



## **News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (9/1/2023)**

### **Red Cross: Prepare for Worsening Extreme Weather During National Preparedness Month**

[The American Red Cross Los Angeles Region urges](#) everyone to prepare for worsening climate disasters affecting Southern California communities that have experienced recent extreme heat, storms, flooding, as well as increasingly longer wildfire seasons year over year.

Severe weather like this is part of a worsening national trend in which the American Red Cross has responded to nearly twice as many large disasters across the country as it did a decade ago.

As rapidly intensifying, weather-related events pose serious challenges to its humanitarian work and the people it serves, the Red Cross has announced an ambitious [national plan](#) to take urgent action. With more climate-driven disasters upending lives and devastating communities, the organization is racing to adapt its services and grow its disaster response capacity across the country, while also funding new international programs on climate response and preparedness, as well as minimizing its own environmental footprint.

Here in Los Angeles, this includes helping protect the community against local emergencies, recruiting and training more volunteers to respond to disasters locally and across the country.

For National Preparedness Month, take three lifesaving actions — get a kit, make a plan and be informed — to help protect yourself against local emergencies. Request a free preparedness class [here](#). You can also deliver relief and care to families facing climate disasters by becoming a Red Cross volunteer [here](#).

### **Coachella Valley Farmworkers Lost Hundreds of Dollars During Storm Hilary. Financial Aid Options are Slim.**

[CalMatters reports](#) before dawn on a recent morning, as the mud coating Coachella Valley farm fields began to crisp, Enrika Zacarias made her first attempt to drive back to work at a Thermal peach field after four days of no work.

Like other immigrant farm workers living there, Zacarias had lost hundreds of dollars because of the storm and couldn't afford to miss any more days of work. She had rent to pay on the mobile home where she lived with two daughters.

While Tropical Storm Hilary caused little damage to Southern California’s beaches and cities, rural desert regions like the Coachella Valley were deluged with months of rain over a single weekend. The storm caused an estimated \$126 million in damages in Riverside County alone, county officials said Thursday, with most damage in the Coachella Valley. Low-income immigrant communities across the region bore the brunt of the flooding.

Like Zacarias, many farmworkers in Coachella Valley lack legal status as citizens and therefore don’t qualify for most federal and state disaster aid. Even a new \$95 million [storm assistance program for immigrants](#) that Gov. Gavin Newsom recently touted is out of reach because it pertains to the [winter and spring storms and floods](#).

Because undocumented people are legally barred from accessing most types of federal money, including Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) aid programs, in June Newsom’s administration launched the Storm Assistance for Immigrants program. It allows many undocumented residents who live in counties that qualified for FEMA aid to receive state funds to help them recuperate from damaged homes or lost work.

The state fund will distribute about \$80 million of its \$95 million budget to undocumented residents who can’t get FEMA help for damaged homes or lost work. But it is only for the [winter storms and spring floods](#), state officials said.

So far [about \\$18 million](#) of the \$80 million available has gone to about 12,000 undocumented residents, according to Aug. 6 state data. Residents have until May 2024 — or when the money runs out — to apply for the funds.

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, a Pomona Democrat, said a bill he authored could help address these gaps in emergency assistance and speed up the process for residents and local governments to receive disaster funds.

“California, unfortunately, is a disaster-prone state,” Rodriguez said. “Now, more than ever, we need to come up with a plan like this. I think we should have had something like this years ago, but we’ve really got to move something like this forward.”

The bill, the [California Individual Assistance Act](#), would authorize the state emergency management department to create and maintain a grant program to quickly dispense aid to California residents who may not qualify for individual assistance from FEMA, based on that agency’s qualification criteria.

The state’s emergency management department [estimated the fiscal impact](#) of the bill would top \$1 billion and require at least seven additional staff.

Rodriguez, who chairs the California Assembly’s [Committee on Emergency Management](#), disagreed with their assessment. He said the state could start with the funds already allocated to California’s [Disaster Assistance Fund](#) to help local government agencies, and add more money when needed.

For further details and stories from those impacted, [visit the full article](#).

## **As El Niño Gathers Strength, Lawmakers Look to Fortify Pajaro’s Flood-Ravaged Levee**

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) as Californians brace for the possibility of yet another wet winter — thanks to a looming El Niño — anxiety is growing in the Central Coast towns of Pajaro and Watsonville, where epic storms caused extensive flood damage earlier this year.

On Tuesday, California Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Hollister) introduced legislation designed to expedite construction and upgrades along the Pajaro River levee — a 74-year-old earthen flood control berm that breached just before spring, inundating the mostly migrant farmworker town of Pajaro.

“The historic storms and flooding this past March were devastating to the Pajaro community,” Rivas said in a prepared statement. “These levees need to be upgraded now, urgently, and this allows us to perform critical work on a much faster timeline.”

A flooding expert said the legislation was badly needed.

“I think this (legislation) is really important because of the strong El Niño in the Pacific and the marine heatwaves in the North Pacific, which could result in increased precipitation rates and flooding,” said Deirdre Des Jardins, Director of California Water Research, an organization dedicated to analyzing the state’s water infrastructure.

She said the long-range seasonal forecasts suggest a strong El Niño, so state and local agencies should be managing for “chaos.”

“The prudent thing to do is to prepare for the possibility of another winter like 1982-83 and 1997-98,” said Des Jardins, referring to former El Niño years when the state was hit with historic flooding.

The bill, AB 876, would exempt the levee project from various state and local environmental laws and regulations that could slow construction by years.

Upgrades are slated to begin next year. However, lawmakers say that without this legislation, jumping through the bureaucratic hoops of state approvals could delay construction until 2025 and take years to complete.

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

## **California Fire Map & Tracker**

[The San Francisco Chronicle has released](#) an interactive map of wildfires burning across the Bay Area and California, providing the latest updates on active fires.

To read about how the fires burning near the Oregon border are affecting Bay Area air quality and how long it will last, [click here](#). Fire weather has also cause [power outages](#) in parts of the Bay Area. Check the [power outage tracker](#) to search for outages by address.

To view the map, [click here](#).

## **Governor Newsom Proclaims State of Emergency in Del Norte and Siskiyou Counties**

[Governor Newsom has proclaimed](#) a state of emergency in Del Norte County due to the Smith River Complex fires and in Siskiyou County due to the Happy Camp Complex fires. The proclamations support the ongoing emergency response to the fires, which have destroyed homes, caused power outages, and driven the evacuation of residents.

Among other provisions, the proclamations waive certain licensing requirements and fees for out-of-state contractors and others working with California utilities to restore electricity. The proclamations also support impacted residents by easing access to unemployment benefits and waiving fees to replace driver's licenses and records such as marriage and birth certificates.

The text of the Del Norte County emergency proclamation can be found [here](#) and the text of the Siskiyou County emergency proclamation can be found [here](#).

### **Map: Two wildfires merge in Northern California's Smith River complex**

[The Mercury News reports](#) Smith River wildfire complex surpassed 80,000 acres on a day of increased fire activity.

Amid strong wind and low humidity Wednesday, the Kelly and Coon fires merged at the complex's southwest edge, said the daily report from the forest service's fire managers.

The acreage burned was at 83,974 acres (131 square miles), with 8% containment. The control line remained secure at the edge of the evacuated community of Gasquet, the report said.

To the southeast, the Happy Camp complex also saw the merging of two fires, Ufish and Malone. That complex is at 25,503 acres (40 square miles) with 45% containment.

The map above shows the mandatory evacuation areas in reddish tint and the approximate perimeters of the largest fires in black.

A cold front was moving in to northwest California on Thursday, and cloudy, cool weather was expected for the rest of the week.

The Smith River and Happy Camp fires started during lightning storms on Aug. 15-16, and Smith River is California's second biggest wildfire of the season. The York Fire burned 93,078 acres, most of it in the Mojave National Preserve.

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

### **A Cluster of Wildfires is Burning in California's Northwest Corner**

[The New York Times reports](#) the largest wildfire currently burning in the United States is raging in California's densely forested northwest corner.

The Smith River Complex — actually a cluster of connected blazes — covered a total of 79,000 acres and was only 7 percent contained as of Wednesday evening. The fire began on Aug. 15 with a storm that scattered lightning strikes across the Six Rivers National Forest in Del Norte County, just south of the Oregon border.

Since then, the [fire](#) has crossed into Oregon, closed roads, forced power outages that lasted days, and [delayed the start of the school year](#) for roughly 4,000 students in Del Norte County's public schools. On Tuesday, Gov. Gavin Newsom [declared a state of emergency](#) for the county, where the air quality has been abysmal for days and hundreds of people are still under evacuation orders.

Erin Darboven, a fire information officer for the California interagency management team that's overseeing the blaze, told me that dry weather and gusty winds were fueling the fire's spread. At the same time, the forest floor is covered with a dense layer of dead leaves, pine cones and other dried vegetation that is acting as tinder.

"We're dealing with the consequences of a multiyear drought," Darboven said.

Del Norte County and Siskiyou County, where the [state's second largest fire](#), known as the Happy Camp Complex, is burning, are among the few places in California [still suffering from drought conditions](#). And while much of the state [has received a fire reprieve](#) thanks to the rains recently delivered by Tropical Storm Hilary, that isn't the case in California's far north.

Still, the situation with the Smith River Complex fires may be improving, if only slightly.

If you live in the Sacramento region or the Bay Area, perhaps you noticed unusually hazy air yesterday. That was smoke blown south from Del Norte County, after a change in wind conditions that helped firefighters step up their battle against the blaze.

Improved visibility made it possible to drop water and flame retardants from the air, Darboven said. That's particularly important for this fire, because the mountainous terrain in the area can make access especially difficult for ground crews.

On top of that, she said, so far this week there has been moister air, cooler temperatures and less wind in the fire area than last week.

"We've been making progress for the last few days, and we're working with favorable weather conditions," Darboven said.

Another big improvement has been the restoration of electric power to Del Norte County. From Aug. 18 to Aug. 25, almost none of the county's 28,000 residents had service after the local utility, Pacific Power, made what its chief executive, Stefan Bird, called "the tough decision" to cut off the transmission line feeding the county.

That meant that 13,000 customers in the county, including the entire town of Crescent City, lost electric service. Bird's staff quickly tried to provide generators to hospitals and customers who have urgent medical needs, and then strategized how to get the rest of the county back online while the fire continued to grow.

Bird said that Pacific Power rented extra generators and borrowed some from other utility companies. By Aug. 25, nearly everyone in the county was connected to a generator, he told me.

Because the fire is still burning, it's unclear when things will go back to normal, he said. The fire has damaged lines and other equipment that needs to be repaired, so for now, Del Norte County will continue to be powered by a makeshift system of generators.

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

### **Wildfire Prompts Evacuation Near Santa Cruz**

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) a wildfire that burned through tinder-dry brush and eucalyptus prompted evacuation warnings in Aromas, an unincorporated community of southern Santa Cruz County on Wednesday, according to Cal Fire officials.

[Firefighters warned residents to evacuate from homes](#) on Vega Road southeast of Watsonville on the border of Santa Cruz and Monterey counties after a vegetation fire broke out in the rural agricultural area around 2:20 p.m., the Monterey County Sheriff's Office announced on social media.

Twelve people heeded the warning, evacuating five buildings on Vega and Hayes roads. The area under threat included 113 addresses, some of which may have been farm structures. The warning for Vega Road was lifted later in the evening.

Sheriff's deputies and firefighters blocked access roads to the area as they responded to the fire, county officials said.

Residents who evacuated went to a temporary shelter at the Prunedale Library in Monterey County as smoke engulfed the area, officials said.

"If you feel your residence is threatened, please evacuate the area now," [county officials wrote](#) on X, the site formerly known as Twitter. Authorities lifted the evacuation warning for residents of Hayes Road shortly after 3 pm.

As of 6:30 p.m. the Vega Fire had charred five acres, destroyed one outbuilding and damaged a dwelling. Firefighters had sprayed flame retardant around the perimeter and had the blaze 75 % contained, said Luis Perez, a spokesperson for Cal Fire's San Benito-Monterey Unit.

The fire erupted as many Bay Area communities experienced poor air quality Wednesday due to smoke from wildfires. Conditions had worsened in many counties by [midmorning](#).

### **PG&E Gives Weather 'All Clear' Following Emergency Power Shutoffs**

[NBC Bay Area reports](#) PG&E late Wednesday afternoon issued a weather "all clear" following emergency power shutoffs in parts of several Northern California counties, including Napa County.

The utility's Public Safety Power Shutoffs started at about 2 a.m. Wednesday, targeting about 8,400 customers in parts of eight counties and two tribal areas considered high-fire-threat areas, PG&E said.

The affected tribes and counties are Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Napa, Shasta, Tehama, Yolo and Butte counties; Pit River Tribes and Grindstone Rancheria.

The utility said affected customers were notified Tuesday and again in the hours before the shutoffs.

PG&E crews late Wednesday were restoring power to impacted customers and expected full restoration by the end of the day.

PG&E meteorologists forecasted wind gusts up to 45 mph in the affected areas while relative humidity was expected to fall to 10%-20% in the Sacramento Valley.

PG&E expects weather "all clears" will start Wednesday afternoon with varying times depending on locations, and electric crews will then begin checking de-energized lines for hazards or damage to make sure it is safe to restore power.

Customers can look up affected addresses and find more information online on the [utility's PSPS updates page](#).

### **Firefighters Are Being Poisoned by Wildfire Smoke. We're Doing Little to Protect Their Health**

[The San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) fourteen years before her cancer diagnosis, Michelle Bletcher dropped to the ground on a hillside in Shasta-Trinity National Forest and began frantically digging a hole.

Blasts of hot smoke had overtaken Bletcher and her crewmates, wildland firefighters with the U.S. Forest Service, as they burned away overgrown brush on Bully Choop Mountain. They had retreated to a nearby ridge, but the smoke found them, stinging their eyes and searing their throats. Bletcher grabbed clumps of dirt and dug into the ground, desperate to find cooler, cleaner air.

In a 20-year career, Bletcher, who is now 41, said she often encountered smoke so thick she couldn't see anything, "not even your co-worker who is holding your hand." But she loved the job — a thrilling and meaningful career that kept her outdoors.

Then, in 2019, doctors diagnosed her with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. One, she said, told her she had a 45% chance of living five years. She was 37. Bletcher doesn't know how she got sick, but suspects a link to her years on the fire lines.

There are many like her. Catastrophic fires have exploded in California and across the continent in recent years, burning down neighborhoods, ruining entire towns and exposing a fundamental problem: Thousands of firefighters are being sent into battle to breathe toxic smoke with little protection, even as residents far away are advised to wear masks or stay indoors as skies turn orange.

Most wildland firefighters use nothing except heat-resistant shrouds or bandanas to cover their noses and mouths. Even amid mounting evidence that breathing the fine particles, chemicals and gases in smoke can cause long-term harm and even deadly diseases, federal, state and local agencies have done little to protect their workers, essentially treating smoke as a necessary evil.

Government agencies don't routinely measure how much smoke firefighters inhale during major events. They've completed no studies on the long-term health of wildland firefighters, leaving the scope of the impacts unknown. And they have not required respiratory protection during wildland firefighting, or prioritized the development of equipment that could ease the problem, despite the extreme conditions in which firefighters work.

In the aftermath of blazes that devastated cities like Santa Rosa and Paradise (Butte County), California passed emergency rules in 2019 requiring employers to provide respiratory protection to farmworkers and others with outdoor jobs on very smoky days. But wildland firefighters were specifically exempted.

"It's 35 years in the fire service for me, and I've heard the same conversation and dialogue: We need to study smoke," said Joe Novelli, a battalion chief with the San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department, which like other local departments is often pulled into wildland fire coverage. "Yet nothing is done."

Members of the public are regularly warned that air quality is hazardous during wildfires, said Dr. John Balmes, a pulmonary specialist and expert on wood smoke pollution at UCSF who sits on the California Air Resources Board. "But that's nothing compared to what wildland firefighters inhale on the fire line."

During six months spent looking into firefighters' smoke exposure, the Chronicle spoke to a dozen men and women diagnosed with serious diseases like cancer who believe their exposure to wildfire smoke was a factor, and to families of firefighters who died. They said that fire agencies at all levels had for too long left questions about smoke unanswered and overlooked the long-term risks to workers.

The Chronicle interviewed experts within and outside the Forest Service, which is the country's largest firefighting agency and has conducted the most extensive studies of smoke, and reviewed government policies going back decades. During that time, California's fire seasons have grown longer and more intense, driven in part by climate change.

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

## **Heat-Related Deaths Are Up, and Not Just Because It's Getting Hotter**

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) heat-related illnesses and deaths in California and the U.S. are on the rise along with temperatures, and an increase in drug use and homelessness is a significant part of the problem, according to public health officials and data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Heat was the underlying or contributing [cause of about 1,670 deaths nationwide](#) in 2022, for a rate of about 5 deaths per million residents, according to provisional data from the CDC. That's the highest heat-related death rate in at least two decades. Data from this year, which has been exceptionally hot in much of the country, are not yet available. The next-highest death rate was logged in 2021.



There were about 4.2 deaths per million Californians last year in which heat exhaustion was an underlying or contributing factor. Only once in the last 20 years — the heat wave of 2006 — has the death rate been higher.

Heat-related illness ranges from [heat exhaustion](#), which causes heavy sweating and a rapid pulse, to [heat stroke](#), which causes confusion, loss of consciousness, high fever, and in many of the severest cases, death. Heat-related illness can occur alongside and exacerbate other health conditions.

The simplest explanation for the increase is that it is getting hotter. The last eight years were [the hottest on record](#), according to NASA figures dating to the late 1800s.

But factors other than climate change also play a role.

Substance abuse, especially of methamphetamine, has emerged as a major factor in heat-related illness. Methamphetamine can cause body temperature to increase to dangerous levels, and the combination of meth abuse, heat and homelessness can be fatal.

About [140 death certificates](#) in California listed both heat-related illness and drug overdose as causes from 2018 through 2022, according to CDC data. That’s about 25% of all deaths in which heat-related illness was an underlying or contributing factor.

Homelessness has [risen in the past few years](#), including in several hot Western states like California, and unsheltered homeless people are particularly vulnerable during heat waves. The homeless represented about 13% of California hospitalizations involving a primary diagnosis of heat-related illness from 2017 through 2021, state data show. California’s 172,000 unhoused residents make up fewer than half a percent of the state’s population, federal data show.

“With any environmental crisis, people experiencing homelessness experience it first, they experience it worst, and they experience it longest,” said [Katie League](#), behavioral health manager for the [National Health Care for the Homeless Council](#).

The elderly are also particularly vulnerable to heat-related illness. Their bodies often don’t adjust as well as younger people’s to temperature change, and they often have chronic health conditions exacerbated by heat. The numbers of elderly residents in California and across America have risen sharply as baby boomers have aged.

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

### **This Fall’s COVID Variant Might Really Be Different**

[The Wall Street Journal reports](#) scientists have their eye on a different variant than the XBB variants, such as EG.5, that are driving the [summer Covid-19 bump](#).

BA.2.86—dubbed “pirola” by a group of scientists on social media who name notable variants—has been detected in only about a dozen people, but it has surfaced in all corners of the world. What’s troubling about this variant, scientists say, is that it contains more than 30 mutations on the spike protein, which is what helps the virus enter cells and cause an infection. This means it

might be able to evade current vaccines and previous infections more easily, and it likely won't be a great match with [the fall booster](#) expected to be approved soon.

“It's drastically different” than the dominant variants circulating now, says Katelyn Jetelina, a scientific adviser to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and author of the “Your Local Epidemiologist” newsletter.

It's unclear whether the variant will result in different or more severe symptoms.

Positive cases of BA.2.86 have been reported in the U.S., Denmark, Israel, South Africa, Portugal and the U.K. The cases include people who haven't traveled recently, suggesting that there is community transmission. It's also been detected in wastewater in the U.S., according to the CDC, and in Switzerland and Thailand.

What's unknown is how transmissible the variant is and whether it will spread widely or fizzle out like many other variants. Another important, outstanding question is whether it causes more severe disease.

For more details on what experts know at this time, [visit the full article](#).

### **Another View: EMS Response Times and Hospital Accountability**

[The Long Beach Press-Telegram reports](#) one day this past spring at a Long Beach school for special needs children and adults, an 18-year-old student suffered a frightening seizure, prompting a 9-1-1 call. Long Beach firefighters arrived on scene and called for an ambulance. The answer from dispatch was that none were available.

Minutes ticked by as the seizure continued and the calls grew more urgent. “We're trying all agencies and aspects ... at this time, we have nothing,” came the reply.

Finally, after nearly 20 minutes, an ambulance was dispatched from eight miles away – another excruciating 15 minutes they had to wait. At a time when every minute mattered, it took 35 minutes for the ambulance to arrive.

So where were the ambulances in Long Beach? Mostly stuck on “the wall.”

Ambulance crews are responsible for a patient's care until the hospital accepts that patient, supposedly within 20 minutes of arrival. But hospitals aren't taking the patients, at least not right away. Instead, ambulances are frequently left lined up at emergency room doors, and paramedics tend to patients in hallways against the wall, often for hours at a time.

Dangerously long ambulance patient offload times – “wall times” – have been a gathering health crisis for more than a decade. Even as the pandemic has eased, the crisis has just kept growing. Last December, the ambulance offload time at five Long Beach hospitals averaged 95 minutes. At Lakewood Regional Medical Center, the average was over three hours!

The same tragedy is playing out all over California. The December numbers for 12 busiest hospitals throughout L.A. County ranged from 42 minutes to nearly an hour and a half. In 2021, Sacramento ambulances were stuck for more than two hours 700 different times. In San Diego

County, hours-long offload times are so common that paramedics have begun carrying camp chairs on their rigs so they can have a place to sit.

The crippling impact of these epic wall times extends through the entire emergency response system. When ambulances are stuck on the wall, they can't do their jobs protecting the public. That means longer and longer response times for other patients when seconds count.

It can, literally, be a matter of life and death.

Even so, for years, hospitals have been using public firefighter/paramedics as their own private staffing resources — a subsidy at taxpayer expense. Why? Well, their bottom line. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, margins at the largest for-profit hospital systems have blown past pre-pandemic levels. Using taxpayer-funded firefighter/paramedics as an extension of their staff lets them keep those margins high. It's unconscionable.

Just as it is wrong for private hospitals to “dump” unprofitable patients into public resources, it's also wrong for hospitals to pad profits while jeopardizing response times and patient care. It's time to invest those profits in better patient outcomes. Hiring more staff and improving hospital operations will allow for rapid patient offloads, getting ambulances back out in the field responding to emergencies. Broader response options, such as community paramedicine, can also keep some non-critical patients out of crowded emergency rooms.

Most importantly, hospitals need to be held accountable to the same kinds of response and patient care standards as our firefighters and paramedics. Legislation currently being considered in Sacramento – Assembly Bill 40 by Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez – establishes a benchmark 30-minute patient offload time and requires accountability protocols for those that consistently miss the mark.

The health and safety of our communities depends on fast, effective, fully staffed and available medical response. That can't happen when ambulances are stacked in line at the ER waiting to offload patients.

It's time to get our paramedics off “the wall” and back into service for their communities.

### **FEMA and DHS Award Funding for California Emergency Management Projects**

[On Monday](#), FEMA announced the final selection of subapplications eligible for the more than \$3 billion available in the FY22 cycle for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant programs. Additionally, DHS announced nearly \$15 million awarded to 15 businesses through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program.

19 California projects were awarded BRIC funds, and 1 California project was awarded FMA funds, and 3 California companies were announced as Phase II awardees for the SBIR programs.

To review the project awardees along with a summary of each program, [click here](#).

## ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon

- **Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Program Year 2023-24 (PY 23-24);** *employment, labor & training*
  - Funded by: Employment Development Department
  - Deadline: **Tuesday, September 5, 2023**
  - Total Estimated Funding: \$2.65 million
  - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
- **GFO-22-307 – Optimizing Long-Duration Energy Storage to Improve Resilience and Reliability in Disadvantaged and Low-Income Communities and Native American Tribes;** *energy*
  - Funded by: CA Energy Commission
  - Deadline: **Thursday, September 7, 2023**
  - Total Estimated Funding: \$29.2 million
  - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)
    - **Online Application:** [linked here](#)
- **Accelerate CA: Inclusive Innovation Hub Program Round 2;** *employment, labor & training; housing, community and economic development; science, technology, and research & development*
  - Funded by: Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development
  - Deadline: **Friday, September 8, 2023**
  - Total Estimated Funding: \$6 million
  - **Full Grant Guidelines:** [linked here](#)

## Funding Opportunities

### Statewide Flood Emergency Response Grant Program

[The Department of Water Resources](#) designed this grant to provide funding for local flood emergency responders to improve their capacity to respond to flood emergencies.

Eligible activities include planning, mapping, training, exercises, the development of emergency management tools, communications and communications equipment, the purchase of flood fighting materials and equipment, the development or improvement of emergency response facilities, and more.

Applicants must be a California public agency with primary responsibility for flood emergency response and coordination. This applies to counties, cities, flood control districts, reclamation districts, local maintaining agencies, and some tribes in California.

Multiple agencies may apply under the same application, but must designate a lead agency that is a flood emergency first responder.

Applicants must have jurisdiction within the State of California. This jurisdiction must fall fully or partially outside of the Legal Delta. A separate program exists to fund similar projects for applicants with jurisdiction within the Legal Delta. All projects must reduce the risk of levee failure or flooding.

Projects under this grant program may be funded up to 100% using grant funds. Additional external funding may be used to complete projects but is not required. Once awarded, project funding will be provided through a reimbursement process detailed in the grant agreement to be executed after award notification.

The application period for this funding is ongoing. Total estimated funding available is \$1.4 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [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](mailto: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](#).