



2020 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSEMBLY

Our Climate Crisis: Beyond Seawalls and Electric Vehicles

McGeorge School of Law
January 25, 2020

REGISTRATION OPENS & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
WELCOME – Main Hall

**9:00 AM -
10:00 AM**

Howard Penn, Executive Director, Planning & Conservation League
Graham Brownstein, Chairman, Planning & Conservation League
John Kirlin, Distinguished Professor of Public Policy, McGeorge School of Law

TBD

NETWORKING BREAK

**10:15 AM -
11:45 AM**

REACTION TO GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S WATER RESILIENCE PORTFOLIO
Marguerite Patil, Special Assistant to the General Manager, Contra Costa Water District
Alex Biering, Government Affairs and Communications Manager, Friant Water Authority
Eric Wesselman, Executive Director, Friends of the River
Jennifer Clary, Programs Manager, Clean Water Action
Moderator - Jonas Minton, Senior Water Policy Advisor, Planning and Conservation League

By the end of 2019 Governor Newsom will issue his vision for California's water future. Hear reaction to the Governor's Portfolio from agricultural, urban, enviro and environmental justice representatives.

**10:15 AM -
11:45 AM**

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION: HOW TO ACHIEVE OUR HOUSING AND CLIMATE GOALS TOGETHER

Panelists TBD

California's new Governor has put forth extremely ambitious housing goals for the state 3.5 million homes in the next ten years. We applaud the Governor for this focus on housing, but PCL believes that our housing goals should not be defined by production numbers alone, and that it is imperative that the State's housing goals are aligned with California's goals for climate, health, and equity as well. Achieving all of these goals holistically in addressing our housing shortage demands consideration of where our housing is and who it will serve, not solely the sheer number of units a jurisdiction can produce.

PCL is actively working with cross-interest partners around the State with an aim to inform proposals for how to better align our housing and transportation investment with all of these goals. This panel will discuss multiple recommendations that have emerged.

**10:15 AM -
11:45 AM**

LITIGATION AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL ROLLBACKS UNDER THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Michael Wall, Litigation Codirector, Natural Resources Defense Council

David Zonana, Supervising Deputy Attorney, Office of the Attorney General

Moderator – TBD

TBD

**10:15 AM -
11:45 AM**

PHASING OUT OIL AND GAS: IS IT LEGAL TO KEEP IT IN THE GROUND?

Ashley Conrad-Saydah, Independent Climate and Energy Consultant (Invited)

Roger Lin, Clinical Supervising Attorney, Environmental Law Clinic UC Berkeley (Invited)

Uduak-Joe Ntuk, Trustee, Long Beach Community College (Invited)

David Braun, Project Director, Rootskeeper (Invited)

Ingrid Brostrom, Assistant Director, The Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment (Invited)

Moderator - TBD

As California works to achieve carbon neutrality and address concerns relating to health, safety, air quality, water quality, and environmental justice associated with oil and gas production, many are advocating for a "managed" decline in production, rather than allowing market forces alone to determine where drilling phases out first, and where it is allowed to continue longest. This panel will discuss how the state of California is currently studying this issue and the landscape of policy options for beginning a managed phaseout. It will also examine underlying legal questions surrounding a managed oil and gas production phaseout in California, including whether state or local governments have the ability to void existing

permits, deny new permits, enact drilling buffer zones, or reclassify oil and gas wells as non-conforming uses under zoning codes.

NETWORKING BREAK

LUNCH SESSION

12:00 PM - **TBD**
1:15 PM

NETWORKING BREAK

1:30 PM -
3:00 PM

THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE: WHAT IT MEANS TO ALL OF US

Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture

Daniel Mountjoy, Director of Resource Stewardship, Sustainable Conservation (Invited)

Moderator - TBD

California agriculture produces one eighth of all the nation's food and most of its fresh fruits and vegetables, contributing more than \$50 billion to the state's economy each year. It occupies roughly half of the state's land area, uses about three-quarters of its developed water supplies and generates seven percent of its greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change is likely to have a profound impact on California agriculture. For example, a shrinking Sierra snowpack would mean less irrigation water even as rising temperatures will necessitate more water to keep crops alive. The risk of flooding of agricultural land would be exacerbated by stronger atmospheric rivers. Increased temperatures would also put additional stress on farm workers and dairy cattle while limiting where mainstay fruit crops, including citrus and wine grapes can be grown. It could also disrupt pollination cycles and expand the range of insect pests and diseases. Many mitigation measures can be taken to avoid or reduce these impacts, and to adapt to inevitable changes. Among these measures are capturing and storing floodwaters and runoff in depleted aquifers, more efficient irrigation, sustainable farming methods, soil carbon sequestration and preventing the urbanization of farmland, which increases per acre greenhouse gas emissions seventy-fold. The panelists in this workshop will elaborate on all these potential impacts as well as adaptation and mitigation measures.

1:30 PM -
3:00 PM

SECURING THE FUTURE OF CALIFORNIA'S LIVING DIVERSITY

Kim Delfino, Executive Director, Defenders of Wildlife

Charles Striplen, Environmental Scientist, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Dan Gluesenkamp, Executive Director, California Native Plant Society

Moderator - Kevin Hunting, Biodiversity and Conservation Coordination, California Natural Resources Agency

In 2018, California launched the Biodiversity Initiative –a historic commitment to saving the web of life that underpins our health and prosperity. Already, this initiative is reshaping how we build a better future --500 California biodiversity scientists have signed “A Charter to Secure the Future of California’s Native Biodiversity,” agencies are urgently scoping how they can contribute to the change, and Governor Newsom’s administration recently budgeted \$18.6M toward ambitious biodiversity projects such as the effort to seed bank all of California’s plants and end plant extinction in the Golden State.

This panel will explore how we can ensure resilient biodiversity in the face of climate change. We will highlight how attendees can be included in this opportunity for system-level change. In addition, we will discuss how California can lead the way nationally and internationally on policy and science, including bringing California's successes to inspire the world at the UN Convention on Biodiversity meetings in October 2020.

**1:30 PM -
3:00 PM**

**CEQA 2.0: THE EFFORT TO RESOLVE LONGSTANDING CONTROVERSIES
ABOUT CEQA**

TBD

**1:30 PM -
3:00 PM**

THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON OUR COMMUNITIES

TBD

NETWORKING BREAK

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

**3:15 PM -
4:15 PM**

TBD

RECEPTION & HAPPY HOUR