El Niño 2026 Update



Recent Improvements in the Area and Actions to Date:

- Beaumont Line 16 stormdrain along Grand Avenue
- Little San Gorgonio Creek K-rails and Hesco bags at Orchard Street
- Noble Creek D/S of Brookside rockslope protection
- Noble Creek Bridge protection at Beaumont Ave
- Noble Creek Debris Racks above Noble Street

El Niño 2026 Update

The background of the slide is a faded photograph of a construction site. Several workers in yellow safety vests and hard hats are visible, working on a large concrete structure. A white pickup truck is parked in the background on the right side.

QUESTIONS?

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Follow us on Social Media: @Rivcoflood

