



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (11/5/21)

How to Assess California's Wildfires, Today and in the Past

[The Wall Street Journal reports](#) in "Climate Activists Blow Smoke in Wildfire Fears" (op-ed, Oct. 28), Bjorn Lomborg writes, "Before 1800, wildfires on average burned between 4.5% and 12% of California each year, far more than the 4.2% of the state consumed by the climate apocalypse in 2020."

The historical statistic can be traced to an impressive 2007 scholarly article published in the journal *Forest Ecology and Management*. That article made clear, however, that many of those pre-1800 fires were set purposefully by California's Native Americans.

Other research suggests that Native Americans regularly set such fires to improve travel and hunting conditions

Because such fires were set frequently, they consumed only years of built-up fuel in the forest understory, not the decades of build-up available to modern wildfires.

To read Lomborg's full op-ed, [click here](#).

'Obvious Flaws.' California Regulator Hits PG&E over New Rash of Wildfire Safety Blackouts

[The Sacramento Bee reports](#) California's top utilities regulator has blasted PG&E Corp. over a recent rash of blackouts designed to avert wildfires, citing "the obvious flaws in PG&E's approach."

Marybel Batjer, president of the California Public Utilities Commission, last week scolded Patti Poppe, the chief executive of PG&E, over a new safety initiative called "Fast Trip" or "Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings." The program calls for PG&E to ramp up the sensitivity of the circuit breakers on major stretches of the utility's grid, triggering automatic blackouts when power equipment comes into contact with an animal, a tree or something else that could lead to a fire.

In her letter, Batjer said more than 500 blackouts have occurred since the program started in late July, affecting more than 560,000 homes and businesses. Some customers have been hit more than once.

The “Fast Trip” blackouts represent PG&E’s latest attempt to end the series of mega-fires that have killed dozens, caused billions in property damage and forced the utility into Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2019.

The new safety plan was launched two weeks after the start of the Dixie Fire — at 963,309 acres, the second largest in California history — which state investigators believe was caused when a tree brushed against PG&E power equipment.

PG&E has told a federal judge that it believes the Dixie Fire could have been averted if the “Fast Trip” blackout initiative had been in effect. It also has said the initiative has succeeded in preventing additional fires.

Batjer acknowledged that PG&E has recently dialed back the sensitivity of the circuit breakers somewhat to reduce the size and duration of the blackouts. However, she said the “Fast Trip” system has unmistakable parallels with the company’s earlier attempts at running the pre-planned public safety shutoffs — which drew outrage and condemnation from Gov. Gavin Newsom and other leaders when hundreds of thousands of Northern California customers were blacked out during a series of windstorms in October 2019.

The blackouts have been spread throughout the company’s service territory, and have hit especially hard in El Dorado, the North Coast and Santa Cruz counties. Santa Cruz’s Board of Supervisors called on the state to investigate, while a slew of customers complained to members of the Public Utilities Commission about the program at a recent hearing.

In a statement released Monday in response to Batjer’s criticisms, PG&E said it already restored settings on many of the circuits just before the rainstorm eight days ago and is continuing to monitor weather conditions “to determine the proper settings.” The program is seasonal, and PG&E has said it will go back to the usual settings on all circuits once the fire season is considered over.

While the company said the heightened settings “have proven effective at preventing wildfires,” PG&E agreed that it had done a poor job of implementing the initiative.

“Our initial customer communications fell short, and reliability on some circuits has been unacceptably poor,” the company said. “We have committed to improving on both.”

In response to customer complaints, the company posted an information page on its website about resources available during blackouts.

PG&E Says Dixie Fire Will Cost \$1.15 Billion – And is Being Probed by Federal Officials

[*The Sacramento Bee reports*](#) PG&E Corp. says the Dixie Fire will cost the utility at least \$1.15 billion — and has triggered a federal investigation.

Already under investigation by Cal Fire in connection with the second-largest wildfire in the state’s history, PG&E said in a regulatory filing Monday that it has received a subpoena by the U.S. attorney’s office in Sacramento over its potential role in the mega-fire. The Dixie Fire burned 963,309 acres over a three-month span and destroyed much of the small Plumas County community of Greenville.

The disclosure to the Securities and Exchange Commission comes as other legal woes pile up on California’s largest utility. The Shasta County district attorney has filed criminal charges over

last year's Zogg Fire, which killed four people in a rural area west of Redding. PG&E also is under indictment in connection with the 2019 Kincade Fire, which prompted massive evacuations in Sonoma County.

The company has previously disclosed that civil damages from the Kincade Fire could reach \$600 million or more. Now PG&E is saying that damages from the Dixie Fire could hit at least \$1.15 billion, and that figure is in "the lower end of the range" of PG&E's calculations, according to the SEC filing.

A string of major wildfires, capped by the lethal Camp Fire in late 2018, drove PG&E into bankruptcy in 2019. The company emerged from bankruptcy a year later, agreeing to pay \$13.5 billion in damages to wildfire victims across Northern California. Under pressure from Gov. Gavin Newsom, the company also overhauled its leadership and operational structure, but has struggled to improve its wildfire safety record despite spending billions on enhanced tree-trimming programs and other measures.

Although no definitive finding has been made, Cal Fire believes the Dixie Fire was ignited by a tree falling on PG&E power equipment near the Cresta Dam in the Feather River Canyon. Two weeks after the fire started, PG&E heightened the settings on circuit breakers in fire-prone areas, a move that led to automatic blackouts when tree limbs or animals came into contact with power lines. The company said the program, if it had been in effect earlier, probably would have prevented the Dixie Fire.

Nevertheless, after more than 500 unplanned blackouts and an outcry from customers, the company has begun dialing back the settings somewhat to reduce the scope and duration of the outages. PG&E says the circuit breaker settings will be returned completely to normal after the fire season is deemed over.

Last week the head of the Public Utilities Commission scolded the company for the way it implemented the program, saying it should have communicated better with customers.

Debris Removal Operations Set to Begin for River Complex

[Action News Now reports](#) help to property owners impacted by the River Complex will begin on Nov. 8 in Trinity County, according to the Trinity County Health and Human Services.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the California Conservation Corps (CCC) will be assisting the county to begin work on emergency protective measures.

The work will include erosion and debris control, removal of hazardous household waste and removal of debris and hazardous trees.

The CCC will protect private property and waterways in the Coffee Creek area from erosion and debris flow.

The DTSC will oversee Phase 1, the removal of household hazardous waste from impacted properties. It will then oversee Phase 2, private property debris removal, which involved removal of debris and hazard trees in cooperation with the county, property owners and CalRecycle and CalOES.

The Trinity County Center Airport will be used as a staging area.

The Biden Administration Sets a Jan. 4 Vaccination Deadline for Private Sector Workers

[The New York Times](#) reports the Biden administration said on Thursday that large companies have until Jan. 4 to ensure that their workforces are fully vaccinated under a sweeping new coronavirus health measure that will cover 84 million private sector workers.

The plan was first announced in September by President Biden, who directed the Labor Department to invoke its emergency powers over the safety of workplaces to require businesses with 100 or more employees to mandate vaccinations for all employees. Workers who refuse to get vaccinated must undergo weekly testing.

Also on Thursday, the administration unveiled new emergency regulations for health care workers, including those at nursing homes caring for elderly and sick residents who are at high risk for infection. All 17 million workers at health care facilities receiving either Medicare or Medicaid funding must be vaccinated by Jan. 4.

Mr. Biden has previously imposed vaccine requirements on federal workers and companies that receive federal contracts.

But the new rule-covering employees of all large private businesses is a more dramatic use of his executive power, prompting some state officials to criticize the move and threaten to try to stop it.

Some major companies including Tyson Foods and United Airlines were quick to embrace mandates, spurred by the president's announcement in September. But many others have held off, citing the need for clarification from the government on a range of questions, including who will pay for testing and whether the rule applies to employees who work at home.

Many of those questions are answered by the new requirements and guidance published by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration on Thursday. Companies that had been waiting for the final rules to be made public are expected to begin announcing mandates, experts said.

Among the businesses that have yet to issue a requirement for all employees are the nation's largest employer, Walmart, which is mandating vaccines mainly for its corporate staff members, and JPMorgan Chase, which has more than 120,000 employees in offices and bank branches across the United States and is encouraging but not broadly mandating vaccinations.

In a [Mercer poll](#) of 1,088 companies conducted on Oct. 4, roughly 13 percent of respondents said they were requiring all employees to be vaccinated, regardless of work location. Eleven percent said they were requiring only those coming to the office to be vaccinated.

According to OSHA's new requirements, workers are considered fully vaccinated if they've received two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Companies must provide paid time off for their employees to get vaccinated and sick leave for side effects as needed. And employers are not required to either pay for or provide tests, though some may still be compelled to do so by other laws or agreements with unions.

Companies that fail to comply with the rule may be subject to fines, depending on how frequently they violate it and whether violations are intentional, a White House official said. An [OSHA penalty](#) is typically \$13,653 for every serious violation.

To read more on this mandate and how various companies are responding, [view the full article](#).

University of California Health Supports CDC Recommendation on COVID-19 Vaccine for Children

[University of California Health Thursday issued](#) the following statement in support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 years old:

The expansion of vaccination against COVID-19 to approximately 28 million children aged 5-11 years across the nation by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) is a significant step forward in the fight against the pandemic. We applaud the recommendation by CDC Director Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky following the unanimous vote by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. The thorough review of the large amount of study data through the CDC process and by the Food and Drug Administration in its Emergency Use Authorization shows the vaccine to be safe and effective for children. The UCH view is aligned with the position of the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#).

UCH encourages parents and guardians to have their eligible children vaccinated and to talk with a pediatrician if they have questions. In support of the CDC's recommendation, UCH locations expect to have pediatric doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine available early next week.

Rite Aid, CVS, Walgreens Get Ready to Offer COVID-19 Vaccine for Kids Under 12

[KCRA 3 reports](#) major pharmacy chains are getting ready to offer the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 to 11 once federal health officials sign off for that age group.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration last week gave emergency use approval for the lower-dose vaccine.

An advisory committee to the Centers and Disease Control and Prevention is meeting Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss whether to authorize the shots. CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky would then make the final call, which could clear the vaccine to go into arms later this week.

In California and several other western states, a separate advisory committee would give final approval before the shots could be administered at places like pharmacies, doctor's offices, school vaccine clinics and other sites.

Pharmacies have been a key plank in the federal government's free vaccination campaign up to this point. [More than 147.8 million doses of vaccines so far](#) have been administered through the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program across 21 partners, as of Oct. 20.

In California, 73% of eligible people are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and another 7.8% are partially vaccinated, [according to the state's dashboard](#).

KCRA 3 reached out to major pharmacy chains to see how they are preparing for the newest vaccination drive with that authorization expected within days.

Rite Aid said that as a partner in the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program it has been in “regular contact” with the CDC to ensure that if the shots are authorized for kids ages 5-11 that they are prepared to administer them.

If there is CDC approval, “we expect to be able to provide vaccinations for this age group shortly after November 3,” a Rite Aid spokesperson said in a statement.

CVS Health also said it is “prepared to expand vaccine eligibility to ages 5-11 as soon as authorized to do so by public health agencies.”

The pharmacy chain said it would “have more details soon” on whether kids in the age group would be able to get vaccinated at CVS locations within Target stores.

Walgreens said it planned to administer the vaccine to kids ages 5 to 11 "in thousands of stores nationwide, ensuring optimal distribution in the communities we serve."

About 40% of stores that will offer the vaccines are located in areas "with a high Social Vulnerability Index score," a Walgreens representative said.

Meanwhile, White House coronavirus response coordinator Jeff Zients said Monday that parents should expect a vaccination program for kids "fully up and running" the week of Nov. 8, [CNBC reported](#).

California officials said last week that the state expects to have more than 1.2 million doses of Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine available for children ages 5-11 to get vaccinated the first week once the shots are cleared.

California has about 4,000 sites that “are ready to administer” and 8,000 providers on board, epidemiologist Dr. Erica Pan said.

Vaccine doses for children will be one-third of the adult dose. Officials have said that the new vaccine vials will have an orange cap that will be labeled just for children, so they don’t get confused with adult doses.

The pediatric formulation of the vaccine may be stored for up to 10 weeks in the same kind of refrigerators that are recommended for routine vaccines, the California Department of Public Health said.

Officials have also encouraged parents to call their children’s pediatrician or local health provider. Parents can also be able to book appointments by visiting [MyTurn](#) or by calling 833-422-4255, once the shots are given the go-ahead.

The preparations come as a recent survey of parents of children ages 5 to 11 found just 27% saying they would vaccinate their kids as soon as the vaccine became available. About a third of parents said they would “wait and see” how the vaccine worked with other children.

Dr. Dean Blumberg, chief of pediatric diseases at UC Davis Children’s Hospital, told KCRA 3 that pediatricians could help answer parents' questions about the vaccine.

Asked what he would say to those who are hesitant about giving their young children the shot, he said, “The FDA did a robust risk-benefit analysis of this to look at worst-case scenarios in terms

of the vaccines having side effects and also looking at the risk of not being vaccinated, and it's clear that the benefits far outweigh any risks of the vaccine.”

Judge Denies Order to Groups Fighting LAUSD Student Vaccine Mandate

[*The Daily Breeze* reports](#) a judge has denied a temporary restraining order sought by two nonprofit groups representing parents of nearly 1,500 Los Angeles Unified students who oppose the LAUSD’s student COVID-19 vaccine mandate on grounds such decisions should be left to the state Department of Public Health.

“Balancing the likelihood of success and the relative harm to be suffered, the court is not persuaded emergency relief is warranted,” Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Amy D. Hogue wrote Friday in response to the TRO application brought by the California Chapter of Children’s Health Defense as well as a second group, Protection of the Educational Rights of Kids.

Waiting seven weeks after the Board of Education approved the mandate on Sept. 9 to file the TRO application undercuts the groups’ contention that their members will suffer immediate severe or irreparable harm, Hogue further wrote.

The primary component of the mandate — the restriction of access to all LAUSD facilities — does not take effect until Jan. 10, Hogue noted.

“There is accordingly no emergency with respect to the students’ ability to attend classes in person,” the judge wrote.

The only immediate impact of the resolution was the requirement that students participating in extracurricular activities to have been fully vaccinated by Sunday, but that harm is lower than the prospective harm to the LAUSD if it is forced to suspend the already implemented resolution, Hogue said.

The judge said the groups can still seek relief later through a preliminary injunction.

About 930 LAUSD parents are members of PERK and another 540 of CHD-CA, according to the petition filed Oct. 13.

The LAUSD student vaccine mandate requires students 12 years and older, as a condition of continuing their in-person education, to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine by specified dates during the fall term. The lawsuit contends that even with no COVID-19 vaccine requirement in place prior to returning to in-person learning in August, LAUSD students have not experienced severe COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations or death.

“Given this, it is incomprehensible that a state that already has the lowest COVID-19 rates in the entire country without any vaccine mandate would insist on being the first state in the nation to impose a vaccine requirement on healthy teens and pre-teens as a condition to continuing in-person education, or why (the LAUSD) chose to impose this onerous and educationally disruptive requirement right in the middle of a school term,” the petition states.

A parent who submitted a sworn declaration in support of the petition and the TRO application, identified only as J.K., said her daughter, K.T., is a junior at Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies and that their family was “horrified by the district’s decision to require the shot so late into the school year without open discussion with its community or consideration of the impact the decision might have on families in its community.”

J.K. said her family is a pro-vaccine and pro-science family, but also favors the freedom to make one's own medical decisions.

“If the mandate sticks, it will cause severe stress on our family,” J.K. said. “We will have to decide if we (have to) move, which not only impacts school choice, but also my husband's and my employment, as well as my ability to (take) care of my elderly mother, who lives nearby and who I primarily care for daily.”

What will it take for California Drought to End? It's Way More Complicated than 'Rain'

[The Modesto Bee reports](#) while drought does come and go rain can bring some relief, [according to the U.S. Geological Survey](#).

A major storm, like the bomb cyclone Northern California saw last month, can help – but it will not end water woes.

The U.S. Geological Survey said on its website that light to moderate showers bring temporary, cosmetic improvements; whereas, rain from thunderstorms mostly go to drains and streams and not into the ground. Storms that can best alleviate drought are ones where rain soaks the soil, recharges groundwater, and “sustains vegetation and feeds streams during periods of no rain.”

In terms of improving drought, Richard Heim, a meteorologist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Centers for Environmental Information, said that soil moisture, rivers, groundwater and reservoir need to be taken into account, as each of these factors needs different amounts of rain to recover.

An atmospheric river is a stream of intense water vapor that cools and produces heavy rain and snow. This type of phenomenon can provide up to 50% off the West Coast's water supply, [the U.S. Department of Energy said on its website](#).

This year marks the second driest year on record. Last month, Governor Newsom extended the drought emergency across California.

According to the USGS and the hydrology team at the California Department of Water Resources, California needs 140% of precipitation to reach average runoff conditions.

The average amount of precipitation in California is 23 inches per year, said Michelle Stern, a hydrologist at USGS. California would need 140% of that – roughly 32 inches – to recover.

The average across California in October was 4 inches. This year, the state would “need an additional 28 inches of precipitation...to recover to average runoff conditions,” Stern said.

Essentially, with 140% of rainfall, there will be a sufficient amount water to moisturize the soil to conditions where runoff to the reservoirs is possible. Depending on the severity of the drought, different regions will need more or less to see significant improvements.

To read more on this issue, specifically how to tell the drought has ended, [visit the full article](#).

OSHA Looks to California, Other States on Proposed Heat Standard

[SHRM reports](#) the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has summer in mind, issuing an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) that notes the agency is considering creating, for the first time, a federal standard to prevent heat illness.

[The ANPRM](#) reviewed state standards, including California standards, on preventing heat illness and death, and sought input as to whether the agency should incorporate some of these standards into a final federal rule. Comments are due Dec. 27.

"Employers should anticipate federal OSHA's heat standard will adopt some, or perhaps many, of the provisions from heat-stress standards previously implemented in California, Minnesota, Oregon and Washington," said Curtis Moore, an attorney with Fisher Phillips in Charlotte, N.C.

Added Phillip Russell, an attorney with Ogletree Deakins in Tampa, Fla., "The notice suggests federal OSHA will be taking a similar approach to California by requiring heat injury and illness prevention programs, workplace controls, acclimatization, monitoring, emergency response and worker training, and engagement by employers."

OSHA has identified certain industries, such as construction, manufacturing, agriculture, transportation and warehousing, as having the highest average number of fatalities per year due to heat illness, "so these businesses in particular should seriously consider being part of this rulemaking process to ensure their concerns and ideas can be heard," said John Ho, an attorney with Cozen O'Connor in New York City. Notably, from 2000 to 2010, agricultural workers' risk of dying from heat-related causes was 35 times higher than that of employees in all other industries, OSHA stated.

To read more on the history and requirements of state standards, as well as the questions OSHA has, [visit the full article](#).

California Turns Focus to Ensuring Grid Reliability during 2022, 2023 Summer Months

[Utility Drive reports](#) The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has been implementing multiple measures to help ensure grid reliability during the summer months, following a record-breaking heatwave in the state in 2020 that forced the California Independent System Operator to initiate outages.

In the wake of the blackouts, the agency opened a proceeding to ensure adequate energy supply for the summer of 2021, and then extended that effort to the summers of 2022 and 2023. CPUC analysis has indicated that between 2,000 MW to 3,000 MW of new resources will help address grid reliability during extreme circumstances in 2022 and 2023, the commission noted in a press release.

The proposals being considered by the commission include doubling the compensation rate of its emergency load reduction program to \$2 per kWh, implementing a \$22.5 million smart thermostat incentive program that will help customers reduce their use of air conditioners when needed, as well as doubling down on energy efficiency programs.

Supply-side proposals include the deployment of four new storage microgrid projects by San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), providing a total capacity of 160 MWh. In addition, regulators are considering directing Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison and SDG&E to procure additional resources of 900 MW to 1,350 MW, 900 MW to 1,350 MW and 200 MW to 300 MW respectively.

However, California could face challenges in getting supply-side resources online within the required timeframe, especially for 2022, Stoel Rives' Hilton said, due in part to interconnection timelines.

"Speeding up permitting isn't going to help if a project isn't going to be interconnected anyway," he noted.

Regulators in California also have their eye on longer-term threats to reliability. This summer, the commission advanced an 11.5 GW procurement order — its largest such order to date — that will help ensure grid reliability following the expected retirement of the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant and a suite of natural gas plants. Under that decision, power providers are set to bring online 2,000 MW of resources by 2023, an additional 6,000 MW by 2024, another 1,500 MW by 2025 and a last 2,000 MW installment by 2026.

California Looks to Natural Gas to Keep Lights on This Winter

[Reuters reports](#) after years of restricting the growth of fossil fuel infrastructure, California is looking to natural gas for power generation this coming winter after drought and wildfires leave the state with few other options to keep the lights on.

California has spent years moving away from fossil fuels to reduce planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions. But, U.S. states like California and Texas have faced notable challenges to their electrical grid in recent months, and worldwide power crunches have forced other countries to ramp up output of coal and other fossil fuels to maintain power.

This year, the state has leaned more on gas fired-power plants as extreme drought has cut hydropower output by more than half, while frequent wildfires often shut electricity imports from other states.

This week, California regulators could take another step towards boosting reliance on gas when utility regulators consider two proposals to increase the amount of gas stored at Aliso Canyon, its biggest underground storage field. That site experienced a devastating months-long leak in 2015, and the state is also considering shuttering it outright.

The state's Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will vote on Thursday whether to expand storage at the Los Angeles-area facility, owned by Southern California Gas Co (SoCalGas). Capacity at the site was capped at 34 billion cubic feet following the leak, and the proposals would allow that level to increase by either 21% or 100%.

Natural gas prices have surged worldwide as global demand has rebounded faster than anticipated following pandemic-induced lockdowns, and as energy shortages force utilities in Europe and Asia to compete for liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports.

Gas supplies have been tight in Southern California for years due to pipeline limitations and reduced availability of Aliso Canyon, resulting in curtailments to power generators and higher prices for consumers.

PUC Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves said in a statement that a smaller capacity increase "will allow us to get through this winter while we continue our progress toward planning how to reduce or eliminate our use of Aliso Canyon by 2027 or 2035, or any time in between."

Environmental groups want the facility closed entirely and oppose the proposals.

"Instead of pursuing clean energy solutions that can eliminate the need for Aliso Canyon entirely, California is proposing to expand this dangerous facility - putting communities at

greater risk of another catastrophic leak," said Alexandra Nagy, California director of Food & Water Watch.

Hydropower's contribution to electricity is set to fall to just 5% in 2021, from a five-year average of 12%, while non-hydro renewables, mainly wind and solar, are expected to rise to 37%, government data shows.

Gas-fired power plants, meanwhile, will provide about 45% of the power generated in the state this year, up from the five-year (2016-2020) average of 41%, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).

In California, average gas prices were recently at multiyear highs near \$5 per million British thermal units (mmBtu) in the northern part of the state and over \$6 in the south.

Over the summer, Governor Gavin Newsom said extreme drought and wildfires put California's power grid in a "state of emergency" and ordered energy agencies to take action.

State agencies have responded through various steps, including spending \$196 million to install four 30-MW gas turbines at two sites in Northern California, keeping a Redondo Beach gas-fired plant open through 2023, and asking the federal government to allow some gas-fired plants to operate without pollution restrictions for 60 days.

California wants to produce all of its electricity from clean sources by 2045.

ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **Regional Park Program (Prop 68);** *environment & water; parks & recreation*
 - Funded by: Department of Parks and Recreation
 - Deadline: **Friday, November 5, 2021**
 - Total estimated funding: \$23, 125,000
 - **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)
 - **Online application:** [linked here](#)
- **Rural Recreation and Tourism Program (Prop 68);** *disadvantaged communities; parks & recreation*
 - Funded by: Department of Parks and Recreation
 - Deadline: **Friday, November 5, 2021**
 - Total estimated funding: \$23,125,000
 - **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)
 - **Online application:** [linked here](#)
- **WHALE TAIL Grants;** *disadvantaged communities; education; environment & water*
 - Funded by: Coastal Commission
 - Deadline: **Friday, November 5, 2021**
 - Total estimated funding: \$1.5 million
 - **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)
- **Gun Violence Reduction Program (GVRP);** *law, justice, and legal services*
 - Funded by: Department of Justice (Office of the Attorney General)
 - Deadline: **Friday, November 5, 2021**
 - Total estimated funding: \$5 million
 - **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)

Funding Opportunities

Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program

[The Department of Cannabis Control](#) announces the availability of \$100 million in funding for the Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program (Grant Program). This program dedicates funding to local jurisdictions with the greatest needs to transition provisional licensees to annual licenses. The Grant Program is authorized by the Budget Act of 2021, Item 1115-101-0001 – For local assistance, found in Senate Bill 129 (2021).

California is committed to quickly transition cannabis businesses from provisional to annual licenses. One-time grant funding, totaling \$100 million, is available to help. Extra funds are available for eligible local jurisdictions with social equity programs. The funds target areas with the highest numbers of provisional licensed businesses. Large numbers of small, legacy and equity businesses operate within these areas.

The Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (Act) contains specific timelines for when the Department can no longer issue or renew provisional licenses. Therefore, provisional license holders must complete the annual license process by certain dates or face a potential gap in licensure. Currently, approximately 75 percent of California’s commercial cannabis licenses are provisionally licensed.

Local jurisdictions eligible to receive grant funding represent those with significant numbers of provisional licenses who are legacy and equity applicants, and provisional licensees that are more likely to have arduous environmental compliance requirements associated with CEQA. The Grant Program is allocating \$100 million on a one-time basis to aid local jurisdictions and their provisional licensees in completing CEQA compliance requirements necessary to achieve annual licensure. Grant Program funds may also be used to aid local jurisdictions in more expeditiously reviewing provisional licensee local requirements. Allowable uses are intended to encourage local jurisdictions to administer grant funds in ways that allow the Department to transition provisional licenses to annual licenses more expeditiously without sacrificing California’s environmental commitments.

Additional funding was allocated to those local jurisdictions that have received grant funding from the state to support an already established local equity program. Grant Program funds are available for encumbrance prior to disbursement at any time during the grant period, but funds shall be expended no later than March 31, 2025.

Local jurisdictions eligible for Grant Program Funding are: the cities of Adelanto, Commerce, Desert Hot Springs, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Sacramento, Guidelines and Application Instructions 4Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program San Diego, and Santa Rosa; the counties of Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Monterey, Nevada, Sonoma, and Trinity; and the City and County of San Francisco (Budget Act of 2021, Item 1115-101-0001 – For local assistance).

Applications will not be accepted from any other local jurisdictions at this time. If funds become available for additional jurisdictions at a later date, the Department will issue updated grant guidelines before re-opening an application period for additional jurisdictions to apply for remaining funds. Grant Program funds not originally distributed, and funds recaptured, may be

redistributed by the Department to any eligible local jurisdiction with both a local cannabis licensing program and local equity program until June 30, 2025.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Monday, November 15, 2021**. Total estimated funding available is \$100 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

Innovative Programming Grants

[The CA Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation](#) has created the Innovative Programming Grants to provide grant funds to eligible non-profit organizations for delivery of Innovative Programs at one or more California State Institutions.

Applicant's proposal must include transformative and insight oriented program objectives. The plan must thoroughly describe the program that will be offered. Applicants are required to define the variables that will be evaluated and outcomes that will be measured during the grant period. This must include participation criteria, the number of individuals participating in the program, the frequency the program will be provided (i.e., number of times per week or month), the duration of the program (i.e., eight-week program cycles), the group size, the total number of offenders projected to participate during the grant cycle, and the number of offenders projected to participate during the grant cycle, and the number of programming hours required to complete the program.

Applications will be accepted for all program types including Evidence Based Programs, Promising Practice Programs, Practice Based Programs, etc.

- Evidence Based Programs:
 - Refer to outcome focused approaches and interventions that have been scientifically tested in controlled studies and proven effective
- Promising Practice Programs:
 - Programs that have strategies, activities, or approaches which have supporting research/evaluation, as well as measurable outcomes that have shown the program to be effective at rehabilitating offenders
- Practice Based Programs:
 - Programs that are recognized as having positive rehabilitative outcomes for offenders

Non-profit organizations offering innovative rehabilitative programs in a correctional setting that focus on transformative and insight oriented objectives are eligible to apply for an Innovative Programming Grant(s). Organizations that do not have a non-profit status may operate under the sponsorship of a fiscal agent with non-profit status for purposes of grant eligibility.

If the applicant is a multi-state organization with headquarters in another state, the applicant must have physical offices in California and currently provide services to Californians.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Monday, November 15, 2021**. Total estimated funding available is \$12 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created the CSNSGP to provide funding support for target hardening and other physical security enhancements to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk for violent attacks and hate crimes due to ideology, beliefs, or mission.

Restricted to California nonprofit organizations that are described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (IRC) and exempt from tax under Section 501(a) of such code. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) does not require certain organizations such as churches, mosques, and synagogues to apply for and receive recognition of exemption under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRC. Such organizations are automatically exempt if they meet the requirements of Section 501(c)(3).

The proposal package must be electronically submitted no later than 5 pm on **Friday, November 19, 2021**, to CSNSGP@CalOES.ca.gov. Total estimated funding available is \$47.5 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

Grant Making Entity for CA Microbusiness Grant Program

[The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development](#) has created the MBCRG Program to provide grant funding to administer grants to microbusinesses. Open only to eligible grant making entities defined as a county government (Round 1). The intent of the funding is for the awarded grant making entities to provide relief to the microbusinesses and entrepreneurs.

THIS IS NOT A GRANT FOR MICROBUSINESSES AT THIS TIME. ONLY COUNTY GOVERNMENTS PROPOSING TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM ARE ELIGIBLE ROUND 1.

The California Microbusiness COVID-19 Relief Grant Program (MBCRG) was created in 2021 to assist qualified microbusinesses that have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in California. Existing law (Government Code Section 12100.83) requires CalOSBA to make grants to assist qualified small businesses negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, in accordance with specified criteria, including geographic distribution based on COVID-19 restrictions and industry sectors most impacted by the pandemic, among other things. The California Microbusiness COVID-19 Relief Grant Program was enacted by Senate Bill No. 151 (Government Code 12100.90). The new funds will be expressly for microbusinesses and administered by the Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA) through county agencies and coalitions of nonprofit organizations ("grant making entity/ies") that will disperse the funds to microbusinesses and entrepreneurs in the state. CalOSBA within the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) is charged with administering and providing oversight for the Program.

The MBCRG Program provides approximately fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) in one-time grant funding to administer a Request for Proposal (RFP) for eligible grant making entities defined as a county government or consortium of nonprofit, community-based organizations. The intent of the funding is to provide relief to the hardest to reach microbusinesses and entrepreneurs. The grant making entities will develop and implement an outreach and marketing plan to identify and engage eligible microbusinesses that face systemic barriers to access capital, including but not limited to, businesses owned by women, minorities, veterans, individuals without documentation, individuals with limited English proficiency, and business owners located in low-wealth and rural, communities. The Program will award funds to eligible grant

making entities to distribute grants to eligible microbusinesses that have been impacted by COVID-19 and the associated health and safety restrictions. The program was authorized with a single round of funding ending on December 31, 2022 (repeal date).

The purpose of this announcement is to solicit applications from California's 58 county governments as eligible grant making entities to administer a grant program for their county and distribute \$2,500 grants to eligible microbusinesses impacted by COVID-19 and related health and safety restrictions. Round 1 is open to California county governments.

The deadline to apply for Round 1 is **Thursday, November 18, 2021 by 5pm**. Total estimated funding available is \$50 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).