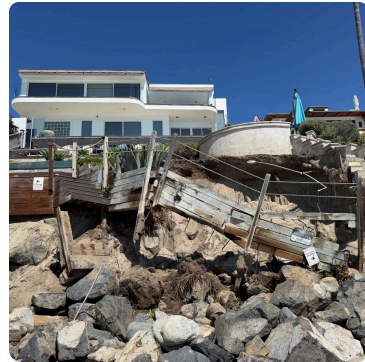

PLANNING AHEAD, TOGETHER

In California, a recent statewide emergency declaration underscores the importance of preparing now for potential flooding, landslides, and coastal hazards associated with the developing El Niño. Changing weather patterns and complex geologic conditions require thoughtful planning, technical expertise, and close collaboration.



In this issue, we explore ENGEO's experience with landslides, El Niño, GHADs, and emergency levee response, along with the events and conversations bringing our industry together.

HOW TO PREPARE:

- Review drainage systems and clear debris
- Inspect slopes for cracking, erosion, bare soils, or movement
- Identify areas vulnerable to flooding or landslides
- Document current site conditions
- Review emergency response plans and key contacts
- Monitor weather forecasts and changing site conditions



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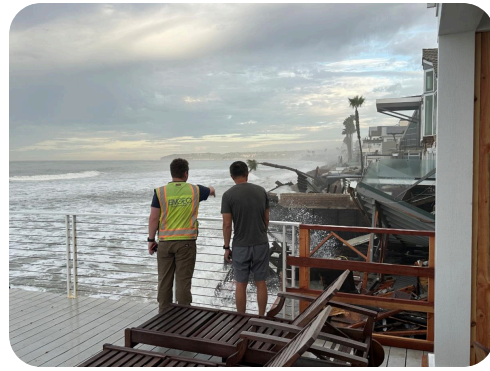
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PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

COASTAL RESILIENCE AT DANA POINT

Dana Point, CA

Recent conditions along Beach Road in Dana Point offer a striking reminder of how quickly coastal hazards can escalate and why experienced emergency responses are critical.



In early September, high tides and powerful swells generated by Hurricane Marie caused extensive erosion along the Capistrano Bay community. Waves removed protective beach sand, damaged oceanfront structures and undermined portions of several homes. On September 9, the City of Dana Point declared a local emergency. According to the City's latest published update, 10 homes were red-tagged and seven were yellow-tagged as officials continued assessing changing conditions.

Emergency work has included placing large boulders along vulnerable sections of the shoreline to reduce further wave damage. The California Coastal Commission has also issued emergency coastal development authorizations for protective work while coordinating with homeowners, local agencies and the Capistrano Bay Community Services District.

For ENGEO, Beach Road is not an unfamiliar setting. Our team has previously evaluated short-term erosion-mitigation measures at the Capistrano Bay community, where high tides and large swells have caused repeated flooding and beach loss. A 2022 ENGEO case study documented the site's history of damaging storm events and examined the performance of different temporary erosion countermeasures.

The current emergency illustrates an important principle of coastal resilience: conditions can change rapidly, and effective response depends on timely field assessments, sound engineering judgment and close coordination among property owners, contractors and regulatory agencies. Short-term protective measures may help reduce immediate exposure, but lasting resilience requires broader planning that considers shoreline behavior, structural vulnerability, permitting requirements, and future storm conditions.

With El Niño conditions increasing concern about the coming winter, Beach Road provides a timely example of the value engineers and geologists bring before, during and after an emergency. By understanding the underlying hazards and helping teams respond to evolving conditions, ENGEO continues to support our communities as they make critical decisions under pressure.

Blackhawk GHAD-FEMA

Danville, CA

Geologic Hazard Abatement Districts (GHADs) play an instrumental role in providing emergency response during geologic hazard and natural disaster events. Created in

1979 in response to reactivation of the ancient Portuguese Bend Landslide complex in Rancho Palos Verdes, GHADs are nimble, state-level agencies focused on responding to and mitigating geologic hazards. ENGEO has been involved with GHADs since their inception and established the first GHAD in Northern



California in 1986 with the Blackhawk development in Danville. Recently, the Blackhawk GHAD received a favorable decision in arbitration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) related to the GHAD's legal authority when providing emergency response related to geologic hazards and natural disasters and seeking FEMA funding for such response.

Since formation of the Blackhawk GHAD, ENGEO has supported the majority of GHADs with formation, annexation, routine monitoring, preventive maintenance, engineering and geologic consultation, and emergency response. ENGEO recognizes that geologic risk cannot always be eliminated, but it can be planned for and actively managed. With wetter months approaching and a strong El Nino anticipated, GHADs continue to demonstrate how long-term monitoring, preventive maintenance, and reliable response capabilities can help communities prepare for rainfall-driven landslides and other geologic hazards before they become larger problems.

UPCOMING CAREER FAIRS

UC BERKELEY

10/6/2026 | Fall CEE Career Fair |

UC DAVIS

10/15/2026 | ASCE/XE Civil Engineering Career Fair

UCLA

10/27/2026 | CEE & ASCE Fall Career Fair

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