

CALIFORNIA

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS



Heat waves, drought, wildfires, and rising seas have already impacted California, and pose growing challenges to many aspects of life. Water resources, human health, jobs, crops, and infrastructure will be increasingly compromised.

ALREADY OBSERVED CHANGES

ANTICIPATED FUTURE CHANGES

RISKS TO SOCIETY



California has warmed 2.5°F on average since 1970, and Yosemite National Park has warmed 4.5°F over the past century. Riverside is the 4th **fastest warming city** in the U.S.

Heat wave days in California are projected to **more than triple** by 2050, from 15 to more than 45 days per year.

San Francisco **mosquito season** is now 2 weeks longer than during the 1980s.
Heat waves in CA have already caused hundreds of **deaths**, thousands of **hospital visits**, and billions in **economic costs**.



Higher temperatures intensified the 2011-2016 drought, and led to the **largest 'snow drought' on record** as more precipitation fell as rain.

The severity of widespread **summer drought** in California is projected to **almost triple** by the end of the century.

The increase in heat and reduction of snow have amplified recent **water shortages**.
The recent drought led to 10,000+ **lost jobs** and \$900M of **gross crop revenue lost**.



The number of **fires** and amount of **acres burning** annually in California has **roughly doubled** since the 1970s. In 2018, 400,000+ acres burnt – nearly 3 times the amount in the 1970s.

The frequency of wildfires may **increase by 25%** in the Southwest by end of century, along with a **tripling** of very **large fires**.

11+ million people in California (30% of state population) are at elevated risk of wildfires.
Wildfires in California in 2017 and 2018 resulted in over **\$42 billion** in damages.



Sea level has risen around 9 inches at Golden Gate Bridge and in San Diego over past century. Scientists say 150+ **coastal flood days** in San Fran and La Jolla over past decade are **80%+ human-caused**.

Projected sea level rise by 2050 could make **100-year floods** in La Jolla, Los Angeles, and San Diego **100 times more likely**.
Areas in **coastal floodplain zone** could **double** by 2050.

200,000+ more people are projected to be **at risk** of coastal flooding by 2050.
Sea level rise and storm surge may **erode 2/3** of southern California **beaches** by 2100.

For sources of information, please visit: www.edf.org/climateimpactsources
*Anticipated future changes are for scenarios without climate action



EXPECTED DAMAGES

IN CALIFORNIA BY 2100
WITHOUT CLIMATE ACTION

- At least 3,200 additional deaths per year
- San Bernardino county, currently home to 2 million people, expected to see around a 50% decrease in major crop yields relative to 2012 levels
- 8 counties that currently cover 10 million people are each expected to spend 10% more on energy relative to 2012 levels