AGENDA ITEM NO. 8-C

MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD REPORT

DATE: November 4, 2026
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Eric Morgan, General Manager
SUBJECT: Ratification of District Emergency for 2026-27 El Niño Winter Storms and Approval of Resolution #2026-13

SUMMARY

Due to emergency proclamations at the State and local levels in anticipation of a very strong, potentially historic El Niño winter, on October 28, 2026 in consultation with the Board President, the General Manager declared a District Emergency in accordance with the District's Emergency Preparedness, Disaster Recovery and Business Continuation Plan so that staff can secure contractors, equipment and materials before the storm season. Staff recommend that the Board ratify the declaration, set a not-to-exceed amount of $500,000 for preparation and response, and receive a status report at each regular meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT

Up to $500,000 Staff will track all costs under a dedicated El Niño cost code and report at each regular meeting.

FUNDING SOURCE

District General Fund Reserves – where $1,000,000 is set aside for emergencies.

FUNDING BALANCE

$1,000,000

DISCUSSION

On September 21, 2026, Governor Newsom proclaimed a statewide state of emergency ahead of what forecasters expect to be one of the strongest El Niño events on record (**ATTACHMENT 1**). The proclamation directs state agencies to stage flood-fighting supplies, help local agencies prepare, and fast-track permitting for flood, landslide and debris-flow work.

The County of Monterey and the Cities of Salinas, Carmel-by-the-Sea and Marina have since declared local emergencies. The National Weather Service projects storm impacts

peaking between November and January, posing risks of flooding, erosion, landslides, falling trees and power outages to District parks, trails, facilities and natural resources.

The County's board report cited a 98% chance of a very strong El Niño and a 75% chance of a historic event, with impacts expected to peak November through January. The County also flagged the Timber and Plaskett fire burn scars on the Big Sur coast as a debris-flow risk.

The District manages more than 12,000 acres across various parks and preserves, including several hundred miles of trails, with bridges and culverts, coastal and riparian lands, and public facilities. Staff have only recently completed repair work from damage cause by winter storms of 2023.

On October 28, 2026 after notifying Board officers and consulting the Board President, the General Manager declared a District Emergency (**ATTACHMENT 2**) in accordance with the District's Emergency Preparedness, Disaster Recovery and Business Continuation Plan. The declaration allows staff to use the Public Contract Bidding, Vendor and Professional Consultant Selection, and Purchasing Policy's ("Purchasing Policy") Emergency Conditions provisions to secure contractors, equipment and materials before storms arrive, when vendors and contractors will be in short supply.

The Purchasing Policy allows emergency purchases regardless of amount. To keep Board oversight, staff recommends the Board set a not-to-exceed amount, limit the authority to measures needed for El Niño Preparation, and require a report at each regular meeting.

Actions taken since the declaration:

1. District staff leadership was briefed on the declaration and the associated purchasing policy.
2. District staff leadership was instructed not to procure anything under this emergency authority unless the procurement is individually approved by the General Manager under the authority.
3. No procurement has occurred since the declaration.

The declaration also positions the District to coordinate with the Monterey County Department of Emergency Management and to document costs for any state or federal assistance that later becomes available. We do note that a District declaration does not by itself guarantee reimbursement.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff respectfully request that the Board adopt Resolution #2026-13 (**ATTACHMENT 3**), ratifying the General Manager's October 28, 2026 declaration of a District Emergency,

setting a not-to-exceed amount of $500,000 for emergency preparation and response, and directing the General Manager to report at each regular Board meeting.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Governor Newsom Proclamation of State Emergency, 9/21/2026
2. General Manager District Emergency Declaration
3. Resolution 2026-13