



# Recovery Roundtable

September 2023

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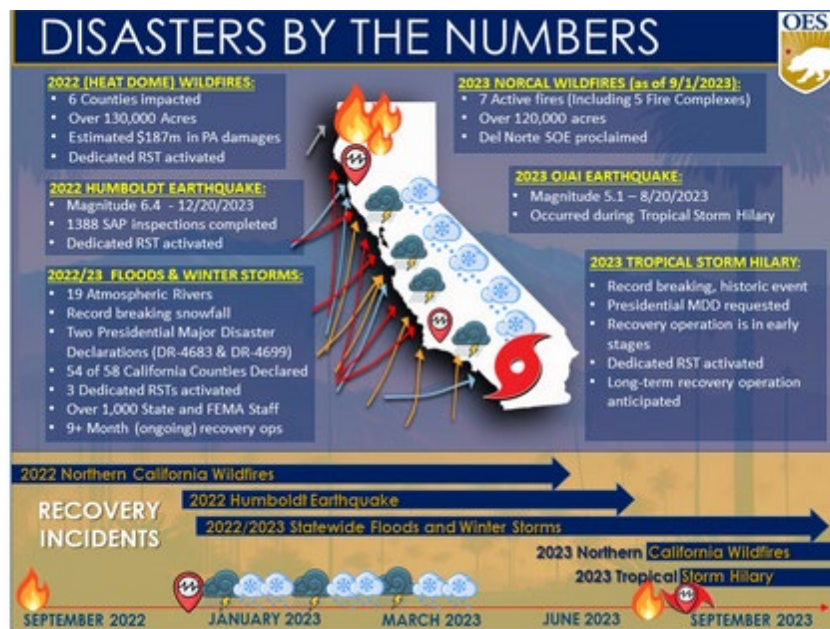
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Greetings from the Cal OES Recovery Directorate! As virtually all of California continues to recover from recent storms, fires, and floods, we know that your time is limited and that the need for sharing useful recovery resources and best practices is greater than ever. We're excited to share this inaugural issue of our Recovery Roundtable, and we hope that you find the information within to be useful. Be sure to click on the subscription button if you'd like to receive future editions.

Yours in partnership,

Ryan Buras and the Cal OES Recovery team

## Focus on Recovery

### Cal OES Coordinates with Local Partners on Housing Resource Fairs

To meet the needs of survivors following the Disaster Recovery Centers for the 2022/23 Storms, Cal OES collaborated with counties, state and federal resources, along with nonprofit and faith-based partners to orchestrate Resource Fairs in Planada, Pajaro, the City of Merced and the town of San Andreas in Calaveras County aimed at benefiting their respective communities.

As the journey of recovery shifts for survivors, their requirements naturally

transition. The Resource Fairs emerged as an exceptional avenue to introduce additional resources in a festive atmosphere with food, music, kids' activities (including bubble machines, games, and raffles). The Fairs showcase the extensive support network of local county personnel and non-profit entities.

The results were beyond our expectations! The first Resource Fairs alone (Merced/Planada and Pajaro) had ~750 attendees, more than 4600 services provided and 72 different county and local non-profit organizations participating. Next stop....Mariposa County Resources Fairs in the towns of Mariposa and Coulterville later this September!



It is a privilege for Cal OES to collaborate harmoniously with the remarkable county staff and local organizations whose dedication and support for their communities is truly commendable.

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## CalOSBA Opens Funding to Support Small Agricultural Businesses

The first round of applications for [the California Small Agricultural Business Drought and Flood Relief Grant Program](#) opened September 1st, and will ultimately award up to \$95 million in drought and flood relief grants to eligible small agricultural businesses to cover part of costs incurred from California's extreme drought from 2019 to 2022 and 2023 storm flooding conditions.

Designed for small agriculture businesses most impacted by the recent drought and flood conditions, the program will provide the opportunity for direct grants of \$20,000 – \$100,000.

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## FEMA Implements Immediate Needs Funding Guidance, Implications for PA Projects

To ensure FEMA has the necessary Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) funding for lifesaving and life-sustaining activities, effective August 29, 2023, FEMA is implementing Immediate Needs Funding (INF) guidance. Under INF, FEMA will prioritize response and urgent recovery efforts without interruption.

However, FEMA will pause new Public Assistance obligations not essential for lifesaving and life-sustaining activities, as well as Hazard Mitigation obligations. Payment for these projects will resume once the DRF is sufficiently funded and FEMA is no longer working under INF. Cal OES is working with FEMA to better understand this new guidance.

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## Resource Highlights

### **SBA Expands Criteria for Disaster Declarations in Rural Areas and Increases Disaster Lending Program**

Under the [Disaster Assistance for Rural Communities Act](#), SBA has the newly-established authority to designate rural disaster areas in a county (or other political subdivision) that has received a major disaster declaration for Public Assistance. In order to be eligible, the county or political subdivision must be located in a non-urban area as defined by the US Census Bureau and have one home, small business, private nonprofit organization, or small agricultural cooperative that has incurred significant damage (uninsured loss of 40% or more).

In addition, SBA announced major [changes to its disaster lending program](#), including increased home disaster loan limits, expanded use of protective upgrades, extended initial payment deferment, and waived interest for the first year. These changes are effective for all disasters declared on or after July 31, 2023.

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### **USDA Extends Eligibility for Home Repair Grants for Recent Disasters**



[The Single-Family Housing Rural Disaster Home Repair](#) program provides up to \$40,675 in grant funding to eligible homeowners to repair damage that occurred in calendar year 2022 and after, in Presidentially Declared Disaster areas.

For questions and information on eligibility: [Eligibility \(usda.gov\)](#)

Find an overview of these housing programs on the USDA-RD YouTube channel [here](#).

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### **HUD Announces \$115 Million CBDG-DR Allocation for the December-January Winter**

## Storms.

This funding is allocated to California through the [Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery \(CDBG-DR\) program](#). Funding received by the state will be used to repair homes and infrastructure. Potential allocations for the February-March Winter Storms, if applicable, may be included in next year's allocation.

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## FEMA Reactivates its Validate As You Go (VayGo) Process for Reviewing Public Assistance Grant Payments.

The new [guide](#) will help ensure consistency in its implementation and provide recipients with information on the VAYGo Closeout Benefit to simplify the closeout process. The VAYGo Guide will apply to FY21 Q3/Q4 testing and forward.



## NOAA Announces Funding for Coastal Habitat Restoration for Tribes and Underserved Communities

Funding will aim to improve communities' ability to recover from and adapt to the impacts of extreme weather and the climate crisis. Eligible uses include capacity building, actionable science support, and restoration. Find out more [here](#).

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## Recovery Resources

### Housing Recovery Resources

The **California Department of Housing & Community Development** has released the [2023 Multifamily Finance Super NOFA](#) containing \$578 million in funding opportunities to support housing construction in the state.

Along with the Rural Disaster Home Repair program detailed in the Resource

Highlights, **USDA Rural Development** offers the following programs for home construction, repairs, or acquisition:

The [Direct Rural Home Loan \(Section 502\)](#) Program assists low- and very-low-income applicants obtain housing in eligible rural areas by providing payment assistance to increase an applicant's repayment ability.

The [Single Family Housing Repair Loan/Grant \(Section 504\)](#) Program provides up to \$40,000 in loan assistance to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve or modernize their homes and \$10,000 in grant assistance grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards.

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## Economic Recovery Resources

We recently added [Disaster Resiliency and Recovery Resources for Businesses](#) to the Cal OES Recovery Support Functions website. These resources include:

### **The Business Resources for Economic Developers webinar series**

The **Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development** partnered with the **Economic Development Administration** to deliver the Business Resources for Economic Developers webinar series. These aimed to increase the capacity of local stakeholders to make referrals to the business community.

### **One-pager: Resources for Small Businesses to Prepare for and Recover from Disasters**

***(Download and open with Adobe Acrobat to view pop-ups)***

This is a compilation of the small business resources offered across multiple state agency sites, organized by whether the resources are steady state, responsive, or both.

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## Environmental Recovery Resources

Have a watershed impacted by a disaster? Here are some resources to check out:

- The [Flood After Fire Toolkit](#) offered by USACE contains great information on burn scars.
- The Natural Resources and Conservation Service through USDA offers

technical and financial assistance for [Emergency Watershed Protection](#) and [Watershed and Flood Prevention](#).

- USDA Rural Development offers grants for [drinking](#) and [wastewater](#) protection.

Need assistance with permitting? The EHP team developed a questionnaire as a tool for applicants to see what regulatory agencies they need to contact for permitting purposes. Access the questionnaire here: [Permitting Questionnaire and Matching Tool](#)

For more information on watershed programs, contact the Cal OES Watershed team at [Watershed@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:Watershed@caloes.ca.gov). For more information on Environmental and Historic Preservation, contact [recoveryeHP@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:recoveryeHP@caloes.ca.gov)

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## Hungry for More Resources?



The Cal OES Recovery Support Functions Unit produces recovery resource guides containing funding and technical assistance opportunities that can assist local communities with common disaster recovery challenges.

[Recovery Resource Guides](#)

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## Milestones and Deadlines

### Hazard Mitigation

#### **42 California Projects Included in FEMA Funding Selections for 2022 Grants Cycle**

These include 35 projects eligible for the [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) Grant Program and 7 projects eligible for the [Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\)](#) Grant Program.

Of particular note is \$37.5 million to support a [comprehensive wildfire mitigation program in Napa County](#).

Want to stay up to date on all Hazard Mitigation grants, programs, and

funding opportunities? Click below to join the distribution list!

[Subscribe to Hazard Mitigation](#)

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## Individual Assistance

### Upcoming Deadline for SBA Physical Damage Loans in Calaveras, Fresno, Inyo, Kings, Marin, Plumas, Santa Barbara, and Trinity Counties

This applies to the [SBA rural declaration](#) received by the counties listed above, for damage that occurred between 02/21/2023 through 07/10/2023. The last day to apply for physical damage loans is **October 10**.

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## Trainings

### Initial Damage Estimates (IDEs) and Proclamations

Want to learn more about how to proclaim and how data is collected to support a proclamation? We offer several trainings on this topic. Topics covered include:

- The Emergency Services Act (ESA)
- California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA)
- Important Deadlines for Proclamations
- IDEs and when they are due
- Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief (FHWA ER) Funding
- And much more!

Training dates vary by county. For information on a training or how to sign up, please contact your county Cal OES Emergency Services Coordinator (ESC) or the Cal OES Recovery Disaster Analysis Unit (DAU) at [Recoverydau@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:Recoverydau@caloes.ca.gov)

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### G-318: Local Mitigation Planning

FEMA released new Local Hazard Mitigation Planning guidance, effective April 2023. Cal OES will be rolling out training starting Fall 2023 on changes to the planning requirements through FEMA's G-318 course. There will be both virtual and in-person offerings throughout the state. If you're interested in learning more about G-318 training courses, please contact [MitigationPlanning@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:MitigationPlanning@caloes.ca.gov)

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## Safety Assessment Program (SAP)

Two SAP Evaluator trainings are scheduled for October 17th and October 26th. For more information and to sign-up, visit the website here:

[Safety Assessment Program](#)



## Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP)

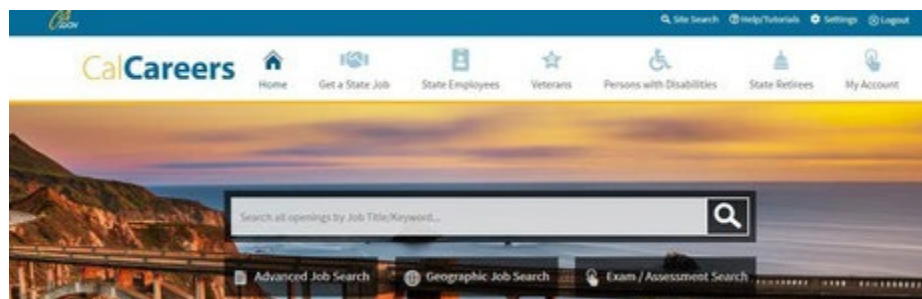
EHP hosts training sessions devoted to a specific topic. Past sessions have included fish and game codes, clean water permitting, and presentations from regulatory agencies. To learn more and to sign up, please email: [recoveryehp@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:recoveryehp@caloes.ca.gov)

## Watershed University

Watershed University is a free event that provides education and networking opportunities for California professionals in floodplain management, water management, emergency management and related fields. If you have questions about Watershed University or would like to join the mailing list, please email [Watershed.University@water.ca.gov](mailto:Watershed.University@water.ca.gov)

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# Career Opportunities



Are you looking for an exciting and fast-paced career? Join the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and be part of an organization that serves as a leader in emergency management and homeland security through dedicated service to all. We are looking for enthusiastic and motivated individuals to join our team. If you are interested in a challenging opportunity in a high-energy, team-oriented environment, you are encouraged to apply.

[Cal OES Recovery Employment Opportunities](#)

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