



# BAY AREA CLIMATE NEWS

May 2017

## The Big Picture

### **Kids Suing the Feds for an Unstable Climate**

The Oregon [lawsuit](#) by a group of 9-20 year olds (Our Children's Trust) is now moving towards a trial in 2018. [In rejecting motions](#) to dismiss from the Obama administration, U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken said: "Exercising my 'reasoned judgment,' I have no doubt that the right to a climate system capable of sustaining human life is fundamental to a free and ordered society." See the [LATEST](#) from Reuters: Two big fossil fuel groups just reversed an earlier move to intervene in the case.

### **Where's Our *Brown v. Board of Education* Going to Come From?**

One possible sue-the-polluter approach is based on Richard Heede's groundbreaking, peer-reviewed 2014 [study](#) in *Climatic Change* that calculated the specific GHG contributions of major polluters since the Industrial Revolution. See the Grist [article](#) on Heede's work and a surprising possible legal barrier. Want more? Columbia's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law keeps a fabulous and deep [database](#) of ALL climate change litigation. See the 1-page overview [here](#) and then dive in.

### **The Doomsday Glacier**

Jeff Goodell's long and masterful storytelling in Rolling Stone on the recent acceleration of change in Antarctica, why it matters SO MUCH (translated for us laypeople) and how it is directly relevant to the Bay Area's future.

### **The Battle Over California's Climate Future: SB 775 and AB 368**

Fascinating series of thoughtful blog articles on [UCLA's Legal Planet](#) on the battle (mostly among groups on the left) on how to reform or re-do California's cap and trade program.

## State Adaptation Work in Full Swing

[Draft 2017 Safeguarding California](#), the state's updated plan for adaptation and resilience, is out for comment until June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Send comments to [Climate@Resources.ca.gov](mailto:Climate@Resources.ca.gov). There are workshops right now going on statewide including last week in the [Bay Area](#) and a [May 30th workshop](#) hosted Noon-4 pm by Greenlining, APEN and others in Oakland focused on public health..

[State of California Sea Level Rise Guidance 2017 Update](#) is now being developed by the Ocean Protection Council and partners. In April, CRI News featured the new (and rather attention-catching) science report, [Rising Seas in California](#), which provides the science basis for the new (higher) guidance that will be adopted in early 2018.

A group of state agencies are leading a brand new process to create **Regional Science Summary Reports** in 8-10 CA regions by mid-2018. The Bay Area report will feature a number of expert authors led by UC Berkeley's David Ackerly. Part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment research program. CRI will help by organizing an advisory group of practitioners and scientists.

## Cool Bay Area Projects

### **The Earth Deconstructed (by very bright high school students)**

Hundreds of high school students at Mountain View High School in Cupertino showed off a wide range of VERY smart climate/energy projects May 18th at the Tech in San Jose. Organized by teacher Kavita Gupta, the evening included music, a drama class skit, a panel of old people (including CRI) and a giant open house. See the [photos](#) and the Mercury News [story](#).

### **Marin BayWAVE – Marin Bay Waterfront Adaptation Vulnerability Evaluation**

Check out the fabulous DRAFT 404-page (!) [Marin Shoreline Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment](#) or maybe just the [Exec Summary](#). This bayside study is the companion to Marin's earlier work on the ocean side—[C-SMART](#) (Collaboration: Marin Sea-Level Marin Adaptation Response Team). Two points for acronyms!

### **San Francisco 2017 Climate and Health Adaptation Framework**

The Department of Public Health has just released an excellent assessment of climate impacts on San Franciscans, particularly vulnerable communities, from sea level rise, heat, air pollution, foodborne illnesses, etc. The report, funded by the federal CDC, includes data analysis, plus "a framework for strategies and activities to reduce the health burden of climate change, improve health equity, and develop a culture of climate preparedness." A good structure for any city or county to follow!

## CRI Project Updates

### **Resilient Infrastructure as Seas Rise (RISer SF Bay)**

The RISer project on Bay Area sea level rise is now producing initial modeling results on how bayside protection in one city or county would impact flooding in neighboring areas. A webinar is planned for June-July. Meanwhile, the RISer report on Bay Area governance improvements for sea level rise planning is nearing its final form.

### **Ocean Protection Council AB 2516 Project**

CRI is working with statewide partners to develop a methodology for assessing and measuring, at regular intervals, progress on sea level rise planning in each of 6 regions. When completed, CRI will work with regional leaders to apply the methodology and create a baseline measurement of where we are on planning, projects, environmental justice and other "attributes." The purpose is to identify where additional resources can best be employed to accelerate and strengthen regional sea level rise preparation.

More info? Email [bruce@climatereadinessinstitute.org](mailto:bruce@climatereadinessinstitute.org).

## Photo of the Month

**The Causes of Climate Change** (U.S. EPA)

# This page is being updated.

Thank you for your interest in this topic. We are currently updating our website to reflect EPA's priorities under the leadership of President Trump and Administrator Pruitt. If you're looking for an archived version of this page, you can find it on the [January 19 snapshot](#).

[Here's what our Public Affairs Office released about these changes.](#)

