



GET READY, SANTA BARBARA!

Home & Family Awareness

Principles of Sustainability

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Upcoming Issue in MONTH 2015



In December we will surprise you with our discussion in the realm of disaster preparedness and what the new OES Newsletter will be like in 2016 and beyond...dare we say, "New Look"

2015/2016 Topics

Applying the principles of sustainability when making decisions can help communities avoid the pitfalls of adopting a course of action without realizing it will have detrimental impacts at another place or time. Ideally, all communities would routinely adopt a long-term view and incorporate sustainability ideals into all aspects of their comprehensive planning process—whether making development decisions, preparing for a disaster, implementing mitigation, or undertaking any other program.

In the absence of this ideal situation, however, a person concerned with avoiding losses due to hazards and disasters must look for opportunities to integrate sustainability with mitigation measures wherever possible. One fertile field for this integration is the disaster recovery period.

A disaster brings temporary changes to a community. People think about problems they normally do not consider—the risks they face from hazards, the quality of local housing, ways in which the community could be better planned and constructed, the local scenic and other natural resources, livability. At the same time, public officials have the media attention that enables them to garner support for innovative ideas. A disaster forces a community to make a seemingly endless series of decisions—some large, some small, some easy, and some quite difficult. Technical and expert advice becomes available from public and private sources. Financial assistance flows into the community, enabling it to tackle more ambitious projects than would normally be the case.

These changes can be viewed as opportunities to rebuild in a better way, instead of succumbing to the natural desire to put things back the way they were as soon as possible. They can provide a chance for a community to implement forward-looking activities that for one reason or another (usually financial or political) have not been undertaken, including improvements in lifestyle, safety, economic opportunity, or the environment. After a disaster, a community must take action to recover, so incorporating principles of sustainability into that process often does not involve much additional effort.

Hazard managers already work to build mitigation into many recovery activities. For example, they often use the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s post disaster programs and other initiatives that in many cases specifically call for mitigation. However, they could go still further, and ensure that the mitigation measures that are put in place promote—or at least do not undermine—sustainable communities.



Except from [National Hazard Informer](#)
Produced by Natural Hazards Center Revised 2005

November Sustainability	December 2016?	January Fire Dept. History	March Fire Operations	June Fire Prevention	September Fire ARFF
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El Niño/La Niña—What is it?

El Niño and La Niña are opposite phases of what is known as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle. The ENSO cycle is a scientific term that describes the fluctuations in temperature between the ocean and atmosphere in the east-central Equatorial Pacific (approximately between the International Date Line and 120 degrees West).

La Niña is sometimes referred to as the cold phase of ENSO and El Niño as the warm phase of ENSO. These deviations from normal surface temperatures can have large-scale impacts not only on ocean processes, but also on global weather and climate.

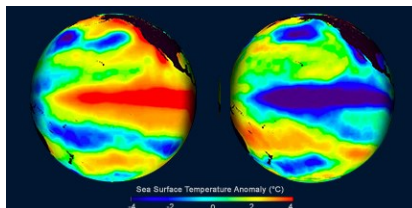
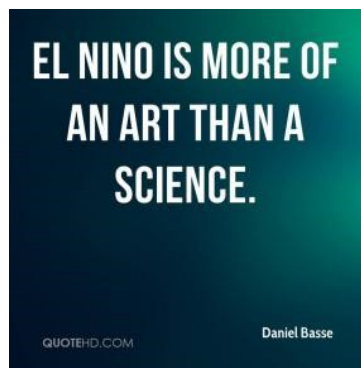
El Niño and La Niña episodes typically last nine to 12 months, but some prolonged events may last for years. While their frequency can be quite irregular, El Niño and La Niña events occur on average every two to seven years. Typically, El Niño occurs more frequently than La Niña.

El Niño

El Niño means The Little Boy, or Christ Child in Spanish. El Niño was originally recognized by fishermen off the coast of South America in the 1600s, with the appearance of unusually warm water in the Pacific Ocean. The name was chosen based on the time of year (around December) during which these warm waters events tended to occur.

The term El Niño refers to the large-scale ocean-atmosphere climate interaction linked to a periodic warming in sea surface temperatures across the central and east-central Equatorial Pacific.

Typical El Niño effects are likely to develop over North America during the upcoming winter season. Those include warmer-than-average temperatures over western and central Canada, and over the western and northern United States. Wetter-than-average conditions are likely over portions of the U.S. Gulf Coast and Florida, while drier-than-average conditions can be expected in the Ohio Valley and the Pacific North-



west. The presence of El Niño can significantly influence weather patterns, ocean conditions, and marine fisheries across large portions of the globe for an extended period of time.

La Niña

La Niña means The Little Girl in Spanish. La Niña is also sometimes called El Viejo, anti-El Niño, or simply "a cold event."

La Niña episodes represent periods of below-average sea surface temperatures across the east-central Equatorial Pacific. Global climate La Niña impacts tend to be opposite those of El Niño impacts. In the tropics, ocean temperature variations in La Niña also tend to be opposite those of El Niño.

During a La Niña year, winter temperatures are warmer than normal in the Southeast and cooler than normal in the Northwest.

Since this is an El Niño year, it's time for us as a community to begin to prepare for the upcoming predicted weather.

When you prepare for one disaster; you've prepared for others. In relation to flooding, see below for some basic tips from [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov).

- Turn Around, Don't Drown! ®
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters.
- Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and 2 feet of water can sweep your vehicle away.
- If there is a chance of flash flooding, move immediately to higher ground. Flash floods are the #1 cause of weather-related deaths in the US.
- If floodwaters rise around your car but the water is not moving, abandon the car and move to higher ground. Do not leave the car and enter moving water.

For more information on El Niño go to [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov)

Stella's Corner – RAPPING WITH BIG A -Little sop

Say or sing what you want, but that old rapper Big A-Little sop has the sustainability message delivered loud and clear with his composition, *The Tortoise and the Hare*, composed in ancient Greece by the renowned storyteller around 620ish to 560ish (before the current era). Current era, 1990ish to the present day, this story of sustainability has modern implications. The Hare, smug, fast, and obviously a sprinter, races the Tortoise, a methodical, plodding, and persistent contestant. The Hare is quick out the gate, gives it his all and runs out of gas quickly. Tuckered beyond endurance, he watches as the Tortoise passes him and creeps over the finish line.

Exhausted Hare or stable Tortoise? Which had a sustainable plan? Of course we all know it was the Tortoise. The moral of the story, as we were taught, is we are less likely to fail if we stay the course, allocate our resources wisely, and think ahead.

Sustainability has many tags, environmental, social, resource, energy, and on and on. We use the vocabulary generously, and the word itself has become almost a password to a heightened awareness. From government to individual, our resources are exhaustible, and managing our resources is vital to our survival, whether the resource is organizational, human, or personal. Our

plans need to be sustainable. Balance becomes the key. Beth Farnsworth reported on the evening news, "Keep one disaster from becoming another." Preparation helps us avert disaster, being unprepared only exacerbates an already bad situation, where we become reactive and unable to manage over the long term, making us unsustainable.

Our communities are experiencing changes in the food distribution systems of an entire section of our country. How will this impact us should the need arise next week, or next month? Planning ahead will protect you, your family, your neighbors, and ultimately your resources. Unprepared, your resources, whether people, food, or supplies will quickly deplete and you will not sustain.

Tortoise or Hare? We all have our places on the track. Hopefully you're ready to go the long haul with a steady cadence. Big A would be so proud.

To make or improve a plan, to learn more, contact Yolanda McGlinchey, at the City of Santa Barbara. We are fortunate and unique to have a full time Emergency Services Manager, certainly an indication of how seriously the City of Santa Barbara considers planning. Contact information:

YMcGlinchey@SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

To read more about sustainability, visit

www.santabarbaraca.gov/oes.

If you would like to contribute to this column, please contact Yoli McGlinchey at ymcglinchey@santabarbaraca.gov



Stella Larson,
Mesa Resident

Disasters— Pittsburg Gasometer Explosion

On November 14, 1927, 28 people were killed and between 500 and 600 were injured when an enormous gasometer, or gas storage tank, exploded in what was often referred to as the Equitable Gas Explosion.

Located on the North Side, on Reedsdale Street, near the present site of the Rivers Casino, the gas tank at the time was the largest in the world and when filled, contained 5,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas. Weeks before the explosion, the tank had been emptied, but when a leak was reported in the tank repairmen went to repair it with blow torches. Remaining vapors in the tank exploded. The enormous circular tank shot into the air and then exploded over the North Side. Eyewitnesses said the tank "shot into the air like a balloon. A ball of fire traveled higher than the tip of Mt. Washington, across the Ohio River from the scene. Sections of the steel framework went up hundreds of feet to crash through roofs and into the streets."

Debris from the tank rained over the North Side. The force of the blast knocked down homes, telephone, and power lines. Residents were blasted out of their beds and a police officer rescued a small child who had landed in the Ohio River. Water lines were severed, flooding the devastated region. Windows downtown were shattered and frantic survivors lined up at the morgue to search for relatives. The tanks were never rebuilt as that area of the North Side tried to recover.



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and



Building a Disaster Kit on a Budget—Daylight Savings Time Ends

Daylight Saving Time (DST) will end at exactly at 2:00 am on Nov 1st 2015.

The mornings will get lighter and the evenings darker and we will get an extra hour in bed as America returns to Standard Time.

Plan ahead! You have an extra hour coming your way soon! What will you do with it? We often lament the fact that we don't have enough hours in the day. Here's your chance to get an extra hour. How will you make the most of it? Brainstorm a list of clever and fun ideas you could do to take advantage of that extra hour afforded by Daylight Saving Time in the fall. Like for example reviewing the contents in your ready kit you have been placing throughout the year!

Check your stored water and non-perishable food, check the batteries on all your battery operated devices; your smoke detector and Carbon Monoxide alarms and review your change of clothes to adapt accordingly.

So, before you go to bed on Saturday night, remember to "fall back" by setting your clocks back one hour.

Do you have an idea you want to share? Maybe you have another way of saving money when building your kit; we want to hear about it. Send your ideas, questions, or comments to:

LiEncinas@SantaBarbaraCA.gov



Liliana Encinas

Upcoming Events

▶ NOVEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 FALL BACK	2 Deviled Eggs Day 	3	4	5 Gunpowder Day 	6	7
8 Dance Day 	9	10	11 Veteran's Day 	12	13 World Kindness Day 	14
15 America Recycle Day 	16	17 Take a Hike Day 	18	19	20 Beautiful Day 	21
22	23 Nat'l Cashew Day 	24	25	26 Thanksgiving 	27 You're Welcome Day 	28
29 Happy Square Dance Day 	30					