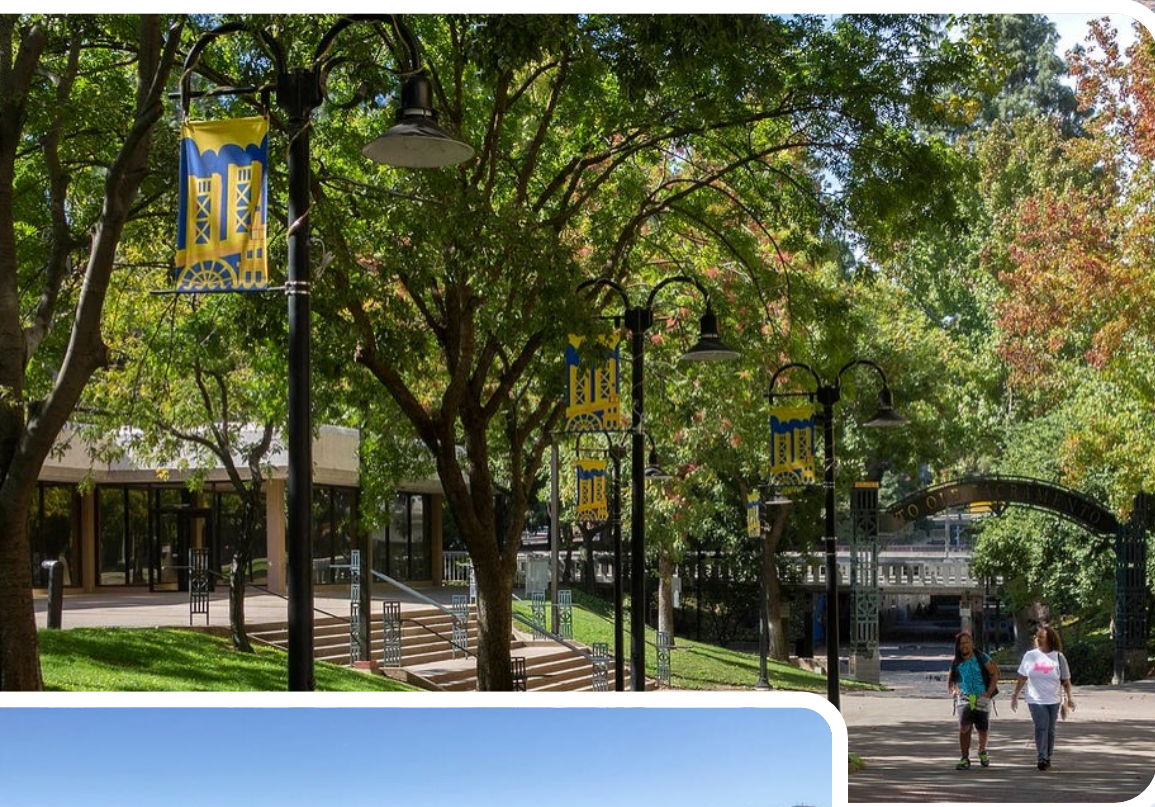


# California Adaptation Forum 2023

July 31 – August 2 | Pomona, CA



The 2023 California Adaptation Forum is hosted by CivicWell in partnership with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.





# Welcome to the 2023 California Adaptation Forum!

The 2023 California Adaptation Forum is taking place on Tongva and Kizh (Gabrielino) homelands, who are the original communities of this land. We acknowledge the Los Angeles region remains home to the Tataviam (Fernandeño) Yuhaaviatam/Maarenga'yam (Serrano), Chumash, Acjachemen (Juaneño) ̓vilyu'atem (Cahuilla), Payómkawichum (Luiseño), and innumerable other Indigenous communities.

After five long years of going virtual, we're thrilled to bring the biennial California Adaptation Forum (CAF) back, live and in person! This comes at a time that couldn't be more opportune with unprecedented levels of climate resilience investments on the horizon and many federal, state, philanthropic, and private funding opportunities already at our doorstep.

It is undeniable that we are in the midst of a climate crisis. From rising temperatures to rising seas, the impacts of climate change will only become more frequent and severe over time. The urgency for immediate and sustained adaptation efforts is clear — and, with improved climate data and models at our fingertips, growing commitments to center equity and meaningfully involve marginalized communities in decision-making, and an ever-growing set of successful pilot projects and strategies to turn to, the momentum for equitable adaptation action has reached new heights.

Converting ideas into action, principles into practice, and good intentions into tangible benefits, however, can be riddled with challenges. This is especially true as we all navigate ongoing capacity constraints and as adaptation work becomes increasingly complex.

Luckily, you're here, at California's largest adaptation convening, surrounded by climate leaders from across the state representing a diversity of sectors, disciplines, and backgrounds. This year's program was designed with this in mind, to create space for peer exchange through interactive sessions that can provide tangible learnings and lasting connections.

We thank you for taking precious time to join us and for your tireless efforts towards creating a climate-resilient future, especially for our most marginalized and under-resourced communities. We hope your CAF experience leaves you energized, inspired, and equipped to continue your adaptation journey.

## CROSS-CUTTING PROGRAM TRACKS



**Actionable Science:** Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Community Science, and New Research, Models & Tools



**Critical Infrastructure:** Resilient Systems for Built Environments, Natural & Working Lands, & Social Cohesion



**It Takes a Village:** Multi-sector and Multi-jurisdictional Collaboratives, Initiatives, and Partnerships



**Marrying Movements:** Bridging Climate Resilience with Parallel Climate-supportive Movements



**People Power:** Capacity Building, Community Empowerment, and Workforce Development



**Place-Based Projects:** Localized Solutions for Climate and Community Resilience



**Resources for Resilience:** Public, Private, Philanthropic, and Community-led Funding and Financing Mechanisms



**Systems Change:** Transformative and Adaptive Structures, Policies, and Practices



**Tried and True:** Adaptation Success Stories and Replicable Resilience Strategies

## BREAKOUT SESSION FORMATS

**Birds of a Feather** aim to facilitate networking and peer-to-peer learning among attendees

**World Cafés** feature multiple rounds of small group discussions or topic-based tables for attendees to visit throughout the session

**Solution Rooms** provide space for attendees to bring their own issues for collaborative problem-solving in small groups

**Think Tanks** focus on a defined challenge for participants to explore collaboratively

**Trainings** aim to present or demonstrate a particular approach, framework, tool, method, or skill, followed by hands-on exercises and/or small group discussions

**Lightning Presentations** feature a series of brief presentations, followed by a panel discussion and/or small group discussions

**Traditional Presentations** feature a series of presentations typically followed by Q&A

Please note that individual session formats may vary from the above descriptions

The first day of the 2023 California Adaptation Forum features **4 tours** and **22 workshops** across three main blocks: **Morning Block** **Afternoon Block 1** **Afternoon Block 2**

Participants can check-in at the CAF registration desk between 7:30am - 3:00pm.

Please note that forum meals are not provided on Monday. Select partner-led workshops may provide refreshments; however, we recommend participants to grab breakfast before 9:00am, prior to the start of morning workshops, and lunch between 12:00-1:00pm.

## TOURS

Please visit the registration desk by **8:00am** if you are interested in joining a tour.

### 1 **CultivaLA: Ecological Urban Agriculture in Los Angeles**

9:00am - 12:00pm • **1210 Lerma Road, South El Monte, CA (meet in hotel lobby by 8:15am)**

The CultivaLA Walking Tour will examine the cross-pollination of urban agriculture and ecological stewardship, wellness and community engagement at a 6.5 acre community garden and farm in South El Monte. Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about innovative and replicable strategies related to Workforce Development; Organic Waste Recycling (SB 1383), and Flood Management. Light refreshments – a seasonal tasting of the garden – will be provided.

- Jose Miguel Ruiz | Founder and CEO, CultivaLA, Inc.
- Terumi Garcia & Shay'La Price | CA Climate Action Corps Fellow, CultivaLA, Inc.

### 2 **Climate Adaptation & Biodiversity at California Botanic Garden**

9:00am - 12:00pm • **1500 N College Avenue, Claremont CA (meet onsite by 9:00am)**

At 86 acres, California Botanic Garden is the largest garden devoted entirely to California Native Plants. The garden's mission of advancing knowledge, conservation, and appreciation of California native plants is carried out not only on site, but also out in the mountains, deserts, chaparral, and woodlands throughout California. Learn about CalBG's conservation and research efforts to ensure the future of California plant biodiversity by touring the garden and seed bank.

- Jennifer Scerra | Assistant Director of Visitor Engagement, California Botanic Garden

### 3 **Adapting the Electrical Grid for Today and Tomorrow**

9:00am - 12:30pm • **6090 N. Irwindale Avenue, Irwindale, CA (meet onsite by 9:30am)**

This tour features SCE's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and its Food Technology Center (FTC). The EOC "control center" tour will provide insights into how a utility plans, monitors, and activates to manage its massive grid for extreme weather events. Next, through a tour and light hands-on cooking exercise at the FTC, participants will learn about a variety of induction and electric cooking options from some of the preeminent induction experts in the country.

- Haig Kartounian | Public Affairs Manager, Southern California Edison

### 4 **CHERP Solar Works - The World's First Nonprofit Solar Module Assembly Factory**

1:00pm - 2:45pm • **1460 East Holt Ave. Suite 1440, Pomona, CA (meet onsite by 1:00pm)**

Participants will get a first-hand look at how CHERP's solar modules are made and learn what makes them revolutionary compared to other solar panels. Participants will also learn about CHERP's larger vision for creating local resiliency and energy equity through localized energy production and distribution, a nonprofit deployment model, and the impact this is having in Pomona and beyond.

- Megan Anderson | Director of Admin, CHERP, Inc.

## MORNING BLOCK

7 concurrent workshops starting at 9:00am & 10:00am

### 1 ARCCA Member Meeting (by invitation only)

9:00am - 12:00pm • [Vineyard III](#)

### 2 Performing Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessments at Contaminated Sites in California

9:00am - 12:00pm • [Sonoma 3](#)

The California Department of Toxic Substances (DTSC) has developed draft guidance for DTSC project managers to evaluate vulnerability to sea-level rise to contaminated site cleanup. The guidance will be used to evaluate SLRVAs prepared by responsible parties (RPs), determine adaptive capacity of selected remedy and direct RPs to develop an adaptation plan. Successful implementation of climate-resilient remediation programs will rely on understanding DTSC's process for evaluating SLRVAs as well as the availability and appropriate use of current and evolving datasets. This workshop will provide industry professionals, regulators and policy planners with an overview of DTSC's process, additional guidance from EPA, and implementation of similar processes in other states, and cover established GIS-based datasets and modeling tools.

- Raghu Suribhatla | Senior Engineer, Haley & Aldrich
- Daniele Spirandelli | Climate Resilience Specialist, Haley & Aldrich

### 3 Pomona's Community-focused Approach to Transformative Climate Solutions

10:00am - 11:30am • [Sonoma 2](#)

The Pomona community bears the highest relative pollution burden and is predominantly Latino with many low income families. The City, along with several CBOs and non-profits has engaged in a number of outreach efforts to learn about the hopes and visions community members had for the City of Pomona and what they thought was necessary to make it a climate-friendly, resilient city and ready it to submit for a TCC Implementation Grant. This workshop will guide participants through the strategies and approaches to engaging with communities and developing GHG-reducing projects. Participants will learn best practices for coordinating with multiple partners, including local governments and CBOs to design impactful and community-focused climate solutions.

- Laurel Rothschild | Vice President, The Energy Coalition
- Mayor Tim Sandoval | City of Pomona
- Katherine Caberera | Program Manager, Capacity Building, The Greenlining Institute
- Christy Zamani | Executive Director, Day One
- Stella Ursua | Sr. Programs & Partnerships Manager, GRID Alternatives-Greater Los Angeles

### 4 Driving Transformational Change for California Communities

10:00am - 12:00pm • [Sonoma 1](#)

Join Build It Green for a uniquely facilitated dialogue with peers to meet the California Housing System Innovators Network, a cross-section of housing changemakers across California committed to equitable, affordable, and environmentally vital neighborhoods. Participants will explore new ways to build the resilience and adaptability of people and place through an introduction to the Network's current initiatives grounded in regeneration, living systems-thinking, and place-based capacity building. Participants will also envision the potential of cross-sector collaboration of housing and community development projects that improve outcomes for society and the planet.

- Cerena Harrison | Senior Program Manager, Build It Green
- Josh Meyer | Community Design Program Director, CivicWell
- Jeremy Madsen | Executive Director, Build It Green

## 5 **Designing Equitable Regional Guidelines for Sea Level Rise Adaptation in the Bay Area** 10:00am - 12:00pm • [Vineyard I/II](#)

In the San Francisco Bay Area, an effort called Bay Adapt, led by the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), is developing a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan that will create regional guidelines that lead to more equitable and coordinated local adaptation. What do equitable guidelines look like? In this session, participants will explore what it takes to create guidelines to address key issues and prioritize vulnerable communities. After breaking into groups, participants will be given scenarios based on real-world issues and work together to develop their own guidelines, which will be discussed and evaluated throughout the activity. Participants will leave with a greater understanding of equity in adaptation planning and the ability to evaluate how well solutions hold up when it comes to providing equitable outcomes. Insights from this workshop will also help inform the ongoing work in developing Regional Guidelines to support sea level rise adaptation planning in the Bay Area. Participants from anywhere are welcome to join!

- Jaclyn Mandoske | Sr. Climate Adaptation Planner, BCDC
- Phoenix Armenta | Sr. Manager for Climate Equity and Community Engagement, BCDC
- Dana Brechwald | Assistant Planning Director for Climate Adaptation, BCDC
- Zoe Siegel | Sr. Director of Climate Resilience, Greenbelt Alliance
- Victor Flores | Resilience Manager, Greenbelt Alliance
- Tim Mollette-Parks | Designer/Partner, Mithun

## 6 **Communicating Climate Adaptation: A Toolkit for Whole Community Engagement** 10:00am - 12:00pm • [California 3](#)

Join us for an engaging workshop designed to empower professionals in the field of climate adaptation communication. This workshop will equip you with invaluable tips and tools for engaging property owners, elected officials, and entire communities. Whether you communicate in-person, through print materials, or online platforms, we'll explore the importance of crafting messages that truly resonate with your audience by drawing inspiration from the renowned FEMA-based approach for audience identification and message development. Prepare to discover how branding, taglines, storytelling, documentation, and art can serve as potent climate adaptation strategies themselves. America Adapts host, Doug Parsons, will also demonstrate why podcasting is a must-have tool in your adaptation toolkit. This workshop promises to be a transformative experience, enabling you to elevate your communication skills and make a lasting impact in the realm of climate adaptation.

- Lisa Craig | President, The Craig Group Partners, LLC
- Doug Parsons | Host/Director, America Adapts Media

## 7 **Moving from Vulnerability Assessments to Implementable Adaptation Plans** 10:00am - 12:00pm • [California 2](#)

NOAA research has shown that many agencies who embark on Adaptation Planning spend most of their time on vulnerability assessments and strategy development and almost none on implementation. Numerous hazards, rapidly changing conditions, and multiple stakeholders and actors make addressing vulnerabilities an overwhelming prospect. This workshop will share an approach based on a current County Adaptation Plan effort to develop priorities and create a focused adaptation plan that is manageable and feasible for a jurisdiction to enact. The workshop will include a presentation, an illustrative case study, and small group conversations and exercises designed to help you think about how to design future plans or make current efforts more effective.

- Mindy Craig | Principal, BluePoint Planning
- Hayley Padden | Project Associate, BluePoint Planning
- Whitney Wilkinson | Senior Planner, Planning & Development, County of Santa Barbara
- Reema Shakra | Principal, Rincon Consultants

## AFTERNOON BLOCK 1

8 concurrent workshops starting at 1:00pm & 2:00pm

### 1 Putting the Public back into Infrastructure Design, Monitoring & Maintenance

1:00 - 2:30pm • [California 2](#)

Adaptation investments are expensive and last for decades, yet face many challenges. Funding for infrastructure rarely covers engagement or monitoring & evaluation. Data is not granular enough, so we risk building the wrong projects, in the wrong places. The solution? Climate stewards. Join us to discuss how to cultivate community stewardship of public places. We will cover how cities and counties have used ISeeChange to engage communities in collecting weather impact data, and how this ground-truthing led to millions of dollars of infrastructure being redirected to the right places.

- Julia Drapkin | CEO, ISeeChange
- Sarah-Mae Nelson | Climate Stewards Initiative Academic Coordinator, UC ANR

### 2 Innovations for a Changing World: The Era of Immersive, Interactive Engagement

1:00 - 2:30pm • [California 3](#)

Discover the potential of Virtual and Augmented Reality (VR and AR) in inspiring climate action in this interactive workshop. Immersive experiences have a unique power - they can forge emotional connections, stimulate cognitive processing, build self-efficacy, and leverage the potent force of social influence. You'll be among the first to try our latest AR tool dedicated to coastal resilience. With features including simultaneous viewing and live interaction with 3D models, annotations, and screen sharing, you'll be fully equipped to discover effective solutions for your coastal regions.

- Juliano Calil | Founder, Virtual Planet

### 3 Empathy for Earthlings: A Workshop in Holistic Perspective-Taking

1:00 - 2:30pm • [Vineyard I/II](#)

As human-centered researchers, designers, and planners, we know that understanding the experiences of others brings immeasurable value to our work. Join this experiential learning session in cognitive perspective-taking at the level of person-to-person, and person-to-planet. We will first unpack the three types of empathy: Affective (feeling), Somatic (experiencing), and Cognitive (understanding), and practice deep listening. We'll then extend our antennae to the complex impacts of climate change, sharing actionable tools to integrate the perspectives of the greater living world into our decision-making frameworks, adaptation strategies, and daily interactions.

- Karen Faith | Ethnographer, Empathy Trainer, Founder and CEO, Others Unlimited
- Anna Kladzyk Constantino | Senior Engineer, FlowWest

### 4 A Just Transition for Logistics

1:00 - 2:30pm • [Sonoma 1](#)

For many years, community organizations have pushed for greater accountability from polluters in the transportation, distribution, and logistics sector. CARB's new Advanced Clean Fleets rule creates benchmarks for fleet and warehouse operators to comply with these demands. However, private companies are not always concerned with the real people affected by their sustainability goals. This workshop will discuss needs and challenges toward a just transition for logistics in the most impacted communities - those by the ports and along the 10/60 and 5 freeways. Participants are encouraged to come prepared to share their local challenges and solutions.

- Andrea Vidaurre | Senior Policy Analyst, People's Collective for Environmental Justice
- Ivette Torres | Research Consultant, People's Collective for Environmental Justice

**5 Learn to Use Climate Data & Tools for Decision-Making in CA through Cal-Adapt**1:00 - 2:30pm • **California 1**

The California Energy Commission funded Cal-Adapt enterprise is the state's primary source for the latest downscaled climate data. The enterprise includes the Cal-Adapt: Analytics Engine, an effort producing analytical tools for users to easily perform tailored analyses for specific applications such as identifying vulnerable assets or generating time-series climate profiles. In this workshop, participants will learn about Cal-Adapt & the Analytics Engine, data & tools, and the iterative stakeholder engagement process through which tools were developed. Presentations will be followed by hands-on demonstrations and interactive working sessions where participants will see the tools in action.

- Nancy Thomas | Executive Director, Geospatial Innovation Facility (UC Berkeley)
- Grace Di Cecco | Postdoctoral Researcher, Cal-Adapt & Eagle Rock Analytics
- Nancy Freitas | Stakeholder Engagement Co-Lead, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab
- Justine Bui | Technical Project Manager, Spatial Informatics Group

**6 Advancing Climate Collaboration in Inland Southern California: An ISC3 Symposium**1:00 - 2:45pm • **Sonoma 2**

The Inland SoCal Climate Collaborative (ISC3) welcomes its members, stakeholders from across the inland regions, and CAF attendees to a public convening on regionally responsive climate planning, best practices, and opportunities ahead. Attendees will hear from local leaders, learn about exciting efforts happening in the region, and have opportunities to connect and collaborate with climate-focused stakeholders. This dynamic meeting will offer a mix of speakers, fast pitch presentations, facilitated dialogues, and networking. The event will focus on topics and themes that uniquely affect the Inland Empire, Coachella Valley, Imperial Valley, and other nearby geographies.

- Ari Simon | Interim Director, Inland SoCal Climate Collaborative (ISC3)

**7 BayCAN Member Event: Connecting on Bay Area Adaptation (by invitation only)**1:00 - 2:45pm • **Vineyard IV****8 Planning for Rising Seas and Storms: Episode 4 - A New Hope**2:00 - 4:30pm • **Sonoma 3**

Are you an aspiring adaptation Jedi seeking to protect communities, resources, and economies amid changing coastal conditions? Come trade stories about your challenges and strategies for effective and timely adaptation planning. The Coastal Commission Local Government Sea Level Rise Working Group is working to identify new options for phased and regional approaches to adaptation planning. The Working Group will share its ideas and initiatives and invite all perspectives, examples and questions from California agencies, cities, counties, planners and regional planning organizations. The session will begin with a 1-hour presentation and discussion of new approaches to coastal adaptation planning, followed by an opportunity for one-on-one and small group interaction with Commissioners, Commission staff, and officials and staff from coastal jurisdictions.

The session will conclude with a reception from 4:30-5:00pm.

- Caelan McGee | Facilitator, California Coastal Commission Local Government Sea Level Rise Working Group
- Dr. Kate Huckelbridge | Executive Director, California Coastal Commission
- Bruce Gibson | Supervisor, District 2, San Luis Obispo County, California
- Sue Beckmeyer | Council Member, City of Pacifica
- Eric Freidman | Council Member, City of Santa Barbara
- Carey Batha | Climate Change Specialist, California Coastal Commission



## AFTERNOON BLOCK 2

7 concurrent workshops starting at 3:00pm

### 1 100 Ways the Future Can Be Different: Futures Thinking Training

3:00 - 4:30pm • **Sonoma 1**

This Fast Futures training by Institute for the Future is a 90-minute, introductory level learning experience that will teach you how to get started with your own foresight practice. Foresight is the ability to think effectively about how the future might be different so that you can prepare for challenges and start to make your community more future-ready. This session is for you if: 1) you're curious about foresight, but don't know anything about it yet. 2) you want to learn a few habits that can help you spot changes faster to adapt faster. 3) you're excited to stretch your imagination. 4) you want to take away practical skills you can share with others. Application areas of this skill set include: using foresight as a tool for building community power in diverse communities, planning a future-ready region to make the most of funding sources like the Community Economic Resilience Fund & the Inflation Reduction Act, and more. For more about your hosts, go to [www.iff.org](http://www.iff.org).

- Rachel Hatch | COO, Institute for the Future

### 2 Planscape Workshop: Explore the Decision Support Tool for Resilience

3:00 - 4:30pm • **Vineyard I/II**

Planscape is the new decision support tool for planning to maximize wildfire resilience and ecological benefits. Planscape has been built by the CNRA, the USFS, The Wildfire Taskforce, Google.org and Spatial Informatics Group (SIG). During the workshop you'll learn about the data and science behind Planscape, and see live demonstrations of how it can be used to explore data layers, define projects, weigh priorities and generate projects to optimize resilience and the many co-benefits. Workshop participants will be able to learn and explore Planscape on their own devices, provide feedback to the developers and ask questions from the presenters.

- Carrie Levine | Domain Lead, Forests & Agriculture, Spatial Informatics Group
- Michele Turner | Product Lead, Planscape, Spatial Informatics Group

### 3 Decision Support Tools for Climate Adaptation: Updates, Needs, and Opportunities

3:00 - 5:00pm • **California 2**

Information on climate change is one of our best resources for adaptation planning. Scientists have a strong understanding of climate trends, and have developed many impact models. Despite progress on both ends of the spectrum, decision support that combines climate trends and impact analyses for specific contexts is still in its infancy. This workshop will bring together an interdisciplinary group of scientists, agricultural and natural resources businesses, and state agencies to share existing decision support, discuss needs, and identify gaps, with particular focus on diverse and historically underserved populations. Participants will participate in breakout groups to share their experiences of making difficult decisions about adaptation in the face of uncertainty, discuss where the research and funding communities should focus their efforts to improve decision support, and join an informal network of practitioners and advisors to continue the conversations after the Forum.

- Tapan Pathak | Cooperative Extension Specialist, UC Merced
- Andy Lyons | Program Coordinator, UC Division of Ag and Natural Resources
- Bob Klein | Manager, California Pistachio Research Board
- Janet Hartin | CE Advisor, UC ANR
- Michael Wolff | Senior Environmental Scientist, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- Romain Maendly | Climate Change Technical and Policy Advisor, DWR



**4 CAF Mentor/Mentee Program**3:00 - 5:00pm • **Sonoma 2**

The Mentorship Program is intended to provide an environment that fosters learning and promotes personal and professional growth for professionals in the climate adaptation sector.

As a Mentee, you will build lasting connections with climate adaptation leaders from across the state and receive one-on-one guidance and support from a seasoned professional in your field of interest during CAF.

As a Mentor, you would act as a valuable resource to facilitate learning and growth for early professionals by sharing your experiences, knowledge, and wisdom, and help your mentee navigate CAF in a way that supports and aligns with their professional goals and aspirations.

- Julianna DeNike | Climate & Energy Project Manager, CivicWell

**5 California's Climate Change Assessment: Informing Local and Regional Action**3:00 - 6:00pm • **California 1**

Worse and more frequent extreme weather events are impacting the state every year, making up-to-date information on climate change imperative to driving sound policy and investment decisions. California's Climate Change Assessments contribute to the scientific foundation for understanding climate-related vulnerability at the regional and local scale. Starting this year, California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment will develop Regional Reports to strengthen the understanding of climate impacts at the local level and inform the development of resilience actions across the state. These reports will use the original research, data, and models produced throughout the Fifth Assessment to synthesize information that meets the needs of regions throughout the state.

This session is an opportunity to provide input on the priority themes and approach for developing reports that prioritize community engagement and learn how to use Fifth Assessment resources for local and regional decision-making.

- Emely Anico | Strategic Engagement Specialist, CA Strategic Growth Council

**6 Death by a Thousand Breaths: A Gaming for Justice Dungeons and Dragons Adventure**3:00 - 6:00pm • **California 3**

Using a combination of oral storytelling, artistic depictions, and music, Mycelium Youth Network will run an immersive in-person gaming experience based in our Gaming for Justice environmental justice universe. Depending on interest, 2 -3 teams of 6 to 7 will participate in a 2.5 to 3 hour-long campaign that will feature team building challenges and storytelling puzzles as adventurers work to gather evidence and expose the evil secrets at the center of the manufacturing plant that is causing significant air pollution and lung health to the local community. The community must prove that the potion plant is the source of the pollution that is also directly increasing emissions and raising temperatures for local politicians to act. Adventurers must decide as a team how they will assist the town in gathering evidence and uncovering the dangerous secret lurking in the potion plant's underground storage facility.

- Lil Milagro Henriquez | Executive Director & Founder, Mycelium Youth Network
- Marcy Brown | Lead Storyteller & Game Designer, Mycelium Youth Network

**7 CRP: Advisory Board Meeting & Funders Gathering (by invitation only)**3:00 - 6:00pm • **Vineyard III**

CAF Day 2 starts with the **Forum Welcome** and ends with a **Hosted Networking Reception**. The program features **2 plenary sessions**, as well as **36 breakout sessions** across four blocks:

**Session Block A**

**Session Block B**

**Session Block C**

**Session Block D**

The CAF registration desk will be open, 7:00am - 3:00pm, for participants to check-in.

## 7:00-8:00am | NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Join us for breakfast to fuel up for a busy day of learning, sharing, networking, and collaborating around all things climate adaptation! We invite you to take advantage of this time to connect with CAF sponsors and explore the plethora of resources displayed throughout the main hallway!

## 8:00-8:30am | FORUM WELCOME

### Welcome to the 2023 California Adaptation Forum!

CivicWell and the State of California are excited to welcome the CAF community back together in person, and we extend our deepest thanks to each of you for joining us for this gathering!

- Bernadette Austin | Chief Executive Officer, CivicWell
- Sam Assefa | Director, California Governor's Office of Planning and Research
- Mayor Tim Sandoval | City of Pomona

## 8:30-9:45am | OPENING PLENARY

### Climate Resilience in Action: A Spotlight on Southern California

What does climate adaptation and community resilience look like in practice at the local and regional scale? How are partners working together to make meaningful progress towards adaptation goals while creating an enabling environment for sustained action – and to tackle the more difficult challenges that lie ahead? Our opening plenary session shines a spotlight on our hosting region, straddling Greater Los Angeles and Inland Southern California, providing a platform for local and regional leaders to share their visions and stories. Panelists will translate broader adaptation principles into real-world examples of how they are leveraging their authority and the power of partnerships to transition from adaptation planning to implementation. Participants will also get a peek behind the scenes into the lessons being learned as new, innovative approaches are pioneered throughout the region.

- Jonathan Parfrey | Executive Director, Climate Resolve (moderator)
- Rudy Ortega Jr. | Tribal President, Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
- Kome Ajise | Executive Director, SCAG
- Rita Kampalath | Active Chief Sustainability Officer, County of Los Angeles
- Fortino Morales III | Sustainability Officer, UC Riverside

## 9:45-10:15am | NETWORKING BREAK

You may have noticed a new addition to your name badge: *Let's Talk About \_\_\_\_*. We encourage you to take advantage of this extended networking break to find participants who share common areas of interest with you to enrich your CAF experience!

**9:45-10:15am | SESSION BLOCK A***9 concurrent breakout sessions organized by Program Track***1 Water in Coastal CA: Everything, Everywhere, and All at Once****California 1** • **Track 1: Actionable Science** • World Café

Climate impacts from sea level rise-driven coastal flooding, emergent groundwater, and extreme precipitation, cooccur and cause extensive disruptions up and down the California coast. Traditional adaptation planning often neglects to address the compounding nature of these hazards. In this World Café, participants are invited to share their experiences and knowledge as we collectively brainstorm equitable adaptation strategies that address the confluence of groundwater, sea level rise, and extreme precipitation. Following short presentations on emerging science, we will focus our discussion on East Palo Alto, CA – a San Francisco Bay Area neighborhood that experiences all these hazards today. Insights from the session will be shared in a white paper following the forum.

- Juliette Finzi Hart | Director, Science Policy & Engagement, Pathways Climate Institute (mod.)
- Mike Mak | Director of Innovation, Flood Risk/Climate Adaptation, Pathways Climate Institute
- Sarah Atkinson | Earthquake Resilience Policy Manager, SPUR
- Rosa Nelson | Water Justice Program Coordinator, Nuestra Casa de East Palo Alto

**2 State Route 37: Bridging the Needs of a Diverse Region Facing Climate Change****Vineyard IV** • **Track 2: Critical Infrastructure** • Training

Caltrans' Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study holistically integrates transportation, climate change, and related environmental, social, and economic challenges. Caltrans' PEL process engaged stakeholders to advance corridor-wide solutions that more than a decade of prior actions could not achieve. The need for a long term solution for the 21-mile-long SR 37 is highly complex and urgent: it serves as a connection for disadvantaged communities to access jobs and housing but is poorly served by public transportation; it also crosses sensitive tidal marsh areas, biological preserves, and extensive farmlands. Much of the corridor is vulnerable to flood-related closures and is projected to become permanently submerged due to sea level rise by 2100. This session explores the benefits of the SR 37 PEL process and how it could be applied to other infrastructure projects.

- John Cook | Managing Director, ICF Jones & Stokes (moderator)
- Stefanie Lyster | Managing Director, Communications, ICF
- Ricky Gao | District Division Chief/Principal Transportation Engineer, Caltrans
- Christopher Caputo | District Division Chief, Caltrans

**3 From Investigation to Strategy: A Regional Approach to Climate Adaptation****California 2** • **Track 3: It Takes A Village** • Solution Room

Join us in conversation about the pursuit of a coordinated regional climate adaptation strategy. The Bay Area Regional Collaborative and the Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network will share takeaways from building system maps of the roles, responsibilities, and relationships of regionally-focused agencies with each other, other layers of government, and local efforts in adapting to climate hazards. This effort also unveiled opportunities for collaboration to achieve a Regional MultiHazard Climate Adaptation Plan and Technical Assistance Program that equitably support on-the-ground efforts at the local, sub-regional and regional scales. Panelists will provide project background and context; then small working groups will delve into emerging themes and challenges of a regional approach: scaling up, equity, capacity, community participation, and technical assistance.

- Josh Bradt | Program Coordinator, Bay Area Regional Collaborative (moderator)
- Shelley Jiang | Senior Climate Adaptation Specialist, AECOM
- Christina Oraftik | Program Manager, Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network



#### 4 Leveraging Public Health Agencies to Support Your Climate Resilience Goals

Sonoma 1 • Track 4: [Marrying Movements](#) • Think Tank

In this session, attendees will learn how to leverage the persuasive power of public health to achieve their own climate goals. Attendees will hear from CDC Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) grantees how State and local health departments work across sectors to advance climate resilience and address health and equity of impacted communities. Speakers will share tools, resources, and real-world examples of how public health supports various departments and organizations. By the end of this session, attendees will have: 1) increased understanding about the role of public health in climate resilience; 2) tools and resources to advance collaboration; 3) brainstormed opportunities to apply these lessons to their own practice; and 4) connections to public health practitioners and other attendees interested in interdisciplinary collaboration.

- Tonya Veitch | Senior Sustainability Analyst, County of Santa Clara (moderator)
- William Jardell | CalBRACE Project Coordinator, California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- Susan Lowery | Health Program Specialist, County of Santa Clara Public Health Department
- Matt Wolff | Climate and Health Manager, San Francisco Department of Public Health
- Abigail Ramirez | Energy and Weatherization Program and Policy Specialist, CDPH

#### 5 Better Together: Relationship Building for Community Organizations & Planners

California 3 • Track 5: [People Power](#) • Birds of a Feather

There is significant overlap between the needs that community-based organizations (CBOs) address and adaptation measures to mitigate the impacts of extreme heat, poor air quality, wildfire, and extreme weather events. This structured networking session focuses on expanding relationships between CBOs, public and private sector planners, and other institutions to broaden the network of adaptation leaders and catalyze individual action. We aim to build connections between planners and CBOs whose primary missions do not explicitly cover climate change – like organizations that act on housing justice, environmental justice, and public health. We will discuss collaborative models to support CBOs in integrating climate change as part of their mission and services, such as co-creating climate trainings and community-led research. We hope public sector planners generate ideas about collaborative efforts with CBOs in their region, and consider establishing new processes that respectfully integrate the expertise of CBOs to create equitable climate policies and programs.

- Robyn Wong | Climate Action and Resiliency Planner, Raimi + Associates (moderator)
- Lillian Mensah | Intermediate Planner/Designer, Raimi + Associates
- Chelsea Kirk | Director of Policy and Research, Strategic Actions for a Just Economy
- Juan Reynoso | Senior Planner and Researcher, Raimi + Associates

#### 6 Scaling Resilience Hubs across CA: Lessons from Boyle Heights, LA

Sonoma 3 • Track 6: [Place-based Projects](#) • Training

Partners are activating LA's Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory as a pilot resilience hub: a trusted space, retrofitted for disasters, that enables residents to access climate emergency services and acts as social infrastructure everyday. Leveraging a new action-oriented Toolkit, participants will explore lessons from the pilot in integrating infrastructure upgrades and developing community co-designed social programming. After hearing from hub leaders, participants will form breakouts to workshop key topics including: community-led design processes; State funding opportunities and integration with philanthropic and other public streams; and social programming components. Participants will leave having identified potential scaling pathways in their own communities.

- Natalie Hernandez | Director, Resilience & Organizational Strategy, Climate Resolve (mod.)
- Stephanie Monte | Educator and Multimedia Journalist, Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory
- Andres Rodriguez | Climate Planning & Resilience Coordinator, Climate Resolve
- Thelma Briseño | Senior Director, Energy & Water Programs, Climate Resolve

**7 Equitable Funding Hackathon: Charting a Path Forward for Place-Based Resilience**

Vineyard III • [Track 7: Resources for Resilience](#) • Think Tank

Billions of private and public dollars are supporting climate resilience infrastructure and programs. But how much of that funding will directly support grassroots organizations and community-led projects? Our Think Tank session will dive into challenges, explore tangible models, and chart a path forward to redirect funds for community resilience projects and organizations - focusing on small scale place-based programs that could lead to big results. We will begin with panel perspectives on addressing the countless barriers to equitable funding before turning the discussion to participants to work in small groups to co-envision a “Just Resilience Fund” model. We hope these models will eventually inform scalable investments in place-based grassroots community resilience projects.

- Susan Silber | Project Director, Collective Resilience (moderator)
- Nahal Ghoghaie Ipakchi | Senior Director, Kearns & West
- Phoenix Armenta | Sr. Manager for Climate Equity and Community Engagement, BCDC
- Patti D'Angelo Juachon | Program Director, Marin Community Foundation
- Violet Wulf-Saena | Executive Director, Climate Resilient Communities

**8 Reflecting on the State of California's Adaptation Actions and Future Efforts**

Vineyard I/II • [Track 8: Systems Change](#) • World Café

The CA Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), in coordination with the Office of Planning and Research, updates the California Climate Adaptation Strategy (Strategy) every 3 years. A draft update to the Strategy is due January 2024. AB-1384 (2022) requires CNRA to center equity, include new content, such as metrics to evaluate progress, and enhance engagement with local and regional entities. This session will explore what worked and did not work in the most recent update to the Strategy (2021) and the state's current implementation progress, as well as how the next update can better engage Californians and communicate how the state is building climate resilience. This engaging World Café functions as one of the first opportunities for public input on the 2024 Adaptation Strategy update.

- Amanda Hansen | Deputy Secretary for Climate Change, CNRA (moderator)
- Jenn Phillips | Assistant Secretary for Climate Change, CNRA
- Saharnaz Mirzazad | Chief Deputy Director of Planning and Climate Policy, OPR
- Le-Quyen Nguyen | Deputy Secretary for Energy, CNRA
- Darwin Moosavi | Deputy Secretary for Environmental Policy, CA State Transportation Agency
- Clesi Bennett | Sr. Environmental Scientist, CNRA

**9 Innovations in Adaptation: Lessons from the Adaptation Planning Grant Program**

Sonoma 2 • [Track 9: Tried and True](#) • Lightning Presentations

Join us as we delve into best practices that have emerged from projects funded by Caltrans Climate Adaptation Planning Grants. Over the past decade, this program has been a driving force behind resilience planning, distributing tens of millions of dollars for local and regional projects. We will highlight several studies from across the state with project leaders sharing their lessons learned. Participants will learn about innovative adaptation strategies for local and regional roads, railways, bikeways, trails, bridges, ports, and airports to address risks from sea level rise, wildfires, landslides, extreme heat, flooding, and drought. The program's pivotal contribution to equity consideration in adaptation planning through the development of inclusive practices will also be showcased.

- Jack Hogan | Climate Risk and Resilience Engineer, Arup (co-moderator)
- Leah Fisher | Office Chief of Air Quality & Climate Change, Caltrans (co-moderator)
- Cristina Bejarano | Resilience and Adaptation Planner, WRT
- Kris May | CEO/Founder/Principal, Pathways Climate Institute
- Whitney Brennan | Landscape Resilience Program Supervisor, California Tahoe Conservancy

**11:45am - 1:00pm | NETWORKING LUNCH****Strategy Session: Rising to the NOAA Regional Resilience Challenge**12:00-1:00pm • **Sonoma 1**

Historic federal funding opportunities can provide critical resources to support California shoreline adaptation and other climate resilience work. The competitive NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge makes available \$575M to support both collaborative planning efforts and large-scale implementation projects to build the resilience of coastal communities and regions. Join California climate leaders for a strategic working session for those seriously considering applying for the current Resilience Regional Challenge (for which LOIs are due August 21). This session is aimed at high-level discussions for those interested in sharing and collaborating with other potential grantees and in learning how proposed projects fit in the broader California adaptation landscape. Time permitting, participants will also discuss other upcoming federal funding opportunities and identify opportunities for collaboration to develop the most successful and competitive projects across California.

- Jenn Phillips | Assistant Secretary for Climate Change, CA Natural Resources Agency
- Sara Aminzadeh | Deputy Secretary of External Affairs, CA Natural Resources Agency

**Interested in connecting with participants on another topic?**

We invite you to use our conference app (Whova) to organize a discussion over lunch that other interested participants can join you for. If you need any assistance or materials, come find us at the registration desk – we're always happy to help!

**1:00-2:15pm | PLENARY SESSION #2****People Power: Economic and Workforce Development for Climate Resilience**

How can we build climate resilience in ways that expand economic opportunities, particularly in our most underserved and under-resourced communities? Where do we need to invest in workforce development - across public, private, and nonprofit sectors and the trades - to accelerate and sustain our transition from adaptation planning to implementation? Our second plenary session explores the complicated reality of advancing climate adaptation projects that are intentionally centered in equity, quality jobs, and economic sustainability. Panelists will share their insights from working with local communities and at the national and industry-wide scales to discuss policy solutions, program models, and successful strategies. Participants will also hear about emerging challenges and opportunities as communities throughout the state work to capture historic levels of climate investments.

- Bernadette Austin | CEO, CivicWell (moderator)
- Jessica Buendia | VP of Sustainability and Green For All National Director, Dream.Org,
- Mary Collins | Senior Advisor for Climate & Economy, OPR
- Shalini Vajjhala | Founder & CEO, re:focus partners | Executive Director, PRE Collective
- Jeffery Wallace | President & CEO, LeadersUp

**2:15-2:30pm | NETWORKING BREAK**

This afternoon will be a bit of a marathon with three 1-hour session blocks. But fear not! This evening's hosted networking reception will give you a chance to unwind and connect with other participants. If you haven't already, we encourage you to use this brief break to pick sessions to attend this afternoon.



**2:30-3:30pm | SESSION BLOCK B***9 concurrent breakout sessions organized by Program Track***1 Collaborating with Tribes on TK/TEK in Climate Change Research**

California 1 • Track 1: Actionable Science • World Café

The California Climate Change Assessment (Assessment) produces CA-relevant climate research every five years. Previous Assessments have relied on Western science and academia, but there are additional knowledge systems that bring great value to our understanding of climate impacts, can be supported through the Assessment, and hopefully lead us to work towards a resilient future together. Traditional knowledge (TK) is an indigenous, generational, and place-based knowledge system within indigenous communities and is attributed to how indigenous communities have sustainably co-existed with this land. Using the Assessment's Tribal Research Program, we will explore ways to collaborate with Tribes on TK/TEK with climate research and better understand the State's role in this work and to support and elevate tribal expertise.

- Patricia Kennedy | CA Climate Tribal Program Manager, OPR (moderator)
- Connor Magee | Data and Research Applications Lead, Climate Science Alliance

**2 Strengthened Connections between Community Priorities & Resilient Infrastructure**

Vineyard IV • Track 2: Critical Infrastructure • Panel Discussion

In recent years, both local government and critical service providers in California have increasingly invested in understanding and planning for the worsening effects of climate change. However, despite the clear connections between land-use planning and infrastructure development, these efforts have largely been tackled independently. This session will explore opportunities for better coordination between local government and critical service providers to build community resilience, and also address existing inequity caused by historical lack of investment and the vulnerability of frontline communities through more resilient infrastructure. Participants and panelists will identify tangible options for greater collaboration and resulting investments that reflect community needs.

- Eric Vaughan | Supervisor Planner, Rincon (moderator)
- Liz Crosson | Chief Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation Officer, Metropolitan Water District
- Melani Smith | Director of Regional Development, Gateway Cities Council of Governments
- Jonathan Parfrey | Executive Director, Climate Resolve
- Erica Bowman | Managing Director of Regulatory Policy, Southern California Edison

**3 Climate Vulnerability Assessments to Support Climate Justice**

California 2 • Track 3: It Takes A Village • Think Tank

This session will engage participants around topics of climate vulnerability, equitable processes and outcomes, and investments for climate justice. The LA County Climate Vulnerability Assessment recently evaluated social and physical vulnerability across LA County with data and findings that can be down-scaled to a local level for coordinated planning and action. This assessment highlighted inequities, areas of inadequate resources to adapt, and focus areas for accelerated action. Participants will join in group discussion about how to translate knowledge and outputs from a climate vulnerability assessment into the outcomes our communities need and how to do this in a way that centers community input and aligns with funding opportunities for climate resilience.

- Ali Frazzini | Policy Advisor, LA County Chief Sustainability Office (moderator)
- Aileen Qin (She/Her/Hers) | Associate Planner, Gateway Cities Council of Governments
- Amy J Wong | Program Director, Active San Gabriel Valley
- Natalie Hernandez | Director, Resilience & Organizational Strategy, Climate Resolve
- Sarah Smyth | Cities Consultant, Buro Happold

**4 Housing & Environmental Justice: Housing Policies to Achieve Climate Equity**Sonoma 1 • Track 4: [Marrying Movements](#) • World Café

Housing policies are not often seen as climate advocacy but the two are deeply connected. By advancing climatesmart development within urban areas, cities can ensure they have sufficient housing for residents while protecting the critical natural resources our open spaces provide. California and the United States are now in a critical moment to make pivotal progress on climate change by modernizing local policies to build more housing. As both climate impacts and housing inequities increase, how cities build housing will greatly impact their resilience to extreme climate events. At this session participants will learn about climate-resilient housing policies that cities can implement that will help cities equitably address housing and climate goals. A key takeaway from this session will be the strong climate and housing connection that decision-makers need to understand to achieve resilience.

- Victor Flores | Resilience Manager, Greenbelt Alliance (moderator)
- Zoe Siegel | Sr Director of Climate Resilience, Greenbelt Alliance
- Allison Chan | Political Director, Save The Bay
- Madison Coleman | Policy Advocate, Climate Action Campaign

**5 Gaming for Justice: Dungeons & Dragons Supports Youth to Dream EJ into Reality**California 3 • Track 5: [People Power](#) • Training

Mycelium Youth Network is a recognized leader in the field of climate resilient education. We support youth to adapt and mitigate climate challenges in their communities. Our Gaming for Justice program is a Dungeons and Dragons inspired EJ adventure that takes place in the MycU. Our games envision a world where youth are freedom dreamers, visionaries, and activists through a culturally-responsive and artistically rich gaming experience. In each session, youth engage with different adventures that address Bay specific social topics like the deforestation of oak trees, electrification, pollution and water quality, gentrification and redlining, homelessness, and others. For our presentation, we'll discuss how we formed our G4J program, share our character sheets and support audience participation in choosing their character sheets and then walk participants through an adventure. We'll address how we are redefining the genre of climate adaptation and mitigation education through place-based imaginative play.

- Lil Milagro Henriquez | Executive Director & Founder, Mycelium Youth Network (moderator)
- Marcy Brown | Lead Storyteller & Game Designer, Mycelium Youth Network

**6 Adaptation to Sea-Level Rise in Southern California and Focusing on Equity**Sonoma 3 • Track 6: [Place-based Projects](#) • Lightning Presentations

Southern California has one of the most armored shorelines in the country and it is the most populated region in the State. Some estimates suggest that \$650 billion dollars of property and 600,000 people are at risk of being impacted by coastal flooding by 2100. Many nonprofits and local governments are interested in incorporating nature-based adaptation into their plans for sea-level rise adaptation. In this session, we will present four projects from Southern California that are using unique techniques to protect infrastructure, restore habitats, and maintain public access to some of our most popular beaches and shorelines, and how these projects are focusing on equity. We will hear presentations on Matilija Dam, the Adamson House, Cardiff Beach, and the San Diego Bayshore Bikeway, followed by roundtable discussions on each project.

- Emely Lopez | Tribal Liaison and Equity Coordinator, State Coastal Conservancy (moderator)
- Rocío Lozano-Knowlton | Executive Director, MERITO Foundation
- Brian Leslie | Sr. Coastal Scientist, GHD
- Meagan Openshaw | Community Development Department Director, City of Imperial Beach
- Barbara Tejeda | Cultural Resources Program Manager, California State Parks

**7 Piloting Policy Innovation to Transform Insurance into a Coastal Resilience Tool**

• [Track 7: Resources for Resilience](#) • Think Tank

As sea level rise (SLR) and flood risks increase, there is a lack of accessible insurance mechanisms and models that adequately protect communities. National Flood Insurance Program shortcomings persist, including failure to account for SLR and escalating flood risks, but changes are under consideration to create the climate smart program the nation needs. Meanwhile, California is exploring new approaches, with the CA Department of Insurance, Ocean Science Trust, and others advancing innovative financing pilots to address risk and support adaptation. This session will: introduce participants to opportunities, challenges, and needs towards using insurance to address coastal risks; examine knowledge gaps and pilot projects; elevate promising policies; and discuss further action needed. Participants will gain understanding of the emerging role of insurance in the coastal climate change landscape and how to build momentum towards action.

- Anna Friedman | Director, Policy & Programs, Resilient Cities Catalyst (moderator)
- Deborah Halberstadt | Senior Climate Policy Advisor, California Department of Insurance
- Rob Moore | Director, Water & Climate Team, NRDC
- Anthony Rogers | Director of Programs, California Ocean Science Trust

**8 Resilient Systems: Towards a Climate, Health, & Equity in All Policies Approach**

[Vineyard I/II](#) • [Track 8: Systems Change](#) • Think Tank

In the face of climate change, where communities of color and under-resourced neighborhoods are hurt most, how do we integrate public health and equity in climate policy and planning? This session convenes local, regional, and State public health departments to highlight this critical need: SFDPH will share how it is advancing health equity in citywide adaptation initiatives; CDPH will discuss partnerships with state agencies to center health equity in state climate planning and programs; and BARHII will share its Equity Officer model, a framework for moving towards an equity-centered system. This session highlights the value of embedding equity principles throughout government to ensure future plans and investments support those most vulnerable to climate-driven disasters.

- Melissa Jones | Executive Director, Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII) (mod.)
- Matt Wolff | Climate and Health Manager, San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH)
- Dan Woo | Team Lead, Climate Change & Health Equity, CA Dept. of Public Health (CDPH)

**9 The People Behind the Podcast: Success Stories for Building Resilience**

[Sonoma 2](#) • [Track 9: Tried and True](#) • Lightning Presentations

FEMA Region 9 and Georgetown Climate Center have worked together on the Level Up Audio Project podcast for three seasons. The latest has five new episodes developed for hazard mitigation and climate adaptation professionals, or anyone interested in resilience. The series features stories and best practices to inspire action around themes such as equity to problem-solving to collaboration. This session will "bring to life" two of the episodes and hear how the City of Oakland took into account equity in its 2030 Climate Action Plan and how the Morongo Band of Mission Indians worked with Riverside County to be part of the multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan.

- Mark Rupp | Adaptation Program Director, Georgetown Climate Center (moderator)
- Jacque Larrainzar | Race and Equity Analyst, City of Oakland
- Floyd Velasquez | Emergency Services Administrator, Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Alison Kearns | Planning and Implementation Branch Chief, FEMA Region 9, Mitigation Division

**3:30-3:45pm | NETWORKING BREAK**

Grab a quick bite at our afternoon snack station before you head to your next session!



**3:45-4:45pm | SESSION BLOCK C***9 concurrent breakout sessions organized by Program Track***1 Protecting Under-resourced California Communities from Extreme Heat****California 1** • **Track 1: Actionable Science** • World Café

This session focuses on the physical and social-science based solutions needed to address heat across three topic areas: community plans and policies, community tools, and community engagement. We will highlight a heat resilience toolkit for underserved environments (Cal-THRIVES) in Fresno and policy-related findings from UCLA's Luskin Center. Panelists will share their respective research and findings, key challenges for improving equity, and opportunities for extending these solutions to disadvantaged communities across California. Audience participation will be facilitated by multiple rounds of small group discussions focused on each of the three topic areas.

- Max Wei | Staff Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (moderator)
- V.Kelly Turner, Ph.D. | Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Geography, UCLA
- Ronnen Levinson | Staff Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- Susan Mazur-Stommen | CEO, Indicia Consulting

**2 Utility Perspective: Centering Community Resilience in Adaptation Planning****Vineyard IV** • **Track 2: Critical Infrastructure** • Panel Discussion

Here in California, you do not need to be a climatologist or speak the language of climate science to have expertise. Nearly all Californians have been impacted by smoke events, extreme heat, and especially this year – flooding. Learning from our hometowns about their lived experiences has provided the basis for PG&E's Resilient Together program, which is part of the company's larger climate mitigation/adaptation strategy. PG&E will be joined by 3 members of the Resilient Together Advisory Group for a panel discussion about community engagement best practices, forging new partnerships with private companies, and how to build climate resilience at the community level.

- Mona Abboud | Senior Director, InterEthnica (moderator)
- Jimmy O'Hare | Product Manager, R&D Operations, PG&E
- Marty Estrada | Director, Community Agency for Resources, Advocacy and Services (CARAS)
- May Gnia | Executive Director, Stone Soup Fresno
- William Muetzenberg | Program Manager, Public Health Advocates

**3 Challenges and Opportunities in Funding Extreme Heat Solutions****California 2** • **Track 3: It Takes A Village** • Panel Discussion

Between the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (2021) and the Inflation Reduction Act (2022), states will receive over \$900B to fund climate resilience efforts. It remains to be seen if FEMA will reclassify extreme heat as eligible for federal emergency funding and devote more resources to states like California. Another potential obstacle to reclassification is how the impact of extreme heat on historically marginalized communities has remained under the radar; according to a 2022 UCLA Luskin report, deaths attributable to extreme heat are six times worse than previously reported by the state. Compounding this statistic, funding for disaster declarations have targeted rural geographies most prone to physical damage resulting from wildfires and flooding with minimal dollars reaching BIPOC urban communities. This session will explore how local, state and the federal government are aligning with the anticipated disbursement of federal resilience funds.

- Michael Berkowitz | Founding Principal, Resilient Cities Catalyst (moderator)
- JR de la Rosa | Program Manager, CalOES
- Marta Segura | Chief Heat Officer, City of Los Angeles
- Alison Kearns | Planning and Implementation Branch Chief, FEMA Region 9, Mitigation Division

#### 4 **Resiliency on Working Lands: Role of Technical Assistance to Scale Climate-Smart Ag** Sonoma 1 • Track 4: [Marrying Movements](#) • Panel Discussion

With the enactment of EO N-82-20 and AB-1757, California has laid the groundwork to leverage nature-based and conservation agriculture solutions to address climate change. This session will delve into the partnerships and strategies necessary to achieve State climate goals for natural and working lands. We will explore the central role of conservation agriculture and technical assistance networks in partnering with farmers to plan, implement and scale climate-beneficial projects. Regional Carbon Farming Hubs, led by Resource Conservation Districts and their partners, are uniquely positioned to scale up climate-beneficial farming practices through their networks' regional expertise, carbon farm planning tools, and implementation and financial assistance. With the proper investments, Regional Hubs will implement projects that promote biodiversity, sequester carbon, drought resilience, and create on-farm viability as farmers face worsening climate extremes.

- Baani Behniwal | Natural Sequestration Initiative Manager, The Climate Center (moderator)
- Emilie Winfield | Regional Coordinator, North Coast Soil Hub
- Ellee Igoe | Co-founder/farmer, Foodshed Cooperative Inc/Solidarity Farm
- Jonathan Wachter, PhD | Lead Soil Scientist, Carbon Cycle Institute

#### 5 **Advancing Tribal Climate Stewardship of All Ancestral Lands** California 3 • Track 5: [People Power](#) • Panel Discussion

A continuous dialogue between Indigenous-led traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and the ecological sciences circled in the scholarly, academic realm has been a historical challenge and as a result, continuous co-production between these groups is rare. To fully understand climate change impacts in Southern California's terrestrial ecosystems, decolonizing academic sciences through the prioritization of Indigenous voices and the inclusion of social and environmental justice components is essential. This session will outline a specific approach to building climate and community resilience and serves as an example of how to incorporate Indigenous perspectives into climate science. The work presented brings together the knowledge systems of Southern California Tribes and academic research through meaningful engagement and rigorous capacity-building training.

- Paula Sternberg Rodríguez | Science Program Manager, Climate Science Alliance (moderator)
- Althea Walker | Co-Director & Community Resilience Lead, Climate Science Alliance
- Angela Mooney D'arcy | Founder/Exec. Director, Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples
- Megan Jennings | Co-director, SDSU Institute for Ecological Monitoring and Management
- Will Madrigal | Tribal Capacities Manager, Climate Science Alliance

#### 6 **Engineering with Nature: Collaboration across Disciplines and Scales** Sonoma 3 • Track 6: [Place-based Projects](#) • Traditional Presentations

This session will explore the multi-scalar effort to integrate Engineering with Nature (EWN) into San Francisco's Waterfront Wide Adaptation Strategies, bringing together three practitioners to discuss lessons from the ongoing collaborative between the Port of San Francisco's Waterfront Resilience Program and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This session will provide an overview of the benefits EWN provides including flood risk reduction, expansion of open space, habitat creation, and a range of social benefits. Presentations will cover USACE's process and innovative approach to EWN, both in ongoing research efforts and their integration into project delivery, how bringing together local and international experts for working groups can inform novel strategies and highlight opportunities, and the interdisciplinary collaboration and communication needed for infrastructure projects between engineers, landscape architects, scientists, and planners.

- Maryellen Hearn | Resilience and Flood Risk Expert, Pathways Climate Institute (moderator)
- Davi Parente Schoen | Designer, CMG Landscape Architecture
- Alev Bilginsoy | Outreach Coordinator, US Army Corps of Engineers

**7 Catalyzing Regional Resilience through Innovative Funding and Partnerships**

Vineyard III • [Track 7: Resources for Resilience](#) • Panel Discussion

In 2022 the San Diego Foundation, International Community Foundation, San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative, and Resilient Cities Catalyst launched the Binational Resilience Initiative (BRI) to build crossborder, coastal regional resilience across Cali Baja by 1) breaking down barriers to resilience building, 2) supporting organizations leading transformative work in underserved communities, and 3) creating a model for binational philanthropic collaboration. Forum participants will learn about the opportunities and need for regional collaboration across California, the importance of community-centered funding models, and the role philanthropy can play to kickstart and catalyze needed resilience projects from the leaders of the Initiative. By the end of the session participants will be called to work across sectors across their regions to advance climate adaptation.

- Sam Carter | Principal, California Resilience Partnership (moderator)
- Yamilett Carrillo, Ph. D. | Senior Program Manager, San Diego Foundation
- Darbi Berry | Director of San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative, SDRCC
- Marisa Quiroz | President and CEO, International Community Foundation
- Laura Rodriguez | Senior Program Officer, Builders Initiative

**8 Beneficial Wildfire and the Wildfire/Water Nexus**

Vineyard I/II • [Track 8: Systems Change](#) • Panel Discussion

Climate change is increasing the risk of both catastrophic wildfires and severe drought in California. Improving the health of forested ecosystems, including through the increased use of beneficial fire where appropriate, can help improve the resilience of forests to climate change resulting in fewer destructive fires and increased water yields. This session will explore the connections between climate change, wildfires, and water supplies including the need for a long-term strategy, critical knowledge gaps, and examples of successful community and Indigenous led restoration projects to mitigate both wildfire and water risks.

- Amber Mace | CEO, California Council on Science and Technology (moderator)
- Kate Dargan Marquis | Senior Wildfire Advisor, Moore Foundation
- Margo Robbins | Executive Director, Cultural Fire Management Council

**9 99 Solutions to Climate Vulnerability in Planning and Development**

Sonoma 2 • [Track 9: Tried and True](#) • Training

While a development project is required to disclose its environmental impact, local jurisdictions are required to think about the impacts of climate change on a project. The CA Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) recently published a Handbook for analyzing GHG reductions, assessing climate vulnerabilities, and advancing health and equity in projects. In conjunction, CAPCOA updated the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) tool to implement the Handbook methods. This session highlights these methods and tools and presents a process to identify and score a project's vulnerability across hazards based on its exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity, allowing users to identify priority vulnerabilities. We will also discuss some of the Handbook's 99 climate risk reduction measures and guidance for assessing adaptive benefits.

- Brianna Moland | Air Quality Planner, Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD (moderator)
- Adam Parris | Senior Consultant, ICF

**4:45-5:00pm | NETWORKING BREAK**

Have you made dinner plans yet? If not, we encourage you to make plans with other attendees – breaking bread is a great way to deepen and build new relationships!



**5:00-6:00pm | SESSION BLOCK D***9 concurrent breakout sessions organized by Program Track***1 Growing Climate Resilience Through a Youth-Led Planning Process**

California 1 • Track 1: Actionable Science • Traditional Presentations

Building climate resilience requires centering youth voices. While it is unacceptable to expect younger generations to lead the climate justice movement alone, it is important to center youth voices in all climate conversations. Youth are actively taking up space and challenging the world to listen to their concerns of the climate-challenged future that awaits them. MYN's Youth Leadership Council (YLC) serves as a model for communities to authentically center youth voices in planning processes at the school and neighborhood level. This session will highlight YLC's community needs assessment and planning process and lessons learned at three different sites in the SF Bay Area. Participants will hear best practices for strengthening outreach to youth in planning processes.

- Phoenix Armenta | Sr. Manager for Climate Equity/Community Engagement, BCDC (moderator)
- Andrew Yeung | Educational Director, Mycelium Youth Network (MYN)
- Lil Milagro Henriquez | Executive Director & Founder, Mycelium Youth Network (MYN)

**2 Implementation of Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning for Infrastructure**

Vineyard IV • Track 2: Critical Infrastructure • Panel Discussion

State guidance for sea level rise (SLR) adaptation planning is clear: SLR presents challenges that threaten both built and natural infrastructure and must be met proactively. State guidance aims to enable infrastructure providers, asset managers, and stakeholders to make decisions consistent with regulatory requirements and adaptation planning best practices. This session will discuss how public, private, and national stakeholders supporting built and natural infrastructure analyze prevailing and long-term risks from SLR, and how climate science and SLR guidance informs their decision-making and planning. Speakers will highlight how they use data and best practices to implement long-term planning in their respective organizations and in decision-making frameworks to ensure safe, reliable, and affordable service in the face of climate change.

- Shannon Fiala | Southern CA Coastal Program Manager, CA Coastal Commission (moderator)
- Leah Fisher | Office Chief of Air Quality & Climate Change, Caltrans
- Melis Ökter | Resilience Specialist, NOAA Office for Coastal Management
- Brenna Mahoney | Environmental Specialist, Principal, Climate Resilience, PG&E

**3 Deep East Thrives! Leveraging Scales to Ensure Equitable Outcomes for Adaptation**

California 2 • Track 3: It Takes A Village • Traditional Presentations

Success happens at the intersection of the grassroots and regional thinking. Planning on multiple scales and leveraging a network of supporting agencies best positions a community for resilience. Power the People, the Oakland Shoreline Leadership Academy, and San Leandro Creek Trail are examples of local grassroots efforts that ground regional adaptation efforts. The Oakland-Alameda Estuary Adaptation Working Group, a coalition of shoreline communities and stakeholders co-creating an inclusive, future-looking action plan, connects communities and ecosystems within an operational landscape unit. At the scale of a regional shoreline, the Risk Assessment and Adaptation Prioritization Plan (RAAPP) led by the East Bay Regional Park District analyzed factors to determine priority areas for shoreline projects and partners.

- John Gibbs | Principal, WRT Planning & Design (moderator)
- Marquita Price | Principal, Hood Planning Group
- Gail Payne | Project Manager, City of Alameda
- Cristina Bejarano | Resilience and Adaptation Planner, WRT

**4 Post-Disaster Displacement in a Changing Climate**

Sonoma 1 • Track 4: Marrying Movements • Panel Discussion

Researchers estimate between 4.3 million and 8.7 million Californians live in areas threatened by sea-level rise and 5.1 million live in areas threatened by wildfires. The last decade brought record-breaking flooding, fires, and drought to the state, and without an immediate solution to climate change, these events are expected to continue. With these disasters frequently occurring across California, questions have arisen about where people go after they've lost everything. What does recovery look like, and how do the government, the market, and civil society play a role? California isn't the only state facing these challenges, but it can offer an insightful model to other states dealing with extreme climate impacts. This panel brings together a group of people working at the intersection of housing and climate change to highlight the current problems and what we can do to solve them.

- Matthew Sedlar | Climate Analyst, Center for Economic and Policy Research (moderator)
- Tim Robustelli | Senior Policy Analyst, Future of Property Rights Program, New America
- Evelyn Pruneda | Assistant Professor, Sociology, California State University, Chico

**5 Protecting Warehouse Workers from Climate-Driven Extreme Heat**

California 3 • Track 5: People Power • Panel Discussion

This session will elevate the plight of the indoor warehouse worker confronting extreme indoor temperatures and the lack of protections from the State. An overwhelming number of indoor warehouse workers are low-income people of color who can least afford to prepare, adapt, and bounce back from an expensive visit to the emergency room. Between 2019 – 2022, there was a 55% increase in employment in the warehouse sector with growth focused in the most arid and hot areas like the Inland Empire region of southern California. Attendees will hear first-hand accounts of the climate-driven increases in temperature, stories from on-the-ground advocates, and a legislative perspective on how the state could better protect warehouse workers. Attendees will be encouraged to take action by sending a premade action alert to the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board urging them to promulgate an indoor heat-illness prevention standard as mandated by SB-1167 (2016).

- Enrique Huerta | Legislative Director, Climate Resolve (moderator)
- Steve Veres | Chief of Staff, Senator Maria Elena Durazo
- V.Kelly Turner, Ph.D. | Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Geography, UCLA
- Stephen Knight | Executive Director, Worksafe
- Mariana Estrada | Urban and Regional Planning, UCLA

**6 Oceanside: Using Innovative Processes to Pilot a Sand Retention Project**

Sonoma 3 • Track 6: Place-based Projects • Panel Discussion

On January 25, 2023, the City of Oceanside approved a project to advance, design and permit a sand retention solution. The need for a pilot in Oceanside is dire, as a response to rapid erosion from the construction of Oceanside's Harbor Jetty and compounding climate change impacts, including sea level rise. The project includes an international design competition to bring innovative solutions to California's coast. RE:BEACH, Oceanside Coastal Resilience Competition, includes design teams from around the globe that will compete, with the City selecting one final design to move into final design and permitting. This session will: 1) introduce participants to the project in Oceanside and intended outcomes; 2) examine competition design as a means for garnering innovation; and 3) discuss the challenges and opportunities for permitting a multi-benefit solution along Oceanside's coast.

- Sam Carter | Founding Principal, Resilient Cities Catalyst (moderator)
- Alex Klein | Associate Director, Resilient Cities Catalyst
- Brian Leslie | Senior Coastal Scientist, GHD

**7 California Resilience Challenge: Support from the Private Sector**

Vineyard III • Track 7: Resources for Resilience • Traditional Presentations

Communities across California are grappling with how to best adapt to the climate stressors that threaten them the most, with under-resourced communities particularly impacted. The California Resilience Challenge is a statewide philanthropic initiative of the Bay Area Council Foundation that provides early-stage planning grants to under-resourced communities to strengthen local resilience to drought, heat, wildfire, and/or floods (including from sea level rise). Since 2020, the California Resilience Challenge has awarded over \$5M to 32 communities across the state. Join this session to learn more about this grant opportunity and about the work from previous and current grantees.

- Adrian Covert | Senior Vice President, Public Policy, Bay Area Council (moderator)
- Anuj Desai | Senior Advisor, Southern California Edison
- Christy Kindig | Project Manager, City of Santa Ana
- Vanessa Aramayo | Executive Director, Alliance for a Better Community

**8 Building Climate and Community Resilience in the Sierra Nevada**

Vineyard I/II • Track 8: Systems Change • Think Tank

Sierra Business Council will present the Sierra Nevada Vulnerability Assessment and challenges to implementing next steps. Participants will then be broken out into smaller groups to tackle a challenge: how to build capacity and inclination for local governments to work on these actions and take next steps? Breakout groups will be given the space to brainstorm solutions, with panelists providing micro-facilitation support. Each group will be provided the opportunity to share their solution with the full group. After group solution presentations, a final presentation by a Sierra Nevada community member will share a case study project as an example solution to the challenge.

- Stacy Corless | Director, Government & Community Affairs, Sierra Business Council (moderator)
- Kaeleigh Reynolds | Program Manager, Sierra Business Council
- Carol Blanchette | Director Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserves, UC Santa Barbara

**9 On the Ground Projects Address the Water-related Challenges of Climate Change**

Sonoma 2 • Track 9: Tried and True • Traditional Presentations

Climate change is bringing about damaging cycles of droughts and floods. The logical response is to catch excess water during atmospheric rivers and store it for future use. But where and how? Recently, researchers have identified underground “grand canyons” that can hold far more water than dams and reservoirs. Scientists are now creating maps that tell us where to direct excess water so that it can recharge small and large underground storage basins. The Tulare Irrigation District has been partnering with Stanford University researchers, area growers, and the Cities of Tulare and Visalia on both flood control and groundwater recharge. Today they are a model for how a local government entity can partner with researchers, cities, and property owners to develop natural infrastructure that reduces flooding, improves habitat, and secures future regional water supplies.

- Aaron Fukuda | General Manager, Tulare Irrigation District
- Julie Rentner | President, River Partners
- Meredith Goebel | Research Scientist, Stanford University

**6:00-7:30pm | HOSTED NETWORKING RECEPTION****After a packed day of learning and sharing, it's time to unwind over refreshments!**

Join us for an evening of networking and collaboration with the hundreds of climate leaders who make up our CAF community. This hosted reception provides a unique opportunity to connect with both old colleagues and new partners to elevate your adaptation priorities and bring new ideas to life.

CAF Day 3 features **2 plenary sessions**, as well as **27 breakout sessions** across three blocks:

**Session Block E**

**Session Block F**

**Session Block G**

## 7:15-8:15am | NETWORKING BREAKFAST

## 8:15-9:45am | SESSION BLOCK E

*9 concurrent breakout sessions organized by Program Track*

### 1 **Resilience Hubs: Designing Community-led Resilience with Clean Energy**

**California 1** • **Track 1: Actionable Science** • Think Tank

In this Think Tank, participants will use a mock case study to navigate key equity, technology, and economic challenges that arise during resilience hub design and deployment. Participants will also learn about tools to help design equitable, community-led resilience hubs: 1) interactive maps of candidate sites, solar+storage potential, and communities vulnerable to compounding effects of environmental injustice and climate hazards; 2) a decision tool to site hubs based on different priorities and budgets; and 3) community resilience toolkits. We will explore the role of state and local decision-makers and the limitations of data tools for incorporating local knowledge into hub design.

- Laura Gracia-Santiago | CARE Coordinator, Communities for a Better Environment (moderator)
- Patrick Murphy | Senior Scientist, PSE Healthy Energy
- Elena Kriege | Director of Research, PSE Healthy Energy
- Katherine Lee | Richmond Youth Organizer, Asian Pacific Environmental Network

### 2 **Adaptation on Natural and Working Lands: From the State to the Regional Scale**

**Vineyard IV** • **Track 2: Critical Infrastructure** • Lightning Presentations

This session will describe how California's Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy is delivering on State climate change goals through management, conservation, and restoration of natural and working lands. The Delta Stewardship Council's Adaptation Plan for the Delta (Delta Adapts) will help implement the Strategy at a regional scale and includes strategies for implementing nature-based solutions to sequester carbon while promoting biodiversity. Delta Adapts also includes climate smart agricultural strategies, developed with input from Delta farmers, for carbon sequestration, water conservation, crop switching, salinity management, and improved modeling and forecasting to gain resource efficiency. Participants will leave with concrete examples of nature-based adaptation strategies.

- Harriet Lai Ross | Associate Deputy Executive Officer, Delta Stewardship Council (moderator)
- Amanda Hansen | Deputy Secretary for Climate Change, California Natural Resources Agency
- Dan Constable | Environmental Program Manager, Delta Stewardship Council
- Morgan Chow | Senior Environmental Planner, Delta Stewardship Council

### 3 **Collaborative Governance to Advance Equitable Solutions**

**California 2** • **Track 3: It Takes A Village** • Think Tank

Traditional governance models for solving problems through hierarchical structures are problematic in the field of climate adaptation, which seeks to integrate models of co-production and distributed decision-making for community-driven solutions. From flatarchies, to sociocracies, to consent-based decision-making, new models are emerging to collaborate at the local and regional scale. Participants will hear about governance models from the Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation, Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network, County of Santa Clara Climate Collaborative, and Yolo County Climate Action Commission. Participants are invited to bring and share their own unique governance model.

- Carolyn Yvellez | Project Lead, Farallon Strategies (moderator)
- Julia Kim | Climate Change & Energy Program Director, CivicWell
- Kristen Wraithwall | Sustainability Manager, Yolo County
- Sarah Church | Sustainability Manager, Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network
- Eena Sta Maria | Sustainability Analyst, County of Santa Clara



**4 EEAGER: Machine Learning for Beaverlands and Corporate Water Stewardship Goals**

**Sonoma 1** • [Track 7: Resources for Resilience](#) • Traditional Presentations

Corporations around the world are investing money and time into climate adaptation. Google's emergent focus on water replenishment led to a realization that beaver-based restoration projects represent an opportunity for cost-effective replenishment; this realization spawned a vision for the EEAGER model, a machine-learning neural network that identifies beaverlands on satellite imagery to better understand the expansion/contraction of those lands and the associated impacts on water storage, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and fire resilience. In this session we discuss the EEAGER model itself as well as the process of building tools like it from the original idea stage, through finding scientific partners and collaborative model development, and now into scientific publication and operationalization. Participants will be invited to share their own experiences and insights on bridging the gap between science, conservation, and corporate policy.

- Dan Parsons | Director, America Adapts Media
- Dan Ackerstein | Project Cheerleader, Ackerstein Sustainability / Google
- Stefania Maiman | Software Engineer, Google

**5 Capacity Building from the Ground Up in the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys**

**California 3** • [Track 5: People Power](#) • Panel Discussion

To reverse decades of disinvestment and racist policies, we must double down on community ownership of the solutions. Communities know best what their neighborhoods need, but they still require additional resources, partnerships and technical expertise to bring these local visions to life. In the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, community-driven climate action is challenged by the need for increased capacity of community-based organizations to pursue climate equity work, as well as the need for connective tissue between local, state, and federal climate funding opportunities. What does capacity building look like at the local level to support community-driven climate action? Learn what San Gabriel and Pomona Valley communities are doing to bridge the gap between community capacity and climate funding opportunities to advance neighborhood projects and campaigns.

- Katherine Cabrera | Program Manager, The Greenlining Institute (moderator)
- Lina Mira | Executive Director, Latino and Latina Roundtable
- Stephen Yorba | Executive Director, Community Partners 4 Innovation
- Nenetzin Rodriguez | Project Manager, The Energy Coalition

**6 Sea Level Rise Adaptation on Silicon Valley's Shoreline: People, Place & Process**

**Sonoma 3** • [Track 6: Place-based Projects](#) • Lightning Presentations/Solution Room

Silicon Valley's SF Bay shoreline is a complex landscape, consisting of aging un-engineered levees and former salt evaporation ponds, where historically marginalized and flood-prone Bayfront communities reside next to the world's largest tech companies, all located amidst an intertwined web of energy, water, and transportation infrastructure. Sea level rise adaptation projects aim to transform this landscape to protect communities from flooding while supporting community inclusion, habitat restoration, recreation, and natural amenities. Everyone wants these projects to be done. However, planning and implementation face many complexities: meaningful community engagement, difficult land use decisions, regulatory requirements, overlapping jurisdictions, land rights, coordinating impact mitigation, and funding challenges. Experienced practitioners will share their work and highlight key challenges they have confronted. Breakout groups will then provide participants with an opportunity to collaboratively explore solutions to shared challenges.

- Margaret Bruce | Executive Director, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (moderator)
- Judy Nam | Sr. Water Resource Specialist, Santa Clara Valley Water District
- Violet Wulf-Saena | Executive Director, Climate Resilient Communities
- Dave Halsing | Executive Project Manager, State Coastal Conservancy
- Makena Wong | Project Manager, San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District

**7 Decarbonizing Affordable Housing: Policy and Finance for Systems Change**

Vineyard I/II • [Track 7: Resources for Resilience](#) • Think Tank

Existing affordable housing is one of the most challenging sectors to decarbonize, but also one of the most essential. Traditional approaches to policy and finance have not effectively reached affordable housing or low-income communities of color, leading to cycles of disinvestment. New approaches to direct public subsidies and protections must be designed to overcome barriers and support implementation that protects existing populations from unintended consequences and builds community resilience. In this Think Tank, subject matter experts will each lay out a piece of the challenge, focusing on relevant case studies from Southern California. In breakout groups, participants will then develop solutions that address all of the challenges concurrently. Each group will have a slightly different focus (policy, programs, incentives, finance). We will then reconvene to explore synergies and solutions. This exercise will inform real work that is in process in LA.

- Heather Joy Rosenberg | Resilience Lead, Arup (moderator)
- Marta Segura | Chief Heat Officer, City of Los Angeles
- Michele Hasson | Western Regional Director, NRDC
- Brittany Moffett | Senior Resilience Engineer, Arup

**8 Foundational Processes for Sustaining the Adaptation Journey**

Vineyard III • [Track 8: Systems Change](#) • World Café

As communities work to build resilience and adapt to climate change, they often face the ongoing challenges of building capacity, financing adaptation and resilience projects, and driving action based on the best available science. Overcoming these hurdles in the adaptation journey requires incorporating transformative practices that center collaboration and community engagement. This session explores opportunities to improve access to the following key elements of the adaptation journey and highlights first-hand experiences with each: 1) Capacity-building: Building long-term capacity within communities, with a focus on Regional Climate Collaboratives; 2) Funding: Financing adaptation and resilience projects, with a focus on Community Resilience Centers; and 3) Research: Driving science to action through community partnerships, with a focus on CA's Fifth Assessment.

- Kirin Kumar | Deputy Director of Equity and Government Transformation, SGC (moderator)
- Roberto Carlos Torres | Sr. Program Manager, Institute for Local Government
- Neil Matouka | California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment Program Manager, OPR
- Wilma Franco | Executive Director, Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Collaborative

**9 Community-Led Climate Resilience: Best Practices, Case Studies, and Strategies**

Sonoma 2 • [Track 9: Tried and True](#) • Panel Discussion

Come learn best practices from the Community Resilience Working Group, a statewide formation of equity and environmental justice organizations working to center the leadership of frontline communities in shaping the implementation of California's emerging climate resilience initiatives. This session will explore the group's capacity-building, peer learning, and joint advocacy activities as well as strategies to support strong, collaborative relationships between agencies and community-based groups. We will highlight lessons learned from the working group's engagement on the Vulnerable Communities Mapping Platform (OPR) and the Community Resilience Centers Program (SGC). The bulk of the time will involve interactive Think Tank-style activities where participants will hear case studies to generate ideas for cultivating effective community-led climate efforts.

- Ameer Raval | Policy & Research Director, Asian Pacific Environmental Network (co-moderator)
- Sona Mohnot | Director of Climate Resilience, The Greenlining Institute (co-moderator)
- Nataly Escobedo Garcia | Policy Coordinator, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
- Ben McMahan | Climate Services Program Manager, OPR
- Dora Fietze-Armenta | Planning Director, Pacoima Beautiful

**9:45-10:15am | NETWORKING BREAK**

During this extended networking break, we invite you to take a break with the Climate Science Alliance at their *Colors of Conservation* coloring station, featuring artwork by Audrey Carver!

**10:15-11:45am | SESSION BLOCK F**

9 concurrent breakout sessions organized by Program Track

**1 Actionable Data & Tools to Enable Climate-Informed Decision-Making in California**

California 1 • Track 1: Actionable Science • Traditional Presentations

Cal-Adapt, California's primary climate data resource, provides easy access to regionally downscaled climate projections and tools to analyze and visualize climate data. In 2020, CEC funded a related effort, Cal-Adapt: Analytics Engine, to host the foundational data for the Fifth Climate Assessment, and to develop additional tools for enhanced data analytics and functions for designing and planning adaptation solutions. This session will discuss key features of Cal-Adapt, how it is currently being used by planners, the co-production process of the Analytics Engine, and its new capabilities and use-cases based on iterative engagement with users.

- Justine Bui | Technical Project Manager, Spatial Informatics Group (moderator)
- Nancy Thomas | Executive Director, Geospatial Innovation Facility (UC Berkeley)
- Nancy Freitas | Stakeholder Engagement Co-Lead, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab
- Owen Doherty | Cal-Adapt PI, Eagle Rock Analytics

**2 Critical Infrastructure and Partnerships on the Road Towards Water Resiliency**

Vineyard IV • Track 2: Critical Infrastructure • Traditional Presentations

Presenters will highlight critical infrastructure projects, partnerships, and multi-benefit projects related to climate resiliency and safe and reliable water for all communities within the Santa Ana River Watershed. SAWPA will highlight the engagement process and equitable outcome of the OWOW Plan and results of the Santa Ana River Watershed Community Water Experiences: An Ethnographic Strengths and Needs Assessment. Water utilities have been challenged by drought, wildfires, and climate uncertainty. In response, the region is investing in collaborative solutions to diversify its water supply portfolio, enhance connectivity, advance local water resources' reliability, recharge its groundwater basins, restore critical habitat, and secure a sustainable water future.

- Rachel Gray | Water Resources & Planning Manager, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
- John Wuerth | Water Resources Planning Manager, Eastern Municipal Water District
- Liza Munoz | Senior Engineer, Inland Empire Utilities Agency
- Joshua Aguilar | Deputy Director of Water Resources, Western Municipal Water District
- Eric Vaughan | Supervisor Planner, Rincon
- Mehul Patel | Executive Director of Operations, Orange County Water District

**3 Elevating Action-Oriented Strategies: The SD Region Coastal Resilience Roadmap**

California 2 • Track 3: It Takes A Village • Training

This Training features the San Diego Region Coastal Resilience Roadmap as a model of an action-oriented strategic document that regions across the state can deploy to elevate local action and mobilize the region to address prioritized resilience challenges. Speakers will explore how the Roadmap and accompanying tools worked to align multiple jurisdictions and stakeholders to create a common vision for coastal resilience while accelerating promising pilot projects. Lessons learned and tactical guidance will be shared around how strategic planning can lead to regional-scale resilience action, because as we all know, it takes a village of local leaders and practitioners to move climate adaptation forward.

- Darbi Berry | Director, San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative (SDRCC) (moderator)
- Anna Friedman | Director, Policy & Programs, Resilient Cities Catalyst
- Meagan Openshaw | Community Development Department Director, City of Imperial Beach

#### 4 Economic Prosperity in a Changing Climate

Sonoma 1 • Track 4: [Marrying Movements](#) • Think Tank

Climate adaptation and mitigation can create pathways for new industries, technologies, jobs, and economic mobility. These opportunities can also be thoughtfully designed to address historic inequities and environmental injustices. Too often, however, conversations about adaptation and economic development remain siloed. Adaptation and economic development stakeholders face a number of systemic challenges to better coordination, even though such coordination is essential to meet State climate goals. In this solutions-oriented Think Tank, participants will be asked to review state and local programs that are currently in place and answer the question: what would it look like if these programs were designed by economic development and climate adaptation managers together? After group discussions, participants will come together to share reflections and hear directly from individuals who have participated in programs such as those being discussed.

- Beth Gibbons | Social Governance & National Resilience Lead, Farallon Strategies (moderator)
- Michael McCormick | Partnerships Lead, Founder, and President, Farallon Strategies
- Evan Schmidt | CEO, Valley Vision
- Derek Kirk | Assistant Deputy Secretary of Climate, Labor & Workforce Development Agency
- Michelle Decker | President and CEO, Inland Empire Community Foundation
- Matthew Mena | Executive Director, IEGO
- Kirin Kumar | Deputy Director of Equity and Government Transformation, SGC

#### 5 Grief is Resilience: How Just Climate Work Starts with Recognizing Loss

California 3 • Track 5: [People Power](#) • Training

Encountering loss is unavoidable and deeply challenging, especially at work. Californians working in climate adaptation and environmental justice experience this often – from serving communities facing ecological loss and systemic injustice, to grim outlooks in research. When grief and loss faced in workplaces and communities is met with skillfulness and support, we see increases in wellbeing and resilience. But to do so, we must equip leaders and workforces with training, tools, and resources to navigate loss confidently. In this session, panelists will share why normalizing loss and centering grief are essential aspects of equitable and transformational climate work. Presenters will demonstrate tools from programs such as Grief at Work and the Good Grief Network's Resilience & Empowerment in a Chaotic Climate. Gaining a deeper understanding of grief and loss impacts, attendees will experience practices to share with colleagues and the communities they serve.

- Ari Simon | Interim Director, Inland SoCal Climate Collaborative (ISC3) (moderator)
- Paulina Mejia | CivicSpark Regional Coordinator, CivicWell
- Destiny Garcia | 2022-23 CivicSpark Fellow, CivicWell

#### 6 Heat Relief for Los Angeles through Planning, Policies, and Public Engagement

Sonoma 3 • Track 6: [Place-based Projects](#) • Solution Room

As Los Angeles' heat season grows and heat waves linger, our plans, policies, and projects require strong partnerships and collaborations. Join the City of Los Angeles' Chief Heat Officer, local academics, and leaders of community based organizations for this interactive "solutions room." We will share brief introductions to four topics: Municipal Heat Action Plans; Public policies to address extreme heat; Participatory heat mapping; and Communities communicating heat risk. Each presenter will offer a challenge they are encountering and participants will break into small groups for a collaborative problem-solving exercise. Come brainstorm solutions with us!

- Marta Segura | Chief Heat Officer, City of Los Angeles (moderator)
- Jason A. Douglas, PhD | Associate Professor of Health, Society, & Behavior, Chapman University
- V.Kelly Turner, Ph.D. | Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Geography, UCLA
- Bemmy Maharramli | Assoc. Director, Strategic Initiatives, UCLA Center for Community Engagement



**7 Climate Resilience Bond: Will it be Equitable or Adverse to Cities**Vineyard III • [Track 7: Resources for Resilience](#) • Panel Discussion

Climate shocks are becoming the norm. Despite national and state recognition that both mitigation and adaptation efforts are essential, adaptation funding remains a far smaller portion of total climate finance. Inflation and poor budget outlooks are putting a huge financial strain on California's ability to respond to the climate crisis. As a result, governments are searching for new ways to unlock development and increase resilience to exogenous shocks. One way of enabling this is the general obligation bond. Accelerating climate adaptation is desirable from multiple perspectives. In addition to the human and environmental imperatives, there is also a strong economic rationale. Research suggests that investing \$1.8B in California from 2020-2030 could generate \$7.1B in total net benefits, making a strong economic argument for financing climate resilience through bonds.

- Enrique Huerta | Legislative Director, Climate Resolve (moderator)
- Ameer Raval | Policy & Research Director, Asian Pacific Environmental Network
- Laura Muraida | Senior Deputy, Environmental Justice, Office of Supervisor Holly Mitchell
- Nancy Cohen | President, Gender Equity Policy Institute

**8 Moving Local Plans to Implementation: Nuts & Bolts of Adaptation Project Preparation**Vineyard I/II • [Track 8: Systems Change](#) • Training

In this session, participants will be introduced to the new Gold Standard/Resilient Cities Catalyst framework for local adaptation project preparation. Following this introduction participants will be guided through a table exercise in which they apply the framework's key elements and approaches to one of three generalized project cases: one in a South Los Angeles neighborhood, one in a Central Coast beachfront area, another in a Yolo County agricultural facility project. The table exercise will highlight the unique complexities of adaptation project preparation and offer guidance on how these can be addressed. Following table report-outs, there will be a discussion on how to further build capacity and standards for adaptation project preparation in California.

- Jeb Brugmann | Founding Principal, Resilient Cities Catalyst (moderator)
- Saharnaz Mirzazad | Chief Deputy Director of Planning and Climate Policy, OPR

**9 Land Repurposing for Socio-environmental Justice: Priorities and Community Power**Sonoma 2 • [Track 9: Tried and True](#) • Lightning Presentations

California's unsustainable water use has triggered policies to transform agricultural land into other land uses that can save water, while (ideally) improving the living conditions in rural communities, restoring the environment, and preserving landowner revenues. How we do this transformation will shape the future of socio-environmental opportunities in rural communities, and policy incentives must be intentional to solve historical inequities. We must be wise on what is repurposed, where, why, and how, as well as who is impacted by the changes. Join us to hear from a diverse set of experts with technical knowledge and wisdom to use cropland repurposing to maximize benefits.

- Angel Santiago Fernandez-Bou | Senior Scientist, Union of Concerned Scientists (moderator)
- Anna Gurevitz | Executive Director, SocioEnvironmental and Education Network
- Jose Armando Munguia | General Manager, Allensworth Progressive Association
- Nataly Escobedo Garcia | Policy Coordinator, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

**11:45-1:00pm | NETWORKING LUNCH**

We know how difficult it is to step away from work to be present at conferences like CAF. We challenge you to take advantage of our final lunch together to reconnect with old colleagues and to introduce yourself to a few new, unfamiliar faces. Don't forget to check Whova for special lunch networking!

**1:00-2:15pm | SESSION BLOCK G***9 concurrent breakout sessions organized by Program Track***1 Community Perspectives of an Engagement Model for Climate Change Research**

California 1 • Track 1: Actionable Science • Solution Room

SGC's Climate Change Research Program supports the integration of innovative research projects and local knowledge. The program emphasizes partnerships among community organizations and research institutions to ensure the usability of knowledge outcomes for policymakers and communities. An introduction to SGC's Research Engagement model will be followed by panelist presentations on their experiences and outcomes produced by partnering directly with community experts who represent low-income and historically marginalized communities to build climate smart communities. This session will illustrate the versatility of this framework to leverage academic partnerships to provide technical assistance to community partners to address climate impacts.

- Montrai Spikes | Research Advisor, California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) (moderator)
- Michael McCullough | Professor, California Polytechnic State University
- Rachel Morello-Frosch | Professor, Dept. of Env. Science, Policy and Management, UC Berkeley
- Lara J. Cushing | Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, UCLA

**2 Harmonizing Coolness - Planting Trees and Reflective Pavement Together**

Vineyard IV • Track 2: Critical Infrastructure • Panel Discussion

Integrating climate smart materials like cool paving and street trees can reduce mortality associated with extreme heat by up to 60%. Thermally comfortable city environments promote outdoor activity, a public life, and health. For California cities, there is little in the way of immediate cooling solutions targeting the public right-of-way. As temperatures rise, further aggravating the UHI effect, the entire public right-of-way remains a critical gap that could be adapted to improve public health and maintain the viability of critical GHG and VMT reduction strategies. This session will share an innovative approach that incorporates both green and gray climate adaptation strategies and illustrate advances in cool surface technology. Attendees will walk away with a better understanding of integrated extreme heat adaptation projects that could be implemented in their communities.

- Ana Tabuena-Ruddy | Asst. Director & Chief Sustainability Officer, City of LA, StreetsLA (mod.)
- Melanie Torres | Community Organizer, Pacoima Beautiful
- Amanda Hansen | Deputy Secretary for Climate Change, California Natural Resources Agency
- Braden Kay | Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program, State of California

**3 The Only Constant is Change: Adapting Tribal Resources to Dynamic Water Systems**

California 2 • Track 3: It Takes A Village • Panel Discussion

Water is life. The indigenous peoples of California have a special connection to the water; they have always understood that the river, estuarine, and marine systems are dynamic in nature. Climate change, however, is altering these systems at a faster pace than many previously thought possible. Sea-level rise, variations in precipitation intensity and frequency, and changing weather patterns threaten tribal resources adjacent to and dependent upon these dynamic water systems. Unlike other resources, protecting and adapting tribal resources requires a unique approach, one that balances ancestral knowledge with the modern-day world and future tribal visions. This panel will discuss several recent projects that have considered: 1) how to incorporate traditional knowledge into future management; 2) how to adapt tribal resources to present and future climate risks; and 3) how tribal and non-tribal co-managers can work together to protect tribal resources.

- Meagan Flier | Senior Coastal Engineer, Environmental Science Associates (moderator)
- Eagle Jones | Director of Water Operations, Pechanga Tribal Government
- Rachel M. Gregg | Senior Climate Planner, Environmental Science Associates
- Carrie Benner | Environmental Scientist, California State Parks, San Diego Coast District

**4 Mitigating Public Safety Power Shutoffs: An Energy Resiliency Planning Framework**Sonoma 1 • Track 4: [Marrying Movements](#) • Training

California has experienced increasing wildfires over the last decade with many attributed to power lines. To reduce wildfire risk from electrical infrastructure, utilities have used Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) to deenergize power lines during certain weather conditions. As a result, many customers in the North Coast who are otherwise safe-to-energize also lose power during PSPS events. This session will present how the recent North Coast Resiliency Initiative (NCRI) found a solution to reduce PSPS impacts in safe-to-energize communities. Participants will learn about the process used to develop this solution along with a high-level problem solving framework that can be applied to energy resiliency challenges across the state. Participants will brainstorm how this framework could be used in their own work and then explore an example from the audience. Participants will leave with an actionable tool they can use to collaborate on energy resilience issues in their communities.

- Claire Halbrook | Director, Gridworks (moderator)
- Sarina Soor | Senior Project Manager, Gridworks

**5 Community Voices from Multisector Adaptation Planning**California 3 • Track 5: [People Power](#) • Panel Discussion

This session will educate conference attendees on the climate change impacts experienced within some of Southern California's most vulnerable communities. Leaders operating in over 30 such vulnerable communities will share struggles with establishing climate resilience as a community priority, successes with connecting climate change to other struggle areas, and their contributions to ensuring vulnerable community perspectives are embedded into local electricity provider Southern California Edison's asset management planning and grid enhancement processes. Come learn about models for establishing multi-sector partnership in the climate planning process, and how these partnerships might then serve as the starting point for further climate action that helps vulnerable communities bounce forward.

- Anuj Desai | Senior Advisor, Southern California Edison (moderator)
- Frank Jackson Jr | Chairman and CEO, Village Solutions Foundation
- Tracy Stanhoff | President, American Indian Chamber of Commerce of CA
- Gilmar Flores | Director of Programs, Breathe Southern California

**6 Fire-Adapted Communities for California's Future**Sonoma 3 • Track 6: [Place-based Projects](#) • Panel Discussion

California communities are vulnerable to wildfires and many are turning to an organizing framework known as "fire-adapted communities". A fire-adapted community understands its risk and takes individual and collective actions to prepare for and adapt to wildfires. Fire-adapted communities are also reestablishing their relationship with fire as a natural element in the landscape by using "beneficial fire" and other treatments to reduce risk and improve ecosystem health, while also addressing critical vulnerabilities in the places people live, work, and play. This session will feature panelists from both State and local government and the non-profit sector in a facilitated discussion to share stories, information, and perspectives on how fire-adapted communities are building resilience and leading the way to new fire cultures.

- Erik de Kok | Director of Interdisciplinary Planning, Ascent (moderator)
- Frank Bigelow | Assistant Deputy Director, CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- Pauline Allen | Resilience Specialist, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mtns.
- Royal Ramey | Co-Founder & Chief Program Officer, Forestry & Fire Recruitment Program

**7 Climate Resilient Infrastructure: Transforming Communities & Building Power**

Vineyard III • [Track 7: Resources for Resilience](#) • Panel Discussion

In this session, a panel of community-based organizations, public sector, and philanthropy will share their successes and lessons learned, and discuss how multi-sector partnerships aid in the advancement of climate resilient infrastructure for vulnerable communities. Climate resilient infrastructure refers to structures and systems planned and built in a way that leads with the needs of communities and addresses changing climate conditions while advancing “co-benefits” such as jobs and other capacity-building opportunities. The unprecedented infrastructure investment available through federal, state, and local sources allows for a once in a generation opportunity to forge a new approach to infrastructure projects. Panelists will share their experiences in breaking down silos across issue areas, disciplines, and sectors to maximize the benefits of that funding.

- Cynthia Guzmán | Principal, Estolano Advisors (moderator)
- Stephanie Ramirez | Director of Programs and Initiatives, SLATE-Z
- Lilly O'Brien | Sr. Deputy of Infrastructure & Transportation, LA County Board of Supervisors
- Jessica Meaney | Executive Director, Investing in Place
- Ben Russak | Director, Public Partnerships, Liberty Hill Foundation

**8 Exploring Governance Options for Equitable Nature-based Climate Resilience**

Vineyard I/II • [Track 8: Systems Change](#) • World Café

Through small group discussions, this session will explore challenging questions focused on how to establish or restructure governance mechanisms that are necessary for implementation and ongoing management of nature-based infrastructure. In order to advance nature-based solutions that serve frontline communities and provide vital co-benefits to ecosystems and public health, we are exploring innovative governance mechanisms and funding strategies that can secure reliable, long-term, funding for maintaining natural infrastructure, while simultaneously empowering communities to engage in adaptation as an ongoing process. Starting with a primer on the topic, attendees will then split into groups to dig into a series of questions meant to spark discussion and generate out-of-the-box ideas and solutions. Participants will come away with new perspectives on how we can adapt our existing systems to support the equitable climate goals we strive for.

- Sadie Wilson | Senior Resilience Manager, Greenbelt Alliance (moderator)
- Justin Ebrahemi | Marketing & Communications Director, Greenbelt Alliance
- Tim Mollette-Parks | Designer/Partner, Mithun
- Nate Huntington | CivicSpark Fellow, Greenbelt Alliance

**9 Data-Driven Adaptation Pathways through a Smart Coastal Monitoring Network**

Sonoma 2 • [Track 9: Tried and True](#) • Traditional Presentations

The planned Smart Coastal Change Monitoring Network in Santa Cruz will integrate geophysical and social triggers and thresholds with communication tools to enhance the city's capacity for data-driven and equitable coastal adaptation pathways. This session will delve into the Network's design, including new sensor technology, joint data acquisition and integration, and communication tools, as well as emphasize the importance of adaptation pathways to increase preparedness and resilience to hazards serving as a model for other cities to implement. Attendees will also learn effective community outreach strategies that combine VR, art (murals, song/dance performance, storytelling) and traditional modes (social media, website dashboards, workshops). Equity is at the center of the Network with a focus on vulnerable groups, including Latinx and unhoused individuals, in assessing the efficacy of communication tools about climate risks and responses.

- Juliano Calil | Founder, Virtual Planet (moderator)
- Tiffany Wise-West | Sustainability and Climate Action Manager, City of Santa Cruz
- Saara Ranabhat | Graduate Student, San José State University, Environmental Studies Dept.



**2:00-2:15pm | NETWORKING BREAK**

How will you spend this final networking break? Whether it's in the hallways, at sponsor tables, or at the *Colors of Conservation* coloring station, we hope you take advantage of this opportunity to connect with other attendees, exchange business cards, and explore partnership ideas to carry forward after CAF!

**2:15-3:30pm | PLENARY SESSION #3****Resilient Dollars, Resilient Communities: Mobilizing Resources for Equitable Adaptation**

In this new era of climate funding, how can we ensure investments generate tangible and lasting outcomes that support California's adaptation agenda? What will it take to increase and sustain investments to support ongoing efforts towards creating equitable and resilient communities? Our third plenary session explores pathways for strengthening public-philanthropic collaboration to create a robust, dynamic, and accessible environment for adaptation funding. Our panel of community, state, federal, and philanthropic leaders will discuss efforts underway and novel ideas for maximizing the impact of new investments, bridging funding gaps, and sustaining resources for climate adaptation into the future. Participants will also hear about active and upcoming funding opportunities and examples of outcomes-oriented projects that are ripe for public and philanthropic investments.

- Kiara Reed | Executive Director, Civic Thread (moderator)
- Judi Larsen | Managing Director, The California Endowment
- Sarah Smith | Director, Legacy Initiatives, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
- Saharnaz Mirzazad | Chief Deputy Director of Planning and Climate Policy, OPR
- Katie Lipiecki | Mitigation Division Director, FEMA Region 9

**3:30-4:00pm | CLOSING PLENARY****Dreaming Green: Young Changemakers Share their Visions for Climate Resilience**

The 2023 California Adaptation Forum will close with a thought-provoking and visionary dialogue featuring two young climate leaders who are advocating for positive change in their communities and across the state of California. Through this session, we emphasize the importance of intergenerational collaboration and the critical role of young leaders in shaping an inclusive and equitable agenda that leaves no one behind in the face of a changing climate. Join us for this closing plenary to explore the power of youth-led movements and their potential to transform policy, mobilize communities, and drive systemic change.

- Lil Milagro Henriquez | Executive Director & Founder, Mycelium Youth Network (moderator)
- Sim Bilal | State Organizer, Youth Climate Strike LA / California Green New Deal Coalition
- Aniya Butler | Hip Hop & Climate Justice Initiative Coordinator, Youth Vs Apocalypse

**4:00-4:15pm | CLOSING ACTIVITY**

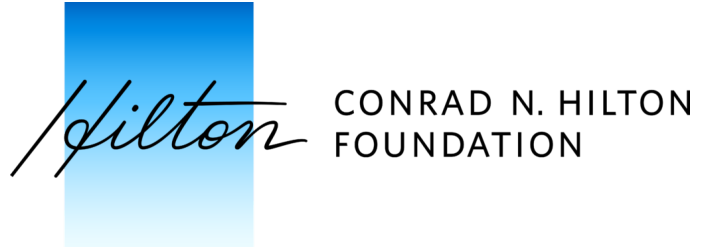
We wrap up the 2023 California Adaptation Forum with brief closing remarks and an interactive closing activity with the full CAF audience. We hope you can join us before you head home (or to your next destination) to share space as a community before we reconvene for CAF 2025!

# SPONSORS

Thank you to our generous sponsors for make CAF23 possible for hundreds of climate leaders! We're grateful for your ongoing leadership to advance transformative climate adaptation solutions throughout California.

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## CATALYSTS

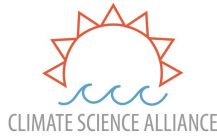


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# It takes a village to organize CAF...

Thank you to all of our partners who lent their wisdom and time to support a successful 2023 gathering!

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## FORUM ORGANIZERS

Organizing efforts for the California Adaptation Forum are led by CivicWell. The core CAF23 planning team includes:  
**Kelsey Wolf-Cloud** • **Julianna DeNike** • **Tiela Combs** • **Julia Kim**

All CivicWell staff and board members provided valuable contributions, with critical support for CAF23 provided by:  
**John Vandervort** • **John Reid** • **Haley Ausserer-Zelaya** • **Tonya Rosencrans** • **Bernadette Austin**

CAF is organized in partnership with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. We thank our countless State partners who supported this year's forum, particularly **Dolores Barajas**.

## To all CAF attendees, speakers, and session organizers:

First and foremost, we thank you for being part of our community. The forum's goal of bringing California's adaptation practitioners together to exchange knowledge and build mutual support to create an equitable and climate-resilient future for all would not be possible without your active participation.

We also express our deepest gratitude to all of our session, workshop, and tour organizers, speakers, and facilitators for lending their time, energy, and expertise to the CAF community. **Thank you!**