



## **News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (12/3/21)**

### **Watch: Governor Newsom Speaks in Central Valley after Omicron COVID-19 Variant Found in California**

[KCRA 3 reports](#) Governor Newsom is set to hold a media briefing Wednesday in the Central Valley while visiting a COVID-19 booster clinic.

The visit was planned to promote booster shots for people ages 18 or older, six months after their last shot in the primary series for the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or two months after a Johnson & Johnson shot.

However, the appearance comes soon after the announcement that the first case in the United States of the Omicron COVID-19 variant was found in California.

Newsom tweeted that the development was “no reason to panic” but that people should get vaccinated or a booster shot and mask-up in some cases.

To watch the Governor’s briefing, [click here](#).

### **California Confirms Nation’s First Omicron Variant COVID-19 Case**

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) the Omicron variant of the coronavirus has made its way to California.

The infected individual returned home to San Francisco from South Africa on Nov. 22 and tested positive Monday, officials said. The person was fully vaccinated and experienced mild symptoms that did not require hospitalization and are improving.

The patient is self-quarantining. Close contacts have been identified and have tested negative so far, [according to the](#) U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health confirmed the case, with genomic sequencing conducted at UC San Francisco.

Citing privacy, health officials did not release many details about the individual — though Gov. Gavin Newsom said the person was somewhere between 18 and 49 years old.

The variant’s presence in the state is not unexpected. [First detected](#) last month, the strain has already been found in nearly two dozen countries around the globe.

“As expected, and thanks to California’s large-scale testing capacity and early detection systems, the Omicron COVID-19 variant has been detected in California — we should assume that it’s in other states as well,” Newsom said in a statement. “There is no reason to panic, but we should remain vigilant.”

Still, the arrival of the highly mutated variant comes at what was [already shaping up to be](#) a particularly precarious time in California. Officials have [long expressed concern](#) that the one-two punch of the end-of-year holiday season and colder weather will increasingly push people to gather in crowded indoor settings where the risk of coronavirus transmission is especially high.

However, whether Omicron ultimately proves to be more of a speed bump or a roadblock on California’s path to pandemic recovery remains to be seen.

For the time being, the discovery of the variant will not spark new health orders in San Francisco, officials said.

“Here’s what we know now: San Francisco is relatively well positioned to respond to variants,” Colfax said during a briefing. “Our vaccination rate is high. More boosters are going into arms every day; 5- to 11-year-olds are getting vaccinated at a rapid uptake. Our masking and vaccination requirements are among the most stringent in the country. These efforts have been very effective in helping us slow the spread of the virus.”

Much remains unknown about Omicron. Answers to the most pressing questions — whether the variant spreads more easily, can cause severe illness or dodge some of the protection afforded by vaccines — likely will not be known for a few weeks.

And while the enemy may be new, public health officials say the battle plan is familiar. The central thrust of those efforts remains getting as many people vaccinated as possible, and having adults avail themselves of booster shots when their time comes.

While experts are racing to identify the full ramifications of Omicron, the fact that it has more mutations than any other previous variant is unsettling.

Though not all mutations are inherently bad news, scientists are concerned that some of those in Omicron might make the virus more transmissible or resistant to immunity generated by vaccines or previous infections.

It’s unclear, however, whether Omicron may spread as easily as the highly infectious Delta variant, which remains the dominant strain both in California and the U.S. Fauci said further clarity on those matters is probably still weeks away.

### **California Braces for Omicron COVID Variant**

[CalMatters reports](#) Monday, the United States was set to close its borders to travelers from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Namibia to limit spread of a COVID-19 variant called Omicron, which the World Health Organization on Friday labeled a variant of concern.

Also, Monday, the city of Los Angeles started enforcing one of the country’s strictest vaccine mandates: Restaurants, coffee shops, museums, theaters, and other indoor venue must verify that customers are vaccinated before allowing them to enter – or face fines up to \$5,000.

For Governor Newsom, the developments underscore the twin challenges that will likely define much of his governorship: keeping Californians safe from COVID-19 and keeping the state's small businesses afloat.

Newsom's administration is already ramping up its response to the Omicron variant. The California Department of Public Health said Sunday that it plans to increase COVID-19 testing at airports serving travelers from Southern Africa, track the variant through genetic sequencing, and continue to promote vaccines and booster shots.

Even as the Newsom administration doubles down on vaccines, it secured a legal victory that seemingly undermines those efforts. On Friday, a federal appeals court temporarily blocked an order from U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar requiring California prison workers to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Newsom appealed that ruling last month, arguing that it would result in a severe staffing shortage at state prisons; now employees won't be required to get the shot until March 2022 at the earliest.

Meanwhile, a federal appeals court on Sunday temporarily blocked San Diego Unified School District's student vaccine mandate – which was set to take effect Monday – from being implemented while the district allows pregnant students to seek exemptions. The conservative Thomas More Society filed the lawsuit on behalf of a Scripps Ranch High School student, arguing that San Diego Unified was violating students' First Amendment rights by allowing medical exemptions, but not religious ones.

Although California overall is doing better now than a year ago, CalMatters analysis found that at least 18 of 58 counties had more hospitalized COVID patients last week than they did at the same time last year – and another five had just as many. Some Central California hospitals are so overwhelmed with patients they're begging the state to make it easier for them to be transferred to other counties.

The economic outlook is similarly dire: California isn't likely to see a full recovery until the end of 2023, according to a recent report from the California Center for Jobs & The Economy. Passenger levels rebounded at California airports over Thanksgiving weekend, but the omicron variant could erase some of that progress. In addition, about 1 million Californians may have to repay some or all of the federal jobless benefits they received during the pandemic, the state unemployment department warned last week.

### **What it is Like in California's Worst COVID Hot Spot as Cases Stay Low Elsewhere**

[\*The San Francisco Chronicle reports\*](#) Inyo, a vast, rugged county of 18,000 that adjoins the Nevada border and includes Death Valley as well as eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada and towering Mount Whitney, has struggled like a number of California's rural counties with the pandemic ravages that affect schoolchildren and adults alike. In September and October, while much of the state saw cases taper off, Inyo's case rate continued to soar – surpassing even the peak of last winter's surge, which in most places marked the worst period of the pandemic.

In October, the county reported a larger number of pediatric and adult cases, by far, than any other month. As of Wednesday, Inyo's case rate has fallen to a seven-day average of 43 cases per 100,000 people per day, but it remains among the highest in the state and is well above the state daily average of 12 cases per 100,000 people.

County hospitals, with 29 beds total, have struggled to appropriately isolate COVID patients, said County Deputy Director of Public Health Anna Scott. Staff levels have been strained. With limited specialist and intensive care resources in the county, and neighboring rural counties struggling as well, severely ill patients have been transferred to hospitals as far away as the Bay Area, Los Angeles and western Nevada, officials said.

To read more on how Inyo compares to the rest of the state, as well as how residents and officials are reacting, [view the full article](#).

## **California Updates its Guidance on COVID-19 Boosters: Where Does the Incarcerated Population Fit In?**

[The Davis Vanguard reports](#) with the upcoming winter months raising concerns over possible increases in positive COVID-19 cases, this week the state of California greatly expanded its guidance on COVID-19 booster shots.

Previously, only Californians who were 65 years of age or older, who had underlying health conditions, or who lived or worked in settings at high risk of transmission were eligible to make appointments for booster shots on MyTurn (the state's centralized system for scheduling vaccination appointments).

As of this week, however, virtually any adult who is at least 18 years of age and who received their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least six months ago can schedule an appointment for a booster.

Although this update is welcome news for those who have been anxious to receive their booster shot, the guidance fails to address a particularly vulnerable subset of Californians: the incarcerated.

While the vast majority of incarcerated individuals have been eligible to receive COVID-19 boosters since October by virtue of residing in high-risk settings, 22% of those residing in CDCR (California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation) facilities remain unvaccinated. Additionally, only 66% of CDCR staff are fully vaccinated, further exacerbating the risk of spreading COVID-19 within prison/jail facilities.

This has culminated in a CDCR confirmed case rate that is approximately five times as high as the broader rate for California. The pandemic situation in jails too is dire, with the Sacramento County Jail observing a 2,580% increase in cases between October 6 and November 11.

Despite this, thus far neither the CDCR nor the Federal Bureau of Prisons has updated their clinical guidance on vaccines to account for the new updates regarding boosters.

It is unclear how the state penal system plans to incentivize more incarcerated individuals and staff members to get vaccinated and/or to receive boosters—if they plan to do so at all.

On a more local level, the Sacramento County Jail has been offering such financial incentives for the incarcerated since July. However, little data is available to confirm or deny whether these incentives are successful in increasing vaccination rates.

Activist Mackenzie Wilson says that more needs to be done to stop transmission within prisons and jails: “We ask that you use your platform and your powers to support the immediate release

of folks inside of the jail. We ask that you tell the district attorney to stop the spread and save lives by choosing not to file charges.”

### **FDA Advisers Vote to Recommend Authorization of a Pill to Treat COVID-19**

[CNN Health reports](#) advisers to the US Food and Drug Administration voted 13-10 Tuesday to recommend emergency use authorization of a pill made by Merck and Ridgeback Biotherapeutics to help treat [COVID-19](#).

Members of the FDA's Antimicrobial Drugs Advisory Committee were split in their vote to recommend molnupiravir, which can reduce the relative risk someone will progress to severe disease or death by about 30%. The absolute reduction in risk of severe disease or death was 3% --9.7% of people who took placebo died, compared to 6.8% of those given molnupiravir.

If authorization is granted, the drug would be the first oral antiviral treatment to fight Covid-19. It comes in capsule form.

The pills must be taken within five days of the start of symptoms to do much good, and people must take four pills twice a day for five days. Members of the committee were worried about risks to pregnant women.

To read more on this topic, including various viewpoints from committee members, [visit the full article](#).

### **California Won't Mandate Companies to Require Employee COVID Vaccinations**

[Sacramento News & Review](#) reports a federal appeals court recently blocked the implementation of a broad safety mandate designed to slow the spread of COVID-19 at larger companies. The state of California watching that legal scenario play out, quickly backed away from a similar mandate, even though it has the right to enact one if it wants.

What would the rule require? That people who work in companies with 100 or more employees either get vaccinated or wear a mask and be tested weekly.

If that does not strike you as particularly unreasonable, it may be because similar rules are already in place at workplaces across the country. That includes both California state employees and, eventually, school students, who will add the COVID shot to the list of immunizations they are required to have in order to attend class in person. That is in addition to the vast numbers of local agencies and private companies that already have enacted vaccine mandates, with strong worker participation following.

But it will not be happening on a statewide basis anytime soon. Even as California and the nation approaches a winter season that experts say will produce a sharp uptick in COVID cases, the legal process will take as long as it takes — and workers in many larger companies will remain vulnerable to the spread of disease.

In a Nov. 12 ruling rife with inflammatory language, the New Orleans-based Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals reaffirmed its own stay of an Emergency Temporary Standard issued by the Biden administration's Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The OSHA rule, issued Nov. 5, would require private companies with 100 or more employees to impose vaccinate-or-test rules on their workers.

When the OSHA rule was unveiled, multiple petitioners, including affected employers, Republican controlled states, religious groups and individuals, immediately asked for a stay. In the court's reaffirmation of the stay it granted, Circuit Judge Kurt Engelhardt decried the OSHA rule as a "regulatory scheme" and said it was beyond the agency's scope to write. The court also referred to COVID-19 as a "purported emergency," and focused on the economic harm the OSHA rule would cause. It added that "the mere specter of the Mandate has contributed to untold economic upheaval in recent months," though it failed to enumerate the damage.

For the record, OSHA conservatively estimates that the workplace safety rule could prevent more than 6,500 deaths and 250,000 COVID hospitalizations if implemented nationally. More than 770,000 Americans have died from the virus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The timetable for determining the legality of OSHA's move is unclear. A federal judicial panel has assigned the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati to handle a consolidation of cases from around the country arising from the agency's emergency rule. This removes the matter from any of the other 11 regional courts of appeal, including the one in New Orleans, where two of the three judges were appointed by former President Donald Trump. But many legal experts believe the case will ultimately land before the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the meantime, nothing much will happen, including in California, which has its own workplace safety agency. Cal-OSHA is empowered to write statewide rules as long as they meet or exceed any federal standard, and in fact, it met last week in part to do just that with regard to COVID and large companies. But the board subsequently backed down, saying it would wait for the federal case to be resolved.

If nothing else, that fits with the tendency of Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration to zig and zag on COVID-related issues. At times, such as with the state worker mandate and school vaccine requirements, the administration has been unafraid to go where other states fear to tread. At others, such as Newsom's baffling stance against vaccine mandates for prison workers or his handing to Blue Shield a vaccine distribution rollout that proved disastrous, it lines up astride political contributors, consequences be damned.

In this case, Cal-OSHA may be avoiding what it figures would be a spate of lawsuits brought by many of the same entities that asked for the federal stay. On the other hand, California already enforces multiple emergency COVID workplace rules, which among other things require all employers regardless of size to offer free testing to workers who may have been exposed to the virus on the job site. Clearly, the state has leeway to write safety rules to protect its labor force.

One can easily question aspects of the Biden administration's attempted mandate. Apart from the legal issue of OSHA's authority, for example, what is the rationale behind requiring vaccines or tests for a private company with 100 employees but not for a private company with 99 of them?

That is on a national scale. Within California, Cal-OSHA writes the workplace safety rules. As infectious diseases expert Dr. Monica Gandhi told us recently,

"Mandates are coming, because mandates work." In the case of the state's larger companies, that very much remains a decision for the employers themselves to make. For now, the state is sitting this round out.

## **FEMA Announces New NAC Membership**

[FEMA](#) Administrator Deanne Criswell announced Tuesday the appointment of 12 members to the agency's National Advisory Council.

These [12 members](#) will serve multi-year terms beginning Dec. 1 and will guide future recommendations centered around equity, climate change and readiness. NAC members are comprised of a geographically diverse and substantive cross-section of 35 officials, emergency managers and emergency responders from different levels of government and the private sector.

Collectively, these members advise the Administrator on all aspects of emergency management to ensure input from and coordination with state, local and tribal governments and the private sector on federal plans, programs and strategies for all hazards. Due to previous changes in the council's charter, this will also be the first time the NAC has a climate specialist member.

"I am honored to welcome the newly appointed and re-appointed FEMA National Advisory Council members. NAC members are significant contributors to advancing FEMA's mission and provide unique, survivor-centric perspectives from across government and community," said Administrator Criswell. "We are proud to share that the NAC is not only welcoming a climate specialist in 2021, but for the first time in the council's history, a dedicated climate-focused position will be offered during the 2022 application period. This new position serves as an excellent opportunity for our nation's most innovative and forward-thinking leaders in the climate space to step forward and pursue a chance to influence the way we build resilience across communities nationwide. I look forward to the energy and great efforts the council will undoubtedly bring forth and congratulate the new and re-appointed members on this achievement."

Of the 12 members selected, 10 are new appointments and two are reappointments. To view the 12 members appointed or reappointed, [click here for the full list](#).

## **Cal Fire, Cal OES Warn of Holiday Hazards**

[ABC 10 reports](#) as the holidays near, state agencies are warning the public of hazards with commonly used holiday items.

On Christmas Day, reports of candle fires peak, according to Cal Fire. The agency recommends burning candles for only one hour per inch diameter of the candle.

When extinguishing candles, Cal Fire says to "Hold your finger in front of the flame as you blow the candle out." This process allows the air to flow around the finger and extinguish the flame from both sides preventing hot wax from splattering.

As an alternative to regular candles, Cal Fire officials recommend using battery-operated, flameless candles to decorate, or flashlights to light dark areas.

The California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) is also issuing safety tips ahead of the winter holidays to reduce hospital visits. According to Cal OES, "Emergency rooms see thousands of injuries involving holiday decorating every season."

Cal OES warned of dangers associated with the various plants used to celebrate and decorate during the holidays. Plants such as mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis are potentially poisonous and should be kept away from children, according to Cal OES.

The state agency also warned of dangers with trees and encouraged Californians to use "fire resistant" labeled artificial trees. They said both artificial and live trees should be kept at least 3 feet away from heat sources such as fireplaces and radiators. Trunks of live trees can also be cut by about 2 inches to better absorb water.

Holiday lights are also a concern for emergency rooms and state agencies.

Cal OES says to only use outdoor-labeled lights outside and to turn them off before going to sleep or leaving the house. Some lights can also have broken sockets, loose connections, or bare wires which Cal OES says to replace.

While families celebrate the holidays, officials are hoping the public will follow safe practices to make sure that celebrations do not end in a hospital visit.

### **The Far-Reaching Consequences of Wildfire Smoke Plumes**

[EOS reports](#) by midsummer, it was clear the western United States would have another record-breaking fire season. Wildfires had burned through nearly 2 million acres and consumed thousands of structures in California alone.

Smoke from the fires reached all the way to the East Coast, carrying particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in width (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and other pollutants across the country. Although PM<sub>2.5</sub> is known to harm human health, less is known about the specific effects of wildfire smoke on health across regions. However, knowledge of wildfire smoke impacts is critical for researchers and public health experts going forward, as climate change continues to produce a warmer, drier western United States and the fire season is expected to become only longer and more intense.

To fill this gap, [O'Dell et al.](#) looked at smoke exposure across seasons and regions in the United States between 2006 and 2018. The team combined observation-based estimates of smoke-related PM<sub>2.5</sub> and gas phase hazardous air pollutants, or HAPs, with data on asthma hospital admissions and emergency department visits to determine the impacts of both acute and chronic smoke exposure.

The authors found that smoke caused between 1,300 and 5,900 asthma-related emergency department visits per year, and these were more likely to occur in the spring and summer. Chronic exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub> from smoke was linked to as many as 6,300 deaths per year, the study found.

Although most large wildfires originated in the western United States, nearly 75% of the emergency department visits and hospital admissions due to smoke occurred in nonwestern states. This is due largely to the higher population in the eastern United States, according to the study's authors. Comparing the relative health effects of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and HAPs in smoke, the authors found that the former had more long-term health impacts on individuals than the latter, but they note that the health impacts of HAPs are more uncertain.

The results highlight the importance of understanding the impacts of wildfire smoke on human health for populations across the country, not just those in states typically thought of as the most

affected by wildfires. Insights into wildfire-related human health effects will be especially important as wildfire conditions continue to worsen under climate change. (*GeoHealth*, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2021GH000457>, 2021).

## **San Francisco Declares Water Emergency, Asks for 10% System-Wide Water Reduction**

[California Globe reports](#) San Francisco Mayor London Breed, along with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) announced on Tuesday that there is now a water shortage emergency in effect, calling for large reductions across the Bay-spanning system.

According to the [new emergency measure](#), a 10% voluntary reduction in water usage compared to water use from July 2019 to June 2020 will be applied. All of SFPUC's 2.7 million customers, which includes the counties of Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara, will be affected. Broken down by county, San Francisco is going to be asked for a 5% drop due to having already reduced water usage this year, with the other three counties looking at a 14% drop.

To help ensure that businesses and residents comply, a 5% drought surcharge will be added to water bills, mirroring the 5% drop asked of San Francisco. In total, people's bills are estimated to go up by only about \$6 per month.

“With California still experiencing devastating drought and the uncertainty around this rainy season, we need to make tough decisions that will ensure that our water source continues to be reliable and dependable for the future,” Mayor Breed said in [a statement](#). “Year after year, San Franciscans step up to conserve our most precious resource, resulting in one of the lowest water usage rates in California, and during this critical time, I know that our City will once again meet the call to reduce water use.”

SFPUC officials also commented on Tuesday and Wednesday about the new measures being taken.

“We are in a drought with far-reaching consequences, and it has become clear we all need to do even more to address it,” noted SFPUC General Manager Dennis Herrera “San Franciscans have been doing their part and have some of the lowest water usage in the state. This emergency water shortage declaration will help all of our customers pull together and move in the same direction. We know we can rely on each other. I'm confident that everyone will do their part so we can all get through this.”

SFPUC Commission President Anson Moran added, “We need everyone to take action to preserve and stretch our limited water supplies. San Franciscans and our wholesale customers have been doing a good job when it comes to being efficient with their water use. We can all do better. We look forward to working with all of our customers to further reduce water use.”

SFPUC will also be launching an awareness campaign on water usage. The utility commission will include ways for people to reduce water to help achieve the 10% targeted system-wide reduction, including fixing leaky toilets, installing low-flow fixtures, reducing outdoor irrigation, and receiving water usage audits from SFPUC professionals.

The San Francisco/SFPUC measure comes a month after Governor Gavin Newsom added San Francisco County and multiple Southern California counties to the California-wide drought state of emergency. While the state had attempted a 15% across the board reduction in water usage in

July, the voluntary nature of Governor Gavin Newsom's reduction target only caused rates to go down by 1.8%.

According to the California Department of Water Resources, the 2021 water year was the second driest in California's recorded history, barely coming above 1924. In San Francisco, that dryness caused the city's reservoir supply to go down to 73% from 80% a year ago, with state of emergency policies not allowing about one-third of that supply to be used. Higher temperatures along with lower precipitation levels, less snowpack mass in recent years in the mountains and state actions such as releasing about half of all stored water in reservoirs to the ocean for environmental purposes have caused the dire situation in the state, particularly in the North and Central regions.

More new water reduction policies are expected in the coming months as reservoir levels in Northern California continue to go down.

### **November Was the Hottest Ever Across the Coachella Valley, Inland Empire**

[Desert Sun reports](#) this November was the warmest on record for Palm Springs and broad swaths of the desert and Inland Empire. That is the word from the National Weather Service, which on Wednesday also said average temperature records were set in Anza Borrego State Park, Riverside, Elsinore, and San Jacinto.

The average temperature in Palm Springs for the month was 72.7 degrees. The previous warmest November on record, averaging 70.9 degrees, was in 2017.

The record heat comes atop bone-dry conditions last month that show no sign of changing this winter, said Casey Oswant, a meteorologist the National Weather Service in San Diego, which tracks southern California via automatic monitors in key locations. State regulators on Tuesday announced they might impose watering restrictions in early 2022

Palm Springs, Victorville, Big Bear Lake and Riverside all tied previous records for the driest month ever in November.

The double whammy is dangerous for everyone from joggers to firefighters, said Oswalt.

State officials are grappling with the drought and heat. California's Department of Water Resources director is expected to announce on Wednesday what water, if any, will be available to local water districts from dwindling Sierra snowpack and Delta supplies. She has indicated there might be zero allocations except for health and safety needs.

Possible mandatory restrictions on watering lawns and plants and other measures were announced by California's Water Resources Control Board late Tuesday, though they stopped short of calling for an outright ban. Nevertheless, if the proposed emergency regulation is approved early next year, water districts could be required to issue fines if customers water within 48 hours of a rainstorm or use drinking water to clean streets.

Homeowners associations could also be banned from restricting drought-tolerant landscaping or other conservation measures.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom's October drought proclamation directed the water board to adopt prohibitions if necessary. He also urged Californians to voluntarily slash water use by 15%, but those levels have not been met in many locations.

The record heat continues a steady upward trend of higher temperatures over the past 30 years, Oswalt said, though she said climate scientists would have to comment on whether it is linked to global climate change.

### **ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon**

- **DPR Research Grants Program;** *agriculture; disadvantaged communities; education; employment, labor, & training; environment & water; food & nutrition; housing, community, and economic development; parks & recreation; science, technology, and research & development*
  - Funded by: Department of Pesticide Regulation
  - Deadline: **Thursday, December 9, 2021**
  - Total estimated funding: \$3.75 million
  - Full grant guidelines: [linked here](#)
- **2021-22 Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Reporting System (ES) Program RFP;** *consumer protection; health & human services; law, justice, and legal services*
  - Funded by: Governor's Office of Emergency Services
  - Deadline: **Friday, December 10, 2021**
  - Total estimated funding: \$600k
  - Full grant guidelines: [linked here](#)
- **2021-22 EMPG Program – American Rescue Plan Act (EMPG-ARPA) for Federally-Recognized Tribes in California RFP;** *disadvantaged communities; disaster prevention & relief; energy; housing, community and economic development*
  - Funded by: Governor's Office of Emergency Services
  - Deadline: **Friday, December 10, 2021**
  - Total estimated funding: \$62,732
  - Full grant guidelines: [linked here](#)
- **2021-22 EMPG for Federally-Recognized Tribes in California RFP;** *disaster prevention & relief; health & human services; housing, community and economic development*
  - Funded by: Governor's Office of Emergency Services
  - Deadline: **Friday, December 10, 2021**
  - Total estimated funding: \$198,260
  - Full grant guidelines: [linked here](#)

### **Funding Opportunities**

#### **ReCoverCA Housing Counseling**

[The Department of Housing and Community Development](#) has created the ReCoverCA Housing Counseling for non-profit, HUD-Certified Housing Counseling organizations to provide guidance, advice, and other technical assistance to applicants of the HCD ReCoverCA housing programs. This is in line with HCD's intent to provide a broad array of housing counseling related services to vulnerable Applicants.

Eligible Applicants include applicants of the HCD ReCoverCA housing program(s) from the 2017 DR-4344 and DR-4353 disaster impacted counties of Butte, Lake, Los Angeles, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sonoma, Ventura, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Yuba,

also, from the 2018 DR-4382 and DR-4407 disaster impacted counties of Butte, Lake, Los Angeles, Shasta, and Ventura.

Applicants may submit Applications to perform the following service activities:

1. Housing Counseling Case Management
2. Homeownership Counseling
3. Homebuyer Counseling
4. Financial Counseling
5. Other services as described in Section 3.3 of NOFA

Applicants must be eligible disaster-impacted counties as identified in DR-4344, DR-4353, DR-4382, and DR-4407.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Tuesday, December 14, 2021**. Total estimated funding available is \$3 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#). To view the online application, [click here](#).

### **GFO-21-401 – Propelling Offshore Wind Energy Research (POWER)**

[The CA Energy Commission](#) has created this solicitation to fund research and development projects to demonstrate, test, and validate innovative floating offshore wind (FOSW) components and tools.

The solicitation will fund two focus areas:

Group 1: Manufacturing, Testing, and Pilot Demonstration of Floating Offshore Wind Technology (Total funding available: \$12 million); or

Group 2: Inspection and Monitoring Systems for Floating Offshore Wind Applications (Total funding available: \$2 million)

Selected projects will advance the readiness, performance, reliability, and cost-competitiveness of FOSW, while increasing the knowledge of environmental and wildlife impacts in California.

This solicitation is open to all public and private entities with the exception of local publicly owned electric utilities. In accordance with CPUC Decision 12-05-037, funds administered by the CEC may not be used for any purposes associated with local publicly owned electric utility activities.

At least 25% of available Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) technology demonstration and deployment funding must be allocated to project sites located in, and benefiting, disadvantaged communities; and an additional minimum 10% of funds must be allocated to projects sites located in and benefiting low-income communities.

Match funding is required in the amount of at least 10% minimum of the requested project funds.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Wednesday, December 15, 2021**. Total estimated funding available is \$14 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#). To view the online application, [click here](#).

## **2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program**

[The Department of Water Resources](#) has created the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program to offer financial assistance to address drought impacts through implementation of projects with multiple benefits. For communities, including Tribes, facing the loss or contamination of their water supplies due to the drought; to address immediate drought impacts on human health and safety; and to protect fish and wildlife resources plus other public benefits, such as ecosystem improvements.

Under the Budget Act of 2021 (Stats. 2021, ch. 69 § 112) financial assistance will be provided by DWR to deliver grants for interim and immediate drought relief to urban communities and for multibenefit projects. DWR is combining the funding into one Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program. The Grant Solicitation makes approximately \$190 million in drought relief funding available. A set-aside of a least \$50 million will be made to support Underrepresented Communities and Native American Tribes (Tribes). An applicant must be an existing grantee of the Proposition 1 IRWM Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) program to apply for the Underrepresented Community set-aside.

Eligible applicants are public agencies and utilities, colleges and universities, mutual water companies, 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, regional water management groups as defined in Section 10539 of the Water Code, federally recognized California Native American Tribes, and non-federally recognized Native American Tribes on the contact list maintained by the California Native American Heritage Commission.

For the purposes of this Grant Solicitation, “project” means all planning, designing, engineering, acquisition of real property interests, construction and related activities undertaken to implement a discrete action to be funded. Eligible project types include hauled water, installation of temporary community water tanks, bottled water, water vending machines, emergency water interties, new wells or rehabilitation of existing wells, construction or installation of permanent connection to adjacent water systems, recycled water projects that support immediate relief to potable water supplies, fish and wildlife rescue, protection, and relocation, and drought resiliency planning (not applicable to Multibenefit Drought Funds).

Costs incurred after award date are eligible for reimbursement. Eligible costs include technical assistance, site acquisitions, and costs directly related to the provision of each project. Ineligible costs not reimbursable by this Grant Solicitation are listed in the Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package (GL/PSP) and include, but are not limited to, meals not directly related to travel, payment of stipends, purchase of equipment or water supplies that are not an integral part of the project, establishment of a reserve fund, replacement of existing funding sources for ongoing programs, operation and maintenance costs, expenses incurred in preparation of the application for this solicitation or an application for another program, and any indirect costs.

Proposed applications will be reviewed for eligibility, in accordance with the GL/PSP. Criteria and metrics defined in GL/PSP will be used to evaluate and recommend projects eligible for funding to DWR Director or designee. Awards will be posted on DWR’s website and may be announced to the public through e-mail listserv or other means. Following approval by the Director or designee, the selected grant recipient will receive an award letter officially notifying them of their selection, the grant amount, and associated conditions and requirements.

A set-aside of at least \$50 million will be made to support disadvantaged communities (DAC) and Native American Tribes (Tribes). A DAC is a community with an annual median household income (MHI) that is less than 80% of the statewide annual median household income. Using the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) data for the years 2012-2016, 80% of the California Statewide MHI is \$51,026.

No funding match is required for this Program; however, applicants are encouraged to use other fund sources to supplement the grant funds. Applicants are required to describe all other funding sources (actual and anticipated) necessary to complete the project.190.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Friday, December 17, 2021**. Total estimated funding available is \$190 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#). To view the online application, [click here](#).