2019 Annual Symposium Notes
Climate Risk, Equity and Practicing Resilience
Wednesday, August 14th, 2019, 9:30am-4:15pm
KTGY Room – Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
San Luis Obispo, CA

Welcome

- 4C comprises Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties
- 4C is a member of ARCCA, Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation
- The central coast comprises 44% of California's coastline, and holds 2.3 million people
- The central coast is the site of 6 of CA's 15 largest wildfires, is vulnerable to sea level rise, and has a population of outdoor workers particularly vulnerable to extreme heat risks
- 1.3 gigawatts of solar installed in the central coast thanks largely to community choice energy initiatives and environmental justice groups
- 3 to 4x the national rate of electric vehicle adoption
- Ongoing coastal vulnerability assessments and adaptation strategies
- Join 4C HERE and LGSEC HERE
- Explore the regional resilience toolkit HERE

How to Practice Equity
What information from this panel and notes can you bring to your work and community?

Speaker – Hoi-Fei Mok, PhD Climate Equity Lead ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

Climate Equity and Community Driven Planning
- ICLEI is a global network of local government members, offers technical assistance, and peer to peer connection
- Need for equity is based in systemic discrepancies, inequities that lead to increased sensitivity to climate change in various populations of people
- Equality is not equity – equality erases historical inequities
- In planning: create transparent, fair, inclusive processes in which people are treated openly and fairly
- Community-driven planning builds trust, makes decisions as a group, and recognizes expertise outside the traditional
- Five principles: whole systems thinking, desired outcomes reflected in every step, planning processes as a learning experience, planning into action, balancing power dynamics among stakeholders

Tools to incorporate into the planning process:
- Translation
- Childcare
- Food
- Culturally relevant approaches
- Transportation to and from meetings
- Combine with existing community gatherings
- Engagement opportunities at various times
- Follow up response mechanisms

Use the spectrum of community engagement (link) to assess how your process is, and where there is room for change!

Speaker – Lucas Zucker, (position) CAUSE, Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy

Community-led Resilience and Climate Justice
- CAUSE has lots of projects, but the response to the Thomas fire & mudslides led to strategizing for climate justice for marginalized communities
- CAUSE is working on language access to emergency information, health of outdoor workers in unhealthy air levels, impacts on workers due to evacuations (domestic and service workers), funds for immigrant families after disasters
- Set up Undocufund to distribute $2 million in aid to immigrant families impacted by Thomas fire and mudslides, serving 1400 families
- Working on climate impacts beyond the obvious, for example the effect on commuters reliant on a vulnerable highway, or how flooding of industrial sites due to Sea Level Rise could impact livelihoods
- Existing inequities are the disaster – people are exposed to pesticides, diesel engines, etc, every day. Average farmworker lives to 49
- South Oxnard wetland restoration as a case study – being done with City of Oxnard and funders, service days with cleanups out there, teaching community about the restoration
- Climate Justice Network – Movement Strategy Network will be in Santa Barbara on Sep 26th – come learn more about the model

Speaker – Ms. Margaret Gordon, Co-founder of West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project

Data and research informing environmental health indicators
- 24,000 people in West Oakland, history of gentrification and displacement but still a poor community
- Past fights include eminent domain for freeways, lack of grocery stores
- Children in West Oakland living near the freeways are more likely to be hospitalized for asthma
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Relieve, Revive!
- Projects include air quality, climate change adaptation, and community-based adaptation
- Citizens engaged in air quality monitoring all around neighborhoods to inform on hazards, in collaboration with various groups (Google, UC Berkeley, etc)
- AB 617 is connected to climate adaptation

Questions for all panelists:

Q: For community engagement, is it more effective to try and get huge groups of the community in one place, or more effective to reach out to many small groups?
A: Depending on community trust levels and where you are already with that relationship, you can opt for whatever the groups prefer.

Q: For neutral facilitators engaged in the community adaptation process, do they need to come from that community?
A: No, but they need to have past experience working with communities to make sure voices are heard

Q: How do concerned scientists provide input when their job description requires neutrality?
A: Hard question, mapping can be done at the beginning as a human centric project, look at movement of the people, look at who lives where, who is vulnerable, and who will be affected most.

Q: How do I change my institution when it is stuck in its ways?
A: Institutions change when they see a crisis, that's when fundamental change happens. The State of CA is burning, is in active crisis, so elevate that crisis from within as a tool to make change now.

Q: What are some strategies for communities regarding AB617?
A: Brief overview could include incentivizing trucking to move away from residents, providing indoor air filtration, and changing zoning laws to remove industry from residential areas nearby.

Lightning Talks

Nathan Van Schmidt – UC Santa Cruz
Integrating land use and climate change on CA central coast: impacts and adaptations for local communities

- Research into how climate change and land use change (water demand) affects water supply conditions and community vulnerability
- Mapping scenarios using published literature to look for social sensitivity hotspots, unaffordable water prices, threatened species,
- Looking to update research with localized water pricing – contact Nathan if you have information

Juliette Finzi-Hart - USGS
USGS Coastal Storm Modeling System

- New and updated viewer incorporating hydrodynamic physics-based model looking at sea level rise, wave action from storms
- Can incorporate scenarios from OPC's SLR guidance
- Santa Cruz and Monterey coming soon, as well as information on how water tables will be affected by SLR

Juliano Calil – Middlebury Institute of International Studies
Sea level rise in virtual reality
- Virtual reality is researched and shown to be important in public perception
- Created a virtual reality application looking at a site in Maryland and a site in Santa Cruz using CoSMoS
- Will expand to include research to see if users follow up by getting flood insurance, etc, and also will include socioeconomic and air quality data to the application

Rachel Couch – State Coastal Conservancy
Climate grant opportunities
- Climate Ready grants incorporate ecosystem-based approaches to climate adaptation
- CNRA – fire resiliency and forest health for 9 coastal counties from Marin to Ventura
    - Increase community capacity and resiliency
    - Expand ideas around community and ecology

Mark Adato – Monterey Bay Community Power
Energy and public engagement
- Expanding enrollment program to Morro Bay September through February
- Decentralize, Decarbonize, Democratize
- Rapid expansion

Marc Costa – TEC Energy Coalition

- Urbanopt – software platform that makes sense of buildings in your area, usually blanket metrics, but this looks at each building from GIS, smart analytics, ID each building and how it uses energy for every hour of the day in different projections
- Using Urbanopt and connecting to grid infrastructure, looking at the connection, open source

Becky Lunde – NOAA Office of Coastal Management
Compass Coastal Plan Alignment Tool

- The tool is an overview of the benefits of aligning across multiple planning processes
- Looks at Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Local Coastal Program, General Plan, and others
- Helps show how equity can be considered when updating plans – webinar here!

Climate Hazards: Financial Risk and Liability

Speaker – Paul Fuller, CPCU CEO Allied Public Risk
Climate change and insurance

Insurance used to measure additional dollar of damage due to climate impacts, now slightly different. After major business interruption claims from natural disasters, more weight was given to climate impacts

Gray rhino – exposure that's highly likely to occur, not a surprise, charging at you but you don't move

Speaker – Meg Arnold, GSD Consulting, Valley Vision NGO

- Corporations can take actions that ripple through the supply chain
- Motivating corporate action can be through policy mandates, incentives, or customer/client opinion
- 427 Bay Area is an organization in this space
- Local government implications of increasing corporate awareness of climate risk, physical site risk
- Another issue is that small business is on a different time scale than climate preparedness – need to make rent, can't worry about climate right now

Nuin-Tara Key – OPR
Climate adaptation and resilience work

- Top challenge: how do we fund and finance level and scale of investments needed to build resilience?
- 11 million lives in high fire severity zone
- Scale of wildfire is ballooning, utilities have had increases in insurance premiums and payouts
- Development of risk mitigation measures proportional to the risks is a key strategy
- Need market to send signals to internalize the extra cost to ensure that insurance is appropriately pricing risks

Questions for all panelists:

Q: How do you incentivize business, homeowners and others for resilience independence?
A: National flood insurance is bankrupt, continues because of tax base. Insurance faces the challenge that they have an aggregation exposure that they have to manage

Q: How do we incentivize risk reduction for homeowners?
A: Some funding through CCI from CalFire for home hardening, removing growth, etc.

Q: What is the formula for insurance side and the bond rating side to keep cities in the top groups for adaptation planning?
A: 427 Bay Area has been leading this type of modeling and assessment work

Q: Will insurance share modeling data with cities to work together to plan?
A: Not yet, no call to action to bring insurance to the table, they haven't felt included in the process yet

Lightning Talks

Dan Hossfeld – Sea Grant Fellow for State Coastal Conservancy

- SCC, NOAA OCM and the San Francisco Sentinel Site Cooperative are updating the "Lifting the Fog" resource to better decide which sea level rise viewer to use for vulnerability planning
- Sea the Future will launch in September – join the Coastal Resilience Network now to be invited to the informational webinar

Bob Hill – City of San Luis Obispo

- SLO is looking into lots of climate mitigation and adaptation strategies
- Partnered on a study looking at carbon sequestration suggesting the best bet is compost application
- Increasing compost capacity of city waste, SLO has an anaerobic digester

Alyssa Mann – The Nature Conservancy

- TNC works on Elkhorn Slough, Moss Landing, as well as Highway 1
- 90 miles of Highway 1 at risk by 2100, so large planning process in play along with integration of rail
- August 29th Public meeting on Highway 1 and community needs for Elkhorn Slough

Monique Myers – California Sea Grant

- Upper beach and wetland is vulnerable to SLR, happens to be most biodiverse
- Tipping point of majority of upper beach lost will be before the mid-century
- Sea Grant is working on how to handle this problem, working on a grant proposal to study beach governance

Adrienne Greve – Professor at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

- Cal Poly Sustainability Report is out, every two years, check it out
- 5 public universities in the 4C range, building collaborations with faculty staff and students
- Building database and website that allows integration with 4C, more information soon through 4C!

Margaret Bruce – LGSEC Program Manager

- LGSEC represents local governments in discussions with public utilities
- If you're not at the table, you're on the menu for public utilities!
- Join LGSEC here

Jen Morales – Department of Water Resources

- All local governments have access to regional climate specialists from DWR, Jen represents central coast
- Trying to set up a San Joaquin Climate Collaborative
- At the end of 2020, releasing DWR version of Cal Adapt with snowpack, soil moisture, others

Regulatory Updates and Governor's Priorities

Speaker – Steven Moss, LGSEC's regulatory economist

- California is more than half renewable
- Energy demand is affecting what will happen in the sustainable energy field
- Higher electricity costs are almost certain, PG&E has been bankrupt twice, prices are already increasing
- The baseline cost can shift upwards due to climate change, which affects low income communities
- Local govts are poised to safely take on emerging challenges and opportunities, but lack the resources to do so

Speaker – Nuin-Tara Key, Office of Planning and Research

- Planning on 50 million people in CA by 2050, need to plan how to grow
- We are currently building 800,000 units a year, but we need roughly 1,800,000 to meet demand
- State has pushed for big mitigation strategies, but now lots of work to do in adaptation
- Wildfire is a focus, commission on Catastrophic Wildfire
- Help for vulnerable communities through California Climate Investments
- Funding options include Allocated Affordable housing and sustainable communities program, SGC Research program, CalFire, CalOES (county level funding for planning re:public safety power shutoffs)

Q: Distributed resources seems like a best option for guaranteed resilience in public safety shutoff situations?
A: It is a natural opportunity to align and figure out how to make a community driven process

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Thank you to our LGSEC and 4C Members!

Questions?
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