



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (6/17/22)

The Committee's Next Policy Hearing

WHEN: Monday, June 27, 2022, at 2:30 p.m.

WHERE: State Capitol, Room 444

California Democrats' Gun Control Package Passes Senate Committee

[The Epoch Times reports](#) a package of gun control bills introduced by Democrat lawmakers passed the California Senate Appropriations Committee on June 13.

Several of the bills were proposed or fast-tracked in response to the recent mass shooting incidents in Buffalo, New York; Uvalde, Texas; and Laguna Woods, California.

The bills now await a hearing date on the Senate floor. Assembly Bills (AB) 228, 1769, 2156, 2239, 2551, and 2552 passed the committee with minimal public feedback.

[AB 228](#), authored by Assemblyman Freddie Rodriguez (D-Pomona) would require the Department of Justice (DOJ) to inspect firearm manufacturers every three years, at the minimum, to ensure compliance with current gun laws.

"I am proud to advance legislation that will tighten the protocols for purchasing firearms and increase gun safety in California. Following the tragic events in Uvalde, Texas ... it is vital that our country ensures these firearms stop ending up in the hands of criminals," Rodriguez said in a statement.

Rodriguez's bill passed 7-0 in the appropriations committee.

To read more on the other bills included in this package, [visit the full article](#).

Two Police Officers Die After Being Shot While Responding to Stabbing Call in El Monte, Officials Say

[ABC 7 reports](#) two police officers have died after being shot while responding to an emergency call at a motel in El Monte Tuesday afternoon, according to authorities.

The officers were responding to a possible stabbing at the Siesta Inn and "took gunfire upon arrival," officials said.

Both were rushed to LAC-USC Medical Center where they died from their injuries.

"They were acting as a first line of defense for our community members when they were essentially ambushed while trying to keep a family safe," said El Monte Mayor Jessica Ancona during a Tuesday night press conference.

Officials say a woman involved in the initial possible stabbing call was the suspect's girlfriend and is being interviewed by detectives. She was not injured.

Investigators believe the shooting began inside the motel room, and additional shots were fired outside in the parking lot.

Detectives say the male suspect was also hit by gunfire and died at the scene.

A gun believed to have been used by the suspect was recovered at the scene, officials said at Tuesday's press conference.

Neither the officers nor the suspect have been identified. However, authorities said that one of the officers had more than two decades of experience on the force, and the second officer had less than a year on the job.

The incident happened at about 4:47 p.m. near Garvey Avenue and Central Avenue.

The area of Garvey Avenue between Santa Anita Avenue and Central Avenue is closed due to the ongoing investigation.

The city of El Monte, El Monte Police Department and El Monte Police Officers Association released a joint statement Tuesday night that said:

"There are no words to describe our grief and devastation by this senseless act as we learned about the passing of two of our police officers. It weighs heavy on our hearts and we are sending our support to their families. We would also like to thank the El Monte community and our surrounding government agencies for the outpouring support we have received in the last few hours."

Is There Still a Fire Season in California?

[Fox 40 reports](#) Californians have been hearing about a wildfire season for many years, but officials no longer look at the likelihood of explosive and deadly fires as seasonal.

"That was a term we've used in the past – fire seasons – but the reality is in California we're in fire years. There is just the potential for fire year-round in California," Cal Fire Battalion Chief Jon Heggie explained.

In the past, conditions that led to large destructive fires ran from about the end of June or early July through October, Battalion Chief of Communications Issac Sanchez said.

He pointed to the recent [Coastal Fire](#) in Orange County, which sparked on May 11 and burned 200 acres, as a "graphic example" of the earlier peak to the fire year.

While California still reaches its fire peak during the summer months, wildfires can erupt at all times of the year.

To further illustrate the point, California had already recorded 1,561 fires, which scorched 6,718 acres, as of May 6, according to the [Cal Fire website](#).

The five-year average for that date is closer to 1,100 wildfires, so 2022 is already off to a dangerous start as we begin the peak months.

With the state in the midst of another drought, which includes 2022 enduring the driest start to a year on record, there is plenty of fuel still out there to burn.

“The fuels will be drier sooner. So, therefore, we’ll start seeing some heavier activity earlier in the year,” Heggie said. “When you don’t get rain, vegetation doesn’t grow, and the fires get worse.”

As for the end of the peak season, Sanchez says that Cal Fire bases its shift to a transitional staff on current and expected weather conditions.

“If we see that we’re getting rain consistently, that will trigger some maneuvering, but it’s not tied to a calendar date,” Sanchez said.

For residents living in potential burn areas, the message is clear: Get ready early and have a plan if you need to leave.

Prepare your property by clearing a defensible space around your home.

Also, make a list of items you will need and know where to find them in case of an emergency.

Detailed instructions that will help you develop a comprehensive plan can be found at [readyforwildfire.org](https://www.readyforwildfire.org).

Hellish Fires, Low Pay, Trauma: California Firefighters Face a Morale Crisis

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) Morale within the Forest Service has plummeted to an all-time low, current and former firefighters say.

The work is backbreaking physical labor that pays an average starting wage of \$15 an hour, not including hazard pay and overtime. Raises promised in last year’s infrastructure bill remain in limbo. Low wages have combined with skyrocketing housing costs to ensure that many firefighters can’t afford to live in the places they work.

The conditions have left the Forest Service struggling to recruit and retain employees.

Officials recently announced that they were unable to fill about 1,000 temporary firefighter positions and looking to make emergency hires by shortening the onboarding process.

As California faces what is expected to be a punishing fire season, only 62% of federal firefighter positions here are filled, according to a source within the agency. Before 2020, nearly all spots nationwide typically would be filled at this time of year, said the source, who requested anonymity to discuss sensitive internal matters.

In addition, roughly a third of all Forest Service fire engines in California are on five-day staffing, meaning there aren’t enough crew members to operate them seven days a week. Another 13% of engines are “down staffed” — essentially parked due to lack of firefighters, the source said.

The Forest Service has acknowledged challenges in reaching this year's national target of 11,300 firefighters, especially in the Pacific Northwest and Southwest regions, which include Oregon, Washington and California.

The recruitment and retention problems are in areas “where state and private firefighter wages are outcompeting federal firefighter wages, housing costs are not affordable, and positions are in remote locations,” the agency said in a statement.

The Forest Service is able to order up emergency personnel — generally retired agency employees who can support incident-management teams and other firefighting duties — and said it is working to bring on more contractors to help.

To read more on the struggles current and former California firefighters have faced and are still facing, [visit the full article](#).

Cruellest Summer Yet? California Facing Drought, Heat, Blackouts and Fires – All at Once

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) summer officially begins next week — and in California, it may be a cruel one.

Even with the upheaval of the pandemic mostly behind us, the menace of drought and rising temperatures is threatening to derail the return to normal.

This year's extraordinarily dry, warm weather, which is expected to continue in the coming months, is stoking fears of a multitude of problems: increasing water restrictions, extreme heat, blackouts, wildfire and smoke — potentially all of the above in one vicious swoop.

The Union of Concerned Scientists, a nationwide advocacy group led by scientists and policy experts, went as far as using the term “danger season” this month to characterize the summer that may lie ahead for parts of the United States.

Already in California, climate volatility, as palpable as it's been, has joined the list of reasons people cite for wanting to move away, after soaring home prices, high taxes and traffic. The state's population, which had grown for decades, dropped in each of the past two years.

Recent climate twists have helped propel California into a third straight year of drought. Seven of the past 10 years have been dry. Some scientists say the state is in a megadrought not seen in 1,200 years.

To read full details on the ongoing drought, the wildfire season up ahead, risks of extreme heat, and how our energy supply could be sapped, [visit the full article](#).

The World's Largest Trees are Struggling to Survive Climate Change

[The Washington Post reports](#) they are the largest trees in the world, living monuments with massive trunks and towering canopies that can thrive for 3,000 years. But ancient sequoia trees, which have been decimated by severe wildfires around California's Sierra Nevada, are struggling to keep up with ever worsening conditions. And this summer, they could face their worst fate yet.

The trees, which grow in a narrow band of the Sierra Nevada, are accustomed to frequent wildfires — their tree rings show fire recurring every six to 30 years. But the worsening intensity

of recent blazes have been too much for them to handle. Since 2020, three fires have resulted in the loss of 13 to 19 percent of the entire population, said Christy Brigham, chief of resources management and science at Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks.

In August 2020, the Castle Fire killed up to 10,600 trees. And as many as 3,637 sequoias were killed or will ultimately die as a result of the September 2021 Windy and KNP Complex fires in the southern Sierra Nevada, according to the National Park Service.

While fires at lower intensity have beneficial effects for the giant trees by clearing out the flammable vegetation and helping to release seeds from their sturdy cones, Brigham said the main concern is the “large patches of high-severity fire.”

“The scale at which we are seeing high-severity fire right now — sequoias haven’t evolved with that,” said Linnea Hardlund, a giant sequoia forest fellow with Save the Redwoods League. “It continues to be surprising to a lot of people that giant sequoias are dying at this rate.”

Sequoias have thick bark that can withstand lower-intensity fire, and their high canopies are usually above the flames, Hardlund said. But recent fires are reaching and consuming the canopy.

The southern Sierra, hard hit during the 2012-2016 drought, has become an epicenter for tree mortality. Drought-weakened trees, particularly pine and cedar, were killed by insects during those years, and the effects of the past two years of extreme drought are also becoming apparent.

Given [record-setting dryness in 2022](#), another significant die-off is possible this year.

[Research](#) has linked severe burning to swaths of overly dense forest — a legacy of decades of firefighting — and high tree mortality, both of which have helped to drive “mass fires” and firestorms.

Hotter and longer fire seasons due to climate change are exacerbating already volatile forest conditions. As climate warms, forests are becoming more flammable and increasingly dense due to a lack of what experts call “good fire,” which can reduce fire fuels while maintaining forest health, such as the intentional burning used by Indigenous tribes for thousands of years.

Add a tremendous amount of dead and down material from the 21st-century megadrought and you have the ingredients for extreme fires that can burn for weeks and form pyrocumulus clouds, billowing vertical smoke clouds that indicate a fire is burning unusually hot as it consumes a forest. These intense blazes are capable of damaging or killing trees that have historically thrived with frequent fire.

For more details on the threats our Sierra forests face this summer, [visit the full article](#).

Humans Have Caused 96% of Wildfires: California Study Shows

[ABC 10 reports](#) nearly 96% of U.S. wildfires so far in 2022 have been human caused, according to a report released Tuesday by the [National Interagency Fire Center](#) (NIFC).

The report highlighted active wildfires across the nation and shed light on the impact of fires so far this year.

California is one of five states including Texas, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida that have seen the most wildfires caused by humans so far this year, according to the [report](#).

On Tuesday, five large, new fires were reported across the nation including two in California, the NIFC report says. In total, 38 large fires, considered active, have burned 1,217,213 acres across four states.

[According to Cal Fire](#), in California alone, 2,703 wildfires have burned 13,077 acres and resulted in one structure being damaged or destroyed so far in 2022.

At least six fires being fought by Cal Fire in the state were not fully contained as of Wednesday.

In total, firefighters in several states have fought 29,966 fires which have burned a combined total of 2,790,609 acres — or roughly 44 times the [size](#) of the city of Sacramento.

The 2.7 million acres burned so far this year in the U.S. is a stark contrast to where the nation stood one year ago to date. By June 15, 2021, a total of 27,732 fires had burned 981,356 acres of land.

The increase of land burned so far in 2022 comes after a previous 2021 wildfire season that Cal Fire reported as having started earlier than in previous years. By the end of 2021, 2.5 million acres of land in the Golden State were burned by 8,835 fires, [according to Cal Fire](#).

If you live in a wildfire-prone zone, [Cal Fire suggests](#) creating a defensible space around your home. Defensible [space is an area around a building](#) in which vegetation and other debris are completely cleared. At least 100 feet is recommended.

[The Department of Homeland Security suggests](#) assembling an emergency kit that has important documents, N95 respirator masks, supplies to grab with you if you're forced to leave at a moment's notice. The agency also suggests signing up for local warning system notifications and know your community's evacuation plans [best to prepare yourself and your family](#) in cases of wildfires.

The Almost 900-acre Sheep Fire is 85% Contained – Evacuations Lifted

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) crews seem to have turned a corner on the almost 900-acre wildfire burning near Wrightwood in the Angeles National Forest, with the blaze 85% contained Wednesday night.

All evacuation measures, which had been in place since Sunday for communities in and around Wrightwood, were lifted Tuesday evening, [according to the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District](#).

“The threats to the communities are gone, for now,” said Joe Rosa, the public information officer for California Interagency Incident Management Team 14, which has taken command of the Sheep fire. But he said a shift in weather — though not predicted for the next 24 hours — could change that risk.

Firefighters continued to increase containment of the blaze, according to a statement by the Angeles National Forest late Wednesday night. Crews were to continue searching for hotspots and monitoring fire behavior overnight Wednesday, according to the statement.

Rosa said about 600 firefighters continue to battle the blaze. The reported size of the fire, 865 acres, is down from initial estimates of 990 acres. Rosa said better mapping Tuesday night provided a more accurate scope of the fire.

“The biggest challenge throughout this whole incident has been the winds, and some of the topography,” Rosa said. He added that because of cliffs and unstable rocky spots, it hasn’t been safe to put crews on the ground in some areas of the fire, which correspond with many of the areas not yet contained.

No structures have been damaged or lost in the fire, Rosa said. Officials with the state Department of Transportation worked to replace some guardrails along Highway 2, and crews with Southern California Edison are expected to replace some damaged poles Thursday, Rosa said.

Earlier Wednesday, Caltrans reopened the closed portion of Highway 2 between Wright Mountain Road and Desert Front Road, according to the Angeles National Forest’s statement.

Since Saturday, officials described a challenging firefight with dense vegetation, steep terrain and high and erratic winds, made more difficult by soaring temperatures and a drought-dried landscape [primed to burn](#).

By Tuesday, conditions became a bit more favorable, said San Bernardino County Fire Department Battalion Chief Mike McClintock. He said reporting crews were no longer seeing active fire growth.

But high temperatures and potential winds could remain a threat for the Sheep fire, said Miguel Miller, a forecaster with National Weather Service in San Diego, which covers the San Bernardino area.

Miller said that heat, with highs expected around 90 degrees near the fire, is expected to last through Thursday, until an expected low-pressure system moves in Friday. He said that although that system could bring lower temperatures and more humidity — good for the firefighting — it could also bring much stronger winds, an added challenge.

Rosa said he is hopeful the weather will cool off and winds won’t get too bad, which will “help get crews into place to get this thing wrapped up here, hopefully before too long.” Rosa’s team has estimated the Sheep fire will be contained by June 22, though he said that could quickly change depending on a number of factors.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District had [issued a smoke advisory](#) warning of potentially unhealthful conditions in areas near the fire, but that expired Tuesday night. The cause of the fire remains under investigation, the Forest Service said.

Major Water Cutbacks Loom as Shrinking Colorado River Reaches ‘Moment of Reckoning’

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) as the West endures another year of unrelenting drought [worsened by climate change](#), the Colorado River’s reservoirs have declined so low that major water cuts will be necessary next year to reduce risks of supplies reaching perilously low levels, a top federal water official said Tuesday.

Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton said during a Senate hearing in Washington that federal officials now believe protecting “critical levels” at the country’s largest reservoirs — Lake Mead and Lake Powell — will require much larger reductions in water deliveries.

The needed cuts, she said, amount to between 2 million and 4 million acre-feet next year.

For comparison, California is entitled to 4.4 million acre-feet of Colorado River water per year, while Arizona’s allotment is 2.8 million.

The push for a new emergency deal to cope with the Colorado River’s shrinking flow comes just seven months after officials from California, Arizona and Nevada [signed an agreement](#) to take significantly less water out of Lake Mead, and six weeks after the federal government announced it is [holding back a large quantity of water](#) in Lake Powell to reduce risks of the reservoir dropping to a point where Glen Canyon Dam would no longer generate electricity.

Despite those efforts and a previous deal among the states to share in the shortages, the two reservoirs stand at or near record-low levels. Lake Mead near Las Vegas has dropped to 28% of its full capacity, while Lake Powell on the Utah-Arizona border is now just 27% full.

Touton said it’s critical to achieve the additional cutbacks and her agency is in talks with the seven states that depend on the river to develop a plan for the reductions in the next 60 days. She warned that the Bureau of Reclamation has the authority to “act unilaterally to protect the system, and we will protect the system.”

Though Touton didn’t spell out what that could entail, the Interior Department could impose cuts if the states fail to reach an agreement on their own. Touton said her agency is “working with the states and tribes in having this discussion.”

The [Colorado River supplies water to nearly 40 million people](#) in cities from Denver to Los Angeles and farmlands from the Rocky Mountains to the U.S.-Mexico border. The river has long been over-allocated, and its reservoirs have declined dramatically since 2000 during a severe drought that research shows is being [intensified by global warming](#) and that some scientists describe as the long-term “aridification” of the Southwest.

“What has been a slow-motion train wreck for 20 years is accelerating, and the moment of reckoning is near,” said John Entsminger, general manager of the Southern Nevada Water Authority, which supplies the Las Vegas area.

He pointed out that Lake Mead’s water level, now at 1,045 feet above sea level, has continued to decline toward critically low levels. Hoover Dam could still release water down to a level of 895 feet, but below that, water [would no longer pass through the dam](#) to supply California, Arizona and Mexico — a level known as “dead pool.”

“We are 150 feet from 25 million Americans losing access to the Colorado River, and the rate of decline is accelerating,” Entsminger told the senators.

Avoiding “potentially catastrophic conditions,” Entsminger said, will require reductions that many water managers previously considered unattainable.

For further details on this issue and solutions some are suggesting, [visit the full article](#).

COVID Can Cloud the Brain for Half a Year, Study Finds

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) California officially reopened a year ago today, when many COVID restrictions were dropped amid widespread optimism about a return to ordinary life. Reality has [played out very differently](#). Multiple surges in cases, including one now under way, have turning the coronavirus into something like a constant companion.

The neurological impact of a COVID-19 infection often persists after other symptoms have cleared up, according to an initial round of research published Wednesday by scientists at UCSD.

A majority of patients in the study, [published in Annals of Clinical and Translational Neurology](#), reported symptoms such as fatigue, headaches, memory impairment, and decreased concentration for up to six months after a mild or moderate case of COVID-19.

Some also had coordination and cognitive issues. While the symptoms generally improved after half a year, only one-third of the participants said they were completely resolved at that point. None of the individuals in the study had any history of pre-existing neurological conditions prior to their infections.

“It’s encouraging that most people were showing some improvement at six months, but that wasn’t the case for everyone,” said senior author Jennifer S. Graves, associate professor at UC San Diego School of Medicine and a neurologist at UC San Diego Health.

“Some of these participants are high-level professionals who we’d expect to score above average on cognitive assessments, but months after having COVID-19, [they’re still scoring abnormally](#).” A handful of participants in the study displayed a previously unidentified set of symptoms that included cognitive deficits, tremors and difficulty balancing.

“These are folks who had no neurological problems before COVID-19, and now they have an incoordination of their body and possible incoordination of their thoughts,” said Graves. “We didn’t expect to find this, so we want to get the word out in case other physicians see this too.”

The research team said it will continue to monitor the study subjects annually for the next 10 years.

California’s COVID-19 Case Rate Jumps Again as New Subvariants Spread Statewide

[The Sacramento Bee reports](#) COVID-19 case rates grew significantly across the state last week, continuing a steady rise in infections that began in late April.

The California Department of Public Health on Tuesday reported the statewide case rate at 41.1 cases per 100,000 residents. The rate marks a 34.8% increase compared to one week earlier.

The state also reported a 9.1% seven-day positivity rate, the highest since Feb. 4. The positivity rate marks an increase from 7.6% the previous week, and 6.7% the week before.

State health officials reported 2,762 patients hospitalized with confirmed COVID-19, up 7% from a week prior.

Sacramento County has seen similar rises in nearly all metrics related to the virus, including a 29.4% increase in its weekly case rate. The county’s positivity rate stands at 13.7%, up .4% in the last week.

Positivity rates for other counties in the Sacramento region have fluctuated. Yuba County has the sixth-highest positivity rate of California's 58 counties, at 14.5%, up from 12.9% last week. The positivity rate in Yolo County also rose to 5.4% from 4.5% the previous week. But positivity rates in El Dorado and Placer counties have dropped, despite significant rises in case rates.

The CDC issues community level designations at the county level at the end of each week. Sacramento County has remained in the "high" designation for the last two weeks. Thirteen California counties received the designation at the end of last week, and the rise in cases statewide may lead more counties to enter the "high" level at the end of this week.

The CDC recommends indoor masking for all areas in the "high" level of spread. So far, only Alameda County has reintroduced an indoor mask mandate, with local officials citing growing hospitalization rates.

The BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants continue to rise nationally and in the California region.

To read more on these subvariants and how they are affecting the state, [visit the full article](#).

Here's How Long Some Popular At-Home COVID Test Kits Actually Last, According to the FDA

[The New York Times reports](#) Americans were recently offered another chance to order free at-home coronavirus testing kits through the Postal Service. But since federal and state agencies have extended the shelf lives of several brands of tests, it may not always be clear when the free kits, and others purchased separately, will expire.

Although each box has an expiration date, meant to indicate when the test inside will no longer provide a reliable result, the Food and Drug Administration has given emergency authorization for shelf-life extensions of several testing kits as their manufacturers gather more data. Some states have also received F.D.A. extensions for batches of expired laboratory tests or have endorsed their own extensions for at-home tests authorized by federal regulators. This means that some tests that are set to expire in the coming weeks may actually be usable for several more months.

In January, the F.D.A. granted a request from Florida to lengthen by three months the life span of laboratory rapid tests that had expired. In March, California's Public Health Department [approved the emergency use](#) of at-home test kits beyond their F.D.A.-authorized expiration dates. The blanket extension applied to all over-the-counter tests authorized by the F.D.A. as long as each test's control line — the line that is typically next to the letter C — is easily visible when the test is complete.

Extending a product's shelf life is not an uncommon practice. Manufacturers need time to demonstrate that a product still performs effectively after its initial expiration date, which is why many testing kits received extensions several months after their initial authorization. But some experts have expressed concern that shifting dates and poor communication about extensions could create confusion.

Some health departments have posted notifications on their websites when a manufacturer is granted an extension for its tests. But officials should not assume that everyone has access to the internet or is comfortable enough using a computer to find that information, said Cindy A. Prins, an epidemiologist at the University of Florida.

If a test kit has not received an authorized extension from the F.D.A. and the box says it has expired, some epidemiologists say that it can still be used under certain conditions. Most tests remain effective for some time if they are properly stored, Dr. Prins said.

The F.D.A. regularly updates the [life spans of at-home tests](#) on its website. To read the list of extensions, as of mid-June, [visit the full article](#).

ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **Statewide Asylee Orientation;** *health & human services*
 - Funded by: Department of Social Services
 - Deadline: **Friday, June 24, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$300k
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
- **AB 434 Super NOFA;** *housing, community and economic development*
 - Funded by: Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Deadline: **Tuesday, June 28, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$650 million
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
- **2022-24 Sexual Assault American Rescue Plan Program RFP;** *consumer protection; disadvantaged communities; disaster prevention & relief; health & human services*
 - Funded by: Governor's Office of Emergency Services
 - Deadline: **Wednesday, June 29, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$3.37 million
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)

Funding Opportunities

2022-23 Transitional Housing (XH) Program RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created the XH Program to provide victims of crime with transitional/short-term housing assistance and a range of supportive services with the goal of moving victims into safe, permanent housing.

The XH Program is designed after the Housing First model; a form of rapid rehousing adapted to move and rehouse victims of crime who are experiencing homelessness into permanent housing quickly and provide ongoing supportive services. Transitional/short-term housing is a temporary solution – usually a room or apartment – meant to be a safe space in which victims can process their trauma and build a supportive network with the goal of moving into safe, permanent housing.

Since 2017, California has implemented the Housing First Model as defined in Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code Section 8255 to address the prevalence of homelessness in California. The Housing First Model is an approach to connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness quickly and successfully to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as treatment, or sobriety.

Applicants must have a Unique Entity Identifier (Unique Entity ID) registered in the federal System for Award Management (SAM). Applicants who do not currently have a Unique Entity ID will need to register at SAM.gov to obtain one.

See full Request for Proposal for complete requirements.

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

To request a match waiver, Applicants must submit the VOCA Match Waiver Request form (Cal OES Form 2-159) with their proposal. Up to two VOCA fund sources can be entered on one form. All sections of the form must be completed and answers to questions 6 and 7 must be specific and unique to the Applicant and Program.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Tuesday, July 5, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$17.15 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

2022 Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG)

[The Department of Housing and Community Development](#) has created the ESG Program to provide grant funding to (1) engage homeless individuals and families living on the street, (2) rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families, (3) help operate and provide essential services in emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families, and (4) prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless.

ESG funds may be used for four primary activities: Street Outreach, Rapid Re-Housing Assistance, Emergency Shelter, and Homelessness Prevention. In addition, ESG funds may be used for associated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) costs and administrative activities for some subrecipients.

The funds are distributed in two separate funding pools: the CoC allocation and the Balance of State (BoS) allocation. Funding in the BoS allocation is made available based on recommendations from a CoC in two ways:

1. Through regional competitions within three geographic regions (Northern Region, Bay Area Region, Central and Imperial Valley Region) pursuant to California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 25 CCR 8404 (a) (3); and
2. Through a noncompetitive process for Rapid Re-Housing (RR) activities.

Continuum of Care Allocation: CoCs within this allocation have at least one city or county that receives ESG funds directly from HUD. Within the CoC Allocation, Administrative Entities (AEs) are selected by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to administer an allocation of funds provided through a formula for their service area. These AEs must be local governments of ESG Entitlement Areas and must commit to administering ESG funds in collaboration with their CoC throughout their CoC Service Area, including ensuring access to ESG funds by households living in Nonentitlement Areas. A minimum of 40 percent of each AE Allocation must be used for Rapid Rehousing activities.

Eligible Applicants and Eligible Areas to Be Served: The Department subgrants its funding to subrecipients in Continuum of Care (CoC) service areas that have at least one jurisdiction that does not receive ESG funds directly from HUD (“Nonentitlement”). In the CoC Allocation, local governmental entities are eligible subrecipients, who in turn select homeless service providers to receive the funds. In the Balance of State Allocation, private nonprofit organizations or units of general-purpose local government are eligible subrecipients that receive ESG funds directly from the Department.

State ESG funded activities may serve the entire service area of the CoC but must serve Nonentitlement areas within the service area. For a list of CoC Service Areas eligible to participate in the State's ESG program, refer to Appendix A of the current NOFA.

ESG funds eligible units of local governments and non-profit organizations, primarily in non-entitlement areas in California.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Tuesday, July 26, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$12.6 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program

[The Sierra Nevada Conservancy](#) has created the Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program with the primary role of planning and implementing forest health projects that promote wildfire recovery and forest resilience and support the goals of California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Program.

In response to recent wildfires, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy identified five wildfire recovery strategies for the Sierra Nevada: landscape-scale forest restoration, water supply protection, strategic reforestation, rapid expansion of wood-utilization infrastructure, and support for community-led initiative. This program seeks to create more-resilient forest landscapes, reduce wildfire risk, accelerate recovery from recent wildfires and supports projects that address these strategies.

California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan identifies three goals that are strongly aligned with the WIP: healthy and resilient natural places, safe communities, and sustainable economies. Both plans also stress the importance of climate resiliency, regionally tailored solutions, the linkages between ecological and economic health, the importance of low-intensity fire, and the need to work strategically across land ownership boundaries. This grant program aims to support projects with the following, additional focal areas: multi-benefit projects, landscape-scale projects, high-impact projects, and wildfire recovery.

To be eligible to receive a grant award from the SNC under this program, projects must meet all of the following criteria: be located within or provide services to the Sierra Nevada Region as defined by current SNC governing legislation; be consistent with the SNC mission and program areas as defined in the SNC Strategic Plan; be consistent with the requirements of the funding source and budget provisions, result in a clear, demonstrable, and enduring public benefit; and meet all California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, as applicable.

Consistent with provisions of the program funding and objectives of the proposed project, the SNC may give favorable consideration to projects which: involve California Native American tribes, including grants directly to tribal entities or those to tribal or other entities which provide meaningful engagement with and support to tribal partners; were developed under the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity program; address fire recovery objectives; directly benefit severely disadvantaged or disadvantaged communities; engage a workforce development effort, including but not limited to tribal workforce programs, California Conservation Corps, or other training programs; employ a collaborative, community-led approach in project development or implementation and enable the equitable geographic distribution of SNC resources.

Proposals are developed in conjunction with SNC. To initiate consideration of a project, an applicant must contact the appropriate [SNC Area Representative](#) (AR) and the AR will work with the applicant to determine if the project meets SNC criteria. If SNC determines consideration of the project, a concept proposal form will be shared with the applicant. This proposal process involves Concept and Full Proposal phases. Concept Proposals are due July 29. A site visit may be conducted for eligible implementation projects. If invited to submit, Full Proposals are due October 28. Please review the full grant program guidelines [here](#).

Eligible applicants include:

- Qualifying 501(c)(3) Nonprofits
- Public Agencies: any city, county, special district, joint powers authority, state agency, or federal agency
- Eligible Tribal Entities are one or both of the following: (1) Recognized by the United States and identified within the most current Federal Register; (2) Listed on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission as a California Native American tribe.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Friday, July 29, 2022**. Total estimated funding is dependent. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).