October 2024

Cal OES Recovery Roundtable banner

IRC Staff 9.2024

Greetings from the Cal OES Recovery Directorate!

Welcome to Fall edition of the Recovery Roundtable. We hope that this message finds you well. As California communities continue to recover from recent fires, storm events, and other disasters, our goal is to provide information and resources to support recovery efforts at all levels of government.

If you have any suggestions on topics you would like to see addressed, please send those to ircbranchsupport@caloes.ca.gov and don't forget to click the "Subscribe" link in the bulletin so you don't miss out on future editions. Thank you for all you do for California and we appreciate your partnership!

SBA Assistance Obtained for August and September Fires

SBA loans are the largest source of federal funding for homeowners, renters, and businesses of all sizes after a disaster. Types of loans available include Business Physical Disaster Loans, Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), Military Reservist Loans and Home Disaster Loans.

For more details and to submit applications for SBA's low-interest disaster loans visit their website: **Disaster assistance | U.S. Small Business Administration**.

Cal OES recently collaborated with local and federal partners to secure SBA Physical Disaster and Economic Injury Disaster Loan Declarations for the primary and contiguous counties below:

CA 20658- Declared October 23, 2024, for **Bridge Fire-** Sept./Oct. 2024.

Primary county: Los Angeles. Contiguous counties: Kern, Orange, San Bernardino, and Ventura.

CA 20793- Declared October 21, 2024, for **Park and Borel Fires** - July/August 2024.

Primary counties: Butte, Tehama, and Kern. Contiguous counties: Colusa, Glenn, Inyo, Kings, Los Angeles, Mendocino, Plumas, San Bernardino, San Louis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Shasta, Sutter, Trinity, Tulare, Ventura, and Yuba.

CA 20782- Declared October 18, 2024, for **Airport Fire** - Sept./Oct. 2024.

Primary county: Riverside. Contiguous counties: Imperial, Orange, San Bernardino, and San Diego.

CA 20651- Declared October 8, 2024, for **Boyles Fire** - September 2024.

Primary county: Lake. Contiguous counties: Colusa, Glenn, Mendocino, Napa, Sonoma, and Yolo.

CA 20612- Declared September 6, 2024, for **Lake Fire -** July/August 2024 (EIDL only)

Primary county: Santa Barbara. Contiguous counties: Kern, San Luis Obispo and Ventura.

The Recovery Café (Animated Short)

Welcome to the **Recovery Café**, where disaster survivors seek the help they need—but figuring out what they need isn't always easy. In this video we found circulating online, the creator shows a customer entering the café, asking to see the "Recovery Menu,"

Recovery Cafe Video

only to find that the process isn't as straightforward as they expected. The

employee tries to help, but the conversation highlights a common challenge: after a disaster, survivors often don't know exactly what they need to recover. (**Watch the video.**)

This video is an example of what <u>NOT</u> to do when helping survivors recover. It emphasizes the need to listen to survivors' experiences, provide clear options, and be patient in offering the *right support at the right time*.

In This Edition

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Resource Highlights

Park Fire 2024

Cal OES Individual Assistance Facilitates Local Assistance Centers for Park and Borel Fires

Between May and August 2024, Cal OES facilitated three Local Assistance Centers (LACs) to help communities affected by the Park and Borel Fires. These temporary centers provide recovery services like housing assistance, insurance claims, and health services.

The Park Fire, starting in Butte and Tehama counties in August 2024, burned over 15,000 acres and threatened more than 1,500 structures. The Borel Fire in Kern County, near Lake Isabella, covered about 8,000 acres and caused evacuations.

Cal OES's LACs served 1,987 households and provided 11,260 services with support from various state agencies, offering bilingual staff and ASL interpreters for comprehensive aid.

Please find detailed information for each LAC below:

Local Assistance Centers

2024 Changes to The Individual Assistance Program

FEMA Logo with text 'Reforming Individual Assistance'

The FEMA [Individual Assistance (IA) Reform](#) took effect for disasters declared after March 22, 2024. The revamped program introduces several updates to help disaster survivors recover more quickly and equitably. This reform simplifies processes, expands eligibility, and introduces new financial aid options, addressing common barriers experienced by disaster victims. These changes include:

1. **New Benefits**:

   - *Serious Needs Assistance*: A standardized $750 payment to households for urgent needs like food, water, shelter, and transportation.
   - *Displacement Assistance*: Upfront funds for temporary housing, allowing survivors to secure accommodations immediately after a disaster.

2. **Expanded Eligibility**:

   - *Insurance Support*: The reform makes it easier for underinsured survivors to receive assistance, even if their insurance payout covers most expenses.

- *Self-Employed Individuals*: Small business owners can now more easily claim assistance to replace essential tools and equipment.

3. **Streamlined Processes**:

- *Simplified Application Process*: The reform removes the requirement to first apply for a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan for certain types of aid.
- *Late Applications and Appeals*: It's now easier to submit late applications, and the appeals process has been simplified to reduce documentation requirements.

IA and IT Collaboration

IA and IT Collaboration for Current and Future Disasters

The IA team is working with the IT Office to enhance Damage Inspection (DINS) data collection tools for virtual IA Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs). This collaboration aims to improve real-time data capture, integrate geospatial information, and create user-friendly interfaces for field personnel, streamlining data collection and reducing errors. Enhancing these tools will accelerate assessments and provide more accurate, timely information for disaster recovery efforts.

To receive future editions:

Subscribe to Recovery Roundtable

Recovery Resources

infrastructure

x

Infrastructure Recovery Resources

Housing Recovery

NEW! [Alternate Funding Research Request Form](#)

Introducing the Alternate Funding Research Request Form! This new tool is designed to help communities identify suitable infrastructure recovery programs and their eligibility criteria. By gathering essential project details such as disaster damages, scope of work, and any active or lapsed plans, this tool narrows down the focus for targeted support. Information collected through the form is used by the Infrastructure Recovery Support Function (INF-RSF) to pinpoint specific opportunities across program areas for further exploration, and to compile a tailored list of resources that includes technical assistance and funding opportunities from various partner programs. This collaborative approach ensures that communities receive the support they need to successfully navigate their recovery journey.

New! Infrastructure & Natural Cultural Resources Statewide Bi-Monthly Meeting

Natural Cultural Resources (NCR) RSF, in partnership with the Infrastructure (INF) will hold its first long-term recovery meeting with statewide agency partners on October 9, 2024 (2-3 pm).

The meeting aims to discuss current recovery operations, identify gaps, connect with partners, and enhance visibility of programs and resources. IBank will be the guest speaker. If you would like to join the meeting, contact us below.

Contact Long-Term Recovery

Resources

Monthly Long-Term Housing Recovery meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of the month to provide a place for state and local partners to present key information, knowledge and resources surrounding long-term housing recovery. If you would like to attend, please email marci.bridgeford@caloes.ca.gov to be added to the invitation list.

calendar

NEW! [Cal OES Community Lifelines Fact Sheet](#)

The Cal OES update of FEMA's Community Lifelines graphic shows how California's Emergency Support Functions (CA-ESFs) transition into recovery through Recovery Support Functions (CA-RSFs). To ensure operational continuity, Cal OES employs Recovery Support Task Forces (RSTFs) during this transition. The graphic also highlights the connections between CA-ESFs, CA-RSFs, and critical community lifelines.

Open book with magnifying glass

The RSF Team Seeks Feedback from Municipal/County Personnel

The RSF Team is seeking feedback from municipal/county personnel about resources and tools that will help them succeed in disaster recovery initiatives. Click below to complete the survey today!

Survey

The first bi-monthly bulletin is available, featuring funding opportunities, upcoming webinars, and training courses for emergency managers and the business community. It serves as a valuable resource for discussions with economic developers and small business organizations about community economic resilience needs. Check out the bi-monthly bulletin on our website, under the "Economic Recovery Resources" Section!

Community Planning and Capacity Building

NEW! RSF Quick Start: Guidance for the Development of County/Municipal Recovery Support Function Working

RSF Quick Start Guide

Groups

The RSF Quick Start provides emergency managers with a foundation for forming RSF working groups in municipalities and counties. Each tip sheet includes a one-page summary of recommended members, online training courses, and resources from recovery experts across all six RSFs, serving as a guide for developing and training jurisdictional RSF working groups.

Click to edit this placeholder text.

NEW! Cal OES Post-Disaster Long-Term Recovery Plan Guide

This guide outlines the key sections of a Post-Disaster Long-Term Recovery Plan, covering disaster impacts, community engagement, key data points, recovery projects, and implementation. It includes examples, project management tools, and links to additional resources. Visit the RSF webpage for the Recovery Plan Template, planning timeline, checklist, and project worksheets.

Community Planning and Capacity Building bulletin

This bulletin contains funding opportunities, webinars, training, and other related community planning, capacity building, and recovery resources.

September 2024 CPCB Bulletin

Small Business Wildfire Preparedness and Recovery Resources and Links

In preparation for wildfire season, the Economic RSF and Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) compiled a list of wildfire preparedness and recovery resources for small businesses.

Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2024

Proposition 1 Behavioral Health Services Funding Is On The Way!

Four months after California voters passed Prop 1, Assembly Bill 531 establishes the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2024, providing up to $3.3 billion in grants through the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) Launch Ready Round 1. Eligible applicants include counties, cities, tribal entities, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations whose projects align with state priorities and target specific populations.

A Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) is required with Advocates for Human Potential, the administrative entity. PAC requests are due no later than **October 15, 2024**, and PAC's will be scheduled between **August 9 and November 14, 2024.**

Program applications are due by **December 13, 2024, 5:00PM Pacific Time.**

For more information on BHCIP Launch Ready Round 1 and a link for PAC:

[Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2024 - BHCIP (buildingcalhhs.com)](buildingcalhhs.com)

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 Resources Guides

Milestones and Deadlines

Veoci Logo

The Safety Assessment Program (SAP) Team Seeks Participants

Last quarter, SAP implemented Veoci digital solutions, a virtual Emergency Operations Center (EOC) software, for all 17,000 members. This resulted in eliminating wasteful hard-copy badges and semi-automating the training and membership approval process. SAP is collaborating with Veoci, OES IT, and the California Specialized Training

Insitute (CSTI) to modernize mass notification systems. Additionally, this collaboration aims to streamline data collection in order to develop eLearning modules that SAP members and prospective members can take at their leisure, eliminating the need to rely upon infrequent and lengthy SAP training events. In partnership with Santa Monica, Los Angeles County, and Cal OES, SAP is organizing a two-day exercise in November to test Veoci capabilities and evaluate SAP procedures at the city, county, and state level. A recent SAP training event in Santa Monica increased roster of trained users by 100.

Our team wants to hear from local partners who would like to test their SAP processes in future exercises. To participate, contact us here!

Environmental and Historic

Preservation (EHP)

EHP is collaborating with local, state, and federal partners on disaster recovery efforts for the most recent California wildfires. EHP compliance requirements are detailed in the 2024 Statewide Wildfire Environmental Protection Plan. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) should be issuing species-specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) in early-to-mid October. Additionally, EHP is providing technical support and drafting Section 1610

permits for the Cal OES Recovery Watershed Unit in assessing and mitigating burn scar areas near sensitive watersheds, which could trigger debris flows affecting properties and infrastructure during inclement weather. EHP is also working to close out legacy projects delayed in the review process.

The EHP team is available to provide support to our local and state partners with expertise in how to handle recovery projects with complex or sensitive environmental and historic preservation issues. **Please email us at RecoveryEHP@caloes.ca.gov or use the links below** to the EHP regulatory and permitting guide, the ArcGIS EHP jurisdictions map, and the permit self-assessment tool that provides recommended agency contacts and likely required permits based on your individual circumstances.

| EHP Permit Self-AssessmentTool | EHP Jurisdictions | Regulatory and Permitting Guide |

Global Empowerment Mission

State VAL Boosts Flood and Fire Recovery Efforts Across California

The State Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL) has supported flood recovery in San Diego, where the Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG) has made progress by electing officers, forming committees, and collaborating with Disaster Case Managers. Recognized by the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD), the LTRG has gained partners for financial, manpower, and material support. The team has organized volunteer-led home clean-outs and hosted two Family Fun Pop-Up events, serving over 1,500 households with essentials. The VAL is also aiding recovery from the Park Fire in Butte and Tehama counties, helping establish a two-county recovery group and coordinating resources for survivors, including distributing over $51,000 in gift cards and $18,000 in donations.

United Methodist Committee on Relief

The Hazard Mitigation Grants Division

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The Hazard Mitigation Grants Division conducted a project closeout site visit on September 12 for its longest-running project, the East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD) Brush and Fuels Management Project, awarded under DR-1731 (California Wildfires) in 2007/2008. The project, focused on vegetation management in 10 East Bay parks, faced environmental challenges that delayed implementation. However, EBRPD developed its own strategy to protect the Alameda Whipsnake and completed the project without harming the species. The project has proven effective, helping manage two recent fires in the area. Cal OES is working with EBRPD on a loss avoidance study.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Team

FEMA Validate As You Go

Recovery Financial Administration Branch

The Recovery Financial Administration Branch is comprised of the Financial Processing Division and four Financial Processing Units overseeing hazard mitigation grant processing, public assistance grant funding reimbursement, grant financial closeout reconciliation, and FEMA Validate As You Go (VAYGo) verification.

VAYGo ensures project documentation complies with FEMA's grant payment and reporting requirements. CalOES' VAYGo team collaborates with grant subrecipients to address documentation issues, improve payment integrity, and strengthen internal grant management controls. For more information on VAYGo, contact us below.

Contact VAYGo

Quality Control and Monitoring

The Cal OES Recovery

QCM Chart

Quality Control and Monitoring (QCM) Unit assesses disaster-funded projects to ensure grant dollars are used appropriately and comply with federal statutes, regulations, and subaward terms.

These graphs show the number and types of findings from recent monitoring of Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation subawards, guiding technical assistance for Subrecipients. The most common issue is contract language, with missing provisions required by 2 CFR Part 200 being the most frequent.

The contract provisions ensure service providers are documented as not suspended or debarred, and certified as not lobbying or influencing with federal funding, are the two most common monitoring findings.

QCM Graph

Compliance is essential for successful

Contract Provisions Guide

project outcomes; failing to follow guidelines can lead to delays, audit issues, and eligibility problems that jeopardize projects. Ineligible activities are not reimbursable with federal funds, which can adversely affect urgent projects.

Understanding the rules and familiarity with the FEMA Contract Provisions Guide and FEMA Contract Provisions Template can help avoid the most common compliance issues, increasing the likelihood of a successful project.

Learn more by visiting the Planning and Quality Control website.

Meeting of the Drought Resilience Interagency & Partners (DRIP) Collaborative October 18, 2024

- **Event**: DRIP Collaborative Meeting by the Department of Water Resources
- **Date & Time**: Friday, October 18, 2024, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- **Location**: Sacramento, CA (exact location to be posted)
- **Remote Participation**: Via Zoom (meeting will be recorded and available later at water.ca.gov/drip)
- **Public Comments**: Can be provided in-person or remotely
- **Background**:
    - Task force established by the Department of Water Resources with the State Water Board
    - Focus on proactive drought planning, emergency response, and post-drought management
    - Task force created as part of Senate Bill 552 (2021)
    - Forum for state and non-state agencies to collaborate on drought resilience

- **Agenda**: To be posted by October 8, 2024 on water.ca.gov/drip

 # Career Opportunities

go to the careers page

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**.**

October Opportunities

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