



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (1/6/2023)

Northern California Impacted by Bomb Cyclone Causing the Governor to Declare a State of Emergency.

[The Sacramento Bee reports](#) California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Wednesday morning declared a state of emergency in response to a powerful atmospheric river storm that is expected to intensify later in the day and is forecast to pound Northern California with heavy rain, snow and extremely gusty winds.

“This proclamation will allow the state to respond quickly as the storm develops and support locals in their ongoing response,” the governor’s office wrote in a tweet just after 11 a.m. “We anticipate that this may be one of the most challenging and impactful series of storms to touch down in California in the last five years,” Nancy Ward, director of the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, said during a Wednesday morning news conference.

Forecasts show up to 3 inches of rain could fall in the Sacramento region and wind gusts exceeding 50 mph could topple trees and power poles. Even more rain is expected in the foothills and parts of the Bay Area. The storm comes on the heels of a major New Year’s Eve storm that pummeled much of Northern California, including the Sacramento region, and with forecasters also anticipating more atmospheric river storms in the days following Wednesday and Thursday’s torrent. Cal OES in a statement earlier Wednesday said it had “strategically prepositioned critical resources” in eight counties: Contra Costa, Lake, Monterey, Sonoma and El Dorado, where weather officials have issued warnings for wildfire burn scar areas; as well as Sacramento, Butte and Marin, where there are “major” flooding concerns.

Cal OES is deploying 14 incident management team units, two helicopters, five fire engines and a swift water rescue team to Sacramento County, according to the news release. “Residual flooding impacts could linger into the weekend before another potentially impactful storm returns early next week,” state emergency officials wrote.

Find Weather Radio Alerts in Your Area

[Ready LA County](#) has provided information on various alert systems in the county. Additionally, they have included links to find the essential alerts residents in specific areas should aim to sign up for. To view the full lists, [click here](#).

S.F. Blames National Weather Service for City's Insufficient Storm Planning Last Week. NWS Disagrees

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) San Francisco experienced historic rainfall and widespread flooding on New Year's Eve, stranding motorists on roads covered in murky water, flooding homes and forcing business closures.

City officials squarely blamed a lack of preparation on incorrect weather forecasts from the National Weather Service — but the agency disputes that and has communications with the city to back it up.

We were under the impression and notified by our National Weather Service that we could anticipate not even an inch of rain," Mayor London Breed said at a press conference on Tuesday.

Instead, San Francisco saw its second wettest day on record, with a staggering 5.54 inches falling within a 24 hour period. The discrepancy forced the city to scramble after the rain began, officials say.

"We activated our (Emergency Operations Center) late morning when we realized that what was happening was a little different than the actual forecast," said Mary Ellen Carroll, executive director of San Francisco's Department of Emergency Management.

The Emergency Operations Center, or EOC, coordinates response efforts by city agencies and partners during major events, said Victor Wai Ho Lim, a spokesperson with the Department of Emergency Management who leads public information at the operations center.

Officials said that San Francisco was not prepared for the New Year's Eve downpour because the National Weather Service indicated only half an inch to three quarters of an inch of rain would fall. The Chronicle was unable to determine where that number came from based on NWS forecasts.

Yet, San Francisco had been included within the boundaries of a flood watch issued by the National Weather Service days in advance that encompassed the entire Bay Area, and NWS spokesperson Susan Buchanan disputed the characterization that the agency had failed to indicate the potential for serious rainfall.

"Forecast Discussions issued by the National Weather Service's San Francisco/Bay Area office beginning on December 21 alerted for a significant rain event that would bring high impacts and hazardous conditions, given that the soils were already saturated from previous rain," Buchanan said by email.

These hazards, including flooding and debris flows, were shared with Bay Area officials in the days leading up to the storm through daily emails and a virtual citywide planning meeting for New Year's Eve on December 28, Buchanan said. By December 29, the briefings called for 2 to 3 inches of rain for the immediate San Francisco Bay Area, with the potential for up to 6 inches in surrounding areas.

"Heavy rain with the frontal passage will likely lead to flooding along with wind gusts to 50 mph," the NWS forecast discussion read at 3:29 p.m. on Dec. 30.

When asked to respond to NWS’s statement that the city had not been adequately warned about the storm, San Francisco’s department of emergency management said it considered NWS “an important and valued partner” and thanked the agency for its work.

For more information, [visit the full article](#).

Powerful Storm Hits California, as Residents Brace for More Flooding

[The New York Times reports](#) In Sacramento a powerful winter storm, the latest in a series of “atmospheric rivers,” roared across California on Wednesday, battering the coast, inundating city streets, toppling trees and burying the mountains in snowfall even as the nation’s most populous state reeled from a similar drenching only days before.

The storm — which intensified from predawn showers to heavy rain, high winds and, in some places, flash flood warnings — sent Californians from the Northern California coast to Santa Barbara scrambling for shelter, and left hundreds of thousands without power. A succession of similar weather systems is expected to pound the state for the next several days.

Usually, rainfall amounts like those expected this week would not have a significant effect. But the rain over the past weekend saturated the ground across much of California, forecasters said, leaving it like a wet sponge and making it more susceptible to flooding and rapid runoff. Parched by drought for the past three years and scorched by wildfires, the state is spotted with vast scars that are especially vulnerable to landslides.

Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency throughout California on Wednesday in order to more quickly marshal a storm response, and the authorities in several communities issued evacuation orders.

Nancy Ward, the new director of the governor’s office of emergency services, warned of flooding, mudslides and power outages. “We anticipate that this may be one of the most challenging and impactful series of storms to touch down in California in the last five years,” she said.

In Northern California, several parks were closed, and conservationists said they were monitoring fire-damaged redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains because the strong wind gusts could topple trees. In San Francisco, city officials scrambled to secure enough sandbags for residents. In flood-prone San Mateo County, many students were asked to head home early on Wednesday and not return to school on Thursday.

And in East Oakland, where some 300 residents have been temporarily housed in motels since the storm last weekend, an Oakland city councilwoman, Treva Reid, worked with the Red Cross to turn a local community center into an additional 75-bed shelter.

“This storm has been upon us since New Year’s Eve, and we have hundreds of residents in this district that we are working to support that are displaced,” Ms. Reid said. “It’s really all hands on deck.”

For more information, [visit the full article](#).

1 Dead in California Flooding After Storm Soaks San Francisco, Causes Power Outages

[USA Today reports](#) crews worked to rescue stranded drivers and reopen flooded roadways as the New Year began after an intense storm system caused power outages, landslides and flooding in portions of California.

More than 100,000 people were without power in the state on Sunday afternoon, according to poweroutage.us. In Sacramento County, dozens of people trapped in partially or completely submerged vehicles have been rescued, according to Dan Quiggle, deputy fire chief of the Cosumnes Fire Department.

Quiggle said one person was found dead inside a submerged vehicle at about 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Previously a person was reported missing who was suspected of being swept off a roadway.

The storm wasn't the only natural phenomenon plaguing Northern California on Sunday. About 200 miles northwest of Sacramento, a magnitude 5.4 earthquake closed a bridge while crews conducted safety inspections.

Cal OES Coordinates Deployment of State Resources in Response to Levee Failures

[Cal OES News reports](#) due to warmer weather and high snow elevations, heavy rainfall in the Sierra has caused significant downstream flooding of the Cosumnes River in Sacramento County. The high-water levels of the river caused over-topping of the levee which later caused levee failure and significant flooding around the town of Wilton in south Sacramento County.

The State Operations Center (SOC) remains at Level 1 in a 24-hour capacity to coordinate the state response in providing aid to local government requests including supplies, personnel, and equipment. Significant rainfall is expected later in the week, with additional impacts to communities likely.

Local emergency proclamations and requested assistance from the State:

- Calaveras County – Declared 1/1/23
- San Joaquin County – Declared 1/1/23
- Sacramento County – Declared 12/31/22
- City of Placerville – Declared 12/31/22
- El Dorado County – Declared 12/31/22
- Monterey County – Declared 12/27/22

For a full list of flood fighting operations and temporary evacuation points and shelters, [visit the full article.](#)

Photos Show How ‘Bomb Cyclone’ Drenched and Flooded the S.F. Bay Area

The San Francisco Chronicle has released a series of photos capturing the ongoing storm hitting the state this week. To view the photos, [click here.](#)

Atmospheric Rivers: What to Know

[The Physical Sciences Laboratory \(PSL\) reports](#) Atmospheric Rivers (ARs) are relatively narrow regions in the atmosphere and are responsible for most of the horizontal transport of water vapor outside of the tropics. While ARs come in many shapes and sizes, those that contain the largest

amounts of water vapor, the strongest winds, and stall over watersheds vulnerable to flooding, can create extreme rainfall and floods. These events can disrupt travel, induce mud slides, and cause catastrophic damage to life and property. However, not all ARs cause damage – most are weak, and simply provide beneficial rain or snow that is crucial to water supply.

Improved monitoring, observation-based process understanding and prediction of ARs provide the critical knowledge needed by flood control managers, water supply authorities, and reservoir operators to mitigate the risks of major flood events while being able to take advantage of these heavy rainfall events as drought busters.

National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA) and its partners conduct targeted field campaigns using satellite measurements, offshore aircraft reconnaissance, and land-based AR observatories to guide model forecast system development, leading to improvements in the prediction of AR intensity and duration to support water resource management decisions.

On average, about 30-50% of annual precipitation in the west coast states occurs in just a few AR events, thus contributing to water supply.

In the strongest cases ARs can create major flooding when they make land-fall and stall over an area.

ARs move with the weather and are present somewhere on the Earth at any given time. On average, ARs are 400-600 km wide.

A strong AR transports an amount of water vapor roughly equivalent to 7.5–15 times the average flow of liquid water at the mouth of the Mississippi River.

ARs are a default feature in the entire global water cycle, and are tied closely to both water supply and flood risks, particularly in the Western U.S.

A well-known example of a type of strong AR that can hit the U.S. West Coast is the "Pineapple Express," due to their apparent ability to bring moisture from the tropics near Hawaii to the U.S. west coast.

Improved understanding of ARs and their importance has come from more than a decade of scientific studies using new satellite, radar, aircraft & other observations & major weather model improvements.

This Massive Storm May Mean Blackouts. Here's How to Prepare

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) intense rain and high winds will probably mean power outages this week for some Californians.

The National Weather Service said that widespread flooding, downed trees and hillside collapses were also likely. The third atmospheric river to slam the state in two weeks is expected to bring winds of up to 60 mph and drop more than 6 inches of rain in parts of Northern California. The most severe part of the storm is expected to continue through Thursday, eventually yielding up to 10 days of wet weather around the state.

“To put it simply, this will likely be one of the most impactful systems on a widespread scale that this meteorologist has seen in a long while,” the weather service’s [forecast for Northern California](#) read.

For the full guidance on how to prepare for a blackout, what to do during one, and what to do as power returns, [visit the full article](#).

Earthquakes, Aftershocks, Deaths and Road Closure in Humboldt County.

[The Lost Coast Outpost reports](#) a week after Humboldt County made efforts to clean up after a 6.4 earthquake which left two people dead and 12 injured here comes another one measuring at 5.2. The earthquake happened on January 1st, forcing Office of Emergency Services to close roads in Fernbridge which is south of Eureka.

For further details on the closure, [click here](#).

COVID in California: Promising Finding on Early Treatment Against Long COVID

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) researchers at the [University of Minnesota](#) have discovered that the oral diabetes medication metformin may cut the risk of developing the persistent symptoms of long COVID by 42% when taken for two weeks within 3 days of a confirmed [coronavirus](#) infection.

In the randomized, multi-site trial composed of 1,125 adults between the ages 30 to 85 who were classified as being overweight, the researchers compared the effectiveness of three oral medications — metformin, antidepressant fluvoxamine, and antiparasitic drug ivermectin, which has previously been discounted as a viable treatment option for COVID-19. The first option was the only one that proved effective.

“Further clinical trials are warranted to assess whether there is synergy with other treatments, such as nirmatrelvir in vaccinated populations or in those with prior COVID-19,” the authors [wrote in the study](#).

“Fluvoxamine and ivermectin did not decrease the development of long COVID, which is consistent with outcomes in the first 14 days of the trial.”

The XBB.1.5 Variant is Taking Over on the East Coast. Will it Happen in California?

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) the newest Omicron subvariant of concern is XBB.1.5, and it has arrived in Southern California. This version of the coronavirus is more contagious and more resistant to existing immunity than any of its predecessors.

“It’s just the latest and greatest and most infectious variant,” said [Paula Cannon](#), a virologist at USC. “It’s amazing to me that this virus keeps finding one more trick to make itself even more infectious, even more transmissible.”

Along with a related subvariant called XBB.1, XBB.1.5 is a combination of two different versions of the BA.2 subvariant of Omicron. Both parents are particularly good at binding to the ACE2 receptor — the part of the cell the virus’ spike protein attacks to initiate an infection — and their descendants [seem to have inherited](#) that talent.

In the final week of 2022, [about 40.5%](#) of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus specimens circulating in the U.S. were of the XBB.1.5 variety, according to the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention. It's especially prevalent in the country's Northeast, where it first surfaced in early November and now accounts for more than 72% of cases.

XBB.1.5 has so far made less of an impact in the region that includes California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii and the Pacific islands, where its coronavirus market share is 9.2%, according to the CDC. (It's even less prevalent in mountain and Midwestern states from Utah to Ohio, Michigan and Minnesota.)

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

NIH launches harm reduction research network to prevent overdose fatalities

[The National Institute of Drug Abuse \(NIDA\) announced](#) that the National Institutes of Health has established a research network that will test harm reduction strategies in different community settings to inform efforts to help save lives in order to address the overdose crisis in the nation. The harm reduction research network's efforts build on existing harm reduction research, and represent the largest pool of funding from NIH to date to study harm reduction strategies to address overdose deaths.

More than 107,000 people in the United States died from a drug overdose in 2021, according to provisional data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These deaths are largely driven by the proliferation of cheap, potent synthetic drugs like fentanyl contaminating the drug supply, including in heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and counterfeit pills.

Harm reduction is an evidence-based, often life-saving approach that directly engages people who use drugs to prevent overdose, disease transmission and other harms. Researchers will test strategies to connect enrolled participants who use drugs with services and treatments and measure the effectiveness of these interventions in reducing overdose deaths and other outcomes.

“Getting people into treatment for substance use disorders is critical, but first, people need to survive to have that choice,” said National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Director Nora D. Volkow, M.D. “Harm reduction services acknowledge this reality by aiming to meet people where they are to improve health, prevent overdoses, save lives and provide treatment options to individuals. Research to better understand how different harm reduction models may work in

communities across the country is therefore crucial to address the overdose crisis strategically and effectively.”

Funded by the NIH Helping to End Addiction Long-term Initiative, or NIH HEAL Initiative, through NIDA, the awards are expected to total approximately \$36 million over five years, pending the availability of funds. Studies will enroll participants to investigate a range of harm reduction approaches, such as distributing naloxone, a lifesaving medication to reverse overdose, and fentanyl test strips, which people can use to determine if drugs are contaminated with fentanyl.

The research network will also examine the efficacy of moving harm reduction services and tools into communities via mobile vans, peer support specialists, internet- and smartphone-based tools and other types of outreach. By offering these services, harm reduction may be a first step interaction that also helps people access treatment for addiction and other healthcare.

For further details on this effort, including the leading institutions and their projects, [visit the full article](#).

FEMA Advances Accessibility: FEMA-SBA Partnership Provides More than \$38 Million in Expanded Assistance to Low-Income Survivors.

[FEMA announced](#) that in the past year, low-income disaster survivors have received more than \$38.7 million in expanded assistance because of FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration’s policy changes to lower the minimum household income thresholds for some types of FEMA assistance.

FEMA and SBA have programs that help survivors after a disaster, and many homeowners and renters apply for FEMA assistance and SBA loans. As one of the largest sources of federal funding for individuals and households, low-interest SBA loans are a critical piece to aid survivors rebuilding their lives after a disaster. Although low-income applicants will still be able to apply for SBA loans, these changes expand and expedite FEMA grant assistance for these survivors.

More than 2,500 hurricane Fiona and Ian survivors have benefited from these changes, resulting in \$6.7 million in survivors’ pockets to help jumpstart their recovery efforts as quickly as possible.

“FEMA strives to deliver programs in a way that increases accessibility and reduces unnecessary barriers to help those impacted by disaster jumpstart their recovery, but we know we cannot do it alone. This effort requires a whole-of-government approach, and we are grateful for our partners at SBA who help us achieve this critical objective,” said FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell. “The policy changes we’ve made alongside SBA to make disaster assistance more accessible for low-income families is just one example of the power of this partnership.”

“Following a disaster, many people struggle with financial demands that are not covered by insurance or other forms of assistance,” said SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman. “Yet it is critical for communities to be able to rebuild and recover quickly. These changes will enable people to receive FEMA assistance faster while still giving them an opportunity to apply for an SBA loan. We are proud to partner on this with FEMA, as we believe this will deliver equitable, long-term disaster recovery for all Americans.”

The SBA offers disaster assistance in the form of low interest loans to businesses, nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters located in regions affected by declared disasters. SBA also provides eligible small businesses and nonprofit organizations with working capital to help overcome the economic injury of a declared disaster, even if they did not suffer any physical losses.

Trauma Recovery Center Grant Fiscal Year 23/24

[The Victim Compensation Board](#) has created the Trauma Recovery Center Grant to fund centers throughout California that assist victims of violent crime. These centers provide wrap-around services and assist victims who are typically unserved and underserved communities.

The Trauma Recovery Center (TRC) Grant funds organizations that operate throughout California to provide survivors of violent crime access to mental health or social services that may not be accessible for them through existing avenues. The TRC model offers wrap-around clinical services and cost-effective solutions for under- or unserved survivors and includes assertive outreach, clinical case management, assistance with law enforcement, referral to community resources and trauma-informed treatment.

TRCs are meant to meet the victim where they are and serve each victim specific to his/her/their needs. Grant planning is not an eligible activity. Funding for TRCs varies each year with \$2,000,000 from the Restitution Fund and a percentage of savings from the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Fund (SNSF) that varies annually.

CalVCB typically receives 10-20 applications and awards 6-8 TRC grants. Individual awards vary by number of passing applications, funds available, and the amount requested to fund the TRC. Grants are for two fiscal years at a time, and TRCs may re-apply at the end of their awarded grant period to avoid a lapse in funding.

Each year, CalVCB posts a Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) that instructs how interested applicants may apply and what each application should include. Questions about the NOFA may be submitted and will receive a timely response within the application deadline. Due dates for the application will be included in the NOFA posting.

TRCs must follow the May 2017 edition of the evidence-informed model of care developed by the State Pilot TRC, including a multidisciplinary staff that includes a Program Director, Psychologist, Psychiatrist and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT).

Each TRC is expected to invoice monthly, submit data reports monthly and maintain records to fulfill site visit and/or audit requirements.

To view the full list of typical expenses for TRCs, [click here](#).

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Tuesday, January 17, 2023**. Total estimated funding available will include \$2,000,000 from the Restitution Funds and an additional \$2,223,825.67 from General Funds. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

Emergency Medical Services Intermediary Program Year 2022-23

[The Employment Development Department](#) has created this solicitation to fund an organization to serve as the Intermediary between program awardees in the forthcoming Targeted EMS Program SFP and state government stakeholders. The Intermediary will be responsible for identifying potential service areas, project partners, and to assist in the development, implementation, and facilitation of Targeted EMS program sites.

The EMS Intermediary PY 22-23 grant aims to fund an organization that possesses the capability to identify potential service areas, project partners, and to assist in the development, implementation, and facilitation of EMS program pilot sites that recruit, train, hire, and advance an ethnically and culturally inclusive health and human services workforce. The intermediary must focus on improved diversity, higher wages, and serve the community they live in to support their community's healthcare system. The successful project will assist program awardees with the design, development, and implementation of programs that incorporate data-proven strategies to increase the number of EMTs in local health service economies.

Proposals must be received by 3 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

An informational webinar will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2022 at 10 a.m. Pre-registration is required. For registration information, follow the preregistration hyperlink on the EDD's Workforce Development Solicitations for Proposals landing page under the Emergency Medical Services Intermediary SFP by January 9, 2023.

The EDD encourages applicants to submit a Notice of Intent to apply by January 13, 2023, at noon to WSBSFP1@edd.ca.gov.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Tuesday, January 17, 2023**. Total estimated funding available is \$8 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

California Youth Opioid Response (YOR California) YOR 3

[The Department of Health Care Services](#) has created the YOR CA 3 solicitation. This is administered by the California Institute of Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS) in partnership with Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP). This project is funded by State Opioid Response (SOR) III monies through the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Expansion Project. While current YOR CA 2 grantees are eligible to apply, new applicants will have equal opportunity in being awarded grant funding.

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is releasing a Request for Applications (RFA) to strengthen capacity and access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services, as well as access points to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT), for youth (ages 12-24) and their families. This opportunity is also designed to foster the coordination and strengthening of existing multi-system networks and encourage the development of new partnerships between agencies that touch youth.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Thursday, January 19, 2023**. Total estimated funding is approximately \$50-500k grants. To view the grant guidelines, [click here](#).