



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (1/7/22)

Upcoming Oversight Hearing

SUBJECT: The Impact of Ambulance Patient Offload Delays on Emergency Response

WHEN: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

WHERE: State Capitol, Room 437

Governor Newsom Signs Executive Order in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

[The Office of Governor Newsom issued a press release](#) Wednesday, announcing that he has signed an executive order to protect Californians amid increasing COVID-19 case rates and hospitalizations driven by the fast-spreading Omicron variant.

The order extends the sunset of [AB 361](#), which the Governor signed in September to extend the flexibilities provided in a prior executive order enabling public agencies to meet remotely during the COVID-19 emergency.

Under the order signed Wednesday, state bodies are permitted to continue holding public meetings via teleconference through March 31, 2022.

The full text of the Governor's executive order can be found [here](#).

Omicron Wave is Inundating California – How to Protect Yourself and Others

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) with the Omicron variant of the coronavirus spreading rapidly throughout California, officials are urging Californians to do their part to help ease the surge.

Here are some things you can do to stay safe:

To reduce coronavirus spread, health officials are urging people to use masks that are medical grade, such as surgical, or N95, KN95, or KF94 masks. Wearing an old, loose, cloth mask alone is less effective. Placing a cloth mask on top of a surgical one can be more effective than a surgical mask alone as it tightens the fit.

To view what properties the California Department of Public Health considers make up a good mask, [visit the full article](#).

Officials are also urging people to avoid going to an emergency room unless they have a true medical emergency. To read further details on their statement, [click here](#).

To read further tips that some areas are already implementing – such as moving services remote, what schools are doing to protect students, and why teens should get boosted – [visit the full article](#).

The San Francisco Department of Public Health has provided additional tips that can be found by viewing [the full article](#).

What’s Being Done to Keep Kids Safe as Schools Reopen During Omicron Surge

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) with Omicron spreading with unprecedented speed, Los Angeles County is tightening coronavirus safety rules as schools reopen this week in hopes of slowing outbreaks.

The move comes at a perilous moment, with coronavirus infections surpassing previous highs.

L.A. County recorded 23,553 new cases on Saturday and 21,200 more on Sunday, far above last winter’s peak average of 16,000 cases a day; and those numbers are probably undercounting due to lags from weekend reporting.

The coronavirus transmission rate in Los Angeles County is now estimated to be greater than at any point since the early months of the pandemic, as cases soar across California, data show. Every infected person in L.A. County is on average transmitting the virus to two other people, according to estimates from California’s COVID-19 [computer models](#) published Monday morning.

Officials have vowed to keep schools open despite the surge. Los Angeles County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer noted last week that there had been on average fewer than a dozen outbreaks per week across some 3,000 schools during the fall, which were typically small and immediately contained.

The rules cover the 80 public school districts in Los Angeles County as well as private schools. About 50 K-12 school districts reopen Monday; the other 30, including Los Angeles Unified, are back Jan. 10.

School districts also are contemplating what additional actions to take on their own, with the Burbank Unified Board of Education holding an emergency meeting on Sunday and the L.A. Board of Education meeting Monday morning.

The following is being implemented to protect students:

- Students who feel healthy but were close contacts of an infected person must take a coronavirus test within two weeks of school resuming after winter break. They do not have to quarantine at home unless they have symptoms or test positive. The county recommends — but does not require — that students be tested immediately after exposure and then again on Day 5, according to the letter.
- Masks must be worn outdoors “in crowded spaces where physical distancing is not feasible” except when actively eating and drinking.
- The county recommends but does not require students to wear higher-grade, not cloth, masks and urges anyone eligible to get a booster dose of the COVID vaccine.

- Athletic teams with four linked cases over 14 days have to suspend group activities for at least seven days, obtaining county health department approval before resuming.

Employees at all Los Angeles County public and private schools will have to wear medical-grade masks, such as a surgical mask or a N95 or KN95 mask. School officials are supposed to provide these masks as needed.

To read what is expected to come next, [visit the full article](#).

Longer COVID-19 Testing Lines, Wait Times at ER, Seen Across Southern California

[CBS Los Angeles reports](#) long queues of cars waiting hours for a COVID-19 test, and overflowing hospitals were seen all over Southern California Monday, a flashback to troubling images displayed early in the pandemic.

A combination of very sick unvaccinated patients in emergency rooms and hospital workers getting infected with the highly contagious Omicron variant is making for a shortage of frontline workers on the job.

“My ER is completely overrun right now. Folks are waiting 21 to 25 hours there to get a bed if they need a bed, and that’s for all patients regardless of whether you have COVID or not,” said Anne Caputo-Pear, an RN at California Hospital Medical Center.

A holiday season of widespread travel and gatherings, unfortunately, coincided with the spread of COVID-19, which health experts say is much more efficient at infecting even fully vaccinated and boosted people, leading to high demand for COVID-19 tests required to get back to work and school.

In Boyle Heights, a white tent served as a staging area for testing, while cars lined up at Dodger Stadium for a test – both ominous flashbacks to the pre-vaccine pandemic. In Baldwin Park, a long line of cars was seen queued up on the top of the Kaiser Permanente’s Baldwin Park medical center.

Further out in La Palma, there was nearly a mile-long line of cars waiting to get a COVID test. At-home COVID tests are hard to come by in stores, so schools and elected officials are scrambling to distribute tests.

Both [Orange County](#) and [Los Angeles County](#) are offering to mail free home test kits to its residents, while Supervisor Katrina Foley helped hand out boxes of free home tests at Orange Coast College. LAUSD is also planning to distribute tests to each of its students before the spring semester resumes next week.

Testing Site in L.A. Says Child Tested Positive for “Flurona” Co-Infection

[NBC Los Angeles reports](#) a COVID testing site says it has detected what is believed to be the first 'flurona' co-infection in Los Angeles County.

NBCLA has reached out to the Los Angeles County Public Health Department for comment on the case detected at a testing site in Brentwood near the Getty Center. The case was detected four days ago when a child tested positive for both influenza and coronavirus after returning from a trip to Mexico, according to the testing company.

Health officials had warned of the possibility of being infected simultaneously with both influenza and coronavirus and encouraged people to get vaccinated against both. So, while the two illnesses are not new, the term 'flurona' was coined to indicate the presence of both respiratory ailments at the same time and does not indicate a distinct disease.

[Flu and COVID-19 will be circulating in communities](#) throughout Los Angeles County, the health department said. Both can cause serious illness and death.

The flu and coronavirus can cause similar symptoms that include fever, cough, fatigue, runny nose, sore throat and diarrhea and muscle and body aches. Flu and COVID can both be fatal. People with underlying health conditions are at higher risk.

The viruses are transmitted similarly — droplets and aerosols spread through coughs, sneezes, talking, singing and breathing.

The number of COVID-19-positive patients in Los Angeles County surged well above the 2,000-mark Tuesday amid a spike in infections that has seen daily case numbers skyrocket over the past two weeks.

According to state figures, there were 2,240 COVID-positive patients in county hospitals as of Tuesday, a jump from 1,994 on Monday. Of those patients, 303 were being treated in intensive care, an increase from 278 a day earlier.

The hospitalization number is the highest it has been since last February in the midst of another winter COVID surge. Due to rising patient numbers, the county Department of Public Health on Monday urged residents to avoid visiting hospital emergency rooms unless they urgently need emergency care.

L.A. Healthcare System Hit with Widening Staffing Shortages as Workers Get Coronavirus

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) hospital workers and other healthcare employees have been getting infected with the coronavirus in rising numbers as cases skyrocket in Los Angeles County, compounding staff shortages at medical centers amid the latest wave of the pandemic.

Roughly 100 front-line workers at the Pasadena hospital are now out because of COVID-19, Shriner said. As cases soar, Huntington has been seeing wait times exceeding five hours at its emergency room. On Tuesday, it started putting elective surgeries on hold.

Staffing shortfalls have pervaded the healthcare system, not just at hospitals and clinics but also “all of the other parts of the healthcare system that need to work in a tightly connected puzzle,” said Dr. Christina Ghaly, director of the L.A. County Department of Health Services.

Dialysis centers that are thin on employees are sending patients to hospitals instead, Ghaly said. Care facilities where DHS-run hospitals would ordinarily send discharged patients are unable to take them in because of staff shortfalls. And ambulances have been delayed getting to 911 callers and face longer waits at hospitals to unload patients, county officials said.

Emergency medical technicians call it “holding the wall” — waiting for a patient to be unloaded from an ambulance. In L.A. County, shortages of hospital staff have led to some ambulances waiting hours to unload patients, which makes them unavailable for other emergency calls.

In cases involving patients with less severe symptoms, “we’ve had ambulances tied up at hospitals up to eight hours over the weekend while patients wait for open beds,” said Jeff Lucia, communications director for the ambulance provider Falck. “To free up ambulances to respond to emergency calls, we’ve brought in camping cots and placed them at some hospitals, but clearly more needs to be done.”

Response times for ambulances, which are supposed to reach people in less than nine minutes, are currently “ranging more at about 12 minutes, with some as long as 30 minutes,” the L.A. County Department of Health Services said Tuesday.

Lucia said that if Falck’s units weren’t tied up at hospitals, they would have enough resources to reach callers quicker. But EMT Ryan Walters, president of the International Assn. of EMTs and Paramedics Local R12-370, called the situation “a predictable outcome of the pandemic and the wages and working conditions of our members.”

Walters, who works in L.A. County for Falck, faulted not only rising COVID-19 cases — Falck said 5% of its workforce in L.A. County is now out for COVID-19 quarantine — but also pay levels and workloads that have made it harder to retain EMTs and paramedics. Ambulance workers are “just being pushed to the limit,” said James Webb, treasurer for the same union.

The [booming numbers](#) of COVID-19 cases in L.A. County have not resulted, so far, in hospitalization numbers as dire as last winter. Health authorities believe that is the result of more people being vaccinated than in earlier waves of the virus, and they have also been hopeful about early signs that Omicron may cause milder illness than other variants.

Healthcare workers in L.A. County are vaccinated at high rates, which makes them much less likely to suffer severe illness and be hospitalized.

But big surges in cases can nonetheless wreak havoc on hospitals if lots of healthcare workers get infected — even with mild cases — and have to stay home to keep others from getting sick.

In L.A. County, the number of hospital workers who have tested positive for COVID-19 began to surge in December, hitting numbers not seen since last January, when the region was emerging from its wintertime surge, county [data](#) show.

The rise in coronavirus cases is not unique to healthcare workers but reflects the rapid spread of the highly contagious new variant throughout L.A. County, where the transmission rate has been estimated to be greater than at any point since the early months of the pandemic.

To read more specifics on the current coronavirus surge hitting the state and how healthcare workers are being affected, [visit the full article](#).

From SF to Napa, Here’s Why Bay Area Hospitals are Experiencing Overwhelming Staffing Shortages

[ABC 7 News reports](#) an increase in community transmission is impacting hospital capacity throughout the state of California.

In the Bay Area, Napa County is reporting zero ICU beds available. With only two hospitals in the entire county, Napa already had a limited number of ICU beds, but what is making matters worse is a dramatic staffing shortage fueled by an increase of Omicron infections.

One of the main factors contributing to the staffing shortage is California's law of patient to nurse ratio. One nurse is needed for every two patients in intensive care.

"One of our hospitals is having COVID cases among their health care providers so when they are put in isolation period, they are actually taken out of the workforce temporarily until they can go back in again. That is one of the contributing factors [to the staffing shortage], but we are also seeing Winter census when you have people that get hospitalized for other reasons outside of COVID," explained Dr. Karen Relucio, Napa County Public Health Officer & Deputy Director.

Dr. Chris Colwell, Chief of the Emergency Department at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, is also reporting an overwhelming shortage with staff members who've been exposed, infected or taking care of an infected family member.

"We are still able to take care of critically ill people and that will always be our primary mission, but where we are really stretched is in our ability to serve for the non-emergency issues that many people need right now," said Dr. Colwell.

Dr. Colwell and his team are having to transfer patients to other floors as they deal with limited staff and bed capacity.

"We have 59 beds in the Emergency Department, at 57, but that's the ones that are fully open. We are now generally running at between 36-44 beds. And often times, that's including patients that were waiting to go upstairs. So, they are not available to see acute patient care," said Dr. Colwell.

California's Employers Face New Obligations Under Cal/OSHA's Revised COVID-19 ETS

[The National Law Review reports](#) for the second time, the standards-setting board for the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health ("Cal/OSHA") has readopted, with revisions, the agency's COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards ("ETS"). The [revised ETS](#) become effective on January 14, 2022 and impose new obligations on nearly all employers in the Golden State.

Many aspects of the ETS remain unchanged in the latest update. The Cal/OSHA ETS continue to apply to all employees not covered by Cal/OSHA's [Aerosol Transmissible Diseases Standard](#) or employees working alone or at home. The ETS still require employers to establish, implement, and maintain a COVID-19 Prevention Program ("CPP"), although that CPP must now be updated to reflect Cal/OSHA's latest changes. Employers must once again train employees on up-to-date COVID-19-related information, including the employer's policies and procedures, COVID-19 prevention, and benefits to which employees may be entitled, among other things. And, as they have for the past year plus, the ETS set standards for various COVID-19-related protocols that employers must follow, including, for example, making testing available in certain situations, requiring face coverings for certain employees, excluding COVID-19 cases from the workplace, and investigating potential exposures and "outbreaks."

Although many core requirements of the ETS have not changed, there are several important updates impacting California employers. The last revisions to the ETS modified various protocols based on the state's "reopening" and updated CDC guidance. The most important changes can be found by visiting [the full article](#). The entirety of the revised ETS can be found [here](#).

FDA's New Emergency Authorizations, CMS Reinstates Vaccine Mandates

[Healthcare Exec Intelligence reports](#) CMS has issued a revised COVID-19 vaccine mandate for healthcare workers. The new mandate requires that healthcare workers in 25 states be vaccinated by the end of February 2022.

In a series of December decisions, the FDA has approved emergency authorizations for Roche's COVID-19 test and Merck's antiviral Molnupiravir. Both approvals came after the products were shown to be effective in clinical trials. Additionally, the FDA acted last month when it issued a warning to Medtronic's diabetes facility.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court will hear a case that could reverse a 2018 decision that supported Epic Systems' use of arbitration to settle a work-related claim.

The Supreme Court's upcoming hearing of Viking River Cruises, Inc. versus Moriana may affect the 2018 ruling of a case between Epic Systems and one of its employees. Epic won the case in 2018 which affirmed the company's right to use class action waivers in the case of work-related claims.

"A favorable ruling for California employers could change the landscape by allowing employers to implement and enforce arbitration agreements with Private Attorney Generals Act (PAGA) waivers," the National Law Review stated. "In short, it would allow arbitration agreements to control PAGA claims on parity with all other statutory employment claims under state and federal law." To read more, [click here](#).

The FDA has approved Roche's new at-home COVID-19 test. The test approved last week is shown to have 95 percent sensitivity and the ability to detect positive cases for all strains of the virus. To receive approval, Roche participated in the NIH Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics' Independent Test Assessment Program. Roche's tests will be available to consumers beginning this month. To read more, [click here](#).

Medical device company, Medtronic, received a formal warning from the FDA last month after inspections showed inadequate quality systems at the company's Northridge, California facility. The FDA cited failures in risk assessment, device recalls, compliant handling, and reporting of adverse events. In response to the FDA's warning, Medtronic representatives emphasized their commitment to improving the quality of their California facility. To read more, [click here](#).

The antiviral drug approved last month is shown to reduce death and hospitalization among those infected with COVID-19. Emergency authorization for the drug applies to adults 18 years or older with high risk of disease who would either not benefit from or have access to other forms of treatment. The drug will not be administered as a prophylactic or to individuals already hospitalized with COVID-19. To read more, [click here](#).

CMS has reinstated the COVID-19 vaccine mandate for healthcare workers and set a new deadline for a first dose. Healthcare staff in 25 states will need to receive two doses of an approved vaccine by February 28, 2022, or risk losing their jobs. Still to come, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments concerning the vaccine mandate on January 7, 2022. To read more, [click here](#).

CAL FIRE Investigators Determine Cause of Dixie Fire

[CAL FIRE issued a press release](#) stating last year's Dixie Fire in Butte, Plumas, Lassen, Shasta, and Tehama counties started on July 13, burned a total of 963,309 acres, destroyed 1,329 structures and damaged 95 additional structures.

CAL FIRE investigators were dispatched to the Dixie Fire and began working to determine the origin and cause of the fire. After a meticulous and thorough investigation, CAL FIRE has determined that the Dixie Fire was caused by a tree contacting electrical distribution lines owned and operated by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) located west of Cresta Dam.

The Dixie Fire investigative report has been forwarded to the Butte County District Attorney's Office.

All inquiries regarding the Dixie Fire investigative report will be referred to the Butte County District Attorney's Office at (530) 538-7411.

Californians must remain vigilant and be prepared for wildfire. For more information on how to be prepared, visit www.readyforwildfire.org or www.fire.ca.gov.

Sewage Spill Closes Southern California Beaches

[NBC News reports](#) Southern California beaches from Orange to Los Angeles counties were closed over the holiday weekend after as many as 7 million gallons of untreated wastewater spilled into the Pacific Ocean, officials said Sunday.

The spill happened after [a series of late December storms](#) brought heavy rainfall to the area. A section of Los Angeles County-run sewage system "collapsed," sending untreated wastewater to already overwhelmed storm drains that lead to sea, some blocked by debris, the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts said in a series of statements.

The collapse was reported Friday night in the city of Carson, and an emergency contractor quickly set up pumps to bypass the problem, but sewage continued to make it to sea the next day, according to the districts.

By New Year's Day additional bypass pumps and the last drops of rain had combined to help end the spill overnight, the sanitation officials said.

The spill prompted coastal closures from Huntington Beach to the south to Rancho Palos Verdes to the north, said officials in the two counties affected by the breach.

The closures included 7 miles of beaches and bayfront areas in Long Beach, health officials there said. Reopening the coastline to recreation would require water testing that shows bacterial levels that are not hazardous, they said.

Some of the same beaches were temporarily closed in early October after a pipeline breach off Huntington Beach released [an estimated 25,000 gallons](#) of crude oil into the Pacific.

The 70th annual Polar Bear Swim at Cabrillo Beach in Los Angeles, scheduled for New Year's Day, was canceled because of the latest spill.

Frigid water temperatures in the mid-50s have generally helped to keep holiday tourists away from the shoreline, but the regularity of storm-related spills concerned some leaders.

"A sewage spill of this magnitude is dangerous and unacceptable, and we need to understand what happened," Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn said in a statement. "The recent storm undoubtedly contributed to the spill, but we need infrastructure that doesn't fail when it rains."

A major storm drainage creek serving the area of the spill, the Dominguez Channel, was also the subject of a persistent, foul odor in October.

Investigators focused on a late September fire at a warehouse that stored wellness and beauty products. [They believe the fire unlocked and released some of the products' chemicals](#), including ethanol, which then made their way to the channel and were alleged to have caused or contributed to the sulfurous odor.

Caltrans Initiates Emergency Tree Removal Operations in Storm-Damaged Regions

[Yuba Net reports](#) Caltrans is alerting motorists to expect intermittent one-way traffic control on several Sierra highways through March for emergency tree removal operations.

After record-breaking winter storms in December coupled with high mountain winds, numerous trees throughout the Sierra have fallen on state highways or are at risk of falling due to heavy snow, saturated ground and continued high wind gusts. Caltrans has initiated a \$3 million emergency tree removal contract with Tyrrell Resources, Inc. of Truckee to assist with tree removal operations and cleanup.

Motorists should anticipate intermittent one-way traffic control on the following highways. Most tree removal work will occur during daytime hours unless otherwise noted. To view the list of highways affected by tree removal operations, [visit the full article](#).

Earthquake Early Warning System at Your Fingertips

[Earthquake Warning California](#) is the country's first publicly available, statewide warning system that could give California residents crucial seconds to take cover **before** you feel shaking. Managed by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), Earthquake Warning California uses ground motion sensors from across the state to detect earthquakes before humans can feel them and can notify Californians to "Drop, Cover and Hold On" in advance of an earthquake.

To receive earthquake warnings, individuals and family members can download the MyShake App and ensure phone settings are adjusted to receive emergency alerts, including:

- **MyShake App:** Free smartphone app that provides iPhone and Android users with audio and visual warnings [magnitude 4.5 or higher and Modified Mercalli Intensity III (weak) shaking]. Available in the [Apple App](#) and [Google Play](#) stores;
- **Android Earthquake Alerts:** Android phones with updated operating systems are automatically subscribed to Android Earthquake Alerts, which uses the same technology as the MyShake App; and
- **Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs):** No-cost text messages for emergency situations [magnitude 5.0 or higher and Modified Mercalli Intensity IV (light) shaking].

If you live in or travel to areas that could be impacted by an earthquake, preparation is vital, as these events can strike suddenly, at any time, with little warning. Visit [My Hazards](#) to see if you live or work in an area prone to earthquakes.

The California Earthquake Early Warning System uses science, state-of-the-art monitoring technology, and innovative delivery methods to alert people that an earthquake is happening before the anticipated strongest shaking arrives in affected regions.

ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **GFO-21-303 – Vehicle-to-Building Technologies for Resilient Backup Power;** *energy*
 - Funded by: CA Energy Commission
 - Deadline: **Friday, January 7, 2022 (Today!)**
 - Total estimated funding: \$19.5 million
 - Full grant guidelines: [linked here](#)
 - Online application: [linked here](#)
- **Beet Curly Top Virus Control Program Grants;** *agriculture; environment & water; science, technology, and research & development*
 - Funded by: CA Department of Food and Agriculture
 - Deadline: **Monday, January 10, 2022**
 - Total estimated funding: \$100k
 - Full grant guidelines: [linked here](#)
- **Local Government Waste Tire Enforcement Grant Program;** *environment & water*
 - Funded by: Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
 - Deadline: **Thursday, December 13, 2021**
 - Total estimated funding: \$6.05 million
 - Full grant guidelines: [linked here](#)
 - Online application: [linked here](#)

Funding Opportunities

Wildfire Resilience

[The Coastal Conservancy](#) has created the Wildfire Resilience Program to support local partners to develop and implement projects that improve ecological health of natural lands and reduce the risk of catastrophic fire.

The program will fund grants for: on-the-ground activities to restore the health and increase resilience of California forests, grasslands, and natural lands to wildfire; and planning and capacity building to increase wildfire resilience in California for projects from Marin County south to Ventura County.

Eligible applicants include nonprofits, public agencies, and tribal governments. The deadline to apply is **Friday, January 14, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$17 million.

To view the full grant guidelines, [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. This Grant Solicitation makes approximately \$190 million in drought relief funding available. A set-aside of at 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, design, 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.

Eligible applicants include nonprofits, public agencies, and tribal governments.

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, January 14, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$190 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#). To view the online application, [click here](#).

State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP)

[The CA Department of Food and Agriculture](#) has created the SWEEP program to incentive California farmers to implement irrigation systems that conserve water and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from irrigation water pumping.

Applicants may request up to \$200,000 for irrigation-related on-farm improvements that will result in water savings and GHG emission reductions. Applications scoring a minimum score of 30 to 50 will be funded on a first come, first-serve basis. CDFA will reserve 25% of the funds for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFRs) and projects that benefit priority populations by reducing criteria air pollutants from fossil fuel combustion. Additionally, \$2 million will be reserved for applications that utilize the sub-surface drip irrigation to apply dairy manure effluent to field crops.

Eligible applicants include businesses, individuals, and tribal governments. Applicants must be a California agricultural operation. For the purposes of this program, an agricultural operation is defined as row, vineyard, field and tree crops, commercial nurseries, nursery stock production, and greenhouse operations producing food crops or flowers. Medical and recreational cannabis crops are excluded from eligibility. Academic university research institutions and state governmental organizations are not eligible for funding.

The project location must be within California.

The deadline to apply is **Tuesday, January 18, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$45 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#). To view the online application, [click here](#).