



News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (7/21/23)

39-Day Heat Wave Could Last Into August After Smashing 2,300-plus Records

[CNN reports](#) as unrelenting heat wave in the US enters its 39th consecutive day, millions of people from California to Florida are asking: When will it end?

The long-term forecast looks bleak. The extreme heat could continue into August in some of the hardest-hit areas and even a brief glimmer of cooler hope for some parts of the country headed into the weekend will only mean new areas swelter as a heat dome slides west.

The first heat alerts went out on June 10 and more than 2,300 heat records have fallen from Florida to California. That number will only grow as millions of people suffer through dangerous temperatures.

Phoenix hit 110 degrees for a record-breaking 19th consecutive day on Tuesday. The temperature kept climbing to a new daily record of 118 degrees, one of 20 record highs set yesterday. Then it hardly cooled overnight, and on Wednesday morning, the city set a new all-time record for highest low temperature of 97 degrees.

The longevity of this heat wave, combined with the dangerously low overnight temperatures, are taking a toll on human health and infrastructure in Arizona. There have been [12 confirmed heat-related deaths](#) in Phoenix's Maricopa County in the first week of July, and 55 deaths in the county are suspected to be heat related and are under investigation, according to data from the Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

The heat also turned deadly in California on Saturday when Kai Torres Bronson, 24, died in San Diego County's Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Brent Pascua, CalFire Captain told CNN.

Heat is the number one killer of all extreme weather, National Weather Service data shows, and as temperatures continue to rise, scientists expect it to make even more people ill.

For more information, including how long experts expect this extreme heat to last, [visit the full article](#).

116 Degrees at Night: Death Valley's Extreme Heat Goes off the Charts from Climate Change

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) it was 10 p.m. and 116 degrees as a brutal wind whipped through the darkness.

Here in Death Valley National Park — dubbed the hottest place on Earth — intrepid tourists waded into a hotel swimming pool seeking what little relief they could find.

Park temperatures had soared to 126 degrees that afternoon, just a few degrees shy of the daily record.

“I never knew such temperatures before,” said Nicolas Combaret, 40, who was visiting Death Valley from France with his wife and 5-year-old son. It was one of several stops on their tour of the Southwest.

“When we saw on the news that the temperature would be 125, 126, we thought, ‘Wow, that’s impressive — it will be a good experience to live that, to feel the hottest ever here.’”

Much of the reason for this is that Death Valley is a long, narrow basin that sinks 282 feet below sea level. The sun-bleached moonscape near the border of Nevada is hemmed in by jagged, rust-colored mountains, which trap hot air and circulate it like a convection oven.

But even Death Valley — one of the most extreme places on the planet — is not immune to climate change. This past week, many tuned in to see if its all-time temperature record of 134 degrees would be broken, a possibility that was heralded by some as a barometer of climate change.

“As the climate changes, as world temperatures get hotter, Death Valley will get hotter,” said Giovanna Ponce, a public information officer with the park. She noted that seven of Death Valley’s hottest summers on record occurred in the past 10 years.

The hot days are also getting more frequent. The year 2020 holds the park’s record for the most days over 100 degrees — 169 days — according to data from the National Weather Service. The year 2021 broke the record for the most days over 125 degrees — 11.

If temperatures keep rising, there will be cascading impacts, including threats to birds, fish and ancient trees, officials said. Groundwater depletion and extreme precipitation are also accelerating, with last August seeing the rainiest day in Death Valley’s history, 1.7 inches, which triggered flash floods that scoured the landscape and damaged roads.

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

The Man Trying to Save Phoenix from Historical Heat

[The New York Times reports](#) as a historic heat wave grips much of the world and the United States, no city has become more emblematic of the crisis than Phoenix, where temperatures have exceeded 110 degrees for the past three weeks.

On *The Times*’ podcast, The Daily, the city’s chief heat officer, David Hondula, discusses how the city is adjusting to the new reality of chronic extreme heat — and whether we are adapting to it fast enough.

Arizona is used to scorching summers, but a long stretch of days with 110-degree temperatures is [straining patience and resources](#).

Weeks of 110-degree days have left the Phoenix fire department [scrambling to rescue people overcome by heat](#) — a test for a force already accustomed to tough summers.

To listen to the article via *The Times*' website, [click here](#). To review the other ways you can listen to The Daily, [click here](#).

As Heat Wave Scorches California, Firefighters Make Headway Against Wildfires

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) firefighters in Riverside County made progress in battling four wildfires Sunday as a heat wave broke records across the state and sent residents scrambling for relief.

The largest of the fires, the [Rabbit fire](#), burning in the area of Lakeview south of Moreno Valley, had consumed 7,600 acres and was 25% contained, authorities said Sunday night. The blaze threatened more than 150 structures, and steep terrain made it slow going, but CalFire spokesperson Rich Cordova said firefighters made "great progress" overnight.

One woman suffered severe burns and was taken by helicopter to a burn center, Cordova said. She was rescued near where the fire started on Gilman Springs Road, he said.

It was not immediately clear what sparked the Rabbit fire, which began Friday, or others burning in Riverside County, but Cordova said heavy winter rains resulted in abundant grasses and "any little spark could cause the devastation of a wildfire."

"Residents need to be more cautious" when pursuing recreation or even landscaping activities, he said, because "any little spark, and a fire will take off."

Firefighters were also making progress against other fires burning near Moreno Valley. The [Reche fire](#), which burned 437 acres in an unincorporated area north of town, had reached 80% containment by Sunday night, officials said. Video from the scene showed at least one structure engulfed in flames, but it was unclear whether any others had been damaged.

The Highland fire, which has been burning in the Beaumont-Banning area, was 95% contained and had burned 105 acres. Evacuations in that area have been lifted. And the Gavilan fire, which burned 338 acres, was 50% contained.

Temperatures on Sunday hovered near triple digits in the San Fernando Valley and reached them in the Antelope Valley. Topanga reached a high of 98 around noon, National Weather Service data showed, and Lancaster peaked at 109.

In Los Angeles, city leaders designated four Recreation and Parks facilities to serve as community "cooling centers" until 9 p.m. Sunday: Highland Park Recreation Center in Highland Park, Mid Valley Senior Center in Panorama City, Canoga Park Senior Center in Canoga Park and Fred Roberts Recreation Center in South L.A.

Inside the Highland Park Recreation Center, it was a brisk 72 degrees — or at least it was until the power went out about 12:15 p.m. A downed power line a block away knocked out the electricity to the recreation center and to the nearby Arroyo Seco Regional Public Library, one of several libraries that were also serving as a cooling center.

"So much for our cooling center!" said Benjamin Newman, standing in the center's darkened indoor basketball court, where he had been playing with his son, 4-year-old Brayden Hutchens.

Newman, whose apartment has a single window air-conditioning unit, said city officials had not opened up enough cooling centers to serve the population, particularly the elderly.

The city also needs to do more to publicize them, said Newman, who learned that his neighborhood had such a resource only after a television news crew approached him and his son on the nearby playground earlier in the day to ask them about it.

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

What to Expect from Wildfire Season in California This Year

[The New York Times reports](#) compared with recent years, the 2023 fire season in California is off to a slow start.

Roughly 22,000 acres have burned in the state so far this year, compared with an average of 120,000 acres by this point in each of the previous five years, [according to CalFire](#), the state's fire agency. An extraordinarily wet winter and [an unusually cool spring and early summer](#) are to thank.

But that picture is starting to shift.

Several wildfires have recently erupted in California amid a heat wave, including the [Rabbit fire](#), which has consumed more than 8,000 acres and prompted evacuations in Riverside County last weekend. As of last night, it was 55 percent contained.

The spate of blazes suggests that some of the benefits conferred by the wet conditions this year are wearing off: As temperatures warm and the rainy season recedes further into the past, vegetation is drying out and transforming into fuel that can help fires take off.

Those risks will only increase in the coming weeks as the dry weather continues and temperatures most likely remain [hotter than normal](#).

“We’ve had a bit of a reprieve in many places up to the present, and that may be coming to a close,” Daniel Swain, a climate scientist at U.C.L.A., [told reporters recently](#).

Many officials are on edge. Though last year’s fire season wasn’t extraordinary, eight of the 10 biggest fires in California’s history have occurred since 2017. A prolonged drought and unseasonably warm temperatures made 2020 the state’s [worst year for fires on record](#).

Joe Tyler, the chief of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, said that the rains this year most likely only delayed the height of fire season. (The season typically runs from July to October, though in recent, drought-stricken years major fires have started as early as January.)

At a news conference this month, Tyler said that 2023 could turn out to resemble 2017, which began with a wet winter before dry weather and strong winds conspired to whip up huge, fast-moving blazes in the fall. That year, wildfires in California killed 47 people and destroyed 11,000 structures.

“Wildfires are a fact in California,” Tyler said. “It’s not a question of if, but it’s matter of when that fire is going to strike.”

There’s also concern that the rains could ultimately make this year’s fire season worse. Plant growth spurred by wet weather can generate more fuel for fires, experts say.

But that's not a universal truth. Park Williams, a hydroclimatologist at U.C.L.A., told me that in California's mountainous forests, where there's already dense vegetation, more growth doesn't have much of an impact, so the rain mostly serves to keep everything moist and cool. That means there's a low risk of big fires this year in the Sierra Nevada and North Coast mountain ranges, he said, "just because everything is so wet."

At lower elevations, however, the extra growth can be dangerous. In California's scrublands and grasslands — which include the Central Valley, much of coastal Southern California, the Sierra Nevada foothills and other areas — the weather typically gets hot and dry enough in the summer and fall for those new plants to turn into tinder, he said.

Typically, "the limiting factor that keeps fire small is the lack of vegetation," Williams told me. "After a very wet winter, we'll have more grasses than usual, and that extra grass can be very potent to allow fires to spread larger than they would otherwise."

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

'They Got a lot of Heart': Cal Fire Gets Help from Inmates to Help Fight Wildfires

[KCRA 3 reports](#) there are nearly 8,000 Cal Fire firefighters across the state of California expected to perform up to the organization's expectations at a moment's notice.

For more than 50 years, crews have gotten help from those who have felt the burn because of their past mistakes.

Lawrence Piper and Michael Williams are two of 1,600 state inmates looking to right a wrong by working as inmate firefighters.

"I made a bad decision," said Lawrence Piper, who is serving five years for vehicle theft with a prior related conviction and evading a police officer. "I ran from police. I made a bad decision. I didn't pull over when I should have so that's why I'm here. Alcoholism got me here."

"I'm very thankful to be here," added inmate Michael Williams, who is in for burglary.

There were among those who spent several days training recently in Tehama County. The firefighters need to be certified before they can be on the front lines.

"It's a good thing to do good and to show that you can do good given the circumstances that you have been through," Williams said.

They traded in their prison uniforms to firefighter turnouts.

Cal Fire Captain Jesse McGuire said it "takes a lot of boots on the ground to fully contain a wildfire."

"They provide a service to the community while they're serving their sentence out," McGuire said.

In 1946, Cal Fire teamed up with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to provide much-needed extra hands.

Camp Ishi is one of 30 labor camps in the state. Each inmate is hand selected.

"It's a huge privilege for them to be here," Ishi Conservation Camp Commander Lt. Matthew Gregor said. "Not all guys are welcomed into this program or meet the criteria to be in it. Guys that show up here and they don't want to be here by their actions are removed, and we bring somebody else that does want to be here."

"It's more freedom," Williams said. "This is the closest we get to being free. You get to be outside. You get up with the sun. There are no locked doors. It is another step to society and to prove that you are able to function in society as a normal person."

Every day, the inmate fire crews train and when they aren't training, they are out doing community service.

The inmates are expected to be able to do everything that a Cal Fire firefighter does.

"They got a lot of heart, and they want to succeed," Gregor said.

Cal Fire Using Artificial Intelligence in the Battle to Quickly Detect, Fight Wildfires

[The Sacramento Bee reports](#) as California braces for wildfires amid more record-breaking heat, state firefighters have deployed a new tool to spot potential fires early: artificial intelligence.

Up until recently, reports of fires in rural or remote areas across the state relied almost entirely on call-in tips from local residents. But with the advent of a new AI fire-detection tool, Cal Fire may soon be able to rely on a surveillance network that is hardwired to spot smoke in the air even when the "human-powered" network is far away or fast asleep.

The AI tool, developed in partnership between the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and UC San Diego's AlertCalifornia network, has been trained through a machine learning model to distinguish between smoke and other air particles, such as smog or mist, in real-time video footage.

It uses this skill to "identify abnormalities" visible on more than 1,000 high-definition cameras, including 199 that are sponsored by Cal Fire, according to a news release about the technology. It then alerts first responders and regional emergency command centers of those abnormalities so that they can investigate whether the discrepancy is an actual threat.

The camera feeds also continue to be regularly monitored by emergency personnel, as well as utility companies such as PG&E, which has 600 HD cameras covering 90% of its territory's high-risk fire areas, according to spokesman Paul Moreno.

Issac Sanchez, a battalion chief for Cal Fire, said the department is hopeful that this tool will significantly improve response times to fires.

"Previously, someone had to see a vegetation fire and call 911 — it was all human-based," Sanchez said. "This meant we had wildly different time frames for response, which could sometimes lead to catastrophic fires. This helps to enhance the human aspect."

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

‘The Fire Didn’t Follow the Plan’: Caldor Fire Lessons Learned for Sierra-at-Tahoe and Ski Industry

[KCRA 3 reports](#) wildfires have become more and more common across the Golden State. Areas that typically don't get them are now subject to the destruction that one can bring. Ski resorts, like Sierra-at-Tahoe, which suffered major damage from the Caldor Fire, know that all too well.

"We had the wildfire plan that was the model for the ski industry, but the fire didn't follow the plan," Sierra-at-Tahoe general manager John Rice said.

This summer at Sierra-at-Tahoe has been spent in a continued clean-up mode due to the Caldor Fire, which was the largest wildland fire ever to hit a ski resort.

While the fire didn't follow a plan, it's now being used as a learning experience for others.

"It's really about being prepared for what's going to happen," Mike Reitzell with Ski California said. "The sad thing is now we have an example of this and what could happen."

Reitzell and his organization represent 35 resorts across California and Nevada. Safety and preparation for wildfires are key things they help resorts maintain throughout the year. Most ski resorts are located in forests, so having a wildfire protection plan is vital.

Rice said that as Sierra at Tahoe continues to rebuild, they also continue to reflect on what could've been done better in the event of another wildfire.

"We look for things like little openings. Check the vents. The things you wouldn't even think of," Rice said. "Tape those off to prevent any ashes from getting into a building."

Rice said the most striking thing he learned during the Caldor Fire was that a garage was not the safest place to store the snowcats. The parking lot proved to provide a natural fire break, and things left in the lot did not burn.

The resort said that prevention, preparation and training are essentials for any resort during wildfire season.

Sierra-at-Tahoe plans to open up with some new trails for the 2023-2024 season.

For more information about Sierra-at-Tahoe, [visit their website](#).

Emergency Preparedness Means Preparing Our Pets Too!

[Cal OES News reports](#) you may be ready for the next emergency, but did you remember to prepare your pet too? The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) would like to remind Californians they have a role to play in disaster preparedness, not only with their family and neighbors, but also their pets.

Cal OES is committed to ensuring your furry family members are safe and prepared, this is done through [CARES. California Animal Response Emergency System](#) (CARES) works in partnership with California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). Cal OES knows that animals play an essential role in your family and CARES was created to provide operational guidance to assist with all aspects of animal care and control in the event of a disaster or emergency. In addition, CARES provides resources for the public, for animal businesses, for shelters, and for emergency planners.

To review the full list of detailed tips, [visit the full article](#).

California Firefighters and Hospitals Clash Over Length of Patient Off-Loading Times

[Fox 40 reports](#) California firefighters and hospitals are clashing over what is causing reported delays at emergency departments when it comes to offloading patients from the ambulance to the hospital.

[In a July 6 newsletter](#), California Professional Firefighters (CPF) outlined the ever-growing time it takes for a paramedic or firefighter to offload their patients after arriving at the hospital and its impact on other emergency responses.

[CPF](#) is a statewide organization that represents more than 35,000 firefighters, [including](#) Sacramento Area Firefighters, Local #522 and Davis Professional Firefighters Association, Local #3494.

In the newsletter, an emergency call in the City of Sacramento was mentioned where a patient experiencing cardiac arrest that was five minutes from a hospital.

“Bystander CPR and a quick fire medic response offered good odds for the patient once the ambulance arrived,” the newsletter reads. “Problem was, there were no Sac City ambulances available. All of them were stuck at hospital emergency departments waiting to offload other patients.”

The newsletter continues to say that an ambulance had to be called from a city 8 miles away and would take 45 minutes to get to the patient.

FOX40 reached out to local hospitals including, UC Davis Health, Kaiser Permanente, Dignity Health and Sutter Health to see if these handoff delays are occurring.

UC Davis Health told FOX40 that what they are seeing as the cause for the delays are patients being brought in by ambulance that are not experiencing an emergency medical condition.

“In Sacramento, there has been an increase in patients transported to emergency departments by ambulance, including many who are not experiencing an emergency and don’t require admission,” UC Davis wrote to FOX40. “This has led to long wait times at some points when hospitals are extremely busy.”

On a single day in May, UC Davis Health said its emergency department saw a record 313 patients and saw little change in their off-loading time.

According to CPF, paramedics arriving at hospitals must continue working on their patients until the hospital takes charge. This handoff used to take 20 to 30 minutes and now takes hours in some cases.

In 2021, Sacramento County paramedics were held for more than two hours ‘on the wall’ 700 times, according to CPF.

The CPF said that understaffing at many California hospitals is causing this backup, even when there are available beds.

“We have sufficient staff to care for our patients, but sometimes experience temporary space constraints to offload the patient safely, and we will not offload a patient until it is absolutely

safe to do so,” Kaiser Permanente wrote to FOX40. “Our goal is always to transfer patients from the ambulance to our care as quickly and safely as possible.”

[In August 2022](#), UC Davis Health, other major Sacramento area hospitals, local fire department agencies and local emergency agencies launched an education project to teach the community about the proper use of the 911 system.

UC Davis Health shared in an August 2022 newsletter, which a Sacramento hospital emergency department saw “a 300% increase in patients arriving via ambulance at the lowest level (least sick) assessment, and over half of patients arriving are not sick enough to be admitted to the hospital for further care.”

“Given the extraordinary volume and demands on Emergency Departments for all health care providers, delays in making ambulance transfers are affecting Emergency Departments in California and across the nation, not just Kaiser Permanente,” Kaiser Permanente wrote in an email to FOX40 on Wednesday.

The CPF is pushing for the approval of [Assembly Bill 40](#) that will set a statewide 30-minute standard for patient offloading 90% of the time and create data collection to track extended wait times.

‘A Lifesaving Tool’: California’s New Mental Health Crisis Line Sees a Surge in Calls

[CalMatters reports](#) California made it easier to call for help a year ago when it launched a simplified mental health crisis hotline: Dial three digits — 988 — and you can get in touch with a counselor immediately.

Since then, crisis centers have received more than 280,000 calls. That’s twice as many as any other state, signaling to mental health advocates that the service was badly needed.

Now, California crisis centers are taking stock of the new hotline and making plans to expand services in the coming year. They aim to hire more staff and to build out Spanish language services.

“I think 988 met its intended goal, which is that the easy-to-remember three-digit number encouraged more people to seek help,” said Narges Dillon, the executive director of the crisis center in Alameda County. “One of the dynamics we noticed is we’re also getting a lot of first-time callers, which is a sign that there are new people reaching out for help. To me, that was at the core of creating this program.”

Her center already had a local crisis line, but since the 988 rollout last year, the center has seen a 40% increase in calls.

“There has been a lot of curiosity,” she said. Her team of crisis counselors grew by almost 50%, rising from 45 to 77. The center also has 100 volunteers.

California launched the hotlines after [Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a law to fund](#) and expand crisis call systems. It’s [one of 26 states that](#) have passed laws to fund and sustain 988 hotlines.

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, a San Ramon Democrat, wrote the bill and named it in the memory of Miles Hall, a 23-year-old Black man who was [shot to death by Walnut Creek](#)

[police](#) in 2019 while he was experiencing a mental health emergency. She intended the bill to cut down on volatile 911 calls that could lead to police using unnecessary force.

“At the one-year mark, California has already passed legislation to implement 988 as a meaningful, police-free alternative to 911 for mental health crises in California,” Bauer-Kahan said in a statement to CalMatters. “But we are in the throes of a mental health crisis, and we still have a long way to go.”

By far, California has received the highest number of phone calls in the country, a 28% increase in volume since the lifeline launched. The number of calls was double the volume for the state with the second most, New York, according to Matt Taylor, director of network development for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

“Most of the time, talk-line people are able to talk through on the phone, and avoid in-person responses,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, who has been an advocate for mental health awareness. She said she wants Los Angeles to be equipped with enough mental health teams to accommodate everyone in her county.

Altogether, 5 million calls, chats and texts have been made so far across the country to 988 hotlines in the last year. That’s 2 million more calls than the previous year, under the former 10-digit number.

For more details, including why 988 was created and plans to expand, [visit the full article](#).

ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant Program for Children and Youth (5th Funding Round);** *health & human services*
 - Funded by: State Treasurer’s Office
 - Deadline: **Friday, July 28, 2023**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$7,779,864
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
 - **Online Application:** [linked here](#)
- **The Local Immigrant Integration and Inclusion Grant (LIIG);** *disadvantaged communities; employment, labor & training; health & human services; housing, community and economic development*
 - Funded by: Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development
 - Deadline: **Friday, July 28, 2023**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$8.2 million
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
- **Distressed Hospital Loan Program;** *health & human services*
 - Funded by: State Treasurer’s Office
 - Deadline: **Monday, July 31, 2023**
 - Total Estimated Funding: \$150 million
 - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)

Funding Opportunities

Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program

[The Governor's Office of Planning and Research](#) has created the Regional Resilience Grant Program (RRGP) to fund planning and implementation projects that strengthen climate change resilience at a regional scale. The RRGP funds projects led by partnerships that involve multiple jurisdictions working together to address the most significant climate change risks in their regions, especially in communities that are most vulnerable to climate change impacts.

The Budget of Act of 2021 dedicated \$25 million to support the RRGP. In Round 1, \$9.4 million is available in grants. The RRGP funds two project types: planning and implementation. The RRGP also funds capacity-building efforts that support each project type. All projects must have a regional focus and support communities most vulnerable to climate change. The RRGP can fund a variety of projects and gives regional partnerships flexibility to propose projects that best meet their region's specific climate resilience needs.

The ICARP's RRGP aims to: (1) Support regional projects aligned with ICARP priorities that improve regional climate resilience and reduce climate risks from wildfire, sea level rise, drought, flood, increasing temperatures, and extreme heat events. (2) Support projects or actions that address the greatest climate risks in the region, particularly in the most vulnerable communities. (3) Fill the gaps in climate resilience funding and support sustainable and cohesive climate resilient projects with regional collaborations. (4) Support equitable outcomes.

The RRGP will award funds based on project type (planning and implementation) and consider their respective capacity-building efforts. The RRGP aims to award funds to applications that encourage diverse regional-scale partnerships and collaboration. Planning grants will range from \$150,000 to \$650,000 and implementation grants will range from \$650,000 to \$3 million. Letters of intent are required.

The RRGP does not require match funding. Grantees may use RRGP funding to provide the required match funding for other grant opportunities. If the Grantee needs funding from sources other than the RRGP to execute the project, include those details in the budget, including the likely timescale for securing the additional funding.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Tuesday, August 29, 2023**. Total estimated funding available is \$9.4 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#). To view the online application, [click here](#).

Regional Climate Collaboratives Program Round 2

[The Strategic Growth Council](#) has created this program to help communities establish partnerships, funding pathways, plan and policy readiness, and a local network of TA providers to pursue funding and implement climate projects. RCC funds collaboratives of cross-sectoral and community-rooted partners, seeking to advance both place-based and region-wide climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency efforts.

The Regional Climate Collaborative (RCC) Program is a grant program that provides resources to advance climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience within under-resourced communities. The program funds cross-sector partners to form a Collaborative and conduct

various capacity building activities, such as partnership development, project and plan development, data collection, education and training, and the creation of technical assistance hubs to pursue climate investments.

SGC has a total of \$8.5 million available for Round 2 awards and anticipates funding 6 Collaboratives. Round 2 has two funding tracks:

1. Small grants range between \$500,000-\$999,999
2. Large grants range between \$1,000,000-\$1,750,000

The program includes a two-step application process. Both steps are required.

1. Pre-Proposal: Applicants must submit a Pre-Proposal by September 6, 2023 at 5:00 PM PT. The purpose of the Pre-Proposal is to help applicants, TA providers, and SGC assess whether applicants are on track to submit a complete, competitive application that meets all threshold requirements and to identify sections of the application that will need increased support. While Pre-Proposals are not scored, SGC will provide feedback on Pre-Proposals to help applicants strengthen their Full Proposal. Submitting a Pre-Proposal is required to move forward to the Full Proposal phase. (This can be seen as the intent to apply).

2. Full Proposal: Applicants must submit a Full Proposal by December 6, 2023 at 5:00 PM PT. Building off the Pre-Proposal, the Full Proposal requires more detail and final versions of the budget and workplan. Applicants can modify their project between the Pre-Proposal and Full Proposal.

Application technical assistance is available. Please email CACE@sgc.ca.gov to learn more.

Projects may occur on state or federal lands, as long as the project area meets the eligibility requirements. The program has a regional and place-based component. Project Area requirements start on page 15 of the Round 2 Guidelines.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Wednesday, December 6, 2023**. Total estimated funding available is \$8.5 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

County Drought Resilience Planning Assistance Program

[The Department of Water Resources](#) has created this program with the intent of helping the counties to establish standing drought task forces or to develop the county drought resilience plans, per Senate Bill 552.

The DWR County Drought Resilience Planning Grant Program is offered as a sub-program of the Small Community Drought Relief (SCDR) Program, per the allocation of the Budget Act of 2021, Section 2, Item 3860-101-0001(a). Per Senate Bill (SB) 552 of 2021, counties are required to establish a drought and water shortage task force and develop a drought and water shortage emergency response and long-term mitigation plan for domestic wells and state small water systems (serving 4-14 connections) (CWC Section 10609.70).

California's 58 Counties are eligible to submit applications.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **Friday, December 29, 2023**. Total estimated funding available is \$5 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).