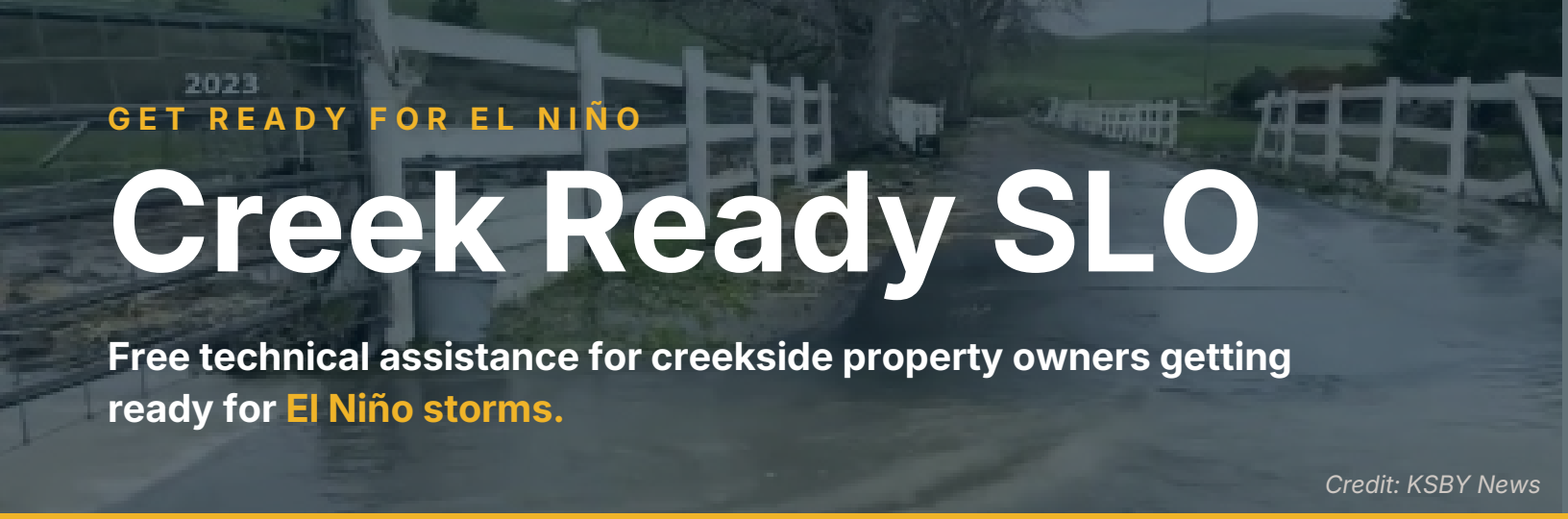


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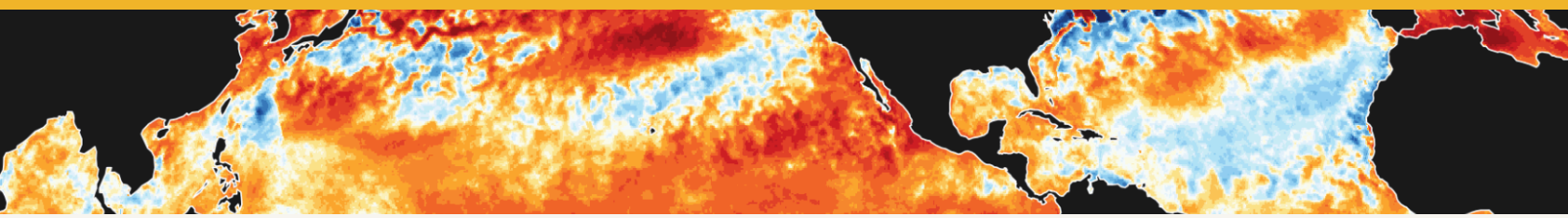
GET READY FOR EL NIÑO

Creek Ready SLO

Free technical assistance for creekside property owners getting ready for El Niño storms.

Credit: KSBY News

Immediate danger? Call 911. Creek Ready SLO is not an emergency response service.



Sea surface temperature anomaly 09 June 2026 Data: ERAS Credit: C3S/ECMWF

The Need

An El Niño winter could bring wetter-than-average conditions, and California's Governor has declared a statewide emergency.

Heavy rain could cause bank erosion, culvert failures, and flooding on creekside parcels, and many landowners must make property protection, repair, and permitting decisions.

Government agencies generally do not conduct creek maintenance on private land, and some landowners are hesitant to invite regulatory agencies onto their property.

The Program

Creek Ready SLO provides technical assistance and education so landowners can understand their creek, explore options, and make informed decisions about property protection and permits.

Our team brings together trained scientists, natural resource managers, and permit coordinators from **Creek Lands Conservation**, **Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District,** and **Upper Salinas–Las Tablas Resource Conservation District.**

A non-regulatory partner

We offer a place to ask questions and understand the rules before acting:

- We do not issue permits, enforce regulations, or levy fines.
- Landowners can call us to ask questions openly and/or invite us to look at their property in private. We do not convey property information to regulatory government agencies.
- We provide landowners with information about agencies that make permitting decisions, so landowners can contact them if they choose.

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What We Do

Strong El Niño storms can bring heavy rain and high flows, causing flooding, bank erosion, and debris jams that damage homes, roads, and crossings. We help you prepare:

- Visit private creekside properties in unincorporated SLO County to review conditions with you.
- Provide a written summary of observations, possible next steps, and agency contacts.
- Explain which permits may apply before and after a storm.



Agencies That Regulate Creek Work

Work in or near a creek may require permits or agency notice. All four agencies below offer expedited emergency permit pathways; we can help you navigate them.

1. **CA Department of Fish and Wildlife**
   A Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement covers work that substantially changes a creek's bed, bank, or channel.

2. **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**
   A Clean Water Act Section 404 permit covers placing fill, such as rock or soil, below a creek's high-water mark.

3. **Central Coast Regional Water Board**
   Water quality permits cover placing or moving soil, rock, concrete, or other material in a creek or riparian area, and substantial vegetation removal that discharges sediment into waterways.

4. **SLO County Planning & Building**
   Grading and land use permits cover grading, fill, and construction near creeks.

REQUEST A FREE SITE VISIT

805-473-8221, ext. 1

CreekReadySLO@creeklands.org
creeklands.org/creek-ready-slo

When you call, have your property address and a few photos of the creek ready.
Creek Ready SLO staff share observations and information, not legal or engineering advice.
Agencies make permit decisions, and property owners are responsible for their own work.

Creek Lands Conservation · Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District · Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District · County of San Luis Obispo