



## **News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (1/20/2023)**

### **Upcoming Oversight Hearing – 1<sup>st</sup> of the New Year!**

Topic: California's Preparedness for and Response to Extreme Atmospheric River Incidents

When: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 10:30 am

Where: State Capitol, Room 437

### **California Secures Presidential Disaster Declaration to Support Winter Storm Response and Recovery**

[The Office of Governor Newsom announced](#) Saturday that the White House has approved California's request for a [Presidential Major Disaster Declaration](#) to support the state's emergency response to ongoing storm impacts including flooding, mudslides and landslides in communities across the state.

"California is grateful for President Biden's swift approval of this critical support to communities reeling from these ongoing storms," said Governor Newsom, who earlier today met with evacuated residents [in Merced County](#) and surveyed damage in the area. "We'll continue to work in lockstep with local, state and federal partners to help keep Californians safe and make sure our communities have the resources and assistance they need to rebuild and recover."

The Presidential Major Disaster Declaration will help Californians in impacted counties through eligibility for several programs and supports, and includes public assistance to help state, tribal and local governments with ongoing emergency response and recovery costs and hazard mitigation. Today's declaration makes federal funding available to affected individuals in the counties of Merced, Sacramento and Santa Cruz. Additional impacted counties may be included once storm conditions allow state, local and federal officials to safely assess the scope of damage.

Earlier last week, President Biden approved the Governor's request for a [Presidential Emergency Declaration](#) to bolster state, local and tribal government storm response efforts. Governor Newsom has activated the State Operations Center to its highest level and proclaimed a [state of emergency statewide](#).

## **Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara Counties Added to Major Disaster Declaration**

[FEMA issued a press release](#) Wednesday announcing that Monterey, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties have been added to the major federal disaster declaration for California's severe storms and flooding, meaning residents who had damage or losses from the storms may now apply for FEMA disaster assistance.

President Biden approved an emergency declaration after the Golden State was hit by waves of atmospheric river storms beginning Dec. 27. A major disaster declaration was approved Jan. 14, allowing FEMA to provide direct support to individuals and households in Merced, Sacramento and Santa Cruz counties under its Individual Assistance program. Monterey, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara, three counties further south along the coast, were added Jan. 17.

Homeowners and renters in the six counties who had damage or losses as a direct result of the storms are encouraged to apply for assistance. Disaster assistance may include grants to help pay for temporary housing and essential home repairs as well as other serious disaster-related needs such as medical and dental expenses, transportation, childcare, and moving and storage expenses.

If you have insurance, first file a claim with your insurance provider. FEMA provides assistance to applicants for your uninsured or underinsured disaster-caused expenses and serious needs.

Applicants are required to let FEMA know about all insurance coverage including flood, homeowners and vehicle. By law, FEMA cannot provide you a grant when any other source – insurance, crowdfunding or financial assistance from voluntary agencies – has covered expenses for the same disaster-related need.

To apply for FEMA assistance, go to [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov), use the FEMA mobile app or call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. If you use video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA the number for that service. Helpline operators are available from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Press 2 for Spanish. Press 3 for an interpreter who speaks your language.

The deadline to apply to FEMA is Thursday, March 16.

## **Disaster Recovery Center Opens in Merced County**

[FEMA issued a press release](#) Wednesday announcing that a Disaster Recovery Center has opened in Merced County, where residents who were affected by the severe storms and flooding can update your FEMA applications and learn about state and community programs and other available assistance.

Specialists at the recovery center can clarify information you have received from FEMA or other agencies; they can explain the rental assistance available to homeowners and renters; and they can fax your requested documents to a FEMA processing center and scan or copy new information or documents needed for case files.

Residents who had uninsured or underinsured damage and losses resulting from the severe storms and flooding are encouraged to apply to FEMA, although you do not need to visit a Disaster Recovery Center to apply.

To apply, go [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov), use the FEMA mobile app or call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. If you use video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA the number for that service. Helpline operators are available from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Press 2 for Spanish. Press 3 for an interpreter who speaks your language. For an accessible video on how to apply, [click here](#).

## **How Much did Deadly Storms Cost California? \$1 Billion and Counting**

[The Sacramento Bee reports](#) after California's powerful winter storms finally subsided, emergency officials and accountants have stepped in to start tallying the damage. One expert said he expects the total cost to California will be over \$1 billion.

Damage in Sacramento County alone likely topped \$123 million, according to a preliminary estimate from the county.

The series of storms, which began New Year's Eve, killed at least 20 people around the state, including five people in Sacramento County.

President Joe Biden declared a major disaster Jan. 14, paving the way for additional federal funds and indicating that Washington will cover a significant portion of the cost to rebuild. Biden is expected to visit the Central Coast on Thursday to survey damage and meet with residents.

In Sacramento, Merced, Monterey, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz and San Luis Obispo counties — which suffered some of the worst damage — individuals and families will be eligible for certain federal assistance.

On Wednesday, Sacramento County opened a "Local Assistance Center" at the Chabolla Community Center in Galt to help residents access FEMA funds and other assistance to pay for damage that isn't covered by their insurers.

It's still too early for a final estimate, but California officials will have a better idea in about a month, said Adam Smith, an applied climatologist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who studies disasters. Smith added, "It's been quite a while since California has been really bombarded by such a continuous series of atmospheric rivers."

The impact of the storms compounded, becoming more costly as the storms bombarded California. The duration and scale of a disaster adds to the time it takes to analyze costs, Smith said. Assessments will continue for weeks — even months.

But Smith said a state tab of several billion dollars was not "out of the realm of possibility."

The state agency that oversees state highways and three intercity rail routes has scarcely begun to tally the damage, but the bill will likely be steep.

"Caltrans has had more than 4,000 crew members working 12-hour shifts around the clock, responding to thousands of incidents throughout the state," said Will Arnold, a Caltrans spokesman who is also the mayor of Davis. "Our priority now is to safely reopen roadways that remain closed due to flooding, slides or other incidents. After this emergency, Caltrans will identify any additional needed repairs and determine overall associated costs."

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

### **After Epic Rains, California Will Have Time to Dry Out. But for How Long?**

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) a series of atmospheric river storms that dropped [record-breaking rain](#) and unleashed chaos across California will end with a whimper this week, as officials work to tabulate the epic rainfall.

Downtown San Francisco received 18.09 inches of rain from Dec. 26 through Monday, the most in a 22-day span since 1862. Oakland and Stockton saw more rain fall from Dec. 26 to Jan. 10 than in any other 16-day period on record.

The experience of the past few weeks does not necessarily indicate how the rest of the winter will play out, though.

Last year, “We started out with really healthy early precipitation and snowpack and then the proverbial tap was turned off and we had a phenomenally dry January, February and March ... and ended up really continuing with protracted drought,” said climate scientist Noah Diffenbaugh, a professor and senior fellow at Stanford University.

“The way we get most of our precipitation here in California is in these atmospheric rivers. And, really, the number of atmospheric rivers is a pretty good metric of whether we have a dry year, a normal year or a wet year,” he said during a [panel discussion](#) Wednesday.

Daniel Swain, a climate scientist at UCLA, said precipitation over the next two-plus weeks “is likely to be below average for most/all” of California.

“This will give the state a needed opportunity to dry out, for rivers to recede, and for folks in the mountains to dig out from feet of snow,” he wrote Tuesday [on Twitter](#).

The latest storm, a drizzler compared with the powerful deluges that have hammered the state for the better part of a month, moved into the San Francisco Bay Area on Wednesday evening, according to the National Weather Service.

It was expected to “bring a quick shot of rain,” with up to half an inch possible in higher elevation areas, said Dalton Behringer, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Monterey.

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

### **Parts of SoCal Reach 30 Inches of Rain as Orange County Tops Seasonal Averages**

[Patch reports](#) heavy rains once again wreaked havoc on Southern California over the weekend, causing road closures and rescue efforts in Orange County and surrounding areas.

This rainy season has been unusually heavy for all of Orange County with recent rainfall totals ranging between 6 and nearly 20 inches — considerably more than the county's annual average of about 12-13 inches.

Orange County is already well over its average rainfall for January and December. Most of Orange County saw between 4 and 8 inches over seasonal averages for the last 60 days.

Areas around Orange County, such as the neighboring Palomar Mountains, have surpassed 20 inches in seasonal rain totals, and the San Gabriel Mountains saw over 30 inches of rain in the last 60 days.

The rainfall over the weekend was record-breaking for Southern California in a number of places, including downtown Los Angeles, LAX and the Long Beach airport area, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Relentless storms have battered California from the day after Christmas through Monday, killing at least 20 people and causing billions of dollars worth of destruction to public and private property, damage that in some cases will take months or years to repair.

Tallying the damage will take time, but the number of homes and other structures that will be red-tagged as uninhabitable could be in the "low thousands," said Brian Ferguson, spokesperson for the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

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

### **For All Their Ferocity, California Storms Were Not Likely Caused by Global Warming, Experts Say**

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) as California emerges from a two-week bout of deadly atmospheric rivers, a number of climate researchers say the recent storms appear to be typical of the intense, periodic rains the state has experienced throughout its history and not the result of global warming.

Although scientists are still studying the size and severity of storms that killed 19 people and caused up to \$1 billion in damage, initial assessments suggest the destruction had more to do with California's historic drought-to-deluge cycles, mountainous topography and aging flood infrastructure than it did with climate-altering greenhouse gasses.

Although the media and some officials were quick to link a series of powerful storms to climate change, researchers interviewed by The Times said they had yet to see evidence of that connection. Instead, the unexpected onslaught of rain and snow after three years of punishing drought appears akin to other major storms that have struck California every decade or more since experts began keeping records in the 1800s.

"We know from climate models that global warming will boost California storms of the future, but we haven't made that connection with the latest storm systems," said Alexander Gershunov, a climate scientist at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. "Assuming that these storms were driven by global warming would be like assuming an athlete who breaks a record was on steroids."

Mike Anderson, official state climatologist for California, suggested that the recent series of atmospheric rivers — long plumes of vapor that can pour over the West Coast — was a grim reminder that in a place so dry, sudden flooding can bring catastrophe.

“Each of the recent atmospheric rivers were within the historical distribution of sizes of atmospheric rivers,” Anderson said, “It will take further study to determine how warming temperatures influenced the sequence or the sudden transition from dry to wet and soon back to dry.”

News and social media images of the storms were harrowing. Massive ocean waves demolished seawalls and a pier. Hurricane-force winds uprooted trees that crushed and killed bystanders. Breached levees flooded the Sacramento-San Joaquin River delta region, drowning motorists.

The parade of storms also dumped desperately needed snow on the Sierra Nevada range — nearly 250% of average for this time of year. It also recharged giant reservoirs that had dwindled to weedy channels. In one instance, Lake Cachuma, about 15 miles northwest of Santa Barbara, rose from 36% capacity to nearly 80% in just one day.

But in a region whose water supply has been severely depleted by more than two decades of megadrought stoked by climate change, researchers suggested that some observers were too quick to reach for superlatives.

“A group I call ‘mediaologists’ always hype the current situation to make it seem worse than the last one,” Gershunov said, using a pithy play on the word meteorologists.

Although scientists still can’t say yet where recent storms rank among other epic downpours, they said they did not appear to be one of a kind.

For more information and opinions from experts, [visit the full article](#).

### **California’s Flooding Reveals We’re Still Building Cities for the Climate of the Past**

[NPR reports](#) heavy storms have flooded roads and intersections across California and forced thousands to evacuate over the last few weeks. Much of the water isn't coming from overflowing rivers. Instead, rainfall is simply overwhelming the infrastructure designed to drain the water and keep people safe from flooding.

To top it off, the storms come on the heels of a severe drought. Reservoirs started out with such low water levels that many are only now approaching average levels—and some are still below average.

The state is increasingly a land of extremes.

New infrastructure must accommodate a "new normal" of intense rainfall and long droughts, which has many rethinking the decades-old data and rules used to build existing infrastructure.

"What we need to do is make sure that we're mainstreaming it into all our infrastructure decisions from here on out," says Rachel Cleetus, policy director with the Climate and Energy program at the Union of Concerned Scientists. "Otherwise we'll be putting good money after

bad. We'll have roads and bridges that might get washed out. We might have power infrastructure that's vulnerable."

On this episode, NPR climate correspondent Lauren Sommer walks us through three innovations that cities around the country are pioneering, in hopes of adapting to shifting and intensifying weather patterns.

To listen to the episode, [click here](#).

## **President Biden Tours California Storm Damage, Visiting Santa Cruz, Monterey Counties**

[CBS News reports](#) President Joe Biden walked along the splintered boardwalk of this picture-postcard beach town Thursday and heard from business owners struggling to repair damage to their shops after deadly storms caused devastation across the region and killed more than 20 people statewide.

Santa Cruz County was among the hardest-hit parts of California from the wet and windy weather. The county had estimated damage to its public infrastructure at \$55 million as of Wednesday, with likely more than 1,000 homes affected.

Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Deanne Criswell, speaking to reporters on Air Force One earlier Thursday, said a lot of the coastal impact during the storms was caused by loose timber left behind from devastating wildfires in 2020 that washed out to sea, but then crashed back ashore in heavy surf, damaging infrastructure like the Capitola Pier and Seacliff State Beach in Aptos.

Biden toured a gutted seafood restaurant and the badly flooded Paradise Beach Grille, not far from the collapsed Capitola Pier and the brightly painted pink, orange and teal shops that are all boarded up following the storms. Walls were crumbling, debris scattered everywhere and floors swept away by raging waters.

Paradise Beach Grille Owner Chuck Maier told Biden that water had gushed up from the floor and swamped his business on Monterey Bay. "No kidding," Biden exclaimed.

"Sorry man, we're slowing up your work" he said to contractors on the scene.

"You don't feel it until you walk the streets," Biden said later from nearby Seacliff State Park, speaking about how bad the damage was and blaming climate change for the severity of the weather. "If anybody doubts the climate is changing, they must have been asleep for the last couple of years."

"The more attention we can get, the more assistance we can get, will help everybody," said co-owner of Zelda's on the Beach John Ealy, who also met with Biden. "Hopefully they'll support SBA loans, give support for the businesses to get back on their feet as quickly as they can."

"We survived the pandemic -- that was doable. We've survived other storms, an earthquake," Ealy said. "I mean, I think it just reminds me of how strong the community is. And how important it is to get built back and reopened."

For further details of the President's tour, [visit the full article](#).

## **PG&E Sued by El Dorado, Placer Counties for Mosquito Fire Damages**

[KCRA 3 reports](#) Pacific Gas and Electric Co. is facing another lawsuit filed by El Dorado and Placer counties — along with other public entities — for damages caused by the Mosquito Fire last year.

The Mosquito Fire burned more than 76,000 acres in both Placer and El Dorado counties, destroying 78 structures. The fire was active for 50 days after sparking on Sept. 6.

The lawsuit was filed in San Francisco Superior Court and includes the El Dorado Water Agency, Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District and Georgetown Divide Fire Protection District as co-plaintiffs.

“El Dorado County’s lawsuit seeks all recoverable damages allowed under the law caused by the fire,” said El Dorado County counsel David Livingston in a prepared statement. “The lawsuit seeks to hold PG&E accountable and to help our community rebuild after this devastating fire.”

They allege that PG&E was negligent in the operation of its equipment, according to attorney John Fiske.

Federal officials have not yet determined what caused the fire, but they did seize some of PG&E's equipment as part of the ongoing investigation.

Now, the counties want to recover taxpayer resources lost in the fire. Fiske said that could include reimbursement for the cost of things like evacuation and operations centers or money to rebuild damaged infrastructure.

"We don't know the full extent of the monetary damages at this time. It's still early in the economic evaluation of the damages," Fiske explained.

However, he expects it will amount to millions of dollars.

PG&E sent KCRA the following statement regarding the lawsuit:

*We recognize the impact that Mosquito Fire has had on these communities. PG&E filed an Electric Incident Report with the California Public Utilities Commission in September. There has been no official determination of cause of the Mosquito Fire and the U.S. Forest Service's investigation is ongoing. We are cooperating fully with this effort. We remain focused on reducing wildfire risk across our service area and making our electric system more resilient to the climate-driven challenges we all face in California.*

This latest lawsuit comes days after the utility reached a settlement worth millions with 10 public entities for damages caused by the [Dixie Fire](#), which burned more than 960,000 in 2021.

## **State COVID Testing Sites Begin to Close**

[CalMatters reports](#) California is preparing to close dozens of state-run COVID-19 testing and treatment sites ahead of the planned end of the state of emergency in February.



Sites that are operating under 50% capacity are scheduled to close before the end of January. Forty-four OptumServe sites will be shuttered this week, and 48 mobile “mini-buses” will begin closing in two weeks, according to the California Department of Public Health. OptumServe, a health care operations company, runs 123 testing and treatment sites along with four vaccination clinics through state contracts.

The health care giant has at least four contracts, under its former name Logistics Health, with the state totaling \$1.05 billion to provide testing and vaccination services though it has been criticized in the past for its bumpy rollout. Another branch of the company signed an additional \$47 million contract to design a data management system for COVID-19 test results.

The state of emergency, which has provided extra funding and staffing flexibilities at medical facilities, is slated to end on the last day of February.

The closures come just one week after Gov. Gavin Newsom released his January budget proposal, which moves \$614 million in unspent COVID-19 response funds to the state’s general fund and drastically reduced the amount of pandemic money for the upcoming year.

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

### **COVID in California: Hybrid Immunity Protects Better than Infection Alone**

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) the highly infectious XBB.1.5 subvariant of the coronavirus is picking up steam in the West on the heels of sweeping across the Northeast, CDC data show. The CDC is also tracking virus hospitalizations, with its [new combined dashboard](#) showing COVID, flu and RSV admissions remain on a downward trend since the recent peak in December.

Hybrid immunity — the response when a person has been both infected and vaccinated — offers a substantially higher and sustained level of protection against hospitalization or severe disease due to the omicron coronavirus variant compared to a previous COVID-19 infection alone, according to [a new study published in The Lancet](#).

World Health Organization researchers analyzed data from 26 other studies on the subject and found that individuals with hybrid immunity had a 95% lower chance of the worst outcomes of the disease up to one year after their initial infection, while those who were previously infected but unvaccinated had a 75% lower risk over the same period.

Similarly, hybrid immunity lowered the odds of reinfection by 42% after two shots for up to a year, and by 47% for six months after receiving a booster dose. For unvaccinated individuals, that protection fell to 25% one year after infection. The authors wrote that the results demonstrate “the advantages of vaccination even after people have had COVID-19.”

### **The EMS Workforce: Critical Condition!**

[EMS I reports](#) the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians’ [2022 EMS Worker Engagement Survey](#) should be a Klaxon for EMS and community leaders across the country. This report is a treasure trove of insights that, on the one hand, may not be terribly surprising to

most EMS leaders; but on the other hand, may dispel some myths and urban legends about what EMS leaders *think* their practitioners want.

To view the top five most revealing findings in the report, [click here](#).

### **Feds Send \$930M to Curb ‘Crisis’ of U.S. West Wildfires**

[KTLA reports](#) the U.S. is directing \$930 million toward reducing wildfire dangers in 10 western states by clearing trees and underbrush from national forests, the Biden administration announced Thursday, as officials struggle to protect communities from destructive infernos being made worse by climate change.

Under a strategy now entering its second year, the U.S. Forest Service is trying to prevent out-of-control fires that start on public lands from raging through communities. But in an interview with The Associated Press, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack acknowledged that the shortage of workers that has been plaguing other sectors of the economy is hindering the agency’s wildfire efforts.

He warned that “draconian” budget cuts floated by some Republicans, who control the U.S. House, could also undermine the Democratic administration’s plans. Its goal is to lower wildfire risks across almost 80,000 square miles (200,000 square kilometers) of public and private lands over the next decade.

The work is projected to cost up to \$50 billion. Last year’s climate and infrastructure bills combined directed about \$5 billion to the effort.

“There’s one big ‘if,’ ” Vilsack said. “We need to have a good partner in Congress.”

He added that fires on public lands will continue to threaten the West, after burning about 115,000 square miles (297,000 square kilometers) over the past decade — an area larger than Arizona — and destroying about 80,000 houses, businesses and other structures, according to government statistics and the nonpartisan research group Headwaters Economics.

Almost 19,000 of those structures were torched in the 2018 Camp Fire that killed 85 people in Paradise, Calif.

“It’s not a matter of whether or not these forests will burn,” Vilsack said. “The crisis is upon us.”

The sites targeted for spending in 2023 cover much of Southern California, home to 25 million people; the Klamath River Basin on the Oregon-California border; San Carlos Apache Reservation lands in Arizona; and the Wasatch area of northern Utah, a tourist draw with seven ski resorts. Other sites are in Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, Washington State, Colorado, New Mexico and Montana.

The idea is to remove many trees and other flammable material from hotspots that make up only a small portion of fire-prone areas but account for about 80% of risk to communities. Vilsack said officials will seek to restore “old-growth forest conditions” — meaning fewer but larger trees that can be resilient against fires. For more information, [visit the full article](#).

## ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **Climate Resilience and Community Access Grant Program 2022;** *disadvantaged communities; education; environment & water; health & human services; housing, development, and economic development; parks & recreation; science, technology, and research & development*
  - Funded by: Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
  - Deadline: **Friday, January 27, 2023**
  - Total Estimated Funding: \$2.917 million
  - Full Grant Guidelines: [linked here](#)
- **Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative Evidence-Based and Community-Defined Evidence Practices Round 1: Parent and Caregiver Programs and Practices Grants;** *disadvantaged communities; education; health & human services*
  - Funded by: Department of Health Care Services
  - Deadline: **Tuesday, January 31, 2023**
  - Total Estimated Funding: \$30 million
  - Full Grant Guidelines: [linked here](#)
    - Online Application: [linked here](#)
- **2022 Urban Community Drought Relief Program;** *disadvantaged communities; disaster prevention & relief; environment & water*
  - Funded by: Department of Water Resources
  - Deadline: **Tuesday, January 31, 2023**
  - Total Estimated Funding: \$285 million
  - Full Grant Guidelines: [linked here](#)
    - Online Application: [linked here](#)

## Funding Opportunities

### Stop the Hate Program Funding

[The Department of Social Services](#) has created this funding to provide support and services to victims and survivors of hate incidents and hate crimes and their families, to facilitate hate incident or hate crime prevention measures, and to create more inclusive regional and local communities, especially for those who are historically vulnerable because of their racial, ethnic, religious, gender identity/gender expression, sexual orientation, disability or other identities.

Funding will be awarded to qualified nonprofit organizations to provide direct, prevention and intervention services to populations who have experienced or are at greatest risk of experiencing incidents of bias and hate crimes. Funded organizations will receive funds for a 2-year service term beginning 07/01/2023.

This funding is available to nonprofit entities.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Monday, February 13, 2023**. Total estimated funding available is \$50 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#). To view the online application, [click here](#).

## **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – DR4610 2021 Northeast Wildfires**

[The Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#) has created this program as the result of a Presidential Disaster Declaration. FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds plans and projects that reduce the effects of future natural disasters. In California, these funds are administered by the Cal OES Hazard Mitigation Section. Eligible subapplicants include state agencies, local governments, special districts, and some private non-profits.

The HMGP funding opportunity provides support for communities to implement mitigation activities to reduce risk to life and property from natural hazards. In California, natural hazards include wildfire, earthquake, drought, extreme weather, flooding, and other impacts of climate change. HMGP funding can also support the development of Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP) and project scoping activities. For eligible socially vulnerable and high hazard risk communities.

### Eligibility Guidelines:

- State Agencies – Activities must be consistent with the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Federally Recognized Tribes – Subapplicants must have a FEMA-approved tribal hazard mitigation plan.
- Local Governments/Communities/Special Districts – Subapplicants must have a FEMA-approved local hazard mitigation plan.
- Private non-profit – the County in which they are located must meet the LHMP requirement.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program requires local entities to provide matching funds. The standard is 75% Federal Share and 25% Local Share

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Monday, February 20, 2023**. Total estimated funding available is \$54,241,263. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

## **CDFA Community Resilience Centers Program**

[The CA Department of Food and Agriculture](#) has created this program to build local resilience across California communities by improving community facilities. It is a priority of the CRC program to fund resilience center projects in disadvantaged communities and disadvantaged unincorporated communities, or sites serving these communities.

Recent and ongoing climate events and public health emergencies impact every part of California. Such events encompass shorter-term events like earthquakes, extreme heat, mudslides, flood, wildfires, power outages, and disruptions; they also include longer-term events like the COVID pandemic, sea level rise, drought, and rising temperatures. Due to historic redlining and cycles of underinvestment, communities across California face differential access to local community resilience opportunities including public health resources, clean energy infrastructure, and emergency response services. Given California's range of geographies and biomes, diverse populations and their needs, and existing infrastructure, building local community resilience offers the most appropriate, comprehensive, and relevant approach for

each community to achieve equitable outcomes in the face of climate impacts and disruptions. Since projects developed for and by community residents have greater success and are better designed to meet and effectively respond to unique challenges and opportunities, community resilience center projects and programming must demonstrate robust, inclusive, consistent, and effective engagement with residents throughout the ideation, development, implementation, and feedback processes.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program described here builds on this foundation, in alignment with California's Statewide Adaptation Strategy and other efforts, to build local resilience across California communities. It is a priority of the CRC program to fund resilience center projects in disadvantaged communities and disadvantaged unincorporated communities, or sites serving these communities.

The CRC Program will focus on improving community facilities to enhance the state's emergency preparedness capabilities, particularly in response to climate change. Funding shall be used to support infrastructure for emergency evacuation, shelter, base camps during emergency events, and critical deferred maintenance. Elements for this infrastructure may include cooling and heating centers, clean air centers, and extended emergency evacuation response centers, equipped with community kitchens, shower facilities, broadband, back-up power, and other community needs during an emergency or climate events.

A secondary goal of the CRC Program is to equip facilities to provide long-term, year-round community services and activities to enhance the community's resilience through civic, social, educational, and economic development programming.

The CRC program focuses investment on disadvantaged communities and disadvantaged unincorporated communities. Priority communities will be identified as defined by Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code and identified through CalEnviroScreen 4.0 and by Section 65302.10 of the California Government Code and identified through the Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool for Transformative Climate Communities (TCC).

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Monday, February 27, 2023**. Total estimated available funding is \$38 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).