

WEEKLY SITUATIONAL AWARENESS DIGEST

Week of October 19, 2026

Dear CUEA Members,

This week's digest covers the wrap-up of last week's Southern and Northern California fires, the 2026 Mid-October Storms, a small Northern California PSPS event on October 23–24, a potential 9-1-1 outage in Riverside County, new El Niño, tropical storm, fire, and king tide proclamations, upcoming Cal OES meetings and exercises, and the outlook for a week of very high tides and a possible significant storm late in the week. It draws on Cal OES reporting and partner emails from October 18 through October 25, 2026, including the Internal Statewide Incident Briefing issued the evening of October 25.

This digest is a CUEA member courtesy summary for situational awareness, not an official Cal OES publication — continue to rely on your own agency's direct Cal OES contacts for operational decisions.

This Week at a Glance

- **A quiet week for state activation.** The State Operations Center and Situation Cell stayed at **Normal Operations** all week after the Situation Cell closed out the Mid-October PSPS and Fire Weather Event on 10/18.
- **Last week's fires are wrapped up.** The Bryson (Los Angeles County) and Henderson (San Diego County) fires reached **100% containment** on 10/19, the Norte Fire (Orange County) received its final report at 92% on 10/22, and the Cooley Fire (Mendocino County) received its final report at 1,365 acres and 80% on 10/23.
- **The first fall storm came through without major impacts.** The 2026 Mid-October Storms brought 0.5–1.5 inches of rain, Sierra snow, and flash flood and burn scar watches on 10/21–10/22. Cal OES reported no unmet needs.
- **A small PSPS came and went.** A Northern California utility de-energized customers in **six counties** on 10/23–10/24. Power was fully restored and the event concluded the evening of 10/24.
- **High tides are the main hazard now.** A Coastal Flood Warning covers the full Orange and San Diego coastline through Thursday morning, with near-record tides possible. Forecasters see a growing chance of a **significant storm late this week**.

Grid and Statewide Outage Conditions

Cal OES reported no statewide grid or energy supply concerns this week, and no Cal ISO or California Energy Commission input was distributed with this week's reports. Four of the five utilities on the Cal OES PSPS tracker stayed at Normal Operations all week. One Northern California utility ran a short PSPS event for a weather window of 8 p.m. on 10/23 to noon on 10/24. Its progress by date is shown below.

Date	PSPS Stage	Counties
10/21–10/23	Potential to de-energize	7 in scope (Butte, Lake, Napa, Shasta, Solano, Sonoma, Yolo); one tribe potentially affected; none de-energized
10/23 (evening)	De-energization initiated	3 de-energized (Lake, Napa, Sonoma)
10/24 (overnight)	De-energization initiated (peak)	6 de-energized (Butte, Lake, Napa, Solano, Sonoma, Yolo); no tribes still listed as affected by morning
10/24 (afternoon)	Restoration underway	3 still de-energized (Butte, Lake, Sonoma)
10/24 (evening)	Event concluded	None; all customers restored

Rows summarize the utility's PSPS notifications to the California State Warning Center (Submissions #1–#12). Members in these counties should follow their own utility and county channels for any service-specific follow-up.

2026 Mid–October Storms

A Pacific low moved south along the coast and came onshore in Southern California on 10/21–10/22. The Situation Cell issued Weather Outlook reports on 10/20 and 10/21. Warmer, drier weather with offshore flow followed on 10/23–10/24.

- **Rain and snow:** 0.5–1.5 inches of rain in most areas and 1.5–3 inches on south-facing mountains and foothills. The southern Sierra received 4–8 inches of snow above 8,000 feet, with only minor impacts expected on the passes.
- **Flood and burn scars:** Flood Watches covered parts of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Fresno, Kern, Kings, and Tulare counties through 10/22, with a slight (2 of 4) flash flood risk from Big Sur south. The Cal OES Watershed Unit watched burn scars in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange, and Riverside counties and put the chance of reaching debris flow thresholds at 25% or less. It reported no unmet needs or requests for help.
- **Pre-positioned resources:** Cal OES pre-positioned local government resources in Los Angeles County (dozers, hand crews, engines, a helicopter, and a US&R company) and Ventura County (a loader, a hand crew, and engines) for 10/21–10/22.
- **Rivers:** The California Nevada River Forecast Center listed the Sacramento River at Rio Vista (Solano County) above action or monitor stage on 10/22.

Fires Threatening Utility Infrastructure or Access

- **Norte Fire (Orange County, San Juan Capistrano / San Clemente):** 570 acres and 92% contained in its final report on 10/22. Damage assessment and suppression repair are complete. FEMA approved a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FEMA-5679-FM-CA). Orange County proclaimed a local emergency on 10/20, and San Clemente adopted a supporting resolution on 10/21.
- **Cooley Fire (Mendocino County, 9 miles west of Cloverdale):** grew from 1,156 acres (15%) on 10/18 to 1,365 acres, where steep terrain and limited access slowed containment. It reached 80% in its final report on 10/23, with mop-up continuing.
- **Bryson Fire (Los Angeles County, Malibu Canyon):** 147 acres and 100% contained on 10/19. SR-23 between SR-1 and 4.7 miles north reopened on 10/19.
- **Henderson Fire (San Diego County, Camp Pendleton):** 3,260 acres and 100% contained on 10/19.
- **Preparedness levels** held all week at Level 1 nationally, Level 2 in Northern California, and Level 3 in Southern California.

Non-Fire Incidents Relevant to Members

- **Potential 9-1-1 outage, Riverside County (10/22):** Riverside County sent an emergency alert at 6:25 a.m. telling residents that 9-1-1 might be down and giving an alternate number. T-Mobile said a fiber cut at a downstream provider was affecting several 9-1-1 call centers. Calls were being rerouted and answered, but some centers temporarily lost caller location information. The county reported intermittent problems with T-Mobile and AT&T calls, while Verizon calls got through. Cal OES followed up with the county and carriers to reconcile the different reports.
- **King tides:** The City of Newport Beach activated its EOC at Level 2 and proclaimed a local emergency (10/21) for the Late-October King Tides because of possible flooding and continued coastal erosion.
- **El Niño proclamations and activations:** Reclamation District No. 1607 (Van Sickle Island, Solano County) proclaimed a local emergency on 10/20. Marin County's EOC activated at Level 3 (weekday hours), and Sonoma County's EOC remains at Level 3 (virtual).
- **Tropical Storm Rachel follow-up:** the City of Brawley proclaimed a local emergency, and the City of Calexico ratified its proclamation, on 10/22.
- **Golden Mussel:** Sacramento County's EOC remains at Level 3 with minimal staffing.
- **International deployment:** the Los Angeles County Fire Department US&R mission to Panama closed on 10/22.

- **Security notes (State Threat Assessment Center, unclassified):** PHP developers released urgent updates for two critical flaws that could let attackers take over web servers, so members running PHP-based web systems should patch now. DHS ordered DeepSeek AI products removed from federal civilian agency IT systems because of data-transfer concerns. Oxnard police arrested a man with suspected improvised explosive devices, which were safely disabled at the scene. The FBI and CISA warned of AI-powered phishing aimed at stealing passwords ahead of the November elections.

Cal OES Meetings and Resources

- **Cascadia Surge Tabletop Exercise (Wednesday, 10/28):** Cal OES Logistics is hosting a one-day tabletop on the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami plan at Redwood Acres Fairground in Eureka. It will cover air, sea, and ground delivery of supplies to the affected area. Cal OES sent the Situation Manual and a registration flyer on 10/20. CUEA will attend, and North Coast members are welcome to register.
- **Tribal Assistance Coordination Group call (Wednesday, 11/4, 10–11 a.m.):** The Cal OES Office of Tribal Coordination's last call of 2026 will include a National Weather Service El Niño outlook, an overview of CUEA from Executive Director Dana Moore, and a Cal OES briefing on tactical communications support for Tribal Nations.
- **Economic Recovery Support Function (Tuesday, 11/10, 1–2:30 p.m.):** The November statewide partner meeting will feature an El Niño economic preparedness panel on business resilience and recovery funding. Notes from the October meeting included USDA Rural Development fact sheets on Water and Waste Disposal loans and grants, Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants, and Community Facilities programs, which may be useful to water and wastewater members.

CUEA Coordination This Week

- **Member updates:** CUEA issued the final utility impact summary for the Mid-October PSPS and Fire Weather Event (Report #4) on 10/18 and last week's digest on 10/19.
- **El Niño State Agency Utility Workgroup:** CUEA invited Caltrans, Cal OES, the California Energy Commission, CalEPA, CAL FIRE, DWR, and utility partners to a kickoff meeting on Friday, 10/30. The group will confirm agency contacts, information needs, crew access and escorts, and infrastructure interdependencies before the wet season.
- **Regional meetings:** CUEA held its Sacramento and Northern California regional meeting on 10/21 and sent materials to attendees on 10/23.

Road/Access Closures Affecting Utility Crews

As of 10/25, Cal OES lists no Emergency Transportation Route closures, no non-emergency route closures, and no wildfire closures in any region. SR-23 near Malibu reopened on 10/19. Coastal flooding this week

may close beach parking lots and surface streets in Southern California and low-lying roads near Humboldt Bay at high tide. Crews should check [Caltrans QuickMap](#) before dispatch.

Weather Outlook for the Week Ahead

- **Southern Region:** A Coastal Flood Warning covers the entire Orange and San Diego coastline through Thursday morning. Tides there are running 1.4–1.7 feet above predictions and should peak Monday through Wednesday near 7.5–8.0 feet, with near-record levels possible. Coastal Flood Advisories cover the Los Angeles area through Thursday, and very high to record tides are forecast for LA Harbor and Port San Luis. Expect dry, warmer weather early in the week, then a growing chance of a significant storm late in the week and stronger winds in the mountains and deserts.
- **Coastal Region:** minor coastal flooding at high tide around San Francisco and San Pablo bays all week. Near Humboldt Bay, tides could approach 9.5 feet at the North Spit gauge and near significant flooding levels, most likely Tuesday and Wednesday. Light rain in Humboldt and Del Norte counties Sunday night into Monday, and rain chances return late in the week.
- **Inland Region:** breezy to strong southwest winds on Monday, strongest over the southern Cascades and northern Sierra, with light mountain rain and snow in northeast California. Mostly dry through Thursday, then a cooling trend and good chances for rain and snow starting Friday.
- **6–14 day outlook (10/30–11/7):** below-normal temperatures and above-normal precipitation are favored statewide from 10/30 to 11/3, and above-normal precipitation stays favored through 11/7.