



BAY AREA CLIMATE NEWS

September 2017

The Big Picture

The Big Heat

After a Summer of record-breaking heat in California,—[NOAA reports](#) our 2nd consecutive warmest summer ever and 4th out of last 5 years—including our “[106° in San Francisco](#),” comes a study published in Nature Climate Change “[Global Risk of Deadly Heat](#)” with this chiller: “Around 30% of the world’s population is *currently* exposed to climatic conditions exceeding [a] deadly threshold for at least 20 days a year.”

There Are Different Possible Futures – Which One Do We Want?

Fabulous [study and maps](#) from the [Climate Impact Lab](#) showing how extremely hot days will grow under a modest (Paris-style) emissions path vs. no action at all. Both are hotter but Washington D.C. goes from 7 days over 95° to 29 such days (Paris) OR 74 days (no action). Too far from home? Find the projected extreme heat days for your city under different scenarios on [Cal-Adapt](#).

[Houston, Florida and Puerto Rico – What’s Your Bet?](#)

Under 2 Degrees C?

Very blunt new report subtitled “[Fast Action Policies to Protect People and the Planet from Extreme Climate Change](#)” by UCSD’s V. Ramanathan and colleagues (including Berkeley’s Bill Collins and Max Auffhammer) calls for URGENT action with solutions broken down nicely into 4 building blocks, 3 levers and 10 scalable solutions. (You will notice that air capture & sequestration is getting a lot more play these days—for good reason.)

It will be very instructive to watch the recoveries in these three August-September disaster zones. How will each particular combination of resources, government structures, racism, and other factors mix with the “natural” forces of extreme wind, rainfall and storm surge? We are about to get another big lesson in what resilience really means.

Cool Bay Area Projects

Marin, San Mateo, San Francisco and Oakland Sue over Climate Change

In July, Marin and San Mateo (joined by Imperial Beach in SoCal) [sued 37 oil and gas companies](#) for public nuisance and negligence for their contributions to global warming-related sea level rise. Now, San Francisco and Oakland have joined the fray with their own [lawsuits against 5 major oil companies](#). SF and Oakland charge that “the defendants promoted fossil fuels and fossil fuel products for unlimited use in massive quantities with knowledge of the hazard that such use would create.”

[Resilient By Design: Bay Area Challenge](#)

RBD, the \$5 million Bay Area design challenge (sea level rise) has kicked into high gear. Get the excellent 44-page [Briefing Book](#) by RBD and SFEI [here](#). Read up on the [selected 10 teams](#) of designers, planners, architects, etc. (from over 50 team entries) and [John King’s report](#) on the teams’ [all-day, in-depth tours](#) of key Bay Area SLR sites to learn and meet with local experts.

[\\$19 Million Bay Area “Radar” System for Atmospheric River Events this Winter!](#)

The [Sonoma County Water Agency](#) and [Scripps](#) are developing a 1-5 rating system for the Bay Area’s extreme storms and the ability to forecast where and when they will hit on 14-day and 21-day windows. And, perhaps most importantly, how long these huge storms will stall over our region, the biggest factor in the recent Houston damage. [Research shows](#) that AR events—now sometimes called horizontal hurricanes—are increasing in intensity.

Financing Climate Adaptation

This critical ingredient to accelerating Bay Area adaptation is finally getting lots of screen time. Resources Legacy Fund is just beginning a statewide research project for public and private funding and financing mechanisms to deal with water supply, flooding, heat, air pollution, wildfire and other impacts. BCDC is running its [Financing the Future Working Group](#) (next meeting 10/19). Now, Harvard has published “[Regional Resilience Trust Funds](#),” an analysis of this creative financing approach for NYC.

CRI Project Updates

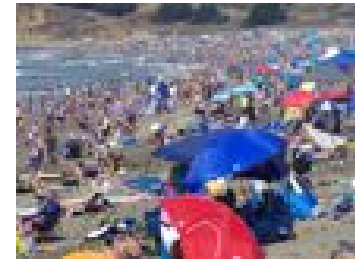
Mark Lubell’s has expanded his **RISer SF Bay** work on the political side of sea level rise with new Bay Area polling and a brief “[Citizen Perceptions of Sea Level Rise in the San Francisco Bay Area.](#)” On October 18, CRI will host a 90-minute webinar on **RISer SF Bay**, featuring Mark Stacey (Berkeley) — Exciting new findings for SF Bay: regional impacts of local actions, Mark Lubell (Davis) — The Governance Gap plus new Bay Area polling data,

Photo of the Month

Yes, those are *Northern* Californians at the beach! (Pacifica, September 2, 2017) Thanks to Ron DiMichele at [Bay Nature Magazine](#).

and Patrick Barnard (USGS) — The Very Latest Science News on sea level rise. To sign-up
bruce@climatereadinessinstitute.org.

On October 3, CRI will host a webinar featuring the Berkeley team for “Land Acquisition and Ecosystem Carbon,” a just-completed project for the California Coastal Conservancy. The team will report on California redwood forests, rangelands and other potential sequestration areas. To sign-up email bruce@climatereadinessinstitute.org.



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