



## **News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (4/2/21)**

### **Equity Gap Decreasing, Tier Loosening Threshold Nearing**

[\*The Sacramento Bee reports\*](#) that the equity gap surrounding vaccine distribution is finally decreasing. State health officials earlier in the month put an emphasis on administering more doses in the lowest quartile of California's Healthy Places Index, which measures quality and availability of health care in ZIP codes based on a number of factors including poverty rates.

The state announced a doubling of allocations to this lowest quartile, which as of early March had received about 17% of California's total administered doses compared to 34% for the top quartile.

Less than a month later, that gap has trimmed from 17 percentage points down to 10.3. CDPH on Monday reported the bottom quartile has received 20% of doses compared to 30.3% for the top quartile.

Additionally, CDPH plans to loosen the case rate requirement for counties to enter the looser orange and yellow tiers of economic reopening once the bottom HPI quartile reaches the milestone of 4 million doses injected. That tally stood at close to 3.4 million as of Monday's update, and is currently on pace to hit 4 million in about a week or so.

### **COVID Vaccine Updates: Where California, the Sacramento Area Stand as Major Expansion Nears**

[\*The Sacramento Bee reports\*](#) the U.S. campaign to mass vaccinate against COVID-19 has become a literal race against the virus and its concerning genetic variants, as several regions across the country have begun to see steep surges even as their inoculation rates ramp up.

For now, in California, the tide has not turned in terms of infections. But April still figures to be a pivotal month in the vaccine rollout, with urgency increasing as more highly infectious variants such as B.1.1.7 show signs of greater spread across the U.S.

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced last week that the state would expand vaccine eligibility to all adults 50 and older starting this coming Thursday, and to all Californians 16 and older starting April 15. In practice, how long it will take for vaccine appointments to be readily available to all in those age groups who want one will depend on federal and state supply levels increasing in the coming weeks.

The current expectation is that the stock of doses will increase substantially over the course of April, due largely to major increases in shipments of the single-dose vaccine from Johnson & Johnson. Local health officials in the Sacramento area say they expect a bottleneck, at least at the outset as millions more residents become eligible.

CDPH says more than 6.27 million are now fully vaccinated in California, with an additional 5.33 million partially vaccinated. That means approximately 16% of California's total population, and 20% of its adults, are fully vaccinated; and 29% of Californians including 37% of adults have had at least one dose.

California is set to receive more than 2.1 million total doses this week from all three manufacturers — J&J, Pfizer and Moderna — with the expectation that the state could be hitting 3 million doses a week by May or early June, Newsom suggested in a news conference last week.

The following shows totals for combined first and second doses, administered as of Sunday, March 28, as reported by the state public health department, by recipient county of residence:

- Sacramento: 607,855 (38,767 doses per 100,000 residents)
- El Dorado: 82,173 (42,555 doses per 100,000 residents)
- Placer: 194,293 (48,521 doses per 100,000 residents)
- Yolo: 106,043 (47,423 doses per 100,000 residents)

### **California Has Second-lowest Rate of COVID-19 Spread Compared to Other States**

[According to \*The Desert Sun\*](#), California reported the second-lowest rate of COVID-19 spread compared to other states in the week ending Sunday, March 28. However, a top United States public health official on Monday described a “recurring feeling I have of impending doom” as infections once again are on the rise across the nation.

California ranked 49<sup>th</sup> among the states where coronavirus was spreading the fastest on a per-person basis, a USA TODAY Network analysis of John Hopkins University data shows. Across the country, 34 states had more cases in the latest week than they did the week before. The U.S. has surpassed 30 million coronavirus cases.

There was some good news on the vaccine front as the double-shot vaccines reduce the risk of infection by 80% after just a single dose two or more weeks after vaccination, according to a study from the CDC.

California ranked 24<sup>th</sup> among states in share of people receiving at least one shot, with 29.3% of its residents at least partially vaccinated. The national rate is 28.2%.

But Dr. Rochelle Walensky, CDC director, said at a White House COVID-19 briefing that daily infections are up 10% from a week ago. Hospitalizations are once again on the rise, she said, and deaths, a lagging indicator, averaged nearly 1,000 per day last week after four consecutive days below 850.

Walensky also expressed concern about increasing travel and a general easing in restrictions across the nation.

"Right now, I'm scared," an emotional Walensky said. "When we see that uptick in cases what we have seen before is that things really have a tendency to surge and to surge big. I just worry that we will see the surges that we saw over the summer and the winter again."

## **FEMA Vaccination Sites to Close as California Ramps Up Shots**

[The Business Journal reports](#) The Federal Emergency Management Agency plans to stop operating two mass vaccination sites in California next month, just days before the state makes everyone 16 and older eligible for a shot.

The two sites in Oakland and Los Angeles opened in February for an eight-week pilot program that concludes on April 11. The sites will switch from the Pfizer to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which requires just one shot, during the final two weeks of operation so that people do not have to sign up for a second dose elsewhere.

State and county officials said they would have liked the program to continue, though it provided a small fraction of California's overall shots.

Each site was set up to vaccinate 6,000 people per day, but they have been administering up to 7,500 shots per day, according to the state Office of Emergency Services. Since the sites are federally managed, those shots are separate from California's overall weekly allocation, which is now about 1.8 million shots per week.

The two sites combined have administered half a million doses, with about 67% going to underserved communities and people of color, according to OES.

Brian Ferguson, a spokesman for the agency, said the state is working with Los Angeles and Alameda counties to see if they can continue to put the sites at the Oakland Coliseum and the California State University, Los Angeles, campus to use. The state asked for an extension of the program, but it has not been granted.

Officials in the county and city of Los Angeles are in discussions about maintaining the site in some fashion, said Dr. Paul Simon, the chief science officer for Los Angeles County.

It's not yet been determined if the campus would remain as a site or its vaccines would be distributed to smaller community sites.

Frank Mansell, a spokesman for FEMA, said while the sites may keep operating in some fashion, the special allocation of doses will not continue after April 15. The closure of California's sites does not mean sites will be opening elsewhere, he said.

Sami Gallegos, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Public Health, said California will continue to pursue its equity goals through other sites. The state has reserved 40% of all doses for people in the least advantaged neighborhoods, many of whom were vaccinated at the two federal sites. The state has more than 2,000 vaccination sites, she said.

## **Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk to Reopen Rides on April 1**

[ABC News 10 reports](#) the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk will reopen select rides starting April 1 under California COVID-19 safety restrictions. The attraction announced Monday, March 19 that the 1924 Giant Dipper wooden roller coaster will be among the available rides.

The rides will only be open to California residents and other restrictions will include mandatory face coverings, social distancing, and capacity limits.

Located on the northern edge of Monterey Bay, the Boardwalk has already opened for eating, shopping, and outdoor games. In Southern California, Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier has announced it is preparing to reopen its rides sometimes after April 1.

### **Study: A Revised Position for the Primary Strand of the Pleistocene-Holocene San Andreas Fault in Southern California**

The San Andreas fault has the highest calculated time-dependent probability for large-magnitude earthquakes in southern California. However, where the fault is multistranded east of the Los Angeles metropolitan area, it has been uncertain which strand has the fastest slip rate and, therefore, which has the highest probability of a destructive earthquake.

Authors of a new study are now challenging the consensus that most of the slip is transferred off of the Mission Creek strand and onto other structures. They investigate the long-term deformation rate of the Mission Creek and Banning strands of the SAF in the Coachella Valley, a section of the SAF that has yet to produce a substantial historical earthquake, but where paleoseismic studies suggest frequent ground-rupturing earthquakes.

They then compare their study with dynamic rupture models, paleoseismic data, and fault slip studies to reevaluate the relative roles of the Mission Creek and Banning strands in accommodating surface deformation across the PA-NA plate boundary and discuss the impact of slip rates on rupture likelihood forecasts for the region.

The full study with figures, data, and overall results [can be found here](#).

### **California Set to Begin NG911 Deployments in 911 Centers Statewide Next Month**

[Urgent Communications reports](#) California 911 centers could have IP-based next-generation 911 (NG911) connectivity deployed throughout the state by the end of this year or early next year, according to an official helping lead the execution of the emergency-calling initiative.

Budge Currier, 911 and emergency-communications branch manager for California, said the state is building its NG911 platform around the i3 standard developed by the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) and that the deployment is a comprehensive one that is scheduled to begin in April.

In August 2019, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) announced the selection of four contractors—Atos, Lumen (then called CenturyLink), NGA 911 and Synergem Technologies—to implement the transition of 911 centers to the NG911 platform.

CalOES plans for the deployment in the more than 400 public-safety answering points (PSAPs) to be completed by the end of the year, but circumstances could impact that timeline, according to Currier.

Completing this statewide project will mean that all forms of broadband communications—not just voice, but also texts, data, photos and videos—will be able to reach California's 911 centers, but another step still will need to be taken before the state's PSAPs are fully modernized, Currier said.

CalOES is making an effort to simplify the procurement of this gear for the 911 centers in the state, Currier said.

### **State and Local Responses to Domestic Terrorism: The Attack on the U.S. Capitol and Beyond**

[On Wednesday, March 24, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security](#) held a virtual hearing entitled, “State and Local Responses to Domestic Terrorism: The Attack on the U.S. Capitol and Beyond.

Witnesses included Attorney General of Michigan, Dana Nessel; Attorney General of Nevada, Aaron Ford; and District Attorney of Milwaukee County, John Chisholm.

To view Hon. Dana Nessel’s testimony, [please click here](#). To view Hon. Aaron Ford’s testimony, [please click here](#). To view Hon. John Chisholm’s testimony, [please click here](#).

Opening statements from Chairwoman Slotkin [can be found here](#). Opening statements from Chairman Thompson [can be found here](#).

### **Preparing for Future Crises: Examining the National Response Enterprise**

On Wednesday, March 24, the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight held a hearing entitled, “Preparing for Future Crises: Examining the National Response Enterprise.”

Present and CEO of Business Executives for National Security, General Joseph L. Votel, Ret., provided the testimony. He was accompanied by The Honorable W. Craig Fugate, Former Administrator, FEMA, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Managing Partner of Principal to Principal LLC, Kristi M. Rogers, was also in attendance. CEO of the Diveplane Corporation, Michael Capps, Ph.D., accompanied General Votel as well.

The full testimony [can be found here](#).

Chair Margaret Wood Hassan, D, of New Hampshire, provided the opening statements. Ranking Member Rand Paul, R, of Kentucky, also made statements. The full statements [can be found here](#).

### **Business Executives for National Security Leaders Examine Emergency Response: Vulnerabilities, Share Recommended Reforms at Senate Hearing**

The United States Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs’ Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight Subcommittee held a [hearing Wednesday](#), March 24, to examine a set of reforms proposed by the Business Executives for National Security (BENS) Commission on the National Response Enterprise. The Commission’s Call-to-Action report outlines 11 recommendations for addressing critical gaps in America’s disaster preparedness which were exposed by the COVID-19 crisis.

Subcommittee Chair Senator Maggie Hassan (N.H.) invited members of the Commission to discuss measures for addressing gaps and breakdowns that have disrupted communications, impeded coordination, and negatively impacted surge and supply chains throughout the pandemic. The hearing marked the subcommittee’s first hearing of the 117th Congress.

Testimony was provided by members of the commission including BENS President and CEO General Joseph Votel (ret.), Craig Fugate, former administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency; Kristi Rogers, Managing Partner, Principal to Principal LLC; and Michael Capps, CEO, Diveplane.

Votel thanked Senator Hassan and Senator Bill Cassidy, M.D. (La.) for mobilizing legislation and policy enhancements to close these critical gaps. The two senators participated as members of the BENS Commission and reported that their offices are actively developing legislation based on the Commission's recommendations.

"The Commission's report and the testimony provided today will provide a foundation for action for this subcommittee. I'll work with the Commission, Senator Cassidy, and the members of the subcommittee to introduce legislation to address the issues discussed today to better prepare communities all across the United States to manage future crises," Sen. Hassan said.

The [Commission on the National Response Enterprise](#) was convened by BENS in summer 2020 and its membership is comprised of former senior military leaders, CEOs from some of the most respected American corporations, a former cabinet secretary, a Nobel laureate, former White House Homeland Security advisors, members of Congress, and state and local leaders. The complete report of the Commission's 11 recommendations is available at [the BENS website](#).

### **Newsom Announces More Funding as Another Difficult Firefighting Year Looms**

[KCRA reports](#) Governor Newsom announced on Tuesday additional wildfire funding, saying the money is needed ahead of what's expected to be a difficult wildfire year.

Using emergency fund authorization, Newsom has approved \$80.74 million for 1,399 additional firefighters with Cal Fire to "bolster fuels management and wildfire response efforts," [his office said in a news release](#).

With below-average snowpack and low reservoir storage, the state is well into its second consecutive dry year, [according to the California Department of Water Resources](#).

The emergency funding will provide fire crew and fire engine staffing and support eight understaffed existing fire crews ahead of the summer. It also allows for the early hiring and training of fire crews for fuel management.

The funding announcement comes after California's U.S. senators and nearly two-dozen representatives asked the Agriculture and Interior departments to transition their agencies to a year-round wildland workforce because blazes are no longer limited to traditional fire seasons.

In Newsom's \$227 billion budget proposal in January, he called for \$1 billion to go toward a "comprehensive wildfire and forest resilience strategy." The plan includes upping the pace and scale of forest and wildland management and expanding the use of prescribed fire.

### **Funding Opportunities**

#### **Union Pacific Foundation Local Grant**

[Union Pacific Foundation](#) has carefully aligned their Local Grants cause areas to their company's unique heritage, strengths, and assets. Specifically, they prioritize funding for direct services and

efforts that build the capacity of organizations focused on the following causes within their local operating communities.

Safety: In order for communities to thrive, residents must feel safe. Union Pacific is committed to helping communities prevent and prepare for accidents and emergencies, so residents get home safe at the end of each day. As such, they prioritize funding for programs that seek to:

- Encourage safe behaviors and prevent accidents through education and awareness, particularly projects which focus on rail, driver, bike, and pedestrian safety.
- Eliminate risks and improve safe access to community spaces through infrastructure improvements, for instance signage, proper lighting, and public trail improvements.
- Prepare and equip residents and emergency responders\* to effectively respond to incidents and emergencies if or when they occur.
- Prevent crime and incidents of violence through efforts that address the root causes of these issues and seek to mitigate their occurrence.
- Provide homeless and at-risk populations access to safe shelter and services that ameliorate and prevent homelessness.

Workforce Development: For over 150 years, Union Pacific has helped stimulate economic growth in cities and towns throughout the nation by training and providing employment to millions of workers. More than ever, they are committed to ensuring residents in their communities are able to achieve family-supporting careers like those offered by Union Pacific. As such, they prioritize funding for programs that seek to:

- Put youth on the right track by creating awareness of family-supporting jobs like those Union Pacific offers, and building foundational skills, especially in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) as well as necessary technical and life skills, to begin a trajectory toward these careers.
- Raise awareness of, educate and prepare young adults for middle skills jobs like those Union Pacific offers, for instance through community colleges, vocational and career training programs, workforce readiness initiatives, and programs that assist with job placement and/or on-the-job experience. Programs that develop proficiency in areas of relevance to Union Pacific operations such as welding, electrical work, machine operations, and civil and electrical engineering are given priority.
- "Up-skill" the existing workforce by providing training and resources that enable them to reach the next level of their career. Programs that develop proficiency in areas of relevance to Union Pacific operations are given priority.
- Provide training and mentorship for nonprofit professionals to help them grow and advance their organizations.

Community Spaces: The vibrancy of a community is an essential ingredient in attracting businesses and tourism and establishing a desirable place for skilled workers and their families to call home. Ultimately, they are committed to supporting the local economy by building and enhancing community spaces that contribute to the distinct identity of a city or town, creating destinations where families, businesses, and visitors want to be. As such, they prioritize funding for programs and projects that achieve the following objectives:

- Create, sustain or expand upon artistic and cultural experiences offered to a broad and diverse audience (e.g., museums, theatres, libraries, concerts, lectures, etc.).
- Preserve and share the unique history of the local community, including projects related to train and/or Union Pacific history.
- Provide clean, safe, and positive outdoor recreational and/or educational opportunities that foster an appreciation for our natural environment.
- Beautify neighborhoods and main street areas in order to improve livability, promote commerce, and ultimately attract more residents, businesses, and visitors to town.
- Plan for, create or enhance unique spaces that reflect the character of a place and take into account community members' diverse needs and desires.

Local Needs: Because no two communities are exactly alike, a small portion of their funding is allocated to assist local communities thrive in ways unique to them and meet vital local needs. As such, they prioritize funding for programs that achieve the following:

- Improve the quality of life among the general public.
- Address a critical challenge among those most in need.

COVID-19 Relief Grants: We recognize the effects of the pandemic are long-lasting for many organizations. While proposals for general operating support are typically not accepted, such requests will still be considered for 2021 grants to most effectively support organizations during this ongoing time of need.

The full grant criteria and eligibility [can be found here on Union Pacific Foundation's website.](#)

The application, along with details of the process and a timeline for submission [can be found here.](#)

### **Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program – Proposition 1**

[The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy](#) has created this program with the goal to improve the environmental conditions of the Delta and Suisun Marsh. To do this, the Conservancy will fund projects that address at least one of the following priorities:

1. Ecosystem protection, restoration, and enhancement;
2. Water quality;
3. Water-related agricultural sustainability.

The Conservancy will fund planning projects, which include pilot projects. Allowable activities for planning projects include but are not limited to: project scoping: partnership development, outreach to impacted parties, stakeholder coordination, negotiation of site access and land tenure; planning and design: engineering design, planting plans, identifying appropriate best management practices; environmental compliance: permitting, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) activities, Delta Plan consistency; science: developing adaptive management and monitoring plans, baseline monitoring, biological surveys, and studies that will aid and inform the implementation of an on-the-ground project; application development for Proposition 1 implementation grant (as part of a larger planning grant; cannot be a stand-alone proposal for grant application development).



The Conservancy will fund implementation projects, which includes acquisitions projects. Allowable activities for implementation projects include but are not limited to: construction activities: dredging, earthmoving, construction of infrastructure; habitat restoration and enhancement: planting and revegetation, invasive vegetation removal, implementation of Best Management Practices; acquisition of real property: appraisals (including water rights appraisals), negotiation, due diligence, surveys, escrow fees, title insurance, closing costs; final planning and design; environmental compliance (other than CEQA and NEPA): permitting, Delta Plan consistency; science: developing adaptive management and monitoring plans, baseline monitoring, pre- and post-project monitoring; post-project maintenance within the three-year funding term.

Applicants must submit a concept proposal, as found on the Conservancy's website, before submitting a full proposal. Partnerships are encouraged but not required. Technical assistance is not offered. There are no limitations on number of submissions by organizations. Applications are received via email for concept proposals and by uploading files to a designated site for full proposals. Awards are announced at a Board Meeting and applicants are informed with a letter.

The Conservancy has awarded 29 grants to date and the average grant amount is approximately \$1.36 million.

Eligible applicants include Nonprofits, Public Agencies, and Tribal Governments.

The Conservancy will fund projects within or benefiting the Delta and Suisun Marsh. The Conservancy may fund a project outside the Delta and Suisun Marsh if the Conservancy Board makes all the findings described in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009, Section 32360(g).

The deadline to apply is **December 31, 2021**. Total estimated funding available is \$2.1 million. To find more details and the application, [please click here](#).

### **Science and Lake Improvement Account Program**

[Tahoe Conservancy](#) has created the Science and Lake Improvement Account program to support near-shore environmental improvement program activities and projects, particularly projects that manage aquatic invasive species or improve public access to sovereign land in Lake Tahoe.

The California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) leads California's efforts to restore and enhance the extraordinary natural and recreational resources of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The principal goal of the Conservancy's Science and Lake Improvement Account program (SB 630, 2013) is to support near-shore environmental improvement program activities and projects, particularly projects that manage aquatic invasive species or improve public access to sovereign land in Lake Tahoe.

More specifically, such projects manage aquatic invasive species, or improve public access to sovereign land in Lake Tahoe, including planning and site improvement or reconstruction projects on public land, and land acquisitions from willing sellers. SB 630 (2013) allocates the Conservancy approximately \$350,000 annually.

Eligible applicants include Nonprofits, Public Agencies, and Tribal Governments.

Please contact staff at [robert.larsen@resources.ca.gov](mailto:robert.larsen@resources.ca.gov) and 916.402.7508 for more information.

The application deadline is ongoing. Estimated total funding is \$350,000. The full grant guidelines [can be found here](#).

### **Cleanup Loans and Environmental Assistance to Neighborhoods (CLEAN) Program**

[The Department of Toxic Substances Control's CLEAN Program](#) helps developers, businesses, schools, and local governments accelerate the pace of assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment at abandoned and underutilized urban brownfield sites in California.

DTSC's CLEAN Loan Program provides low-interest loans for property owners, developers, community groups, and local governments to investigate, cleanup and redevelop abandoned and underutilized urban properties. Loan used for the cleanup or removal of hazardous materials where redevelopment is likely to have a beneficial impact on the property values, economic viability, and quality of life of a community.

Per Health and Safety Code § 25395.30, applicant must not have any: Felony convictions or misdemeanors involving the regulation of hazardous materials; Felony convictions or misdemeanors involving moral turpitude, including, but not limited to, the crimes of fraud, bribery, falsification of records, perjury, forgery, conspiracy, profiteering, or money laundering; or Violations of any administrative order or agreement issued by or entered into with any federal, state, or local agency that requires response action at a site.

Once the Loan agreement has been executed, a check will be made out to the applicant. The applicant must be able to provide the DTSC with eligible costs and corresponding receipts.

Period of Performance is dependent on remediation/redevelopment. The loan repayment period begins upon certification or completion of the response action or two (2) years after disbursement of the loan funds, whichever comes first. The repayment period is up to seven (7) years.

Eligible applicants include Public Agencies only.

Total estimated funding available is \$4.5 million. The full grant guidelines [can be found here](#).