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Subject: Bay Area Climate News from CRI - June 2018  
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# **BAY AREA CLIMATE NEWS FROM CRI**

**June 2018**

## **THE BIG PICTURE**

### **Migration and Climate Change — A Very Different World is Coming**

The NYT's excellent feature [Migrants Are on the Rise Around the World and Myths About Them Are Shaping Attitudes](#) proposes the "wild card" in the great upheaval now under way: Climate Change. For one angle, see Cattaneo and Peri's research study [The Migration Response to Increasing Temperatures](#).

### [Oil and Gas Leak Research Questions the Real Result of Shifting from Coal to Natural Gas](#)

The Pulitzer Prize-winning [Inside Climate](#)

[News](#) reports the amount of methane leaking from oil and gas operations in the U.S. may be 60% higher than official EPA estimates. "This rate of leaking methane is just as bad for the climate in the short term as the carbon dioxide that results from burning natural gas for fuel." The new study questions the value of natural gas as a "bridge fuel" without substantial improvements in production methods.

### [Leaked IPCC DRAFT Report: 2°C Warming Substantially More Harmful than 1.5°C](#)

[Climate Home News](#) reports "growing certainty that 2C, once considered shorthand for a 'safe' amount of planetary warming, would be a dangerous step for humanity." The difference between warming of 1.5C and 2C would be "substantial" and damaging to communities, economies and ecosystems across the world.

### [James Hansen +30](#)

Thirty years ago last Saturday (June 23, 1988) on a sweltering D.C. day, NASA's James Hansen laid out the climate crisis to a Congressional committee.

Justin Gillis, ex-NYT writer provides this interesting [look back](#) at how right Hansen was so many years ago. See also Hansen's recent blog post [Some Reason for Optimism](#).

## **BAY AREA CLIMATE LAWSUITS (and Carbon Taxes?)**

While the San Francisco/Oakland lawsuits against Big Oil were [dismissed](#) earlier this week, there are MANY questions about the (a) SF/OAK appeals and (b) similar but different suits by Marin, San Mateo and others. [Climate Liability News](#) gives us the latest [here](#). Also, an excellent long piece on why [Imperial Beach](#) in Southern California is suing.

For a bigger (and quite encouraging) legal picture, see the Guardian's [Can Climate Litigation Save the World](#) with links to serious courtroom actions in the Netherlands (winning!), Uganda, Pakistan and more.

Meanwhile, perhaps spurred by the surge in legal actions, calls for a U.S. carbon tax are growing louder from both sides of the Congressional aisle. [Bloomberg News](#) outlines a [big well-financed campaign](#) by fossil and renewable energy interests for a carbon tax and dividend proposal. This one would trade a nationwide carbon tax for a ban on federal carbon regulation AND a prohibition on climate lawsuits vs. industry.

Here's [Triplepundit.com](#)'s [summary of the critical reaction](#) to this latest proposal. Meanwhile, Grist reports on [carbon tax proposals](#) in MA, DC and WA.

# COOL BAY AREA PROJECTS

## **BayCAN!**

The new Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network (BayCAN), by and for local governments in our region, is launching July 11 in Oakland. Great information to help you do your job, networking with new and old peers, and in-depth learning (Adaptation Pathways - planning with great uncertainty). BayCAN will cover ALL Adaptation Topics—public health, drought, wildfire, coastal flooding, etc. For more info [bruce@climatereadinessinstitute.org](mailto:bruce@climatereadinessinstitute.org) or [dbehar@sfwater.org](mailto:dbehar@sfwater.org).

## **CHARG**

The Coastal Hazards Adaptation Resiliency Group (CHARG) has re-convened and re-charged to focus on Bay Area technical assistance around sea level rise and extreme storms. See the [CHARG web site](#) for more info including June 6th meeting materials and the CHARG Strategy Brief.

## **Lawrence Berkeley Scientists Find a Cool Way to Save Water**

The Mercury News reports on a [recent study](#) by LBL's Andy Jones and Pouya Vahmani showing how “cool roofs” can save water for California home owners and renters. While cool roofs have already

been proven to substantially lower AC energy use, Jones and Vahmani demonstrate how cool roofs can reduce the urban heat island effect, lowering urban temps on hot days, and therefore helping us all use less water.

### **Bay Area Regional Report**

The Bay Area Regional Report—70+ pages summarizing key climate science and adaptation knowledge for the nine-county region—is being completed by UC Berkeley’s David Ackerly, Mark Stacey, and Andy Jones with a host of topic authors. Watch for it in August as part of the State of California’s 4th Assessment: 30 technical reports, 9 regional reports, 3 topic-specific reports (climate justice, oceans/coasts and tribal areas) AND a fabulous statewide summary. Come discuss the reports and how to engage decision-makers at a special workshop August 27th at the [California Adaptation Forum](#) (see below).

### **[Insuring California in a Changing Climate](#)**

Berkeley Law and California Insurance Commissioner David Jones produced this day-long symposium on June 13th on the Cal campus. See the symposium [website](#) for presentations and other materials on this critical issue.

**UPCOMING: CALIFORNIA  
ADAPTATION FORUM & GLOBAL**

# CLIMATE SUMMIT

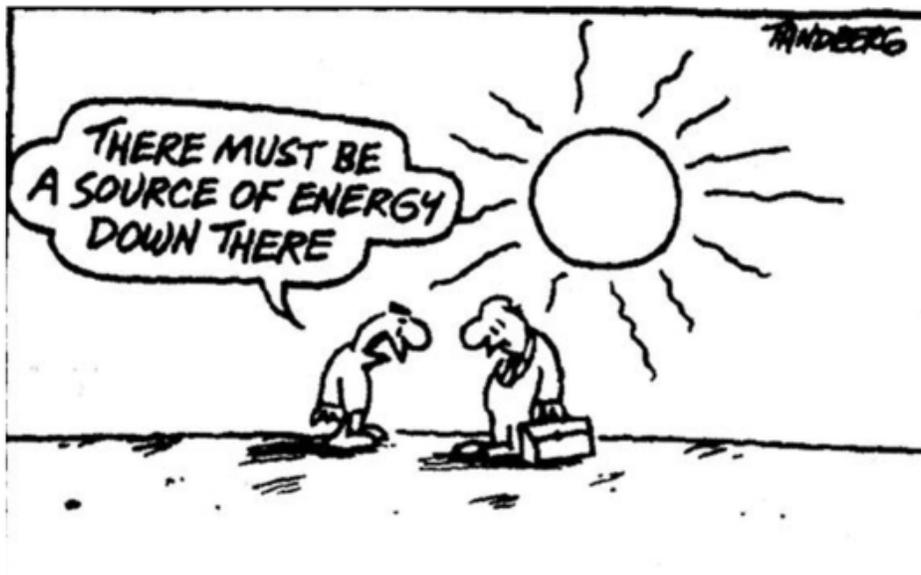
## [The CAF!](#)

The 3rd California Adaptation Forum will bring together hundreds of adaptation and resilience experts (like you!) August 27-28-29 in Sacramento. Get more info and register [here](#).

The [Global Climate Action Summit](#) is landing in San Francisco September 12-13-14 — invitation only — but with scores of open-to-all Affiliated Events during the week around our region. Stay tuned for the [lineup of Affiliated Events](#) coming soon.

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Challenging Business as Usual



*Bruce Riordan*

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