CITY OF
NEWPORT BEACH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 4, 2026

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CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH ASKS RESIDENTS TO PREPARE FOR HIGHER KING TIDES, INCREASED RISK OF COASTAL FLOODING

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. – The City of Newport Beach is asking residents and property owners to take immediate precautions ahead of exceptionally high king tides expected Nov. 23-27, Dec. 22-26 and into the new year, as ocean water levels could rise 12 inches or more above October's record-breaking high tide of 8.4 feet.

These conditions could significantly increase the risk of coastal flooding in low-lying neighborhoods, waterfront areas and other similar areas prone to flooding, including properties that did not experience flooding in October.

Water overtopping or passing through even one low, damaged or deteriorating seawall could flood homes, vehicles, neighboring properties and streets. Property owners are asked to inspect their seawalls and take protective measures before the next high tide event.

City crews continue reinforcing protective sand berms, inspecting stormwater infrastructure, maintaining tide valves and pumping systems and positioning sandbags, equipment and personnel in flood-prone areas. Staff will monitor coastal conditions and respond as needed.

While the City is taking measures to reduce flooding risks, these efforts cannot eliminate all potential impacts. Waterfront property owners and residents in flood-prone areas are asked to take the following precautions:

- **Protect vulnerable areas.** Place sandbags or temporary flood barriers along low seawalls, garages, doorways and other openings where water could enter. Check private drains and tide valves for potential backflow.
- **Inspect and protect seawalls.** Check existing seawalls and bulkheads for low sections, cracks, openings or deterioration and make necessary repairs. The City has received authorization from the California Coastal Commission to issue emergency permits for seawall repairs and extensions, with streamlined plans and expedited permitting available. For more information, contact the City's

Community Development Department at 949-644-3200 or visit NewportBeachCA.gov/FloodRecovery.

- **Consider temporary pumps.** Consider purchasing or renting a pump to help manage minor leaks and pump water back into the harbor. Please note that pumps cannot manage seawall overtopping or major flooding.
- **Use caution on roads and waterways.** Never drive through flooded streets, as vehicle wakes can push water onto nearby properties and worsen flooding. Boaters are also asked to limit activity in Newport Harbor during exceptionally high tides, as boat wakes can cause water to overtop seawalls and flood waterfront properties.
- **Protect electric vehicles and lithium-ion batteries.** Move vehicles, including electric vehicles (EVs), golf carts and e-bikes, to higher ground in areas at risk of flooding. Floodwater, especially saltwater, can damage lithium-ion batteries and create a fire risk, even after the water recedes. Do not operate or charge any EV, golf cart, e-bike or lithium-ion battery that has been exposed to floodwater until it has been inspected by a qualified professional. If a battery shows signs of damage, such as discoloration, swelling or smoke, stay away and call 911 immediately.

Property owners are responsible for maintaining their private property and taking appropriate protective measures. The City cannot guarantee protection from flooding or prevent water from entering private property.

Free, prefilled sandbags are available at the City's Corporation Yard, 592 Superior Ave. Empty sandbags are also available at Newport Beach fire stations and Lifeguard Headquarters, 70 Newport Pier. All sandbags are available while supplies last.

The Newport Beach City Council will hold a study session Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 4 p.m. to discuss flood protection, public safety and emergency response plans for the upcoming king tide events, including steps residents can take to protect their properties. To watch the meeting, visit NewportBeachCA.gov/Agendas.

For upcoming king tide dates, anticipated water levels, flood preparedness resources and sandbag information, visit NewportBeachCA.gov/ElNino.

Residents are also encouraged to sign up for Newport Notified emergency alerts at NBPD.org/NewportNotified and follow @CityofNewportBeach on Instagram and Facebook, as well as the City's official Nextdoor account, for updates.

In the event of an immediate threat to life or safety, call 911.

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