



SERRANO CREEK RANCH EQUESTRIAN CENTER



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Stall Winterization To Begin October 5th

With the possibility of heavy rains ahead (per the Weather Nerd), SCR staff will pay extra attention to winterizing the stalls this year. Our goal is to prepare each stall before the wet weather arrives, helping keep our horses comfortable and reducing problems once the rainy season begins.

Thorough preparation takes time, so we're starting earlier to give our crew time to work carefully through the entire facility. Beginning October 5, work will start in the front breezeway and gradually move toward the Serrano Park stalls.



As staff reach each area, please allow them room to work and let the office know of any concerns about your stall that may need attention before the rains. Your observations can help us identify trouble spots while we still have time to address them.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we prepare for winter. A little extra effort now can go a long way toward making rainy days more manageable for our horses, horse owners, and staff!

New Paver Road Section Completed

Each year that our stormwater testing shows pollutant levels above applicable limits, we must take additional steps to improve water quality in the coming year. Based on our 2024–2025 testing results, SCR recently installed 1,550 square feet of pavers to help reduce total suspended solids (TSS) in stormwater runoff. The pavers replace a section of dirt road that previously became muddy during rainstorms, allowing sediment to wash into the runoff.

The recessed joints between the pavers also help capture sediment, where it can be removed during routine cleaning. During smaller rain events, some water can seep through these joints, reducing runoff and the amount of sediment it carries. Depending

October 2026

NEWSLETTER

IN THIS EDITION

Stall Winterization
Begins

New Paver Road
Completed

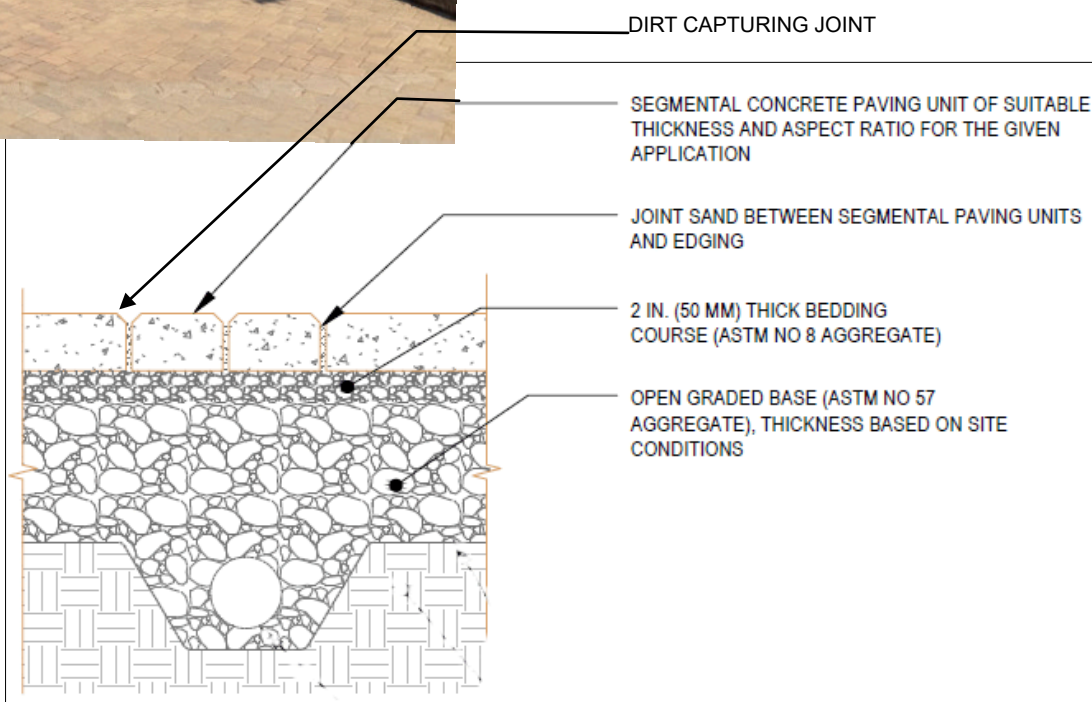
SCR Halloween
Costume Contest

New Feed Carts
Arriving

Weather Nerd
El Niño Update

on our 2026–2027 stormwater testing results, we will consider converting additional sections of deteriorated asphalt roadway to pavers.

Thank you to the horse owners who patiently endured the week of construction. We hope having less mud on your doorstep makes the temporary inconvenience worthwhile! A special thank-you also goes to the SCR staff, who worked hard through the hot weather to complete the project quickly.



GET YOUR COSTUMES READY!

SCR is having a STABLE-WIDE HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST & POTLUCK on Sunday, October 18th! Bring your horse, dress up, and get ready for a fun afternoon of costumes, trick-or-treating, yummy food, and Halloween fun!

Costume Contest Schedule

Youth with Horse - On horseback or hand-walking

- 12 & under — 12:00 PM
- Ages 13-17 — 12:15 PM

Adults with Horse - On horseback or hand-walking

- Ages 18+ — 12:30 PM

Youth Without Horse

- 12 & under — 12:45 PM
- Ages 13-18 — 12:45 PM

TRICK-OR-TREATING — 1:00 PM!

Grab your candy bag and get ready to trick-or-treat around the stables!

We Need Volunteers! Want to help make Halloween extra fun? We're looking for volunteers to hand out candy at the tack sheds.

Halloween Potluck

Let's eat! Bring your favorite dish, snack, dessert, or Halloween treat to share.

Please email the office with what you'll be bringing so we can keep track of all the goodies!

Please email or call the office to sign up!

A Few Spooky Reminders

- Horse costumes must be safe and horse friendly.
 - All youth riders MUST wear a helmet.
- Please arrive on time for your costume contest.
 - Don't forget your potluck contribution!

We can't wait to see everyone's creative costumes and celebrate with our SCR family!

New Carts On The Block!

After more than 25 years on the job, the legendary Serrano Creek feed wheelbarrows are officially retiring. These hardworking veterans have hauled thousands of meals to generations of horses, surviving rough terrain, heavy loads, and years of daily service. In return, they've developed a collection of squeaks, rattles, wobbles, and steering habits that can only be described as "full of character."

Now it's time for a new generation. Our brand-new 2026 wheelbarrows are ready to take over feeding duties and make life a little easier for our staff. While the horses probably won't notice the upgraded transportation system, they're sure to appreciate owners arriving at feeding time with a little more energy and a little less perspiration.

Thank you for your service, old friends. Enjoy retirement!



In July's newsletter, we discussed whether El Niño would strengthen enough to earn the informal label "super El Niño." Two months later, the current September update below points to a potentially very strong event this winter. Forecasts still carry uncertainty, but the real possibility gives us good reason to begin preparing for the very rainy season. For those who enjoy digging into the weather science—the following video provides a more detailed discussion. [Watch the September El Niño update \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2v4k0nbUU1s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2v4k0nbUU1s) What follows is a brief synopsis.

An important factor driving this outlook is the unusually warm ocean water stretching across the equatorial Pacific and toward California. Figure #1 shows areas of the eastern Pacific experiencing exceptionally high temperatures. Warmer water increases evaporation, adding moisture to the atmosphere. When winds and storm systems carry that moisture inland, it can contribute to heavier rainfall.

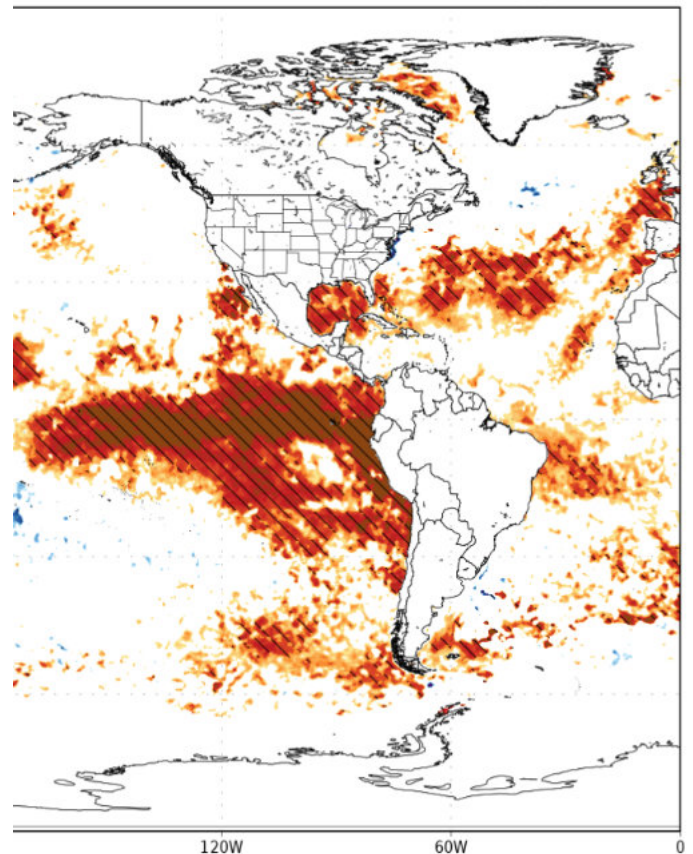


Figure 1- Record Ocean Temperatures In Red

Despite the certainty sometimes suggested by television weather headlines, forecasting is about probabilities. A forecast describes how likely an event is to occur, and our response depends on both that likelihood and the consequences of being unprepared.

Consider an umbrella. With a 1% chance of rain, you might leave it at home because carrying it seems more trouble than it is worth. But a small chance is still a chance. Across 100 comparable situations with an accurate 1% forecast, rain would occur roughly once. With a 99% chance of rain, carrying an umbrella seems well worth the effort—although, across 100 comparable situations, roughly one would remain dry.

Increasing computing power, better observations, and improvements in weather models continue to strengthen forecasts, but uncertainty remains. Forecasts generally become more reliable as the event approaches, although seasonal outlooks remain less precise than forecasts for the next few days. Agreement among many models can increase our confidence in the broad outlook, but it cannot guarantee how much rain will fall at Serrano Creek Ranch or when it will arrive.

For us, the practical lesson is straightforward: we don't need certainty to prepare. When the potential consequences include muddy stalls and drainage problems, getting ready early is a sensible investment.

Chart #1 is based on historical (1887-2025) rainfall patterns.

The average rainfall (100% of the average) for those years 1887-2025 is 12.82 for the Irvine-Tustin area. Some years have less, and other years have more. The historical 90th percentile vertical line is the amount of rain that falls when 90% of the rainstorms are less, and 10% are more. A winter in the 90th percentile would mean 23.61 inches of rainfall versus the average of 12.82. That's a lot of rain. For the nerds out there, the most rain we have ever seen in all those years is 34.72". This would be the 100th percentile or about 271% of an average year. Hopefully that all makes sense.

So, what are the models predicting? Chart #2 is the plot of all their individual predictions. The chart includes reference lines showing the historical average, the historical 90th percentile, and the record rainfall total

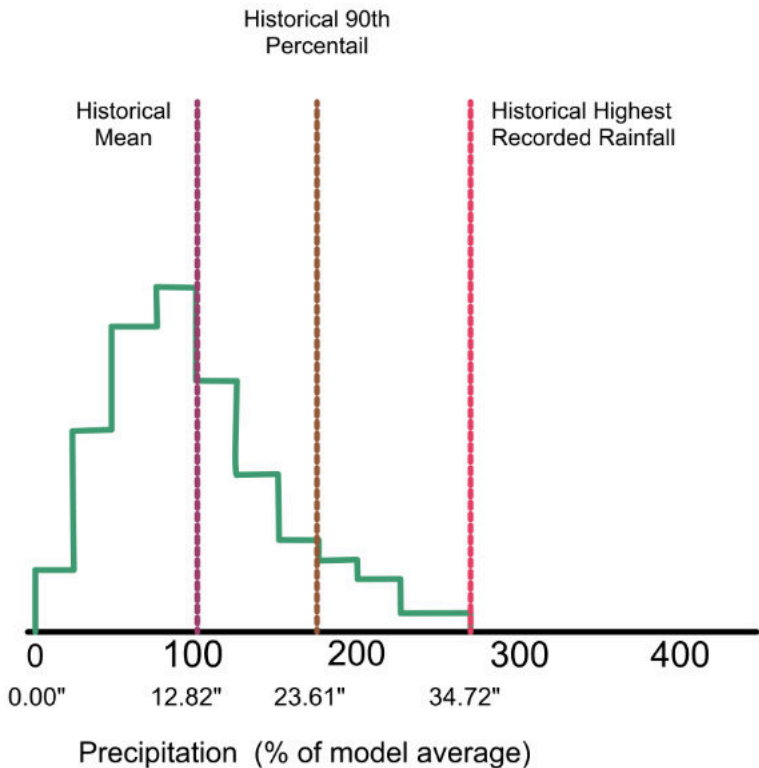


Chart #1- Historical

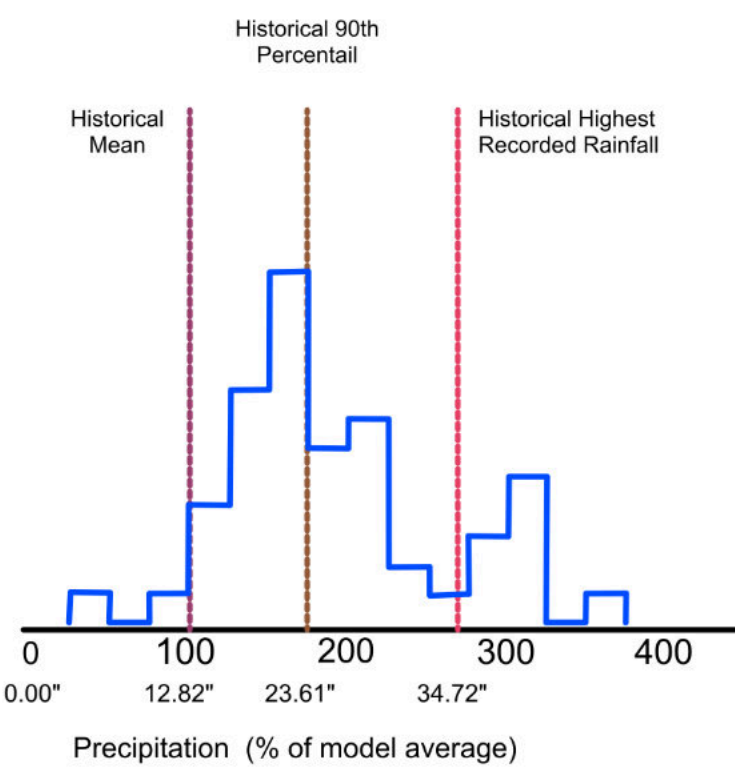


Chart #2- Modeled

In this model ensemble, 4% of the projections show below-average rainfall. That outcome remains possible. The other 96% project at least 12.82 inches of rainfall. In terms of our umbrella analogy, that is a strong reason to carry one.

The historical 90th-percentile rainfall total—23.61 inches—sits far to the right on the historical graph. Only about 10% of historical seasons reached or exceeded that amount. In the projections for the upcoming season, that same 90% threshold falls on the left side of the distribution, suggesting most model outcomes exceed it.

Perhaps the most striking result is that approximately 20% of the model outcomes exceed the wettest year recorded since record-keeping began in 1887. That possibility deserves a moment's

consideration—and provides another reason to prepare early.

The final chart #3 combines the historical rainfall distribution with the projections for the upcoming season. These percentages describe the spread of model outcomes; they should not be treated as exact probabilities of what will happen.

The reason for all this dire forecasting is that we, as horse owners, may need to be as flexible as possible and take what few opportunities we can to exercise our horses. The stable runs 365 days a year, and we will make every effort to provide riding opportunities when possible. But expect the very real possibility that the stable could remain on rain watch for days, even possibly weeks on end.

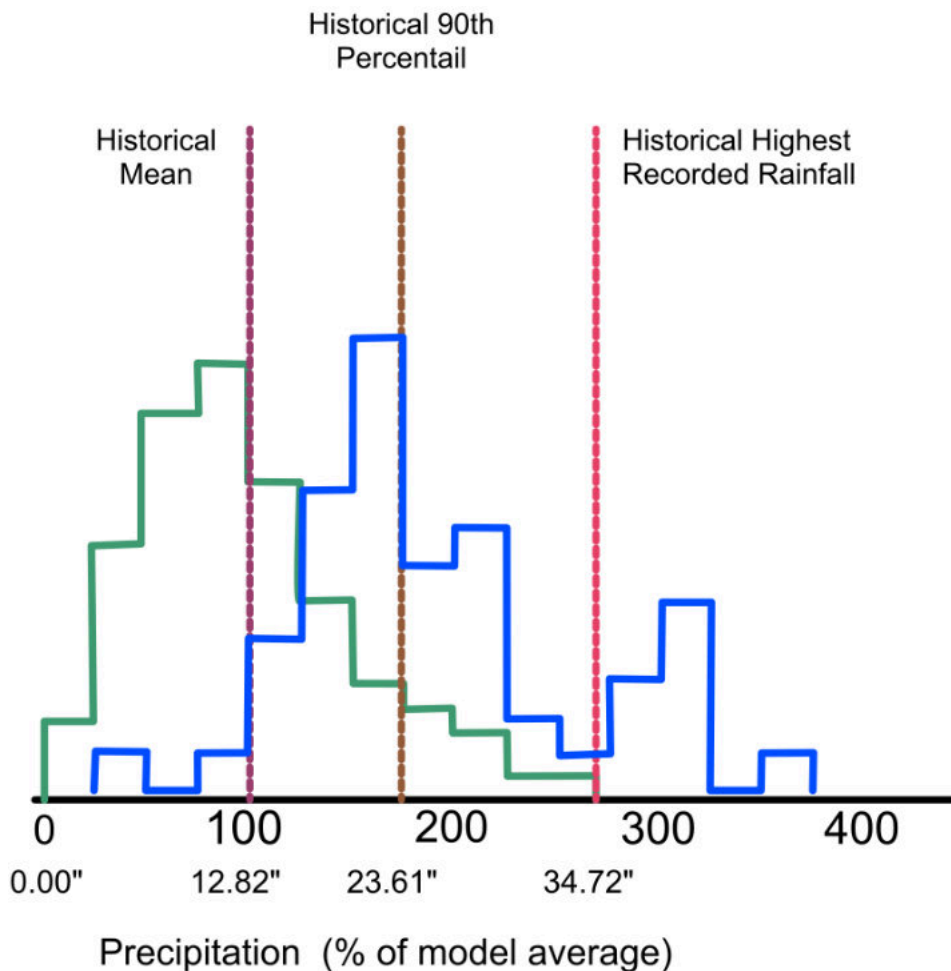


Chart #3 Historical vs. Modelled