



Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council

Request For Immediate Agency Action

LA River Flood Preparedness: Protect Our Neighborhoods



Tuesday, October 20th, 2026

The Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council (“GTLNC”) urges an immediate, coordinated review of flood and emergency preparedness along the Los Angeles River corridor serving Greater Toluca Lake, Universal City, Studio City and Burbank before the height of the 2026–27 winter storm season.

We recognize LA County’s ongoing preparedness efforts, including its El Niño Preparedness Guide and LA Sanitation & Environment’s Wet Weather Toolkit, which address emergency preparedness, stormwater and drainage maintenance, and public guidance. Building on these efforts, we request focused attention to the LA River corridor affecting Greater Toluca Lake, Universal City, Studio City and Burbank, including confirmation of area-specific flood readiness and coordinated emergency response.

The Los Angeles River’s modern channelization began in the 1930s in response to repeated devastating inundations; the 1938 disaster underscored the need for protective infrastructure. With a very strong El Niño forecast for the 2026–27 winter and an increased risk of severe precipitation, the age of the system warrants heightened attention. We ask the responsible agencies to assess current conditions, channel capacity and emergency access, and promptly inform the public of their findings.

GTLNC REQUESTS:

- 1. Flood risk, channel and drainage readiness.** Assess current river capacity, potential overflow conditions and stormwater drainage capacity. Confirm that the channel, bridges, drainage systems and critical crossings—including Lankershim and Barham Boulevards—have been inspected and prepared.
- 2. Coordinated emergency planning.** Identify agency responsibilities, interagency coordination procedures, and contingency plans if major roads, river crossings or evacuation routes become impassable. Confirm how emergency access and evacuation needs will be addressed during severe storms and other emergencies.
- 3. Public warnings and guidance.** Identify the alerts systems residents should use - including NotifyLA, Alert LA County and National Weather Service alerts - and explain how timely, consistent warnings will reach affected residents and businesses.

4. Public interagency briefing. Hold a public briefing before the height of the 2026–27 storm season addressing flood risk, preparedness, emergency coordination, alerts and recommended public actions.

Our communities are more densely developed than when much of the flood-control system was built. Major transportation routes, residential neighborhoods, schools, studios and regional employment centers converge in this corridor. Advance coordination is essential; residents should not have to sort out agency responsibilities during an emergency.

REQUESTED RESPONSE AND ACCOUNTABILITY: Please provide a written response by Tuesday, November 10th, 2026 identifying each agency’s responsibilities, designated point of contact (full name, official title, official email and telephone number), preparations underway, applicable public warning systems, and a proposed date for the requested public interagency briefing.

We ask Supervisor Barger to coordinate the County’s response and help convene the responsible agencies. Each agency should identify its own lead contact and respond regarding its respective responsibilities. This information will enable GTLNC to coordinate follow-up and share accurate information with our community.

Thank you for your attention to this important public-safety matter.

The Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council
City of Los Angeles

By: _____
Tess Taylor
President

Note: The City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council system arises under **Los Angeles City Charter, §900; 901 (1999)**. The Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council’s (GTLNC) position may not reflect the official determination of the City of Los Angeles.

Preliminary list of recipients, subject to confirmation and possible supplementation. This list is provided for distribution and follow-up purposes and is not part of the Request for Immediate Agency Action itself.

1. LOS ANGELES COUNTY — PRIMARY ACTION

Kathryn Barger, Supervisor, Fifth District — **PRIMARY ACTION RECIPIENT**

Other Board Members

- Hilda L. Solis, Supervisor, First District and Board Chair
- Holly J. Mitchell, Supervisor, Second District
- Lindsey P. Horvath, Supervisor, Third District
- Janice Hahn, Supervisor, Fourth District

District 5 Support Contact

- Diana Oganessian, San Fernando Valley Field Deputy, Fifth District

2. PRINCIPAL ELECTED ADDRESSEES — CITY AND STATE

State of California

- Gavin Newsom, Governor
- Henry I. Stern, State Senator, District 27
- Caroline Menjivar, State Senator, District 20
- Nick Schultz, Assemblymember, District 44
 - Anthony Thornton, Field Representative, Assembly District 44

City of Los Angeles

- Karen Bass, Mayor
- Adrin Nazarian, Councilmember, District 2
 - Alexis Wesson, Chief of Staff, District 2
 - Hugh Esten, Communications Director, District 2
 - Denise Schall, Senior Field Deputy, Toluca Lake / Studio City, District 2
- Won Jung, Field Deputy, Council District 4

3. OPERATIONAL AGENCIES — RESPONSE REQUIRED

Los Angeles County

- Public Works / Flood Control District: Mark Pestrella, P.E., Director, Public Works and Chief Engineer, Flood Control District; Adam Ariki, Deputy Director, Water Resources Core Service Area

- Office of Emergency Management: Kevin McGowan, Director
- Fire Department: Anthony C. Marrone, Fire Chief
- Sheriff's Department: TBD, designated emergency coordination / evacuation contact
- Alert LA County: TBD, responsible County emergency-alert program contact

City of Los Angeles

- Emergency Management Department: Carol P. Parks, General Manager
- Department of Public Works / Bureau of Engineering: Crystal Lee, P.E., City Engineer; TBD, LA River Program / River Project Office operational contact
- LA Sanitation & Environment (LASAN): Gerald Watson, Division Manager, Clean Water Conveyance Division, North; Tristen Marler, Neighborhood Council Liaison

GTLNC requests that LASAN designate the appropriate operational contact for stormwater drainage, catch-basin maintenance and wet-weather response in the affected corridor.

- Fire Department: Jaime E. Moore, Fire Chief
- Police Department: Jim McDonnell, Chief of Police
- Department of Transportation: Laura Rubio-Cornejo, General Manager
- NotifyLA: TBD, responsible emergency-alert program contact

City of Burbank

- City Manager's Office: Justin Hess, City Manager
- Fire Department: Danny Alvarez, Fire Chief
- Police Department: Rafael Quintero, Police Chief

State of California

- Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES): Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Director
- Governor's Office: Victor Reyes-Morelos, L.A. Deputy Regional Director, External Affairs
- Department of Water Resources: Thomas Gibson, Director
- Caltrans: Dina El-Tawansy, P.E., Director; Gloria Roberts, District 7 Director
- California Highway Patrol: TBD, designated contact for freeway incidents, closures and traffic coordination

Federal

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District: Col. Joshua P. Bost, District Commander
- National Weather Service, Los Angeles / Oxnard: TBD, Meteorologist-in-Charge or Warning Coordination Meteorologist

Additional Operational Stakeholders — As Relevant

- Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro): TBD, rail / transit emergency coordination contact
- Union Pacific Railroad or other affected rail operator: TBD, appropriate emergency coordination contact
- Southern California Edison: TBD, utility emergency coordination contact, if relevant
- Southern California Gas Company: TBD, utility emergency coordination contact, if relevant
- Local school districts and major institutions: Appropriate emergency-preparedness or continuity contacts, as needed

4. NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

- Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council: Anastasia Mann, President
- North Hollywood Neighborhood Council: Jillian Burgos, President
- North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council: Zaid Diaz-Arias, President
- North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council: Greg Wright, President
- Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council: Howard Katchen, President
- Studio City Neighborhood Council: Jerry Lewis, President
- Valley Village Neighborhood Council: Tony Braswell, President

5. HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS, RESIDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

Toluca Lake / Studio City / Universal City Area

- Cahuenga Pass Neighborhood Association: Fred Hoffman, President
- Cahuenga Pass Property Owners Association: Krista Michaels, President
- Hollywood Knolls Community Club: Charles Malki, President
- Studio City Residents Association: Barry Johnson, President; Francesca Corra
- Toluca Estates Drive Homeowners Association: Ed A. Romano, Chief Executive Officer; Greg Thorpe, Treasurer
- Toluca Lake Homeowners Association: Brooke Karzen, President; Steve Hampar

Additional Regional Organizations

- Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association: Matt Epstein, President
- Valley Village Residents Association: Tim Thornton, President

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