



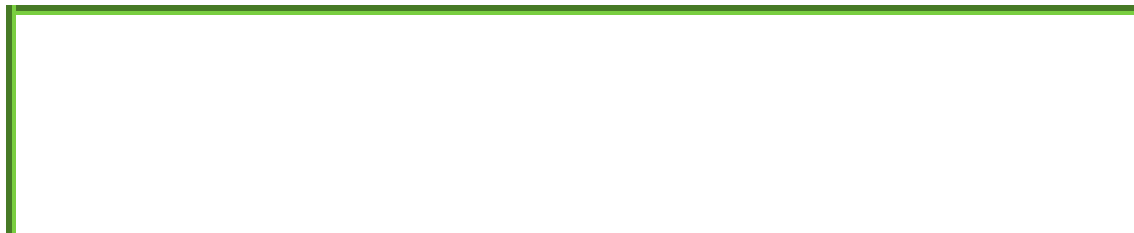
Protecting our rural environment by promoting citizen participation in sustainable land use planning since 2006

The Community Action Project (CAP) administers the Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC), which is comprised of regional and local organizations, community groups, and concerned individuals who promote public participation in land use and resource planning to ensure a healthy human, natural, and economic environment now and in the future.

Learn more at www.calaverascap.com

Don't forget to add us to your address book to keep us out of your spam folder!

Donate





In this edition of the ReCAP...

1. [Next CPC Meeting](#)
2. [BOS & PC Meetings](#)
3. [Health officials alarmed by surge in COVID-19 cases](#)
4. [COVID-19 vaccine available in Valley Springs](#)
5. [Blagen Road repair project public meeting to be held August 14](#)
6. [Sierra Nevada Conservancy Funding Opportunities](#)
7. [California tourist town running out of water amid drought](#)
8. [DYK: The IPCC was formed in 1988](#)
9. [234 scientists read 14,000+ research papers to write the upcoming IPCC climate report](#)
10. [California teen invents new type of fire extinguisher to protect homes](#)
11. [As climate change hurts other states, Kentucky must prepare as a climate refuge zone](#)
12. [Greenland experienced 'massive' ice melt this week, scientists say](#)
13. [Poem: California Hills in August](#)

Join Us!

*Get a glimpse into what CPC membership is like by attending a meeting.
There is no commitment, just show up and listen in!*

**Next Calaveras Planning Coalition Meeting
September 13, 2021 3 P.M. - 5 P.M.**

New Members Welcome at CPC Meetings

Organizations, groups, and individuals (known as associate members) may join the Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC). Prospective members may attend two consecutive meetings before making a final decision on membership in the Coalition. The membership form is a pledge to support and advocate for the Coalition's eleven Land Use and Development Principles, which you will find on our website:

www.calaverascap.com.

There is no membership fee. However, members are encouraged to donate to the Community Action Project/Calaveras Planning Coalition. Visitors and prospective members will, by necessity, be excluded from attorney/client privileged discussions.

If you are interested in membership, please email CPC Facilitator Tom Infusino, tomi@volcano.net, to receive a membership form, agenda, and the Zoom meeting connection.

To help prevent the spread of Covid-19 in our county, all CAP and CPC meetings will be held online via Zoom until restrictions are lifted by the Public Health Department.

BOS Meeting Tuesday, August, 10 2021

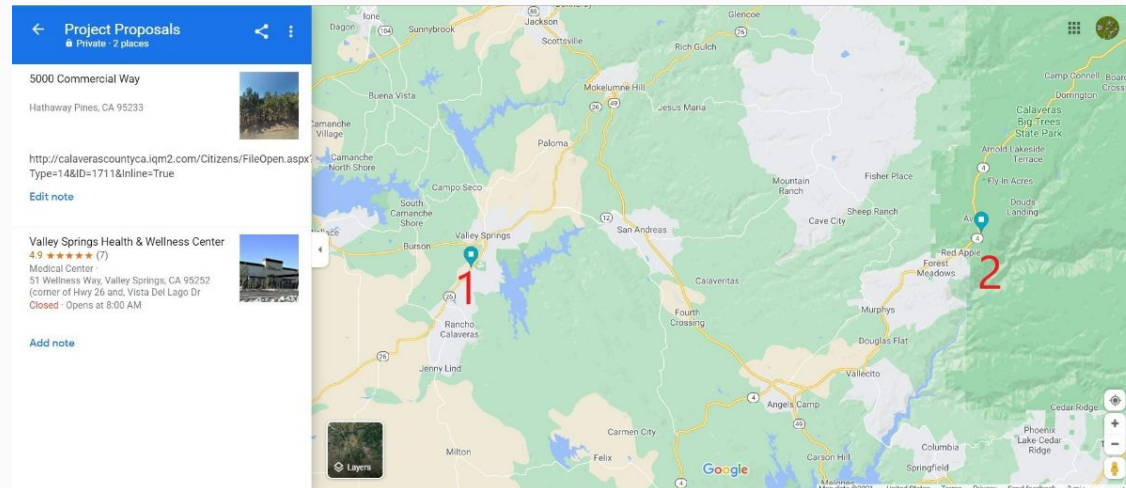
Agenda Upcoming

Planning Commission Meeting August 12, 2021

Agenda

On the Agenda

1. Proposal to install parking shade structure with solar panels at the Valley Springs Health and Wellness Center
2. Proposal to expand the existing self-storage facility at 5000 Commercial Way in Hathaway Pines



View the interactive map here: <https://goo.gl/maps/Thg9WSxZ4yMhPfWD6>

Local News

Health officials alarmed by surge in Covid-19 cases

Press Release / Valley Springs News/ August 4, 2021

There has been a significant increase in COVID-19 cases the past two weeks in Calaveras County, according to health officials.

The Calaveras County Public Health Division announced Monday that state officials have reported a 14-day average of 73 cases in the county compared to 46 cases from the previous 14-day average. Calaveras Public Health is working to confirm the numbers reported to the state.

"The surge in ncases may be a result of the emerging Delta variant, communities with low vaccination rates, easing of prevention measures and people moving indoors as warm temperatures remain," the public health division speculated in its announcement.

"What we know about the Delta variant is that this new strain spreads more easily from person-to-person," said Dr. Rene Ramirez, Calaveras County health officer. "The most

community spread and negative impact due to COVID-19 happens in communities with low vaccination rates.”

According to the statistics collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 40.24 percent of Calaveras County residents were fully vaccinated as of Aug. 1.

Most hospitalizations and deaths have been among the unvaccinated, the CDC added.

As of Monday, Calaveras County had 26 active cases and two COVID-19 hospitalizations.

“The best protection we have against COVID-19 is to get fully vaccinated,” Dr. Ramirez said. “If you haven’t received your second shot of a two-dose vaccine, you aren’t getting the most protection against COVID-19. People who haven’t been vaccinated at all against COVID-19 are most at risk.”

A vaccination clinic is held every Thursday in Valley Springs. Details below.

Calaveras Public Health urges the public to take necessary prevention measures seriously to protect their family and friends from COVID-19. Everyone needs to take steps to protect themselves against COVID-19 including anyone not fully vaccinated, children under 12 who cannot be vaccinated yet, and those with weakened immune exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19ne systems.

The best way to avoid being exposed to the virus is to:

- Get vaccinated.
- Wear a mask in public indoor settings.
- Get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Stay at least 6 feet from others.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.

State guidance on face coverings, requires that all individuals regardless of vaccination status wear a mask in the following indoor settings:

- On public transit
- Indoors in K-12 schools, childcare.
- Emergency shelters and cooling centers.

Due to the recent rise in COVID-19 cases, masks are strongly encouraged for all vaccinated individuals and are required for unvaccinated individuals in indoor public settings and businesses including retail, restaurants, theaters, local government offices serving the public and other settings.

Symptoms of COVID-19 may appear two to 14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills.

- Cough.
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
- Fatigue.
- Muscle or body aches.
- Headache.
- New loss of taste or smell.
- Sore throat. Congestion or runny nose.

COVID-19 vaccine available in Valley Springs

Press Release / Valley Springs News / August 4, 2021

There has been a significant increase in COVID-19 cases over the past two weeks primarily due to the Delta variant.

Those who have not received a COVID-19 vaccination can do so locally at the Valley Springs Health & Wellness Center.

The center, operated by the Mark Twain Heath Care District, is located at 51 Wellness Way at the intersection of State Route 26 and Vista Del Lago Drive.

The COVID vaccination clinic is from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. every Thursday. In addition, the center will have a vaccination clinic from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 21.

Those seeking the vaccine need to register with myturn.ca.gov.

Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 prevents severe illness, hospitalization and death.. With the Delta variant, getting vaccinated is more urgent than ever.

Blagen Road repair project public meeting to be held August 14

Calaveras County Public Works Press Release / Calaveras Enterprise / August 4, 2021

Blagen Road Repair Project Public Meeting

Saturday, August 14, 2021 - 10:00 am

Independence Hall Community Center

1445 Blagen Road, Arnold

The Calaveras County Department of Public Works is excited to announce that construction will soon begin on the last of the 2017 Winter Storm Projects, the Blagen Road Repair Project. This project will involve the removal of the existing temporary bridge, the installation of a new culvert, and will restore the roadway to its pre-disaster condition. As the damage to this road was caused by a federally declared disaster, the cost for the repairs is reimbursable by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES).

Construction is scheduled to take place between August 30 and October 13, 2021. Blagen Road will be completely closed at "D" Street/Dunbar Road from September 7 until October 2. A detour around White Pines Lake will be provided during the road closure to provide access to the ball fields, Moose Lodge, and CCWD facilities.

A public meeting will be held at Independence Hall in Arnold on August 14 at 10:00 am to provide information about the construction. Members from the Department of Public Works as well as the County's contractor K. W. Emerson and construction management firm, PSOMAS will be in attendance to answer project specific questions.

Due to the recent rise in COVID-19 cases, masks are strongly encouraged for everyone attending indoor public settings and businesses including retail, restaurants, theaters, local government offices serving the public and other settings.

Please contact the Calaveras County Public Works Department at 209-754-6402 if you have any questions regarding this project.

Sierra Nevada
Conservancy
Funding
Opportunities
Newsletter
for August/Sep
tember



This is an electronic newsletter published every two months containing information on

upcoming grant and funding opportunities for the Sierra Nevada region. The newsletter includes federal, state, and private foundation funders as well as additional resources and information related to grant funding. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy provides the Funding Opportunities Newsletter as a free resource under its Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program.

[Back to Top](#)

Regional News

California tourist town running out of water amid drought

Carter Evans / CBS News / August 4, 2021

The historic California town of Mendocino is running out of water, as the wells the tourist town depends on are drying up amid a devastating drought.

The Alegria Inn is paying to truck in water so its guests can shower. "Right now it costs \$600 for 3,500 gallons, and that's lasting us a week," said Eric Hillesland, who runs the inn.

To conserve, they douse the flowers with dirty dishwater and are buying lightweight sheets for guest beds. "You can get more of them into one load of wash and you can cut your water use significantly," Hillesland said.

Up the street at Café Beaujolais, the dining room is empty three nights a week to save water. Owner Julian Lopez pays about \$3,600 a month for water delivery. He said he can't get more water trucked in because "these towns on the coast are starting to shut off the sale of water."

"It's dire and it's only getting worse," town groundwater manager Ryan Rhoades said.

Rhoades said he's considering bringing in water by train. For now, the local high school is offering some of its reserves, but Rhoades said it can only provide about one truckload per day.

Even waitresses are spreading the word about conservation, telling customers to only take what they can drink.

Outside some businesses, port-a-potties have replaced closed restrooms in an effort to stop flushing away a precious resource.

"It's frightening," Lopez said. "There's a scenario here where people will run out of water."

Mendocino is counting on tourist dollars to pour in after the pandemic — but the question is, how it can handle so many people with so little water?

Did you know ... the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) was formed in 1988

to prepare a comprehensive review and recommendations with respect to the state of knowledge of the science of climate change; the social and economic impact of climate change, and potential response strategies and elements for inclusion in a possible future international convention on climate. They have provided five assessment cycles since then. Read the story below to learn about the most recent assessment.

234 scientists read 14,000+ research papers to write the upcoming IPCC climate report

Stephanie Seara / The Conversation / August 5, 2021

This week, hundreds of scientists from around the world are finalizing a report that assesses the state of the global climate. It's a big deal. The report is used by governments and industries everywhere to understand the threats ahead.

So who are these scientists, and what goes into this important assessment?

Get ready for some acronyms. We're going to explore the upcoming IPCC report and some of the terms you'll be hearing when it's released on Aug. 9, 2021.

What is the IPCC?

IPCC stands for Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It's the United Nations' climate-science-focused organization. It's been around since 1988, and it has 195 member countries.

Every seven years or so, the IPCC releases a report – essentially a “state of the climate” – summarizing the most up-to-date, peer-reviewed research on the science of climate change, its effects and ways to adapt to and mitigate it.

The purpose of these reports is to provide everyone, particularly governing bodies, with the information they need to make important decisions regarding climate change. The IPCC essentially provides governments with a CliffsNotes version of thousands of papers published regarding the science, risks, and social and economic components of climate change.

There are two important things to understand:

1. The IPCC reports are nonpartisan. Every IPCC country can nominate scientists to participate in the report-writing process, and there is an intense and transparent review process.
2. The IPCC doesn't tell governments what to do. Its goal is to provide the latest knowledge on climate change, its future risks and options for reducing the rate of warming.

Why is this report such a big deal?

The last big IPCC assessment was released in 2013. A lot can change in eight years.

Not only has computer speed and climate modeling greatly improved, but each year scientists understand more and more about Earth's climate system and the ways specific regions and people around the globe are changing and vulnerable to climate change.

Where does the research come from?

The IPCC doesn't conduct its own climate-science research. Instead, it summarizes everyone else's. Think: ridiculously impressive research paper.

The upcoming report was authored by 234 scientists nominated by IPCC member governments around the world. These scientists are leading Earth and climate science experts.

This report – the first of four that make up the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report – looks at the physical science behind climate change and its impacts. It alone will contain over 14,000 citations to existing research. The scientists looked at all of the climate-science-related research published through Jan. 31, 2021.

These scientists, who are not compensated for their time and effort, volunteered to read those 14,000-plus papers so you don't have to. Instead, you can read their shorter chapters on the scientific consensus on topics like extreme weather or regional changes in sea-level rise.

The IPCC is also transparent [about its review process](#), and that process is extensive. Drafts of the report are shared with other scientists, as well as with governments, for comments. Before publication, the 234 authors will have had to address over 75,000 comments on their work.

Government input to these bigger reports, like the one being released on Aug. 9, 2021, is solely limited to commenting on report drafts. However, governments do have a much stronger say in the shorter summary for policymakers that accompanies these reports, as they have to agree by consensus and typically get into detailed [negotiations on the wording](#).

RCPs, SSPs – what does it all mean?

One thing just about everyone wants to understand is what the future might look like as the climate changes.

To get a glimpse of that future, scientists run experiments using computer models that simulate Earth's climate. With these models, scientists can ask: If the globe heats up by a specific amount, what might happen in terms of sea-level rise, droughts and the ice sheets? What if the globe heats up by less than that – or more? What are the outcomes then?

The IPCC uses a set of scenarios to try to understand what the future might look like. This is where some of those acronyms come in.

All climate models work a little differently and create different results. But if 20 different climate models are run using the same assumptions about the amount of warming and produce similar results, people can be fairly confident in the results.

RCPs, or [representative concentration pathways](#), and SSPs, or [shared socioeconomic pathways](#), are the standardized scenarios that climate modelers use.

Four RCPs were the focus of the future-looking climate modeling studies incorporated into the [2013 report](#). They ranged from RCP 2.6, where there is a drastic reduction in global fossil fuel emissions and the world only heats up a little, to RCP 8.5, a world in which fossil fuel emissions are unfettered and the world heats up a lot.

The IPCC's Fifth Climate Assessment, in 2013, focused on representative concentration pathways, or RCPs. [IPCC](#)

This time around, climate modelers are using [SSPs](#). Unlike the RCPs, which focus solely on greenhouse gas emissions trajectories, the SSPs consider socioeconomic factors and are concerned with how difficult it will be to adapt to or mitigate climate change, which in turn affects greenhouse gas emissions. [The five SSPs](#) differ in what the world might look like in terms of global demographics, equity, education, access to health, consumption, diet, fossil fuel use and geopolitics.

Why should you care?

Look around. Thus far, 2021 has brought deadly extreme weather events around the globe, from extensive wildfires to extreme heat, excessive rainfall and flash flooding. Events like these become more common in a warming world.

"It's warming. It's us. We're sure. It's bad. But we can fix it." That's [how sustainability scientist and Lund University Professor Kimberly Nicholas](#) puts it.

Don't expect an optimistic picture to emerge from the upcoming report. Climate change is a threat-multiplier that compounds other global, national and regional environmental and social issues.

So, read the report and recognize the major sources of greenhouse gases that are driving climate change. Individuals can take steps to reduce their emissions, including driving less, using energy-efficient lightbulbs and rethinking their food choices. But also understand that 20 fossil fuel companies are responsible for about [one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions](#). That requires governments taking action now.

This article is republished from The Conversation, a nonprofit news site dedicated to sharing ideas from academic experts. It was written by: [Stephanie Spera](#), [University of Richmond](#).

California teen invents new type of fire extinguisher to protect homes

Catherine Garcia / The Week / August 3, 2021

Arul Mathur has come up with an invention that he hopes can be used as a tool by homeowners looking to protect their property from wildfires.

The California teen has created the Fire Activated Canister Extinguisher, better known as F.A.C.E. This portable device can be set up anywhere, from a fence to a front porch, and has a glycerin bulb that bursts when it reaches 155 degrees Fahrenheit. As soon as that happens, fire retardant flows through and disperses in a 360 degree spread. Once F.A.C.E. is installed, "it's there, it's ready and it doesn't require any more manual intervention after that," Mathur told NowThis Kids.

All profits from F.A.C.E. sales go toward donating more devices to areas where the risk of a wildfire is high. Mathur said the intent is to distribute them in a way so they can create a fire break, forming a boundary where blazes can't pass through. Mathur told NowThis Kids he hopes that other young people who are interested in engineering or design are inspired by F.A.C.E. "If you want to create change, I say just trudge on forward no matter what obstacles you face, and you'll certainly have an impact," he said.

As climate change hurts other states, Kentucky must prepare as climate refuge zone

Tom Kimmerer / Kentucky-Lexington Herald Reader / August 4, 2021

On Tuesday, the Lexington Fire Department responded to a complaint about smoke in my neighborhood. It was easy to smell. As a forester, I know the odor of a forest fire. But this fire was in Oregon, 2,300 miles away. The fires raging in the west and worldwide are a direct result of a warming earth caused by burning of fossil fuels. Smoke from these fires is blanketing the earth as never before, a clear measure of the climate crisis we are in.

Kentuckians may feel that we are insulated from the perils of climate change. Yes, we are getting smoke from western fires. But we are having a cool summer. Over the last few years, our night temperatures have increased, our growing seasons are longer, but we have not had temperature extremes like much of the world. We are in a pluvial — a longterm period of excess rain that has lasted at least 13 years. Every farmer and gardener is aware of this, as are my friends who have lost houses to floods.

Kentucky remains a good place to live. And that is the problem. Last year, I met a couple who were building a house in Jessamine County. They were moving here from Miami Beach. Why? As they explained, they wanted to sell their Florida house while it was still worth more than a nickel. I do not think they are the only ones.

We can, and will, solve the climate crisis by rapidly moving to renewable energy from fossil fuels — this is already happening. Solar and wind energy are cheaper than any other form of energy, providing economic incentives for this shift. But we are acting too slowly. Sea level will rise and drive people away from coasts — this is already happening. Drought and fire will drive people away from the west — this is already happening. Millions of people will need to relocate.

Kentucky is an attractive place for these climate refugees, as my Florida friends show. We need to consciously prepare for a population increase as these refugees realize that we have a lot to offer. How do we prepare for thousands of new people?

First, it does not benefit us to become a refuge only for wealthy white people like my Florida friends. We need to be welcoming to all people. They will need jobs, housing, and support.

Second, our rural counties need serious zoning reform. We need to protect our precious farmland and forests. When I had a farm in Garrard County, I saw the damage of unconstrained growth when there is no zoning. Most Kentucky counties have little or no zoning. Lexington has successfully, so far, constrained growth within the urban service boundary, but we are not prepared to handle a large influx of people without breaking that boundary, and gobbling up our irreplaceable farmland.

Kentucky has some important things to offer as part of the solution to climate change. Our forests and farms remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in trees and soil. This helps to reduce the impacts of fossil fuel combustion, though it does not offer a solution — we still need to shed our fossil fuel addiction. Nevertheless, we cannot afford to destroy our natural resources to welcome more people.

We need state and local decision making to welcome climate refugees, while not destroying the magnificent beauty of our state. We can't just allow these changes to happen, or we will create chaos. We urgently need state and local governments, citizen organizations, and corporations to recognize that althwe have an impending problem, perhaps a crisis. It is perhaps not in our tradition to anticipate and plan for a crisis, but we need to do it.

Make no mistake. This process has already begun, and we need to get ahead of refugee relocation well before it gets out of our control.

Tom Kimmerer, PhD, is a forest scientist and author. He can be contacted at his website, www.kimmerer.com.

Greenland experienced 'massive' ice melt this week, scientists say

Kate Abnett / Reuters / July 30, 2021

With climate change fueling high temperatures across the Arctic, Greenland lost a massive amount of ice on Wednesday with enough melting to cover the U.S. state of Florida in 2 inches (5.1 cm) of water, scientists said.

It was the third-biggest ice loss for Greenland in a single day since 1950. The other two records, also within the last decade, happened in 2012 and 2019.

The rapid melt followed warm air being trapped over the Arctic island by a change in atmospheric circulation patterns, scientists said, noting that there could be more ice lost.

On Wednesday alone, some 22 gigatonnes of ice melted - with 12 gigatonnes flowing to the ocean and 10 gigatonnes absorbed by the snowpack where it can refreeze, said Xavier Fettweis, a climate scientist at the University of Liege in Belgium.

Polar Portal, a group of Danish Arctic research institutions, described it in a tweet as a "massive melting event." While that volume was less than the record single-day ice melt in 2019, this week's event covered a larger area, the group said.

Such events can create feedback loops that drive further warming and melting in Greenland, said Marco Tedesco, a climate scientist at Columbia University. As snow melts, it exposes darker ice or ground beneath, which absorbs more sunlight rather than reflecting it back out of the atmosphere.

"It really positions Greenland to be more vulnerable to the rest of the melting season," said Tedesco, research professor at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

Scientists have estimated that melting from Greenland's ice sheet - the second-biggest on Earth after Antarctica's - has caused around 25% of global sea level rise seen over the last few decades.

Tedesco and other scientists have warned that models used to project future ice loss do not capture the impact of changing atmospheric circulation patterns - meaning they may be underestimating the future melting of Greenland, which is located between the Arctic and Atlantic oceans.

Meanwhile, the Arctic is warming faster than the rest of the planet, due to factors including vanishing ice in the Arctic Ocean, which exposes darker water that absorbs solar radiation.

On Wednesday, air temperatures over Greenland were "worrisome," the EU said, with temperatures in Constable Pynt on the east of the island hitting 23.2 C (73.8 Fahrenheit).

(Reporting by Kate Abnett in Brussels; Editing by Katy Daigle and Matthew Lewis)

California Hills in August

by Dana Gioia

I can imagine someone who found
these fields unbearable, who climbed
the hillside in the heat, cursing the dust,
cracking the brittle weeds underfoot,
wishing a few more trees for shade.

An Easterner especially, who would scorn
the meagerness of summer, the dry
twisted shapes of black elm,
scrub oak, and chaparral, a landscape
August has already drained of green.

One who would hurry over the clinging
thistle, foxtail, golden poppy,
knowing everything was just a weed,
unable to conceive that these trees
and sparse brown bushes were alive.

And hate the bright stillness of the noon
without wind, without motion,
the only other living thing

a hawk, hungry for prey, suspended
in the blinding, sunlit blue.

And yet how gentle it seems to someone
raised in a landscape short of rain—
the skyline of a hill broken by no more
trees than one can count, the grass,
the empty sky, the wish for water.

*Poem copyright ©1986 by Dana Gioia, "California Hills in August," from Fire and Rain:
Ecopoetry of California (Lucille Lang Day and Ruth Nolan, Eds., Scarlet Tanager Books,
2018).*



Dried grass and wildflower seeds (c) yosemitenorthphotography.com



Donate

Copyright © 2021 Calaveras CAP, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).