



# EMERALD KEEPERS

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For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado

# HOT and GETTING HOTTER

## Local consequences of extreme heat

Coronado's mild temperatures belie the extreme heat afflicting much of San Diego, the United States, and the world. Summer 2023 has brought some of the hottest days ever recorded with approximately one-third of Americans under a heat advisory, watch or warning.

### RECORD HIGH TEMPERATURES

Scientists are reporting that July 2023 has been the hottest month on record surpassing June 2023, previously verified as the hottest month ever recorded by a substantial margin. New heat records are set almost daily with devastating consequences for millions of people, animals, and plants.

### LOCAL IMPACT

While Coronado's temperatures remain moderate, we are not immune to the impacts of extreme heat around us:

- **Energy costs.** Expect higher energy bills with increased use of air conditioning and fans.
- **Emergency resources.** Extreme heat increases demand for paramedic services, which means paramedics may not be as quick to arrive in the event of a local emergency.
- **Service disruption.** Dangerously high temperatures disrupt transportation and delivery services that are essential to bringing supplies to Coronado.
- **Air quality.** Extreme heat is a leading cause of wildfires with smoke that can blow toward Coronado, creating hazardous air quality.
- **Food supply.** Across California and the nation, agricultural areas are suffering from the extreme heat

with impacts to the abundance and cost of fresh food.

- **Power supply.** SDG&E powers much of the San Diego region, including Coronado. Increased temperatures strain the grid, potentially leading to flex alerts, rolling blackouts, or brownouts.
- **Sea level rise.** 90 percent of the Earth's trapped heat is absorbed by the ocean, which means rising ocean temperatures (the ocean off Florida was recorded at 101 degrees this month) and melting glaciers and ice sheets. The rate of sea level rise, now 0.2 inches a year, has doubled since 1990 and continues to increase. Scientists predict that by 2050 the oceans could rise 10 feet, which would put much of Coronado under water.
- **Government funds.** Costs to fight fires and implement safety measures to protect people from dangerous heat could limit funds for other uses.

### FUTURE

As predicted, 2023 is on pace to become the warmest on record causing "a threat to mankind." The return of El Niño is expected to further exacerbate high temperatures into late summer and fall suggesting limited relief from heat in the near future.

### PREVENTION

A drastic reduction in fossil fuel consumption is essential to help minimize the continued increase in temperatures devastating the world. Coronado government and residents can reconsider choices in buildings, transportation, food, and energy to make positive contributions to reduce warming temperatures keeping Coronado Emerald Green, Ocean Blue.

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