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Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2025 5:04 PM
To: Jake, Shirley@CalOES
Subject: DECEMBER 2025 RECOVERY ROUNDTABLE

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December 2025 Edition



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

RECOVERY ROUNDTABLE
NEWS · RESOURCES · MORE



Recovery IRC and Financial Processing Units Group Photo- September 2025

Greetings from the Cal OES Recovery Directorate!

As we close out 2025, we would like to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation for your partnership and collaboration throughout the year. Together, we navigated several complex challenges, most notably the response and recovery efforts following the Los Angeles wildfires. Your coordination, expertise, and steadfast commitment to the

communities we collectively serve were critical to advancing timely and effective recovery outcomes.

This year underscored the importance of strong interagency and stakeholder relationships, and we are grateful for the trust, cooperation, and shared problem-solving that defined our work in 2025. The progress achieved would not have been possible without your engagement and continued support.

On behalf of the Interagency Recovery Coordination Management Team, thank you for your partnership. We wish you and your organizations a safe and restful holiday season, and we look forward to continued collaboration in the new year.

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!

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Recovery Highlights

Safety Assessment Program (SAP) County

2025 Field Exercise - El Dorado

The Safety Assessment Program (SAP) conducted the first ever 2-day in office and field exercise on November 18th -19th, 2025. This exercise took place in El Dorado County with county planning staff working alongside Inland Region OES and various partners and began the process of incorporating Disaster Service Workers – Volunteers (DSW-V) for the first time. Participating organizations included: DGS/DSA, CalTrans, CGS, HCIA, CalBO, and SEAOC. Internal OES partners included: IMAT, Watershed, SOC Mission Tasking, Field IT, the IT GIS team, Recovery Analytics, Disaster Logs, and Tech Comms. One of the greatest benefits was bringing all partners together in the same room and learning from one another. This significantly strengthened partnerships, cohesiveness, and teamwork. Participants were enthusiastic, happy to be involved, and eager to join future exercises. Many plan to share their positive experience with coworkers to encourage broader participation in future exercise and real-world events.



Participants at the SAP Field Exercise November 2025 in El Dorado County

Future Collaboration: The next steps for the Safety Assessment Program are to expand the program's exercises to include more areas of Cal OES, include a bigger role for our SAP Volunteers, work in more depth with our local jurisdictions, and add more state agencies to our safety assessment evaluator cadre.

[Contact SAP](#)



Recovery Support Functions (RSFs)

Economic RSF:

Analysis Spotlights Economic Toll of the January 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires; Outlines Early Recovery Trends



The Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity (LA DEO), the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LA EDC) and its Institute for Applied Economics, in partnership with Economic RSF state partner GO-Biz, released the first installment of a year-long economic impact study examining the effects of the January 2025 wildfires. The study projects **\$5.2 to \$10.1 billion in lost economic output** and provides early insights into how businesses, workers, and communities across both burn areas and Secondary Fire Areas are beginning to recover. It's a data-rich look at disruptions caused by the Eaton and Palisades fires, including prolonged closures, evacuation impacts, and workforce displacement. Future quarterly analyses will inform recovery decisions and capture lessons for future disaster response.

[Impact Analysis Presentation Link](#) includes webinar, slide deck, and written summary.

Palisades Recovery Pop-Up Delivers Nearly \$500K in Aid to Fire

Global Empowerment Mission (GEM), Rotary District 5280, in partnership with Palisades LTRG, hosted the Palisades Recovery Pop-Up on November 22 at American Legion Palisades—a site recommended by the Economic RSF to help address limited, affordable recovery event space (and one day liability insurance) in the area. The day centered on healing, connection, and support for fire survivors. The event brought together local resources, service providers, health and wellness workshops, and kids' activities. In total, 277 fire-impacted families and 695 survivors received assistance; Southern Baptist volunteers served over 400 free hot meals and partners distributed food, clothing, home goods, pet supplies, and toys. Nearly \$500,000 in aid and services were delivered in a single day, underscoring the power of the community coming together in recovery.



Stronger Together: 1st Business Recovery Expo Brings Critical Support to LA Wildfire Survivors

The City of Los Angeles and Operation HOPE hosted the first **Stronger Together Business Recovery Expo** in September at the American Legion Palisades, providing much-needed support to small businesses impacted by the LA Wildfires. The Economic RSF was invited to serve on the event planning committee and helped to bring key Economic RSF agency partners into the event

program. The event drew more than 50 business owners and community members from Palisades, Malibu, and Los Angeles County. Through workshops on capital access, insurance and legal guidance, workforce recovery, and rebuilding revenue, participants gained practical tools and direct insight from experts. Economic RSF partners—California

Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA) and Small Business Administration (SBA) - served as featured speakers and exhibitors.

(Photo includes event leaders of City of LA, economic agencies and funding executives- Carol Park, General Manager, Emergency Management Department, City of Los Angeles; Corey Williams, SBA; Brenda Rodriguez, Economic RSF/Emergency Management Coordinator, City of Los Angeles; Stephanie Garcia, CalOSBA; Nicole Santiago, Operation Hope; Kirsten Trusko, Payments as a Lifeline.)

Health and Social Services RSF:

Los Angeles County Increases its Disaster Behavioral Health Capacity

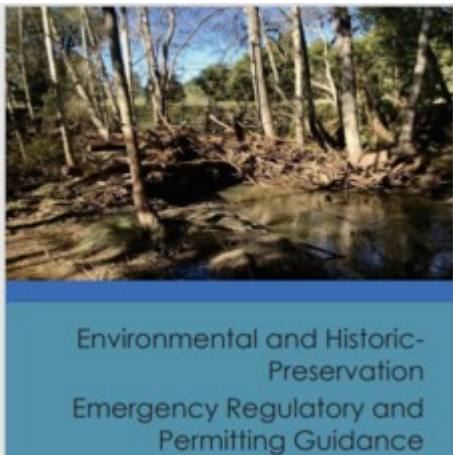
Following the four delivered Train the Trainer sessions of Psychological First Aid in July and August, Los Angeles County's Department of Mental Health (LADMH) has successfully expanded its disaster behavioral health resources. 91 paraprofessionals are now trained and operational in the Los Angeles area. LADMH is currently working with local jurisdictions, long term recovery groups, and special districts to deploy these new resources and meet growing mental-health needs across fire-survivor communities.

Individual Assistance (IA)

Mono County Pack Fire

The Mono County Office of Emergency Services, in close coordination with the Mono County Administrators Office, the Board of Supervisors' Office, and the local Fire Department, demonstrated exceptional dedication and leadership throughout Local Assistance Center (LAC) operations and the Preliminary Damage Assessment process following the November 2025 Pack Fire. Their teams worked tirelessly to engage directly with impacted residents, gather critical household and business information, and accurately document damages. This effort required long hours, close coordination, and a steadfast commitment to ensuring no affected household or business was overlooked. The LAC itself served 22 households with a total of 138 services to impacted residents. The accuracy and completeness of the data collected at the LAC and in the days that followed were instrumental in clearly demonstrating the scope and severity of impacts across the community.

Equally important was the County's collaborative and proactive partnership with the Cal OES Individual Assistance team. Mono County's willingness to work together with state and federal partners, adapt processes in real time, and prioritize data integrity directly contributed to the successful SBA declaration and, ultimately, the issuance of a State of Emergency by the Governor's Office. Their collective efforts ensured the community received the assistance it urgently needed and deserved. This outcome reflects not only strong interagency coordination, but also Mono County's unwavering commitment to advocating for its residents throughout the recovery process.



Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP)

EHP continues to work with Local, State, and Federal partners to steer the process to address disaster recovery activities associated with the late 2024 and early 2025 wildfires including, Park, Borel, and the Los Angeles events. EHP compliance requirements were summarized in the 2025 Statewide Wildfire Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) which was completed with state and federal partners in July.

The Cal OES 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 whether or not there is a state or federally declared disaster. Please see in the Recovery Resources section below some useful guides for your projects. You can also click the button below to see all EHP resources available on our webpage.

For questions or assistance please feel free to contact us: RecoveryEHP@caloes.ca.gov

[EHP Webpage](#)



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Recovery Resources

CalAssist Mortgage Fund

California expanded the CalAssist Mortgage Fund Disaster Relief so more California families can qualify for mortgage grants. Income limits were increased expanding eligibility for families rebuilding after disasters. Homeowners whose primary residence was destroyed or severely damaged as the result of a qualified disaster that occurred between Jan. 1, 2023, and Jan. 8, 2025, may qualify if other parameters are met. More information can be found at www.calassistmortgagefund.org



CalAssist has been responsive to questions from Long Term Recovery Groups (LTRG) and Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP) and presented at the LA Wildfires Disaster Case Manager's Committee meeting.

SBA Disaster Loans

Incident: LA County Wildfires & Straight-Line Winds

Areas Covered:

Physical Damage Loans-Los Angeles County only

Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)-LA County and contiguous California counties of Kern Orange, San Bernardino, Ventura

Incident: Pack Fire

Areas Covered: All loans available in Mono County; the contiguous California counties of Alpine, Fresno, Inyo, Madera, Tuolumne; contiguous Nevada counties of Douglas, Esmeralda, Lyon, Mineral

- **Loan Types:** Business Physical Disaster Loans, Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), Home Disaster Loans
- **For More Information/Application Process:** <https://lending.sba.gov>
- **Contact:** SBA Customer Service Center disastercustomerservice@sba.gov or (800) 659-2955. For deaf, hard of hearing or speech disability: dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services



The Safety Assessment Program (SAP) CalSAFE

Cal OES SAP is proud to introduce CalSAFE (Safety Assessment for Field Evaluations), on the Veoci platform. The CalSAFE system continues to grow with new dashboards for liaisons and incorporating FIRIS flyover data. Cal OES SAP continues to work with the GIS team and Veoci to add in any geospatial data that can be utilized in future SAP deployments.

Future CalSAFE Functions: Cal OES SAP is building a public dashboard to look up the status of SAP Evaluators SAP ID. This dashboard will improve the availability of information that our evaluators and their organizational liaisons can access. SAP also wants to be able to assist

local jurisdictions by giving them the ability to use the state's rapid assessment forms, dashboards, and notifications in disaster response situations.

CalSAFE Portal

Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) Resources

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. For questions or assistance please email us at RecoveryEHP@caloes.ca.gov.

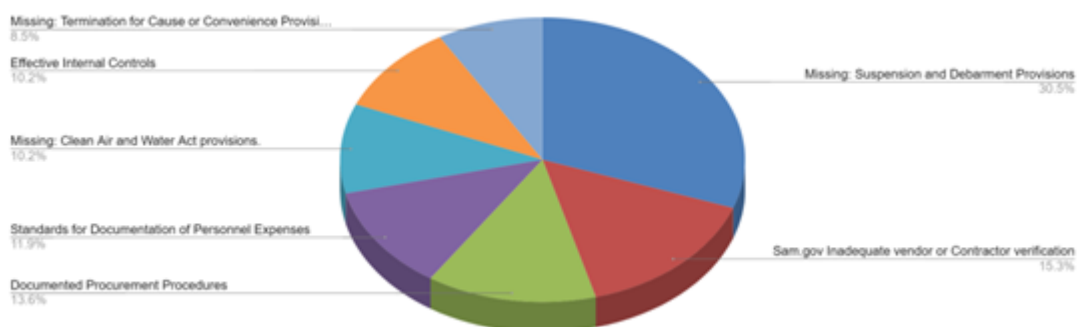
Please use the links below to get copies of the EHP regulatory and permitting guide, the ArcGIS EHP jurisdictions map, and the permit self-assessment tool that provides recommended agency contacts and potentially required permits based on your individual circumstances.

EHP Permit Self-Assessment Tool

EHP Jurisdictions

Regulatory and Permitting Guide

Quality Control and Monitoring (QCM)

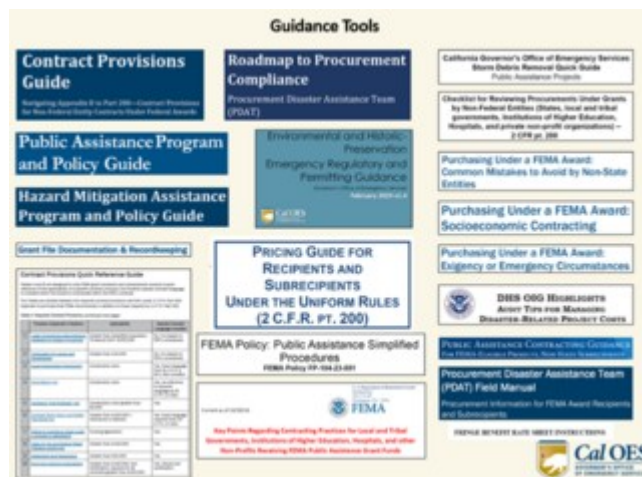


QCM has completed 29 Recovery Compliance Reviews this year, 26 with findings and has 17 more underway. These reviews cover over \$38 million in FEMA obligated projects across 13 different disaster funds, completed even with the unit operating at minimum staffing for seven months due to LA Wildfires JFO activations and deployments. Beyond formal reviews, QCM also provided technical assistance to Recovery Programs and

subrecipients to promote compliance proactively. This support has safeguarded more than \$15 million in funding by ensuring subaward activities remain allowable and compliant.

The Top findings for all 2025 projects are missing Suspension and Debarment contract provisions along with inadequate vendor/contractor verification.

FEMA provides a number of [guidance documents](#) to assist in meeting requirements. Specifically, the FEMA Contract Provisions Guide identifies the mandatory contract language, as well as samples of recommended language with links to the relevant CFR citation. Reviewing the relevant program guidance, as well as information provided during applicant briefings and application preparation workshops are the keys to avoid findings, corrective action, and the potential recapture of funds.



Grant Opportunities

Water & Waste Disposal Technical Assistance & Training Grants

Deadline: December 31, 2025

Helps qualified, private nonprofits provide technical assistance & training to identify & evaluate solutions to water & waste problems; helps applicants prepare applications for water & waste disposal loans/grants; & helps associations improve the operation & maintenance of water & waste facilities in eligible rural areas.

2025 Wildfire & Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program

Deadline: January 31, 2026

Supports projects that result in a combination of multiple watershed, ecosystem, & community benefits. California's Wildfire & Forest Resilience Action Plan; A Comprehensive Strategy identifies three goals that are aligned with SNC's Watershed Improvement Plan: healthy & resilient natural places, safe communities, & sustainable economies.

Upcoming Events

Underground Infrastructure Conference (UIC) 2026

January 27-28, 2026

Location: San Antonio, Texas

The UIC is dedicated to advancing the three core pillars of modern infrastructure: construction, rehabilitation, & asset management. This year, the UIC will deliver more value, more connections, & more ROI in just two high-energy days for professionals in the sewer, water, wastewater, gas, electric, telecommunications, & fiber

National Disaster Preparedness Training Center Community Planning for Disaster Recovery

March 25-26, 2026

Community Planning for Disaster Recovery is an eight-hour awareness-level course that provides facilitated discussions on key concepts for disaster recovery planning, including the benefits of pre-disaster planning, key elements, and the plan development process. Target Audience: Government Administration, Emergency Management, Public Health, Public Works, Transportation, Community Volunteer.

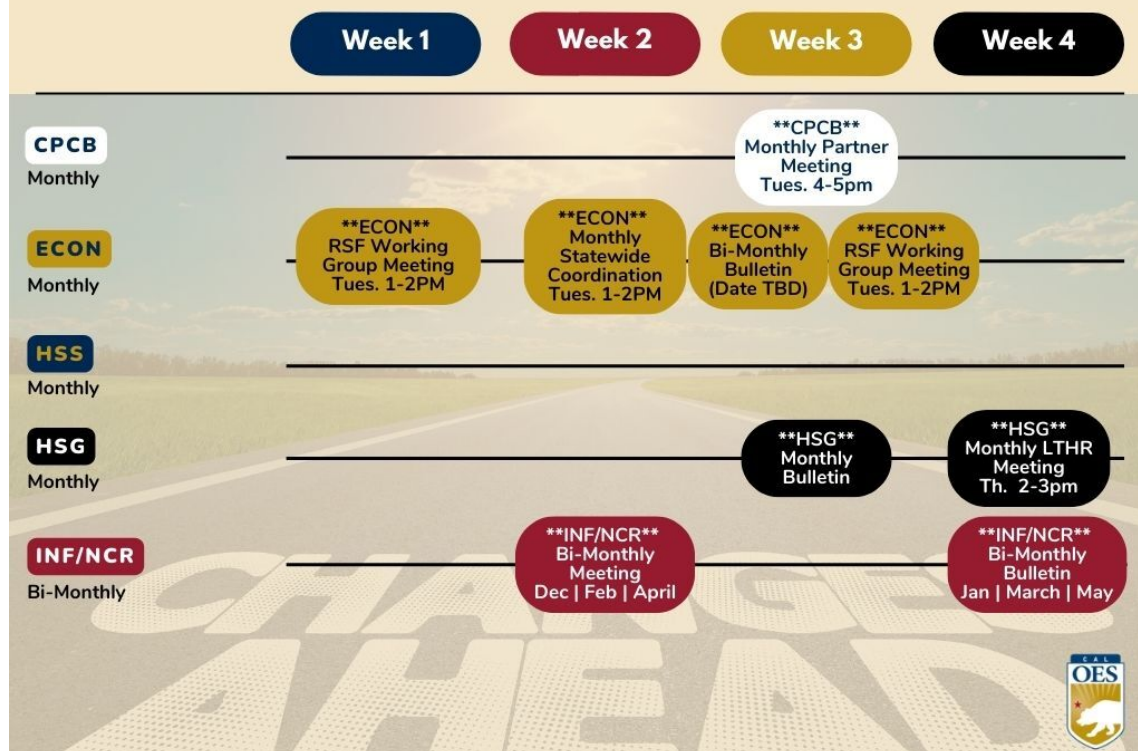
Housing California Annual Conference 2026 - Rooted in Community: Realizing California's Promise Together

March 28-20, 2026

Location: Sacramento, CA

This year's theme emphasizes community-driven, system-level change. The conference will showcase innovative and interactive sessions that highlight lessons learned, emerging solutions, and effective strategies to advance structural reforms. The focus is on creating more affordable homes, ending homelessness, protecting low-income renters, and closing equity gaps—ultimately working toward a California where every community can thrive with housing, health, and shared prosperity.

RSF Monthly Meetings and Bulletins



To attend any RSF meetings listed above or to be added to a bulletin distribution:

[Contact Long Term Recovery](#)

Stay updated with the latest RSF updates and resources:

[RSF Webpage](#)



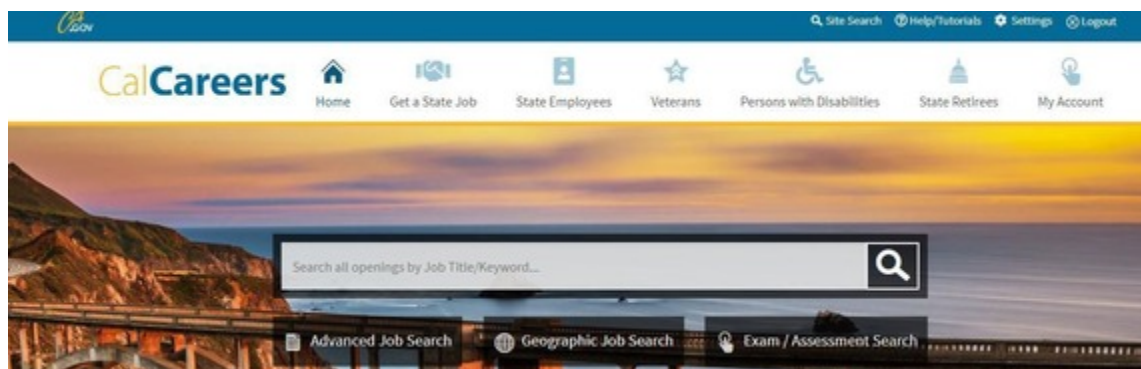
Milestones and Deadlines

January 7, 2026

One year anniversary of California Wildfires and Straight-Line Winds (DR-4856-CA) Event



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.

[Job Openings](#)



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