



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (7/16/21)

California's Power Jam

[The Wall Street Journal reports](#) President Biden wants to spend tens of billions of dollars on transmission lines to transport renewable electricity across states, which he says will improve grid reliability. His climate model of California is showing the limits and risks of this strategy.

California's Independent System Operator (Caiso) on Friday and Saturday issued emergency alerts urging residents to conserve power during the evenings to avoid rolling blackouts. A wildfire in Oregon threatened transmission lines that import thousands of megawatts of hydropower that are needed when the sun starts to go down.

Progressives blamed Texas's power outage in February on its limited ability to import power from other states after its wind turbines froze and not enough natural gas plants could ramp up to compensate. However, grids in neighboring states had little power to spare, which was the problem this weekend in California and will continue to be all summer.

The California Public Utilities Commission ordered Caiso last month to procure more power for evening hours this summer due to reduced hydropower generation and imports caused by drought. It is not clear where Caiso plans to get the power since supply is expected to be tight across the Western U.S. for the same reasons.

To read more on Caiso's back-up plan to snatch energy headed elsewhere, [view The Wall Street Journal's full article](#).

California and Other Parts of the West Broil and Burn under Triple-Digit Temperatures

[NPR reports](#) a large swath of the West baked during the weekend in triple-digit temperatures that were expected to continue into the start of the workweek. The California Independent System Operator that manages the state's power grid issued a five-hour "flex alert" starting at 4 p.m. Monday and asked consumers to "conserve as much electricity as possible" to avoid any outages.

California and other parts of the West are sinking deeper into drought and that has sent fire danger sky high in many areas. In Arizona, a small plane crashed Saturday during a survey of a wildfire in rural Mohave County, killing both crewmembers.

The Beech C-90 aircraft was helping perform reconnaissance over the lightning-caused Cedar Basin Fire, near the tiny community of Wikieup northwest of Phoenix.

In Oregon, the Bootleg Fire exploded to 224 square miles (580 square kilometers) as it raced through heavy timber in the Fremont-Winema National Forest, near the Klamath County town of Sprague River. The fire disrupted service on three transmission lines providing up to 5,500 megawatts of electricity to neighboring California.

The largest wildfire of the year in California was raging near the border with Nevada. The Beckwourth Complex Fire — a combination of two lightning-caused blazes burning north of Lake Tahoe — grew by a third Sunday to 134 square miles (348 kilometers). However, firefighters working in temperatures that topped 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) were able to gain some ground, doubling containment to 20%.

Late Saturday, flames jumped U.S. 395, which was closed near the small town of Doyle in California's Lassen County. The lanes reopened Sunday, and officials urged motorists to use caution and keep moving along the key north-south route where flames were still active.

Live Updates: Firefighters Brace for Brutal Heat as River Fire near Yosemite Advances

[The Fresno Bee reports](#) Cal Fire and allied firefighters Monday morning were facing a wind-driven River Fire with temperatures well above 100 degrees at the blaze spread west of Yosemite National Park.

The fire consumed more than 4,000 acres and was burning along the Mariposa and Madera county border in the area near Oak Grove Road and Oak Grove School Road.

The National Weather Service warned of “dangerously hot conditions,” with high temperatures reaching 109 to 114 degrees in the nearby Yosemite Valley, adding the risk of heat-related illness to the hazards facing firefighters and residents near the River Fire. The blaze was also degrading air quality for emergency workers and residents of the San Joaquin Valley, with Tulare County warned of unhealthy air. Fresno County conditions were unhealthy for some groups.

The fire was burning in oak/grass woodland, according to Cal Fire. The agency had not reported any structures destroyed and any injuries from the fire as of late Monday night.

To view a more detailed timeline of how firefighters are working against the River Fire, [click here](#).

Updated Tsunami Hazard Maps for Orange County Highlight At-Risk Areas

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) updated tsunami hazard maps for Orange County will aid in planning evacuations should such a wave threaten local communities, the California Geological Survey said.

The map is an update of the previous version, which was published in 2009. In Newport Beach, the tsunami hazard zone was increased slightly in the latest map to help facilitate evacuation responses. Hazard zones include the area between the Balboa Peninsula and Pacific Coast Highway, as well as Newport’s Back Bay.

Meanwhile in Bolsa Chica and Huntington Beach, the tsunami hazard zone shrunk after new data showed that levees and ponds could help protect residents.

Tsunami hazard zones include Pacific Coast Highway, the ecological preserve, several channels and the Santa Ana River up to Adams Avenue, about 3 miles inland.

Much of Laguna Beach's tsunami hazard zone does not extend far inland, with the exception of Main Beach, where it extends as far back as Beach Street, and at Aliso Beach Park, where the hazard zone extends partway into the Ranch resort.

A [map for Los Angeles County](#) was released in March. The state agency has so far updated maps in 13 coastal counties and plans to update the remaining seven within the next years.

Both maps were produced in collaboration with Cal OES, AECOM Technical Services and the Tsunami Research Center at the University of Southern California. The maps include new data and improved computer modeling, as well a function that allows users to look up an address to see if it is in a designated tsunami hazard zone. Hazard zones are marked yellow, while non-hazard zones are green.

The agency said it will begin to include tsunami evacuation information in the online interface.

The California Geological Survey "is always learning new things about tsunami sources and new modeling techniques that help improve our tsunami hazard products," said Jacob Roper, the assistant director of communications at the state Department of Conservation.

"The updated Tsunami Hazard Area maps include a baseline extreme tsunami source scenario equivalent to a magnitude 9.3 earthquake from the Aleutian Islands [near Alaska] representing a 1,000-year event," Roper said. "The new maps also benefit from a better understanding of the ground surface, showing where tsunami flow patterns are more likely to flood and not flood."

Roper said the maps also include a small buffer that puts the boundary of the tsunami hazard zones along the closest street or landmark to make it easier for users.

Tsunamis are not common to California and historically, for the most part, have caused little damage. However, that does not mean that it is outside of the realm of possibility.

More than 150 tsunamis have hit California's coast since 1800. The most destructive of them was in 1964, when a tsunami – following a 9.2-magnitude earthquake in Alaska – hit Crescent City, killing 11 people and destroying 29 city blocks.

In an announcement Thursday, officials said significant flooding as a result of a tsunami is not expected in southern Orange County, but that harbors and coastlines could be affected.

"While damaging tsunamis are infrequent in California, they have [happened] and do happen. If you live on or visit the coast, you need to be aware of this potential hazard," Steve Bohlen, the head of the California Geological Survey, in a statement.

Bohlen said the maps account for the possibility of a once-in-a-millennium tsunami due to lessons learned from the Tohoku-Oki earthquake and tsunami in 2011 that killed more than 15,500 people.

To use the map, [visit this link](#).

Old Methods Failing, California Cities Take New Steps to Eradicate Homeless Camps

[Mercury News reports](#) California cities are trying new — sometimes controversial — strategies to get a handle on homeless encampments that have grown out of control during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sacramento's mayor has proposed giving residents a right to housing and shelter, while also forcing homeless people to accept the accommodations they are offered.

In Los Angeles, where attempts to clear an encampment from a prominent park recently led to a police showdown, the City Council is moving forward with a new plan to make certain areas off-limits for camping. Bay Area cities including San Jose, Santa Cruz, Novato and San Rafael, instead of continuing to haphazardly clear camps on a case-by-case basis, also recently adopted rules to dictate where encampments can and cannot be.

“It's a unique time,” said San Rafael Mayor Kate Colin, whose city opened Marin County's first sanctioned homeless encampment this month. “The pandemic has shifted the landscape for so many things. This is the time to try something new.”

But some of those new approaches have created pushback from activists who argue they leave people with nowhere to go, and that with few shelter beds or housing options available, large encampments help residents build community, feel safe, and access donations — and should be allowed to stay.

Homelessness has been a major problem in California for years. However, during the COVID-19 crisis, when federal health guidelines discouraged clearing encampments and scattering residents who should be sheltering in place, camps grew unchecked into tent cities and shantytowns on a scale many cities had never seen.

Now that the economy has reopened and Californians are venturing back out for work and play, officials are under mounting pressure to remove camps that have taken over public spaces, while also finding humane places for people to live.

It is estimated there are at least 113,660 Californians sleeping in encampments or other outdoor locations. That is more than half of the country's entire population of unsheltered homeless residents. Though many of this year's homeless census counts were suspended due to COVID precautions, experts say the pandemic likely has pushed more people onto the street. Cities are using state and federal pandemic funds to open new emergency housing, but demand continues to outpace supply.

Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, who has been a state leader in efforts to combat homelessness, last month proposed forcing his city to provide housing or shelter beds to homeless residents. The concept, known as a right to housing or a right to shelter, has been pushed in various state and local iterations — most recently as Assembly Bill 22, which died last year.

Steinberg hopes to offer accommodations — either long-term housing or some kind of emergency shelter — that allow residents to bring their pets, partners and possessions. Ideally, every person will be offered multiple choices. If they reject all offers, they will face civil penalties — but Steinberg is not sure yet what those will be.

Steinberg wants to have an ordinance drafted and voted on by the City Council within the next few months. The idea could spread from there. Los Angeles officials already are researching a similar proposal.

In San Jose, staffers are working on a policy that would prohibit encampments in certain areas. They are starting by clearing camps that block streets and sidewalks within 150 feet of a school.

So far, the city has removed 121 tents, RVs and other structures under its new strategy. But without enough shelter beds for displaced residents, some encampments have come back and must be removed multiple times, which “continues to stress all parties involved,” according to a recent city [memo](#).

For months in downtown San Rafael, a large teepee supported by two-by-fours and draped with colorful blankets and tapestries served as a gathering place for unhoused residents. The makeshift structure under the Highway 101 overpass was somewhere to pray, regroup, seek counsel from friends, or even play hangman and do craft projects, said its creator, 47-year-old unhoused artist Christal Gift. She was one of several dozen people living under the overpass in an encampment that ballooned in size during the pandemic. On Tuesday, Caltrans workers tore down the teepee and the rest of the camp, as a small, somber crowd looked on.

Calls for police and fire services have doubled in that area during the pandemic, according to Caltrans. As the agency cleared the camp, displaced residents were offered space in a new sanctioned camp a block away — a collection of about 35 matching blue tents where residents have access to portable toilets, electricity to charge cellphones, security and case managers to help them find permanent housing. But residents had to leave treasures like their teepee behind, and submit to a no guests policy.

Eric Tars, legal director of the National Homelessness Law Center, worries about the potential ramifications as cities crack down on encampments. Anti-camping laws just push the problem from one street corner to another without solving anything, he said. Oakland passed an encampment management policy last year, but implementation has been slow due to a lack of enforcement resources and a dearth of shelter beds.

Moreover, while Tars supports a right to housing, he is concerned Steinberg’s plan will force people to accept accommodations that do not fit their needs.

Cost of Fighting COVID in California: \$12.3 Billion

[CalMatters reports](#) fighting COVID-19 in California has cost taxpayers at least \$12.3 billion since the start of the pandemic.

That is more than the gross domestic product of 50 nations. More than the value of the Dodgers, Yankees and Giants combined. Almost double General Motors’ profits last year. Enough to give \$313 to every single Californian.

That number does not include \$110 billion from the feds to boost unemployment checks, and billions more in federal stimulus money, rent aid and loans to businesses shuttered for much of last year.

State finance officials [added up the government costs](#) from about 40 categories and came up with the \$12.3 billion estimate for “total direct pandemic emergency response” between 2020 and 2022.

To learn more about where our federal and state tax dollars went, [view CalMatter’s full article](#).

ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **Song-Brown Healthcare Workforce Training Programs – Family Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistants (FNP/PA);** *education; health & human services*
 - Funded by: Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development
 - Deadline: **Friday, July 16, 2021**
 - Total estimated funding: \$1.35 million
 - Full grant guidelines: [linked here](#)
 - Online application: [linked here](#)
- **2021 Local Housing Trust Fund Program Notice of Funding Availability;** *housing, community, and economic development*
 - Funded by: Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Deadline: **Friday, July 30, 2021**
 - Total estimated funding: \$56.7 million
 - Full grant guidelines: [linked here](#)
- **Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention/HCD;** *housing, community, and economic development*
 - Funded by: Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Deadline: **Saturday, July 31, 2021**
 - Total estimated funding: \$75 million
 - Full grant guidelines: [linked here](#)
- **2021-22 Sexual Assault Response Team (XS) Program RFP;** *disadvantaged communities; health & human services; law, justice, and legal services*
 - Funded by: Governor’s Office of Emergency Services
 - Deadline: **Wednesday, August 4, 2021**
 - Total estimated funding: \$1.53 million
 - Full grant guidelines: [linked here](#)

Funding Opportunities

2021-22 Unserved/Underserved Child and Youth Advocacy (XY) Program RFP

[The Governor’s Office of Emergency Services](#) has created the XY Program to provide advocacy and support services to unserved/underserved child and youth victims of crime. This can be accomplished by maintaining and/or enhancing the existing efforts to commit staff time to specifically address the needs of the identified child and youth victim population, hiring staff that reflects that population, training staff on the cultural norms of the population, and/or increasing outreach efforts.

Eligible applicants:

- Must be a non-governmental organization (NGO) that provides services to child and youth victims who are under the age of 18.

- Receive a minimum of 50% of available points on the Rating Sheet.
- Must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) and have an expiration date that is at least eight weeks after the Application due date.
- NGOs must be registered with the California Department of Justice's Registry of Charitable Trusts.

Applicants may request a partial or full match waiver (match waiver requests are not considered during the Proposal Rating process).

To request a match waiver, Applicants must submit the VOCA Match Waiver Request form (Attachment A) with their proposal. All sections of the form must be completed. Answers to questions 9 through 11 must be specific and unique to the Applicant and Program.

The deadline to apply is **Thursday, August 12, 2021**. Total estimated funding available is \$2.522 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#). To view the online application, [click here](#).

2021-22 Sexual Assault Law Enforcement Specialized Units (ST) Program RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created the ST Program to support and enhance specialized units to provide a coordinated response to adolescent (age 11 and older) and adult victims of sexual assault through compassionate investigative interviewing, immediate victim advocacy, training for patrol officers/first responders, and the development/updating of effective protocols and practices.

To be eligible to receive funds:

- Applicants must be a city, county, or campus law enforcement agency within the state of California.
- Receive a minimum of 50% of available points on the Rating Sheet.
- Applicants applying for federal funds must be registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM) and have an expiration date that is at least eight weeks after the Application due date. Check SAM status.

Requires a cash or in-kind match equal to 25 percent of the total project cost. Tribes and victim service providers are exempt. To request a match waiver, Applicants must submit the STOP Match Waiver Request form (Attachment B) with their proposal. All sections of the form must be completed and must be specific and unique to the Applicant and Program.

The deadline to apply is **Wednesday, August 25, 2021**. Total estimated funding available is \$759,580. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#). To view the online application, [click here](#).

Ongoing Funding Opportunities

404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds plans and projects that reduce the effects of future natural disasters. In California, these funds are administered by the Cal OES HMGP Unit. Eligible subapplicants include state agencies, local governments, special districts, and some private non-profits.

Mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Mitigation is taking action now, before the next disaster, to reduce human and financial consequences later. Effective mitigation requires that we all understand local risks, address the hard choices and invest in long-term community well-being and resilience. Without mitigation actions, we jeopardize our safety, financial security, and self-reliance.

As the result of a Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds plans and projects that reduce the effects of future natural disasters. In California, these funds are administered by the Cal OES HMGP Unit. Eligible subapplicants include state agencies, local governments, special districts, and some private non-profits. To learn more about the HMGP, visit: FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance and the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance Addendum.

DR-4569 Subapplications due (postmarked) to OES 5/1/2021

DR-4558 (Round II) NOI due (via web portal) to OES 5/7/2021

DR-4558 (Round II) Subapplications due (postmarked) to OES 6/18/2021

NOIs submitted after these dates may be considered for other funding opportunities. NOIs will be reviewed for eligibility and eligible submissions will be invited to submit full grant subapplications. The NOI is intended to provide an opportunity for eligible subapplicants to propose well-defined mitigation actions that reduce risk to life and property from future natural hazards. Eligible subapplications that are not initially selected for submission to FEMA will be retained for future consideration when funding becomes available. Eligible Subapplicants include state agencies, local governments, special districts, and Federally-recognized tribes. Subapplicants must have a FEMA-approved and locally adopted Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) to be eligible for project grants. If your agency or jurisdiction does not have a LHMP, you may apply for grant funding to develop one. Single jurisdiction plans are limited to a maximum federal share of \$150,000; Multi-jurisdiction plans are limited to a maximum federal share of \$250,000. Some private nonprofit organizations are eligible for HMGP funding, consistent with 44 CFR §206.221 and 206.434. Private nonprofit organizations are not required to have an LHMP to be eligible, but the County they are located in must meet the LHMP requirement.

Eligible Subapplicants include state agencies, local governments, special districts, and Federally-recognized tribes. Subapplicants must have a FEMA-approved and locally adopted Local Hazard Mitigation Plan LHMP to be eligible for project grants. If your agency or jurisdiction does not have a LHMP, you may apply for grant funding to develop one. Some private nonprofit organizations are eligible for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding.

In general, HMA funds may be used to pay up to 75 percent of eligible costs. The remaining 25 percent of eligible costs is derived from non-Federal sources. The non-Federal contribution must be used for an eligible cost in direct support of eligible mitigation activities under the applicable regulations (Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Sections 79.6 and 206.434), HMA Guidance, and the Federal award.

This funding opportunity is currently ongoing. Total estimated funding available is \$50k. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#). To view the online application, [click here](#).

COVID-19 Emergency HELP Loan Program

[The State Treasurer's Office](#) has created this program to provide low-cost loans with more flexible terms for health facilities in the state of California that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

General Requirements:

- Annual gross revenues cannot exceed \$30 million as shown on the most recent audited financial statement (No revenue limit for qualifying rural health facilities and district hospitals)
- Must be a health facility as defined in the Authority's Act (Section 15432(d) of the California Government Code)
- Must be a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation or a public health facility (e.g., District hospital) as defined in the Authority's Act (Section 15432(e) of the California Government Code)
- Must have been in existence for at least three years, providing the same types of services
- Must provide evidence acceptable to the Authority that the health facility has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and that loan proceeds will be used to address the impact
- Must demonstrate evidence of fiscal soundness and the ability to meet the terms of the proposed loan
- For construction, remodeling, renovation, and improvement projects, must show readiness to begin projects within 30 days after approval

Funds may be used for:

- Construction, remodeling, renovation, and/or improvements
- Equipment and/or furnishings
- Day-to-day operational expenses (working capital)
- Reimbursement of prior expenditures related to the COVID-19 pandemic

Funds may NOT be used for:

- Funding start-up projects
- Refinancing outstanding loans

Loan terms:

- 0% fixed interest rate
- Loan maximum is \$250,000
- Maximum loan maturities vary:
- Construction/remodeling/renovation/improvements – Up to 20 years
- Equipment/furnishings – The lesser of either: 1) the useful life of the equipment/furnishings; 2) up to 5 years
- Working capital – Up to 15 months
- Gross revenue pledge and lien on real property and/or equipment/furnishings, whichever is applicable

- Pro forma debt service coverage ratio of at least 1.0x
- No prepayment penalties

Fees:

- No application fee
- Closing fee: 1% of the loan amount, which could be deducted from the loan proceeds

Required Documentation:

- Evidence of real property value, equipment/furnishings value, and/or estimates of operating expenses
- Three most recent fiscal years of audited financial statements
- Evidence that the borrower has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and that loan proceeds will be used for the purpose of addressing the impact

This funding opportunity is ongoing. Total estimated funding available is \$5 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).