

News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (7/7/23)

Upcoming Policy Hearing

When: Monday, July 10th, Upon Adjournment of Assembly Floor Session

Where: State Capitol, Room 127 Details: Within the Daily File

Here's How to Keep Cool and Stay Safe During a Heat Wave

<u>ABC 7 reports</u> an <u>excessive heat warning</u> has been issued for the Santa Clarita and Antelope valleys in Los Angeles County as scorching conditions continue to blanket the region. And the official end of summer is still months away.

Here's a guide on how to keep cool and stay safe in the punishing temperatures as the latest heat wave ravages Southern California and much of the U.S.

Heat kills more Americans than any other weather event, including tornadoes and flooding, even though most heat-related deaths are preventable through outreach and intervention, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Heat is the silent killer. No one thinks about it," said Ben Zaitchik, a professor and climate scientist at Johns Hopkins University whose research includes heat waves. "It's getting hotter just about everywhere. That means even without a particular weather phenomenon, like what we're seeing in Texas right now, we're seeing temperatures we aren't used to, and that in its own right is a risk."

The body normally cools itself by sweating, but extreme heat can interrupt your ability to do that, potentially leading to heat exhaustion or heat stroke, organ failure or death.

Older adults, young children and people with chronic illnesses like diabetes are most at risk. But that doesn't mean healthy people are immune, said Ashley Ward, director of the Heat Policy Innovation Hub at Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment and Sustainability.

The heat can have adverse effects on people who work or exercise outdoors, for example, and also homeless people or those without efficient air conditioning or any at all.

For further information, including the signs of heat-related illness, what to do if you do not have AC, what to do if outside, how to treat burn injuries, and how to keep your pets safe, <u>visit the full</u> article.

California's Fire Agency Opens Emerging Tech Office Ahead of Wildfire Season

<u>StateScoop</u> reports as California braces for another wildfire season, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or CalFire, has a new office researching emerging technologies that might assist with response to all types of emergencies.

The Office of Wildfire Technology Research and Development, created by <u>a 2021 law</u>, opened in March as a "central organizing hub for emerging technologies," according to Marcus Hernandez, a CalFire deputy chief assigned to the office.

Hernandez told StateScoop he's one of seven eventual staff members who'll be researching new technologies for an agency responsible not only for wildfire response, but assisting with incidents like medical emergencies, urban search and rescue and floods.

"We have all this great innovation out there, all these thought leaders who can make the technologies work, but we're here to help them understand what we're actually looking for," he said. "It would be a shame to waste too much time going in a direction that isn't of efficient value or enough of a step forward."

California already maintains an expansive portfolio of technology projects designed to assist the state in responding to fires and other emergencies. Gov. Gavin Newsom last week <u>touted</u> the state's aerial fire-fighting fleet and CalFire's use of emerging tech, which includes the Fire Integrated Real-time Intelligence System, or <u>FIRIS</u>, an airplane equipped with infrared cameras and data-forecasting tools.

Public safety agencies are often laggards when it comes to technology, but Newsom on Thursday called the last five years a "tech revolution" with regard to his state's ability to fight wildfires. He cited the use of AI to "identify threats quicker and deploy resources smarter."

Hernandez said that for existing technology projects, his office will play a supporting role to the agencies already involved — this includes projects related to satellites, drones and imaging, which are currently led by CalFire's intelligence program. But he said the new office plans to lead on new projects where the fire department has gaps in its capabilities, such as tracking personnel in the field after they've disembarked or providing last-mile communications platforms in remote areas, a persistent challenge for emergency responders everywhere.

Tracking "hand crews," the personnel who remove vegetation in the field, is a "gap" in the industry, Hernandez said, but the wildfire tech office can research options for teams at CalFire that are busy with their day-to-day tasks and might not have the time or expertise to evaluate new technologies.

"They drive up on what's called a crew bus, and often the crew won't start working until they're a few miles from where they parked," he said. "Knowing their location live on a screen for the incident commander on scene ... there's a great value."

Hernandez said CalFire is also using ChatGPT, the generative AI tool, to streamline mundane processes like crafting social media posts and summarizing documents. He said all text generated by ChatGPT is reviewed by a human. He also said his office is currently developing an internal platform using GPT-4 — ChatGPT-maker OpenAI's latest model — to integrate the technology into back-office operations, such as generating key points gleaned from meetings.

At only four months old, the new office is still finding its footing. Hernandez said its success will rely heavily on the strength of the relationships it can forge with private firms, public agencies and nonprofits, a list that already includes the U.S. Forest Service, local fire departments across the state and NASA.

Fourth of July Mayhem Swamped SoCal Emergency Crews

<u>KTLA 5 reports</u> while Southern Californians watched the spectacle of explosions in the night sky on Independence Day, fireworks also caused a significant amount of mayhem across the Southland that swamped first responders until the early hours of Wednesday.

On L.A.'s 6th Street Bridge, chaos and carelessness broke out as revelers shot off illegal fireworks, climbed the viaduct's arches and drove on the wrong side of the road. One person even had what appeared to be a homemade rocket launcher he was using to fire off the explosives.

Emergency crews had their hands full, responding to thousands of calls overnight, some of which included serious injuries.

Officials with the Los Angeles Fire Department responded to the Adams-Normandie neighborhood after one man lost part of his right hand while lighting off fireworks.

In L.A.'s Westlake neighborhood, several cars went up in flames on North Lake Street. Authorities suspect illegal fireworks started the fires.

Over in Van Nuys, officials said it was also likely fireworks that ignited a tree near an apartment building. Firefighters were able to knock down the flames before they spread to nearby homes. A witness at the scene said told KTLA that a group of people were shooting fireworks at each other when the fire started.

"They were throwing fireworks. It was crazy. They were just like throwing them at each other. So, it was really like an accident, you know?" the witness said.

In the Riverside County community of Corona, residents with fire extinguishers rushed to alert their neighbor that her backyard was on fire. A witness said a neighbor was setting off illegal fireworks before the blaze started. Fire <u>crews were able to keep the flames from entirely engulfing the home</u> on Katy Way, near Evelyn Street.

"This is my home for 45 years and now look at it, it's destroyed by fireworks," Barbara Tucker, the homeowner, told KTLA. "It's illegal and they knew they were doing something illegal, and they didn't care about other people."

And on Mount Rubidoux in Riverside, flames burned through dry brush after catching fire from a professional fireworks show put on by the City of Riverside. The fire, which started at around 9:15 p.m., was finally knocked down at around 3 a.m. Wednesday morning.

In addition to the problems caused by fireworks, officials with the California Highway Patrol released sobering totals that showed <u>68 people were killed</u> during the agency's Maximum Enforcement Period, which went into effect Friday evening.

Insurance Companies are Leaving California Due to Wildfire Risk. What Homeowners Can Do.

<u>USA Today reports</u> as homeowners in fire-prone areas face rapidly increasing insurance costs or risk losing coverage altogether, there are things they can do to mitigate the risk of fire damage.

Insured losses on homes and possessions from wildfires in the U.S. have exceeded \$13 billion and economic losses have topped \$20 billion in three of the last four years, according to Aon. Catastrophe losses related to wildfires at Farmers Insurance Group of Cos. touched \$2.1 billion in 2018 alone.

The increased number and severity of wildfires increase in recent years led to a sharp rise in insurers' decisions not to renew or write new homeowners insurance policies in California.

State Farm and Allstate insurance companies pulled out of new coverage in the nation's most populous state, where, according to the Insurance Information Institute, more than 1.2 million homes at risk for extreme wildfire.

Last year, California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara signed into law a new insurance pricing regulation that would require insurance companies to provide discounts to homeowners and businesses for undertaking wildfire safety and mitigation efforts.

For those efforts to protect homes and reduce premiums, "home mitigation must be comprehensive and not treated as a menu of options," says Seren Taylor, Senior Legislative Advocate, Personal Insurance Federation of California.

For full details on how fire mitigation can help protect your property - and possibly reduce your premiums, <u>visit the full article.</u>

Australian Air Tanker on Loan in Sacramento to Assist with California Wildfires

<u>CBS News Sacramento reports</u> California is spending millions to help bring more firefighting aircraft to the state this summer. It's an effort to get more retardant on fires in the first hours of the blaze.

There are some new men at work this summer fire season. They've come from a land down under to help battle California wildfires.

"We're not sure what the season's going to bring us," said Jonathan Young, an air tanker maintenance engineer.

Young is one of the Australians that are now in Sacramento using this 737 air tanker on loan from the New South Wales government.

"It holds 4,000 gallons," Young said of the tanker's water-carrying capacity.

The Aussies are currently operating out of Cal Fire's McClellan Air Tanker Base in Sacramento.

"We are lucky to leave our Australian winter to come to the California summer," Young said.

The plane has already been used in several incidents this summer, including the Gann Fire in Calaveras County.

American Rob Minter is the chief pilot.

"Our job is to support the guys on the ground," he said. "They're the ones doing the hard work."

The Aussie 737 is one of 24 new aircraft that Cal Fire is adding this summer, spending an extra \$72 million to boost the state's firefighting fleet.

"They're already in position and trained up," said Capt. Ezra Johnson with Cal Fire.

Australia's air tanker can drop nearly four times more retardant than Cal Fire's S-2 aircraft.

"We can lay out long retardant lines, or we can lay out short heavy retardant lines depending on the terrain," Young said.

"The retardant that comes out of these aircraft will help us slow the rapid spread of fires," Johnson said.

This particular airplane was once used by Southwest Airlines here in the States.

"Many people who have visited it said they've possibly flown on it at some point," Young said.

It's new help from the other side of the planet to protect California from potentially devastating wildfires.

"Hopefully they're not bad this year, but you never know until the end of the season," Minter said.

The Australian flight crew will be in California for at least three months before they head back to the outback.

Fire Retardant Options Grow as California Wildfire Season Start and Heatwave Coincide

<u>CBS News Sacramento reports</u> the heat is back in California and with it, the risk of wildfire has returned, too. A new tool to fight fires before they occur is available to homeowners. It's considered a fire retardant that is sprayed before a fire occurs.

It's called Phos-Chek Fortify, and is marketed to be sprayed ahead of fire season or even during an oncoming fire threat. The spray coats and stays in place, according to the manufacturer Perimeter Solutions, and provides protection until the first significant rain event.

Fire authorities in California believe it could be best used to treat high-risk fire areas, like near utility poles or along highways and roadways.

Unlike Phos-Chek, a pink goo fire retardant most commonly seen dropped overhead fires from tankers or helicopters, the Phos-Chek Fortify is a clear substance.

In a statement, Perimeter Solutions president of global fire safety Jeff Emery told CBS13:

"We are very proud of the role PHOS-CHEK fire retardant has played for 60 years in protecting people, communities and the environment.

PHOS-CHEK fire retardant has been a vital tool supporting wildland firefighting efforts from the air. That same technology is also a ground-applied solution for local fire departments, utilities, railway companies, other businesses as well as homeowners to help them proactively treat vegetation and fuel sources in order to provide extended protection from wildfires."

The use of fire retardants has been under scrutiny after a federal lawsuit. The lawsuit, filed by Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (FSEEE), is aimed at curbing the Forest Service's use of aerial fire retardants that are used in firefighting. The suit says that the federal agency pollutes waterways when the retardants are dumped from above national forests without permits, violating the Clean Water Law.

Ultimately, U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen ruled that the chemicals in the retardant violate the U.S. Clean Water Law, however, the Forest Service may continue to use the material in the process of obtaining a permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Pollinator Problem: How Honeybees Could be Making California Fires Worse

<u>The Hill reports</u> the unusual feeding habits of honeybees are likely leading to reduced populations of the Southwest's dominant plant life, a new paper has found, suggesting the bees could be worsening southern California's wildfires.

The study comes amid a rising popular interest in protecting "pollinators" due to their role in helping plants reproduce. But honeybees' health may come at the expense of many of the plant and insect species they now live among, according to the findings published in the journal Royal Society B.

"There's a decent amount of evidence to show that they're competing with native insects for resources like pollen and nectar," said first author Dillon Travis, who studies biology at University of California San Diego (UCSD).

Competition, however, may be just one downside. According to Travis's research, honeybee populations may be making native ecosystems less genetically fit — opening the way for dangerous invaders.

Honeybees aren't native to North America, although many wild bee species are. But the communal insects, which were introduced by European settlers, now play an important role in American agriculture, and have a particularly heavy presence in southern California.

How heavy? Around San Diego, honeybees <u>made up 75 percent of all visits by pollinators</u> to area flowers, previous research has found.

That primacy comes thanks to the combination of a robust beekeeping industry, widespread regional agriculture and large feral colonies of escaped honeybees.

Travis's research suggests this level of honeybee activity is likely bad for native plant and insect species.

He found that flowers pollinated by honeybees create seeds with a far lower chance of growing to healthy adulthood than those pollinated by flies, butterflies and native bee species.

The reason why comes down to the honeybee's unique social and foraging style, said Joshua Kohn, a UCSD entomologist and lead author on the paper.

Honeybees are rare among the broader bee species because of their penchant for living in huge, communal hives — the sites of the giant drone nurseries which require them to brew up their characteristic reserves of honey.

To read the full article, <u>click here.</u> To review the full findings of the study, <u>click here.</u>

Agricultural Fields in California's Tulare Lake Basin Could be Underwater for Years to Come, Experts Say

<u>ABC News reports</u> farmers in one of the most prominent agricultural communities in the country will likely be living an underwater nightmare for the foreseeable future.

Central California's Tulare Lake is filled past the brim, but with the blessings of an ample water supply also comes a curse: spillage that experts say could continue to drown fields and roadways for years to come. The flooding has left farmland, streets and properties under several feet of water.

Visual evidence of the decades-long megadrought that plagued the West and left lakes nearly depleted has <u>nearly disappeared</u>. An onslaught of moisture from dozens of <u>atmospheric rivers</u> that pummeled the West over the winter season has insured available water supply for the first time in several years, but it has also wreaked havoc in a region of California that yields a vast amount of the country's produce.

The flooding that began in the Tulare Lake Basin in March, and then increased rapidly in the months that followed, is so vast it extends up to 24 miles past the lake's rim, measuring at about 600,000 acre-feet of water with depths up to 15 feet, Kings County Sheriff David Robinson told ABC News, adding that an ecosystem unique to the floodwaters has even appeared.

About 90,000 acres of farmland in Kings County, California, is currently serving as the lake bottom for Tulare, Dusty Ference, executive director for the King's County Farm Bureau, told ABC News. The water not only destroyed cropland but forced the evacuations of cattle and poultry, Ference said.

The flooding has also overtaken roadways, shops and homes around the region, displacing many residents in Tulare and Kings Counties. The water is expected to take up to two years to recede, Robinson said.

"The water's going to be here for a while," he said, adding that the California Department of Emergency Management has approved funding to purchase airboats in anticipation of the long-term flooding.

The regions within the Tulare Lake Basin are known for producing much of the country's cotton, tomatoes, pistachios, almonds, walnuts, alfalfa, wheat, barley and cow milk. So far this year, the industry has seen \$140 million in losses, Ference said.

The cost for these products will soon soar as attainability diminishes -- not just in the U.S., but around the world, Ference said.

"Price will be affected because availability will be affected -- the number of products on a store shelf," he said.

The precipitation that fell as rain filled up the lake first. As the weather began to warm in the spring, more and more of the <u>record snowpack</u> that blanketed the Sierra Nevada mountains melted, causing several of the largest lakes around the state to replenish -- some to capacity.

Lake Oroville, one of the many important reservoirs in the West that reached critically low levels during the height of the megadrought, reached full pool earlier this month.

Several other large reservoirs in the state are also close to full pool, including Lake Shasta, its largest, and San Luis Reservoir in Merced County, the fourth-largest, according to the California Department of Water Resources.

For further details, visit the full article.

Report: California Emergency Departments Failing to Meet Patient Demand

<u>Napa Valley Register reports</u> according to a new study by UC San Francisco, emergency departments in California have been struggling to keep up with patient demand during the last decade.

The study, published last week, finds that although the number of emergency departments in California has decreased by almost 4%, emergency department visits have risen by 7.4%, worsening the departments' abilities to provide timely care for patients.

In 2022, California had the ninth-longest waiting times in emergency departments among states in the country, according to the study.

Researchers at UCSF relied on data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the California Department of Health Care Access and Information.

Unlike other hospital departments, they are not allowed to refuse care to patients who are unable to pay. Thus, emergency departments act as a safety net for patients without insurance.

Underprivileged, low-income patients are the most likely to be impacted by the high wait times as they rely the most on emergency departments for medical care.

The study argues that the decrease in emergency departments is significant because "they provide a safety net of uncompensated care" and that "the majority of ambulatory patients use the ED because they do not have any other timely alternative for care."

The study, published last week, finds that although the number of emergency departments in California has decreased by almost 4%, emergency department visits have risen by 7.4%, worsening the departments' abilities to provide timely care for patients.

In 2022, California had the ninth-longest waiting times in emergency departments among states in the country, according to the study.

Researchers at UCSF relied on data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the California Department of Health Care Access and Information.

Unlike other hospital departments, they are not allowed to refuse care to patients who are unable to pay. Thus, emergency departments act as a safety net for patients without insurance.

Underprivileged, low-income patients are the most likely to be impacted by the high wait times as they rely the most on emergency departments for medical care.

The study argues that the decrease in emergency departments is significant because "they provide a safety net of uncompensated care" and that "the majority of ambulatory patients use the ED because they do not have any other timely alternative for care."

Renee Hsia, a professor at UCSF and one of the co-authors of the study, argues for policies that work to solve the issues addressed in the study.

"Our findings show what many health care workers already know to be true: the burden on emergency departments across the state of California has intensified over the last 10-15 years," Hsia said.

"Becoming aware of these trends is the first step to improving emergency department care," she said. "To efficiently and equitably address ED crowding and improve overall care, policy makers and health care administrators should work to increase ED capacity, while also making thoughtful decisions about where and how to best allocate resources."

Nearly 5 Pounds of Fentanyl Seized, 3 Arrested in San Francisco Drug Bust

<u>KRON 4 reports</u> nearly five pounds of fentanyl along with meth and alleged drug money were seized by the San Francisco Police Department on Saturday. Plainclothes officers with the SFPD Tenderloin station conducted a narcotics surveillance operation on the 1100 block of Market Street, according to <u>SFPD on Twitter</u>.

The operation resulted in the arrest of three suspects, the seizure of 2,149 grams of fentanyl, 115.6 grams of methamphetamine and \$295 in alleged drug money. A photo tweeted out by SFPD showed several bags of meth and fentanyl apparently packaged to sell.

No additional information was made available.

Gavin Newsom is Updating the State's Opioid Plan to Encompass the Rising Threat of Tranq

<u>The San Francisco Chronicle reports</u> California is already being forced to update its strategy to tackle opioids in response to the emerging threat of the <u>street drug tranq</u> — just months after <u>Gov. Gavin Newsom</u> released a comprehensive plan to combat the overdose crisis.

The rise of the veterinary tranquilizer xylazine has Newsom worried, he told The Chronicle, and underscores the challenge government officials face in trying to combat addiction and the fast-changing world of underground drug dealing.

<u>Tranq acts similarly to opioids like fentanyl</u> but belongs to a different class of drugs and requires different treatments. Fentanyl becomes more dangerous when laced with tranq, which federal officials warn is happening with increasing frequency. Fentanyl overdoses can often be reversed with naloxone, a drug Newsom and state lawmakers are trying to make more widely available, but that treatment doesn't always revive people if they have also taken tranq.

Newsom first became concerned about tranq about six months ago, he said, when he met with other governors for a conference and his East Coast counterparts warned that xylazine was responsible for a growing number of fatalities in their states.

Increasingly, it's being found in California, too.

"We were asking our Border Patrol folks, and they, a number of months ago, said we started to see it on the Texas border, and now we're seeing it in California," Newsom said. "It's moved very quickly."

In response, Newsom said he's increased anti-drug-trafficking work along the U.S.-Mexico border, particularly at the San Ysidro border crossing in San Diego, where a "disproportionate" amount of fentanyl enters the state.

Nationally, the proportion of fentanyl overdose deaths with xylazine detected has soared from 2.9% in January 2019 to 10.9% in June 2022, according to a report released Friday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that analyzed data from 21 jurisdictions.

Though officials aren't widely screening for tranq in California, there's already evidence it's starting to kill more people here, too.

The San Francisco medical examiner's office found xylazine and fentanyl in four out of 145 fatal drug overdoses tested between December 2022 and January 2023.

Assembly Member Jasmeet Bains, a Bakersfield Democrat who also works as an addiction doctor, suspects the drug recently killed several people who died of overdoses in her district, even though they were given the opioid-reversal drug naloxone.

California needs to step up its efforts to test for tranq in overdose deaths, California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said. He says the areas like San Francisco, Los Angeles and Sacramento that are testing are finding that the threat from the drug is growing, but that it's not yet on par with the levels seen on the East Coast.

For more information, visit the full article.

ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- Organized Retail Theft Vertical Prosecution Grant Program; law, justice, and legal services
 - Funded by: Board of State and Community Corrections
 - o Deadline: Friday, July 7, 2023
 - o Total Estimated Funding: \$28.5 million
 - o Full Grant Guidelines: linked here
 - Online Application: <u>linked here</u>
- Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program; law, justice, and legal services
 - o Funded by: Board of State and Community Corrections
 - o Deadline: Friday, July 7, 2023
 - o Total Estimated Funding: \$242.25 million
 - o Full Grant Guidelines: linked here
 - Online Application: linked here
- 2023-24 Violence Against Women Vertical Prosecution (VV) Program RFP; consumer protection; health & human services; law, justice, and legal services
 - - o Funded by: Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)
 - o Deadline: Friday, July 14, 2023
 - o Total Estimated Funding: \$2,025,450
 - o Full Grant Guidelines: linked here

Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant Program for Children and Youth (5th Funding Round)

<u>The State Treasurer's Office</u> intends to improve access to mental health crisis services in California for children and youth, ages 21 and under by funding a statewide expansion of mobile crisis support teams (MCSTs), crisis stabilization and Children's Crisis Residential Program beds, and family respite care via grants available to counties.

Chapter 30, Statutes of 2016 (SB 833), Section 20, established the Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant Program for Children and Youth and is intended to improve access to mental health crisis services in California for children and youth, ages 21 and under. SB 833 provides a mechanism for funding a statewide expansion of Mobile Crisis Support Teams (MCSTs), Crisis Stabilization Units and Children's Crisis Residential Treatment beds, and Family Respite Care services via grants available to counties.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS - Counties and counties applying jointly are eligible applicants. Counties and counties applying jointly may also designate a private nonprofit corporation or public agency to receive grant funding.

ELIGIBLE COSTS - Purchase of Real Property - Construction/Renovation - Furnishings/Equipment- Information Technology - Three Months Start-Up - MCST Vehicles-MCST Personnel Funding (12 Months)

PROGRAM FUNDING - There is currently \$7,587,124.44 available in Capital funding for Crisis Residential Treatment, Crisis Stabilization Unit, and Mobile Crisis Support Team programs and \$192,737.00 in Mobile Crisis Support Team personnel funding. Funding for the Family Respite Care program is no longer available.

Counties and counties applying jointly are eligible to apply. Counties may also designate a private nonprofit corporation or public agency to be a co-applicant and a designated Grantee, but only a county may apply as a Lead Grantee.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Friday**, **July 28**, **2023**. Total estimated funding available is \$7,779,864. To view the full grant guidelines, <u>click here</u>. To view the online application, <u>click here</u>.

Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT Grant (FY 22-23)

The Strategic Growth Council has created the TCC Program to further the purposes of AB 32 (Nunez, 2006) and AB 2722 (Burke, 2016) by funding projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) through the development and implementation of neighborhood-level transformative climate community plans that include multiple coordinated GHG emissions reduction projects that provide local economic, environmental, and health benefits to disadvantaged communities.

The Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC), established by AB 2722 (Burke, 2016), invests in community-led climate resilience projects in the state's most overburdened communities. The program objectives are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve public health and the environment, and support economic opportunity and shared prosperity. TCC's unique, place-based strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions is designed to catalyze

collective impact through a combination of community-driven climate projects in a single neighborhood.

The Project Development Grants support disadvantaged communities by funding predevelopment and basic infrastructure activities that advance the communities' climate and community resilience goals and prepare them for future funding opportunities aligned with the TCC Program Objectives. Project Development Grants should respond to previous community planning efforts that identified priority projects and need additional project development and basic infrastructure support funding to get ready for future resilience funding. SGC developed this pilot grant type for Round 5 TCC in response to the expressed support gap between Planning and Implementation Grant funding and to meet communities where they are in their climate resilience efforts.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUCs), Tribal Communities, Planning Grant Grantees, and Previous Implementation Grant Applicants will be prioritized for Project Development Grants, with DUCs given the most priority.

TCC Implementation Grants and Planning Grants support holistic neighborhood proposals and planning activities, respectively, to advance community-led goals and projects. Please see separate Grants Portal entries for information on Planning Grants and Implementation Grants.

A wide variety of activities and costs can be funded through the grant. Please see the Round 5 Guidelines for a list of example eligible activities.

Multiple Co-Applicants are required. A diverse range of community, business and local government stakeholders must form a Collaborative Stakeholder Structure to develop a shared vision of transformation for their community.

Applicants must include community engagement activities and address climate resilience through the proposal. Applicants may also address other transformative elements such as displacement avoidance and workforce development, if applicable.

Eligible Lead Applicants may include but are not limited to: community-based organizations, local governments, nonprofit organizations, philanthropic organizations and foundations, faith-based organizations, coalitions or associations of nonprofit organizations, community development finance institutions, community development corporations, joint powers authorities, councils of governments, and California Native American Tribes.

Project Areas must be designated as disadvantaged communities per the TCC Guidelines. The Guidelines contain multiple options for establishing Project Area eligibility. Project Areas for Project Development Grants must be contiguous and may be any size and shape. See Section 6.4, Project Area Eligibility, of the Guidelines for more information on Project Area requirements.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Tuesday**, **August 1**, **2023**. Total estimated funding available is \$9.8 million. To view the full grant guidelines, <u>click here</u>. To view the online application, <u>click here</u>.

Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 IMPLEMENTATION Grant (FY 22-23)

<u>The Strategic Growth Council</u> has created the TCC Program to further the purposes of AB 32 (Nunez, 2006) and AB 2722 (Burke, 2016) by funding projects that reduce greenhouse gas

emissions (GHG) through the development and implementation of neighborhood-level transformative climate community plans that include multiple coordinated GHG emissions reduction projects that provide local economic, environmental, and health benefits to disadvantaged communities.

The Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC), established by AB 2722 (Burke, 2016), invests in community-led climate resilience projects in the state's most overburdened communities. The program objectives are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve public health and the environment, and support economic opportunity and shared prosperity. TCC's unique, place-based strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions is designed to catalyze collective impact through a combination of community-driven climate projects in a single neighborhood.

TCC Implementation Grants support an integrated set of projects within a neighborhood project area of approximately five to ten square miles. Projects must reduce greenhouse gas emissions significantly over time, leverage additional funding sources, and provide health, environmental and economic benefits to the community.

TCC Planning Grants and Project Development Grants support planning and pre-development activities to prepare for future funding opportunities and advance community-led goals and projects. Please see separate Grants Portal entries for information on Planning Grants and Project Development Grants.

Since 2017, TCC has awarded \$321 million in 11 Implementation Grants ranging from \$9 million to \$66.5 million each and \$5.2 million in 25 Planning Grants ranging from \$170,000 to \$300,000 each. Project Development Grants are new in Round 5.

Implementation project examples include, but are not limited to:

- Equitable housing and neighborhood development
- Transit stations and facilities
- Electric bicycle and car share programs
- Solar installation
- Water and energy efficiency installations
- Urban greening and green infrastructure
- Bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Recycling, composting, and waste reduction
- Health and well-being projects
- Indoor air quality projects
- Community microgrids
- Brownfield redevelopment

Multiple Co-Applicants are required. A diverse range of community, business and local government stakeholders must form a Collaborative Stakeholder Structure to develop a shared vision of transformation for their community.

Applicants must fill out an Application Initiation Form and indicate their interest in applying for a TCC Implementation Grant by March 31, 2023. All Implementation Grant applicants are

required to work with Application Technical Assistance providers to prepare their application materials.

Applicants must submit a Pre-Proposal by 5:00 p.m. PST on May 1, 2023. Though submission of a Pre-Proposal is required for all Implementation Grant Applicants, the content of the proposal will not affect evaluation of the final application or disqualify Applicants from submitting an application.

Eligible Lead Applicants may include but are not limited to: community-based organizations, local governments, nonprofit organizations, philanthropic organizations and foundations, faith-based organizations, coalitions or associations of nonprofit organizations, community development finance institutions, community development corporations, joint powers authorities, councils of governments, and California Native American Tribes.

Project Areas must be designated as disadvantaged communities per the TCC Guidelines. The Guidelines contain multiple options for establishing Project Area eligibility. Project Areas for Implementation Grants must be contiguous and are limited to approximately five square miles (5 mi2) in urbanized areas, and to 10 square miles (10 mi2) in rural areas. See Section 6.4, Project Area Eligibility, of the Guidelines for more information.

Grantee must leverage additional funding sources that equate to least 50% of the total grant award. Leverage funding must be committed at the time of application submittal. Leverage funds may come from a variety of sources, such as federal, state, local public, private and/or philanthropic. Up to half of the required leverage funding may be fulfilled by new, eligible investments in the Project Area.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Tuesday, August 1, 2023.** Total estimated funding available is \$88.5 million. To view the full grant guidelines, <u>click here.</u> To view the online application, <u>click here.</u>