



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

USC Researchers Identify Symptoms Associated with Increased Risk for Long COVID

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) from the start of the pandemic, patients and doctors alike have been frustrated by the sizable minority of coronavirus infections that turn into [long COVID](#), a perplexing collection of lingering and often disabling symptoms that persist weeks, months or years after the initial infection subsides.

The condition has been reported in both children and adults; in those who had preexisting conditions and those in robust health; in patients hospitalized with COVID-19; and those who experienced only mild symptoms during their initial infection.

A new study from researchers at USC offers some insights into the prevalence of long COVID and suggests some early clues for who might be more likely to [develop long-term symptoms](#).

The study, published this month in Scientific Reports, also found that 23% of people who had coronavirus infections between March 2020 and March 2021 were still reporting symptoms up to 12 weeks later.

To view the full study, [click here](#). To view the full article, [click here](#).

People are Getting COVID Again and Again...and Again. Is this the New Normal?

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) as the Bay Area's latest COVID surge threatens to be the biggest yet and the coronavirus continues to spin off new, immune-evasive variants, are repeated infections a part of living with COVID?

Increasingly, experts fear, the answer is yes.

While doctors agree it's unlikely people will get infected twice with the same variant, it's probable over the long term that new COVID variants could infect people again due to the lightning-speed evolution of the novel coronavirus.

To read further details as to why experts fear this is part of our new normal, [visit the full article](#).

New COVID Vaccine That Uses Traditional Tech Approved by CDC Panel

[The Mercury News reports](#) new vaccine employing more traditional technology to fight against COVID was unanimously approved Tuesday by a top scientific panel, clearing one of the final hurdles to become the country's fourth coronavirus shot.

The advisory panel to the Center for Disease Control approved Novavax for an initial two-shot treatment for those 18 and older — following the endorsement of the Food and Drug Administration last week. Tests have shown that the new shot provides similar protection from severe infection to the cutting-edge mRNA vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna. Trials are ongoing for Novavax to be used as a booster.

As of Tuesday, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Contra Costa, Alameda and San Francisco counties could not say when the rollout of the new vaccine would begin, but it is likely to be soon. Earlier this month, the Biden Administration announced it was ordering 3.2 million doses of the shot for distribution around the country.

Novavax, a Maryland company, uses a protein rather than mRNA technology — and health officials hope that it will appeal to those who have been hesitant to get vaccinated because the way that it combats the virus has been used for decades in previous vaccines. Some survey data, however, suggest that only a small group of unvaccinated Americans would opt for the new shot. A poll cited during Tuesday's CDC panel review — albeit with a relatively small sample size of 1,788 people — shows that 77% of Americans who have not received a shot would refuse Novavax.

Some researchers believe that the protein vaccine's structure may make it more effective against mutations of COVID. In addition, in clinical trials conducted by the vaccine company, those who received Novavax experienced less fatigue compared to the mRNA shots.

The Novavax vaccine provokes an immune response with nanoparticles made up of proteins from the surface of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. That approach can produce a much more versatile immune response, according to Dr. Lee W. Riley, a professor of infectious diseases and vaccinology at UC Berkeley's School of Public Health.

Riley said that if the shot is approved as a booster, he would recommend it to those who are at risk for a severe case of COVID.

Public health officials said that because the Bay Area region has such high vaccination rates already, Novavax will likely play a small role in the wider fight against COVID. Nearly 90 percent of all of Santa Clara County's two million residents are fully vaccinated, for example, a rate that is similar across the Bay Area.

Nationally, up to 13.9 million Americans remain without a shot, according to data provided by the CDC panel on Tuesday. The next step for the vaccine is approval by CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky, which is expected to happen quickly.

Novavax was part of the initial rush to develop a coronavirus vaccine in 2020 as part of the government's Operation Warp Speed. But the company has been plagued by manufacturing delays, leading to a slower approval and rollout.

The new shot comes amid COVID cases [soaring throughout the Bay Area and state](#) as the new BA.5 omicron variant appears to evade mRNA vaccine protections.

Novavax is working on formulations of its new vaccine that may more effectively target omicron.

Fueled by Rapid Reinfections, California's Soaring Summer COVID Wave Could Top Winter Surge

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) new coronavirus infections in parts of California may be surging even higher than winter's Omicron wave, potentially explaining why so many people seem to be infected simultaneously.

The concentration of coronavirus levels in San Francisco's wastewater is at even [higher levels](#) than during the winter, according to data tweeted by Marlene Wolfe, an assistant professor in environmental health at Emory University.

Wastewater data for much of L.A. County — Los Angeles city and a wide swath of eastern and southern L.A. County — have been unavailable due to a supply chain shortage on testing supplies at the state level. But county Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said last week that steady increases have been noted as of late in the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District that serves areas in and around Calabasas and the L.A. County Sanitation Districts' treatment plant in Lancaster.

The wastewater data suggest many infections aren't being recorded in officially reported coronavirus case counts. That is because so many people are using at-home over-the-counter tests, which can be more convenient than getting tested at a medical facility, where results are reported to the government.

“When you look at the [coronavirus] case counts, they're no longer reliable. There are tremendous undercounts,” Dr. Robert Wachter, chair of the UC San Francisco Department of Medicine, said at a campus town hall Friday. “And the number of cases now probably is not all that dissimilar to what we saw during the massive surge in December and January.”

At UC San Francisco's hospitals, 5.7% of asymptomatic patients are testing positive for the coronavirus, meaning 1 in 18 people who feel fine nonetheless have the coronavirus. In other words, in a group of 100 people, there's a 99.7% chance that someone there has the coronavirus and is potentially contagious. “Think about that the next time you go into a crowded bar or get onto an airplane with 100 people,” Wachter said.

L.A. County's coronavirus case rate continues to rise. L.A. County is now averaging about 6,900 coronavirus cases a day — nearly double the peak case rate from last summer's Delta surge, and 27% higher than the previous week. On a per capita basis, L.A. County's case rate is 476 cases a week for every 100,000 residents; a rate of 100 or more is considered high. COVID-19 deaths in L.A. County have risen from 50 per week to between 88 to 100 fatalities per week over the past month.

California is recording about 21,000 coronavirus cases a day, up 16% over the prior week. On a per capita basis, the state is recording 368 cases a week for every 100,000 residents. California is recording roughly 255 COVID-19 deaths per week. Weekly deaths in the state have fluctuated from 200 to 300 deaths a week.

For more details and opinions from experts on this current wave, [visit the full article](#).

Almost 9 in 10 Californians Live in Areas with High COVID-19 Levels as BA.5 Fuels Infections

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) nearly 9 in 10 Californians now live in counties with a high COVID-19 community level, in which the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends universal masking in indoor public spaces.

The new developments underscore the increasing concerns about super-infectious subvariants of Omicron that have fueled a summer coronavirus wave.

With the coronavirus resurgent and cases and hospitalizations on the rise, Los Angeles is poised to become the first Southern California county to reinstate mandatory public indoor masking.

L.A. County officially entered the high community level Thursday. Should it remain there for the next two weeks, the county will reissue an indoor mask mandate with an effective date of July 29.

No other California county has publicly tied its placement on the CDC's community level scale to a renewal of masking orders. Along with L.A., 41 other counties are in the high level as of this week. Most places recommend, but do not require, masking indoors while in public.

Besides Los Angeles County, the other counties that on Thursday entered the high COVID-19 community level category for the first time since mid-March are San Diego, Orange, Santa Barbara, Imperial and Tehama.

A total of 42 of California's 58 counties are now in the high COVID-19 community level, in which 87% of California's residents live. Just a week earlier, 41% of Californians lived in the 34 counties with a high COVID-19 community level. Ventura County was the first Southern California county to enter the high COVID-19 community level, which it did on June 30.

With case rates high, counties are generally entering the high COVID-19 community level when hospitalizations are exceeding a threshold of 10 new weekly coronavirus-positive hospitalizations for every 100,000 residents.

The California Department of Public Health has strongly recommended universal masking in indoor public spaces for those age 2 and above ever since the state lifted a two-month-old mask order in February.

Coronavirus case rates in Los Angeles County are continuing to rise at a fast pace. L.A. County is now averaging about 6,800 new coronavirus cases a day, representing a 35% week-over-week increase. That's the highest week-over-week increase seen since the days leading up to the Memorial Day weekend.

The latest rate is higher than the peak seen in last summer's Delta wave, which rose to 3,500 cases a day. Last winter's Omicron wave peaked at 42,000 cases a day.

On a per capita basis, L.A. County as of Friday was reporting 469 coronavirus cases a week for every 100,000 residents; a rate of 100 or more is considered high. The coronavirus case rate hasn't been this high since early February.

The new wave has been fueled by BA.5, a super-infectious subvariant that has shown the ability to reinfect even those who recently contracted an earlier Omicron subvariant.

Sacramento's COVID-19 Surge May Be Easing

[The Sacramento Bee reports](#) coronavirus numbers are showing early signs of improvement in the Sacramento region and some Bay Area counties, while infection and hospitalization numbers continue to climb in Southern California and other parts of the state.

The California Department of Public Health on Tuesday reported the latest daily case rate for COVID-19 at 48.5 per 100,000, up 29% compared to the previous week and the state's highest rate recorded since the first week of February.

Statewide test positivity, however, decreased slightly from 16.3% to 16.1% in the past week, according to CDPH data, as testing volume rebounded slightly following the July 4 holiday.

The decline is modest, after positivity had been steadily climbing for more than three months from a low point of 1.4% in early April. More contagious versions of the omicron variant have emerged and come to dominate since then, prompting and prolonging the current surge.

Most of the state's highest positivity readings, aside from very sparsely populated counties like Sierra and Del Norte, are now in Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley. Tuolumne, Riverside, Merced, Fresno, Stanislaus, Kings, San Bernardino and Orange counties all ranged from 19% to 23% positivity as of Tuesday's state data update.

The four-county capital region is below the state average for positivity, with El Dorado at 15%, Placer at 14%, Sacramento at 13% and Yolo at 11%. Placer County's rate fell by 2.6 percentage points in the past week and Sacramento's by 1 percentage point, state data show.

Virus levels detected in wastewater are also improving in Davis and are showing early signs of decline in Sacramento, according to sewage data tracked by a Stanford-based research group. Transmission trends tend to show up in wastewater readings several days earlier than in traditional test results, though wastewater isn't being monitored in all parts of California.

Hospitalizations continue to climb, state health data shows, in Southern California counties including Los Angeles, San Diego and San Bernardino; Fresno County in the Central Valley; and San Francisco and Alameda counties in the Bay Area. Hospital numbers have plateaued for about the past month in Sacramento and Placer counties, as well as the Bay Area counties of Contra Costa and San Mateo.

Washburn Fire Reaches 58% Containment; Yosemite Park Plans to Reopen Southern Entrance

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) two weeks after the Washburn fire ignited in Yosemite National Park, firefighters continue to make progress against the blaze that has scorched nearly 5,000 acres.

As of Thursday morning, the wildfire remained at 58% containment and had burned 4,856 acres, officials said. The number of personnel assigned to fight the blaze has dropped to 1,330, down from about 1,500 earlier in the week.

The fire continues to burn on its eastern and southern edge near Mt. Raymond, officials from California's Interagency Incident Management Team 13 said in a briefing Thursday morning. Fire continues to scorch brush patches with terrain that is difficult to access.

“Overall the incident is in a very good place and we’ll continue working it throughout the day,” said Matt Ahearn, deputy operations chief with California’s Interagency Incident Management Team 13.

Fire officials have been flying in hot shot crews who have stayed overnight to tackle the fire’s northeastern edge, Ahearn said. Helicopters are dropping water on that section of the fire, which is burning in several brush-laden areas near the South Fork of the Merced River.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Crews have begun to “mop up” and sift through the burned areas with hand tools in search of hot spots, fire officials said in a statement. Crews are looking to both put out the hot spots and help dissipate residual smoke in those areas.

Efforts are also underway to clear debris and prepare for the opening of Wawona Road, or the section of Highway 41 that runs through Yosemite. Officials are also allowing residents who live in the small community of Wawona to return to their homes.

Most of Yosemite National Park remains open to the public, and although the fire initially threatened the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, the threat has largely lifted.

Park officials plan to reopen the southern entrance to Yosemite along Highway 41 at 6 a.m. Saturday. The town of Wawona and all its lodging and services except for the gas station will remain closed to visitors for at least one more week, officials added.

On Thursday morning, air quality monitors continued to be in the “red” category, or about 150 points on the air quality index, near Wawona, according to monitoring site PurpleAir. Poor air quality appeared to be isolated to the southern edge of the national park.

Officials have also closed a portion of the Sierra National Forest that borders the southern edge of Yosemite National Park, according to a [map](#) released by the U.S. Forest Service. The closure spans about 3% of the Sierra National Forest and will be in effect through Aug. 1.

Washburn, Other Fires Continue to Burn Across State

[Fox 40 Sacramento reports](#) there are five active wildfires currently burning in California, according to the [CAL FIRE incidents tracker website](#).

According to CAL FIRE, the Meadow Fire, which started Tuesday near Boonville in southern Mendocino County, has burned 17 acres and is 65% contained.

Agua Fire ignited Monday 3 miles west of Mariposa, has burned 421 acres and is 30% contained, CAL FIRE’s incident tracker reported.

Winding Fire, which started Monday 3 miles south of Oregon House in Yuba County, has burned 82 acres and is 50% contained.

The Washburn Fire in Yosemite National Park has burned about 4,859 acres and is 58% contained, the National Parks Service said. So far crews have been able to save the park’s giant sequoias, but the Mariposa Grove area remains closed until further notice.

The Electra Fire, which started July 4 and is located on the border of Amador and Calaveras County, has burned 4,478 acres and has remained at 99% containment for several days, according to CAL FIRE reports.

Transformer Explodes at Hoover Dam, Prompting Emergency Response; Fire Quickly Extinguished

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) an explosion at the Hoover Dam has prompted an emergency response from a Nevada fire crew, authorities said Tuesday morning.

“We have a crew on the way where we have a report of a fire,” said Lisa LaPlant, a spokesperson for Boulder City.

[Boulder City officials](#) said on Twitter that the city fire department was heading toward the incident about 10:30 a.m. after video circulated on social media showing an explosion near the dam.

They later said the fire was extinguished before crews arrived.

“The fire was extinguished before Boulder City Fire Department arrived on scene,” [city officials said](#) in a social media post.

A [video of the explosion](#) shows a dark cloud of smoke and flames rising from the bottom of the dam. A voice can be heard saying: “My goodness, something has just blown up.”

A transformer caught fire at the dam about 10 a.m., the [Bureau of Reclamation said](#) on Twitter. No injuries were reported among visitors or employees, and the small blaze was extinguished by a fire brigade run by the bureau.

The agency is continuing to investigate the incident.

The Hoover Dam stores water from Lake Mead and is the largest reservoir in the country by volume when full. The dam’s generators help power public and private utility companies across Nevada, Arizona and California. This summer’s worsening drought has seen Lake Mead drop to significantly low water levels.

Yuba County Wildfire with ‘Rapid Rate of Spread’ Prompts Evacuations

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) that a [new wildfire in Yuba County](#) with a “rapid rate of spread” prompted evacuations Monday that remained in place Tuesday morning, according to Cal Fire.

The vegetation fire, called the Winding Fire, was at 82 acres as of Tuesday morning, with 20% containment in the Winding Way and Regent Way area, three miles south of Oregon House.

The Cal Fire unit in Butte County tweeted that it had sent six engines and a bulldozer to help, though there was “no threat to Butte County at this time” even though smoke was visible. Three structures were involved in the blaze.

Yuba County [tweeted](#) that [zones YUB-E099 and E043](#) south and west of Oregon House have been ordered to evacuate. Additional evacuation warnings were in place for surrounding areas.

For updates, [click here](#).

Multiple Grass Fires Halt BART Service in East Bay

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) BART service was stopped Tuesday morning between the transit agency's Concord and Pleasant Hill stations due to multiple grass fires.

The fires occurred in the area of BART's Concord Yard, which caused the agency to drop power in the area. The disruption caused a major delay on the Antioch Line going in the SFO and Antioch directions, BART said in an alert.

The fires were extinguished around 7:20 a.m. according to BART, saying that crews were inspecting trackside and power equipment.

BART said service on the yellow line would remain limited and riders could utilize additional bus services from County Connection between Concord and Pleasant Hill.

Around 8:20 a.m., power was restored to Concord Yard, allowing trains to be dispatched back onto the yellow line. A single track was set up to operate between Concord and Pleasant Hill as crews inspect equipment in the area of the earlier fires, BART said.

Normal service on the yellow line was restored in the early afternoon but residual delays were still expected in the area, a spokesperson for BART said.

Meadow Fire in Mendocino County Destroys Two Structures, 50% Contained

[The Press Democrat reports](#) firefighters have contained 50% of a Mendocino County wildfire that's destroyed two structures in a remote area on the eastern side of the Anderson Valley, according to Cal Fire officials.

The Meadow Fire burned 16.54 acres before it slowed down in the Boonville area, Cal Fire officials said in a 7 p.m. update Tuesday. The nearest roads are Black Oak Ridge and Lone Tree Ridge, officials said.

No injuries were reported, and the cause of the fire is still being investigated.

Cal Fire released an aerial photograph of the blaze which showed that air tankers had dropped retardant lines around it.

Firefighters had made "significant progress," Cal Fire said in a 2 p.m. update.

The fire was reported at 12:25 p.m.

No evacuations were ordered, but the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office warned people to [avoid the area](#) in announcements on social media and [Nixle](#).

A road closure was in place at Peachland and Lone Tree Ridge roads, according to the Sheriff's Office. The closure was lifted around 5 p.m.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known, according to Cal Fire officials.

Nearly 200 firefighters were assigned to the blaze Tuesday afternoon, including 14 engine crews, three hand crews, three water tenders, three bulldozers and a helicopter, according to a Cal Fire report.

Fire Authorities Believe Power Lines are the Source of the Emerald Fire

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) an investigation by the Orange County Fire Authority suggests power line sparks were the likely cause of the Emerald fire that in February burned through 154 acres, according to Laguna Beach city officials.

The city of Laguna Beach in a news release issued Monday stated authorities determined during the five-month investigation that sparks from electrical arcing most likely started the brush fire, fed by high wind speeds.

The fire was reported at 4:10 a.m. on Feb. 10 and led to thousands in the city being evacuated from their homes.

“The Orange County Fire Authority employs a full-time, highly trained Fire Investigations section that conducts origins and causes of all fires, including wildland,” Capt. Greg Barta, spokesman for the Fire Authority, said in an email responding to a request for information about how the Emerald fire’s cause was pinpointed to electrical power lines. “On the Emerald fire, this team executed a detailed physical scene examination and collected facts and data through a variety of methods, including interviews and aerial surveillance. Based on the data and facts found during the investigation, investigators were able to identify the probable cause of the Emerald fire.”

No properties were harmed in the blaze, but the Coastal fire in nearby Laguna Niguel that broke out in May and is also believed to have been [caused by Southern California Edison’s](#) electrical equipment destroyed more than 20 homes, and homeowners there sued the company for damages.

The exact cause of that fire remains under investigation.

“Our number one priority is to protect the life and safety of our community from wildfire,” said Laguna Beach Mayor Sue Kempf in Monday’s news release. “We will not stop pushing Southern California Edison to do the right thing and underground their utilities. If you look at the long-term costs of wildfire damage, it is millions and millions of dollars that utilities are incurring in some of these fires, these utilities are better off proactively undergrounding their wires now and eliminating the risk to life and property.”

For further details, [visit the full article](#).

California’s Fire Season is So Eerily Quiet That It Resembles a ‘Normal Summer’

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) despite fears that California could see its “absolute worst” fire season, it’s been a relatively quiet fire year — so far.

State and federal data show that the massive blazes Californians have become accustomed to aren’t as massive this year. So far in 2022, wildfires have scorched 35,135 acres, according to combined data from Cal Fire and the U.S. Forest Service. That’s less than 20% of the acreage burned over the same time frame last year, and it’s significantly lower — roughly 10% — of the 5-year average over that time period.

The state has also seen 858 fewer fires compared with this time last year, according to the data. Firefighters have fought 4,409 fires so far in 2022, compared with 5,267 in 2021. Generally, it's been a large number of small fires, plus a few more significant blazes such as the [Washburn Fire](#) still burning in Yosemite National Park.

But the peak months are still to come. Wildfires typically ramp up in mid-July, as vegetation gets even drier in the rainless summers and heat waves create the potential for large blazes.

Conditions are riskiest in early fall, when dry, offshore Diablo winds are most common. Like the Santa Ana winds in Southern California, Northern California's Diablo winds have fueled some of the state's most destructive wildfires, causing new starts to quickly grow out of control and whip over mountains.

By the time the winds come, fuel is at its driest, noted Brian Garcia, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

Garcia said that around this time last year, weather conditions were warmer and drier, leading to a greater potential for fires. This year the weather had been "downright pleasant," he said, with less extreme heat. Overall, it's been much more normal.

"It's kind of creepy to be normal," Garcia said. "California never does normal. We love extremes."

To read more opinions from experts on this eerily slow start to fire season, [visit the full article](#).

Why Don't Californians Use Goats and Sheep More Often to Reduce Fire Risk?

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) as Californians grapple with ever-present [wildfire risk](#) amid a record-breaking drought, some are turning to a seemingly simple, and sustainable, solution: sheep and goats.

The animals can easily get to spots that are inaccessible to people, and their hooves create small divots in the ground, naturally tilling the soil. Depending on how costs and benefits are tallied, some homeowners say, although costs of herds are rising, they are a better investment for clearing brush than paying for workers.

To read further on this potential solution to reducing wildfire risk, [visit the full article](#).

California is Desperate to Stop Mega-Fires. But Controversy Rages Over Tree Thinning

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) firefighters in [Yosemite National Park](#) have been celebrated for preventing this month's [Washburn Fire](#) from destroying the nearly 3,000-year-old giant sequoias at Mariposa Grove.

But it wasn't just hand tools and hose lines that kept the fire at bay. [Past forestry projects](#), which slashed the amount of brush and trees fueling the flames, made the job much easier, park officials say.

And yet, the topic of forest management remains a fraught one in California, especially in Yosemite.

While practices such as tree thinning and prescribed burning have proved effective at reducing the risk of a [catastrophic fire](#), disagreement remains about when and where the work should be done. Some people even say the effort is often not worthwhile and at times counterproductive.

For more details on this controversy, [visit the full article](#).

Shasta Lake at 28% Capacity Heading into the Hottest Months of the Year

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) Shasta Lake, one of the state's largest reservoirs, is currently at 38% capacity, a startling number heading into the hottest months of the year.

As the anchor reservoir for the federal Central Valley Project, the roughly 700-mile lifeline pumps and ferries water largely to the San Joaquin Valley and portions of the San Francisco Bay Area. The reservoir is the driest it has been at this time of year since record-keeping first began in 1976.

California relies on storms and snowpack in the Sierra Nevada to fill its reservoirs. The state received a hopeful sign of a wet winter in late December when more than 17 feet of snow fell in the Sierra Nevada. But the winter storms abruptly ceased, ushering in the driest January, February and March ever recorded. The snowpack — a critical “bank” of water for the state going into the summer — has melted [much faster than expected](#) because of warmer-than-average temperatures.

To view images of the extremely low water levels, [click here](#).

Assemblymember Rodriguez Announces \$250 Million Budget Allocation for Seismic Retrofitting Program

[The Fontana Herald News reports](#) Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez (D-52nd District) recently held a press conference highlighting the successful allocation of state funds to establish and implement the Seismic Retrofitting Program for Soft Story Multifamily Housing.

In partnership with his sponsor, the U.S. Resiliency Council, \$250 million has been allocated in the 2023-24 General Fund of the Budget Act to launch this program, Rodriguez said.

“I want to thank the U.S. Resiliency Council for their partnership. I also want to thank Assemblymember Holden, the California Earthquake Authority, the Fair Housing Council of Riverside, the Los Angeles County Business Federation, and the Apartment Association of Orange County for their support of this program,” Rodriguez said.

Providing financial assistance to owners of soft-story multifamily housing for seismic retrofitting is essential to protecting those most vulnerable to disaster in an earthquake, said Rodriguez, whose district includes a small part of Fontana.

The U.S. Resiliency Council estimates that as many as 2.5 million Californians may live in these older, soft-story, multifamily units that were not built to withstand a major earthquake. Scientists have said that the state is overdue for another earthquake of similar scale to the disastrous 1994 Northridge earthquake.

“As a lifelong first responder, I have responded to thousands of 911 calls that have taught me we can never be over-prepared for emergencies. When I reflect on my experiences responding to the 1994 Northridge earthquake, I [see](#) deaths, injuries, and multiple collapsed buildings that could

have been prevented. I am proud to have championed this funding and am certain this program will prevent unnecessary destruction, injuries, and deaths,” said Rodriguez.

Studies show that retrofitting existing affordable housing costs \$5,000 to \$10,000 per unit, Rodriguez said. However, producing new affordable housing in California costs between \$575,000 and \$800,000 per unit. This funding is an investment that will avoid disaster losses far greater than these retrofit costs, Rodriguez said.

ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **2022 Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG);** *housing, community and economic development*
 - Funded by: Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Deadline: **Tuesday, July 26, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$12.6 million
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
- **Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program;** *disadvantaged communities; disaster prevention & relief; environment & water*
 - Funded by: Sierra Nevada Conservancy
 - Deadline: **Friday, July 29, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: Dependent
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
- **Youth Community Access Grant Program;** *disadvantaged communities; education; parks & recreation*
 - Funded by: CA Natural Resources Agency
 - Deadline: **Friday, July 29, 2022**
 - Total Estimated Funding: Dependent
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
 - **Online Application:** [linked here](#)

2022-23 Domestic Violence Response Team (VA) Program RFP

[The Governor’s Office of Emergency Services](#) has created this program to support communities in building and implementing protocols and practices for a collaborative and coordinated response to incidents of domestic violence.

The Program builds the capacity of communities that demonstrate a need for greater collaboration and coordination between domestic violence service providers and law enforcement.

Applicants must be a governmental or a community-based non-profit organization that employs a Domestic Violence Counselor per Evidence Code § 1037.1(a) (1).

The Program is supported through the Services*Training*Officers*Prosecutors (STOP) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Monday, August 15, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$500k. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

2022-23 Domestic Violence Assistance (DV) Program RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) created the DV Program to provide local assistance for comprehensive support services for existing domestic violence providers throughout California, including emergency shelter to victims/survivors of domestic violence and their children.

Per Penal Code § 132823.15-13823.16, all Subrecipients must provide access to emergency shelter and the supportive services, listed under the Program Components.

Support is also provided for the maintenance and further development of domestic violence services to unserved and underserved populations, including but not limited to, rural areas, non-English speaking individuals, persons of color, and geographical areas without services.

The DV Program provides local assistance for comprehensive support services to existing domestic violence providers throughout California, including emergency shelter to victims/survivors of domestic violence and their children.

Applicants must be a governmental or community-based non-profit organization that currently provides comprehensive support services to victims/survivors of Domestic Violence.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Friday, August 26, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$537,587. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

2022-23 Child Advocacy Center (KC) Program RFP

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) created the KC Program for Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) to provide direct victim services to child abuse survivors and their families through a multidisciplinary team approach. These services must include victim-centered, trauma-informed forensic interviews, advocacy, direct or referral to therapy/counseling, and referrals for medical exams.

Eligible Applicants must work in conjunction with a CAC registered under the Children's Advocacy Centers of California (CACC).

To request a match waiver, Applicants must submit the VOCA Match Waiver Request form (Cal OES Form 2-159) with their application. Up to two VOCA fund sources can be entered on one form. An additional VOCA Match Waiver Request form may be necessary when there are more than two VOCA fund sources. 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 **Friday, August 26, 2022**. Total estimated funding available is \$8,646,426. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).