When discussing climate adaptation, it is essential to address equity & climate justice. For a range of social, economic, and institutional reasons, certain groups of people and communities are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. These groups primarily include low-income communities, people of color, immigrants, and elderly populations. This year’s California Adaptation Forum offers several sessions, workshops, and tours that will explore these topics and showcase strategies for more meaningfully addressing equity and climate justice within our adaptation efforts throughout the state.
Growing Resistance: Community Driven Land Use Decision-Making

The economy in the San Joaquin Valley is led by three industries – agriculture, oil, and land development – that contribute to environmental, political and economic disparities and are significant drivers of climate change. Community leaders are transforming these challenges into opportunities to lead the region – and nation – in confronting the impacts of climate change all while leading with principles of equity and justice.

Vulnerability Assessments - Now What? From Knowledge to Equitable Action

Although injustice is often visible without formal analysis, detailed assessments can point to unnoticed vulnerability. But then what? This session focuses on how to utilize vulnerability assessments most effectively to facilitate public dialogues, equitable policy development and actual on-the-ground planning decisions.

Place-Based, Equitable Climate Planning in Environmental Justice Communities

Low-income communities and communities of color are being hit first and worst by climate change, but community-based organizations are working with residents to build healthier, more prosperous communities that increase climate resiliency. This session will focus on how to build place-based strategies that address local environmental health and justice issues, build community leadership and capacity, increase integrated public investments, and help neighborhoods adapt to climate change.

Guidelines for Considering Traditional Knowledges in Climate Change Initiatives

As Native Tribes begin developing Adaptation Plans and contribute to State and Federal Adaptation efforts, interest in Indigenous Traditional Knowledges are increasing. This session will provide foundational information on the role of Traditional Knowledges in federal climate change initiatives and the principles of engaging with tribes.

Partnering with Communities for Equity and Problem Solving

Regardless of intentions, engagements between institutions and community residents often result in conflict. This workshop will offer participants real-world examples of conflict resolution and partnering for collaborative problem-solving to overcome the distrust inherent in these relationships.

Wither the Water? Community Organizing for Justice and Resilience to the Water-Related Impacts of Climate Change

What is your community doing to build resilience to the water-related impacts of Climate Change? Join us as we discuss examples of grassroots communities taking charge of our water destiny and pushing for a more just society through its creative re-making. Justice and equity in adaptation are our societal imperative.

Other Sessions of Interest

- Working Outside your Comfort Zone: Inspiring Hope with Diverse Partners
- Taking it to the Streets – Addressing LA Heat & Equity
- The Future is Now: Engaging Youth in Climate Change Adaptation
- Green for Green: Financing and Funding for a Resilient Future
- Looking to the Future: Creating Equitable, Post-Carbon Communities
- Green Career Pipelines for Climate Adaptation
PLENARIES AND SPECIAL FORUM FEATURES

Equity and Climate Justice Plenary Panel
This plenary panel discussion will focus on equity and climate justice in the adaptation movement. The panel brings together some of California’s leading community voices to discuss how climate change is disproportionately affecting low-income communities and communities of color; how adaptation efforts can better integrate equity considerations; and where environmental justice groups are having success working at a local, regional, or statewide level to address climate change.

Engaging Communities in Effective Problem Solving Pre-Forum Workshop
Tuesday, September 6 • 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
The Resilient Communities Initiative (RCI) presents Engaging Communities in Effective Problem Solving, a special training for government staff who work on climate resilience. Participants will explore pitfalls of community engagement and learn proven strategies to working with grassroots groups to develop a good agenda, balance discussion, resolve conflict, achieve consensus, and build partnerships. Join us for a fast-paced day of dialogue and practice that is guaranteed to improve both your outlook and your outcomes in community engagement meetings.

Multi-Stakeholder Exercise Training on Integrating Mitigation and Adaptation to Enhance Community Cohesion
Tuesday, September 6 • 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Communities across the US are already facing the devastating consequences of climate change, and it’s imperative that stakeholders across sectors and levels of government collaborate to develop sustainability and resilience solutions. This interactive and thought-provoking workshop will have participants taking on roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in a fictitious urban community facing a variety of threats, including climate change, and will be able to experience the challenges and opportunities associated with integrating mitigation and adaptation solutions through stakeholder collaboration.

Katie Valenzuela Garcia
Principal, Valenzuela Garcia Consulting

Miya Yoshitani
Exec. Dir., Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Diane Takvorian
Exec. Dir., Environmental Health Coalition

Veronica Garibay
Co Founder & Co Dir., Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability
EQUITY, CLIMATE JUSTICE AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION

MORNING NETWORKING ACTIVITIES AND LIGHTNING DISCUSSIONS

Community Driven Climate Resilience Planning

**Thursday, September 8 • 7:30 AM – 8:15 AM**

The Movement Strategy Center will host a breakfast conversation on their Community-Driven Climate Resilience Planning Framework. Current and projected climate disruptions are calling on us to take bold leaps together towards ecological approaches to decision-making and resource management. The framework offers a set of fundamental principles and practices linking mitigation and adaptation for comprehensive resilience planning, and outlines the essential elements that shape inclusive processes for community driven climate solutions.

Tribal Welcome and Networking

**Wednesday, September 7 • 7:30 AM – 8:15 AM**

The California Landscape Conservation Cooperative Tribal Team welcomes all tribal leaders, tribal staff, and those interested in partnering with native communities for the protection of cultural and natural resources in light of climate change. This informal gathering will be an excellent opportunity to engage and connect with other tribal professionals prior to the start of the Forum.

DIVING DEEPER

Want to learn more about California equity and climate justice related tools, funding opportunities, and facts? Visit our webpage at:


See what other equity and climate justice leaders across the state have to say! You can also share your story with us and others about your efforts to address equity and climate justice in your community. Visit:

[http://www.californiaadaptationforum.org/leaders/](http://www.californiaadaptationforum.org/leaders/)

Register Today!

Visit the Forum website to learn more and register!


Scholarship Opportunities

Scholarships are now available to provide registration and travel stipends to community leaders from lower-income and traditionally minority communities, and representatives from organizations whose primary work is focused on social equity, climate justice, and climate adaptation. For information on how to apply for a scholarship:


Forum Location

The Forum will be held at the Renaissance Long Beach Hotel and the Long Beach Convention Center. Accommodations will be provided at the Renaissance Long Beach Hotel.

111 East Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, California
562-437-5900

Forum Contact

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