

SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS | 26TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA | SEPT. 21 - 25, 2016



GLOBAL ISSUES AND INNOVATION IN THE BELLWETHER STATE

HOSTED BY: CAPITAL PUBLIC RADIO AND UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

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SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA | SEPT. 21 – 25 | 2016

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Andrew Nixon, Capital Public Radio

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Jay Mather

UC Davis

Florence Lo, California  
Department of Water  
Resources

Andrew Nixon,  
Capital Public Radio

GLOBAL ISSUES AND INNOVATION IN THE BELLWETHER STATE

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## WELCOME LETTER FROM RICK EYTCHESON

Welcome to Sacramento! Capital Public Radio is proud to co-sponsor this year's conference and to showcase our vibrant, innovative, diverse region. Sacramento is the seat of political power for the state of California, but there's much more, including food, arts and outdoor activities. In fact, you're here during one of the biggest events of the year, Farm-to-Fork Week, when Sacramento celebrates its agricultural roots and culinary creativity. You'll get a taste of this during the Beat Dinners on Friday.



Capital Public Radio is co-sponsoring this conference because we're dedicated to environmental journalism. We have a full-time environment beat, but we're always aware that environmental issues connect to each of our other beats. Coverage of the environment is one of the keystones of our News Department and our listeners consistently tell us how important in-depth coverage is to them in a media world that's becoming tweet-sized and polarized.

California is ground zero for environmental journalism. The state is in a period of extraordinary demographic, economic and cultural transition. Our increasingly diverse populace is close to 40 million and our economy is now the sixth largest in the world. Behind all of this, our environment is under siege by population, pollution and climate change. There's a lot at stake. And a lot to learn.

We hope this conference truly reflects California's many extremes as well as our big dreams. There are sessions on everything from wildfires and drought to the role of innovation and technology in tackling environmental challenges. And the many tours will take you all around Northern California including Lake Tahoe in the Sierra Nevada, Bodega Bay on the coast, a mine in Gold Country and to the nation's newest (and most eco-friendly) NBA arena just about to open here in Sacramento.

No doubt, you'll be transfixed by every moment of the conference, but if you'd like to break away for a bit, CapRadio has arranged free admission to the Crocker Art Museum in downtown Sacramento for all conference attendees this week. The Crocker is the oldest art museum in the west and houses a collection of extraordinary California art. It's also next to historic Old Sacramento and on the shores of the Sacramento River. It's an easy Uber or cab ride from the hotel.

We hope you'll enjoy the conference, along with the beauty and vitality of the Sacramento region. And we hope you go home with a notepad full of story ideas, a wealth of new contacts and even more dedication to environmental journalism.



# MEETING THE CLIMATE & CLEAN AIR CHALLENGE OF THE **FUTURE**




More than 10 vehicle, equipment and technical displays will be featured with experts on hand to discuss the direction of fuels and technologies for the future. Get a glimpse of the latest locomotive engine, a new generation 30mpg pickup truck and a hybrid big-rig tractor trailer... or just satisfy your inner child's desire to sit in the seat of a high-tech farm tractor or electric-drive construction machine. With diesel equipment and vehicles at work every day across many sectors around the world, join us for this unique opportunity to explore whether diesel technology is a problem or a solution for achieving clean air, climate and energy goals.

## It's the place to be at SEJ! Clean Diesel Learning Center Hours

**Thur, September 22**  
12:00 – 9:00pm

**Fri, September 23**  
7:30am – 2:00pm

Be sure to stop by to see us after  
your off-site tour!



[WWW.DIESELFORUM.ORG](http://WWW.DIESELFORUM.ORG)

## Independent Hospitality Reception

*Thursday, September 22 from 5:00 – 9:00pm*

Get energized and fueled up for a special selection of local craft beer outside under the tent surrounded by the latest generation of technology used in 15 sectors of the economy around the world - including agriculture, construction, goods movement, power generation, and personal transportation. We will also have a drawing for some exciting giveaways so be sure to stop by to enter to win!

## Beat Dinner

*Friday, September 23 from 7:00 – 10:00pm*

Make sure to sign up to join us Friday night at Fox & Goose Public House and Restaurant for a conversation led by Chris Bowman, former Senior Environmental Reporter for the Sacramento Bee about how journalists gauge the impact of their reporting on environmental progress.



## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

Environmental Journalism 2016: The 26th Annual Conference of the Society of Environmental Journalists officially begins Wednesday evening, September 21, at 5:00 p.m., with our opening reception, followed by dinner and special welcomes.

Before the official beginning, we offer this all-day workshop below, as well as an afternoon meet-and-greet session, where we'll celebrate new members with fun networking opportunities.

All sessions, as well as registration, exhibits and breaks, will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sacramento, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, California, 95815, (800) 445-8667, unless otherwise indicated.

**Note: All information is subject to change. Please check [www.sej.org](http://www.sej.org) often for updates and information on event times, speakers, etc.**

### ALL-DAY JOURNALISM WORKSHOP

#### Power Sector in the Hot Seat: Challenges, Opportunities and Goals for Reducing Carbon Emissions

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: California Ballroom 2

The pressure is on to achieve last year's international agreement limiting the increase in average global temperature, and the power sector's involvement will be critical. But with proposed U.S. mandates in limbo, states are pushing ahead with their own plans. This workshop, organized by Metcalf Institute, will explore new business models, technologies and policies to cap carbon emissions, expand renewables and increase efficiency. Science, policy and economic experts from across the U.S. will provide the information you need to report the tremendous challenge of keeping temperatures from rising more than 1.5 degrees by 2100.

**Open to SEJ members and journalists only. Pre-registration and \$60 fee required. Breakfast and lunch included.**

**Moderator: Sunshine Menezes, Executive Director, Metcalf Institute for Marine and Environmental Reporting**

### WORKSHOP AGENDA

**8:00 a.m.** Continental breakfast served

**8:30 - 8:45 a.m.** Welcome and Introductions

**8:45 - 10:45 a.m.** Energy and Climate Change: The Challenges

**Nate Lewis, Cal Tech**

**Catherine Wolfram, University of California, Berkeley**

This panel will provide a foundation for the day's discussions, providing an overview of trends and projections for global change, energy use and energy policy.

**10:45 - 11:00 a.m.** Break

**11:00 a.m. - Noon** The Goals: Limiting Emissions, Changing Behavior

**Speakers TBD**

Speakers will discuss practical and aspirational goals and strategies for limiting emissions, including renewable portfolio standards, energy efficiency and consumer behavior.

**Noon - 1:00 p.m.** Covering Energy Policy: A Reporting Discussion

During lunch, energy reporters will share insights on how to cover the sometimes slow, sometimes breakneck pace of energy policy discussions at the local to national level.

**1:00 - 3:00 p.m.** The Opportunities: Policy, Data, Technology, Markets and Financing

**Christopher Clack, University of Colorado, Boulder**

**Dan Reicher, Stanford University**

**Governor Bill Ritter, Center for the New Energy Economy**

Panelists will discuss innovations under way in government and the private sector that could serve as models for advancing clean energy.

**3:00 - 5:00 p.m.** Carrots and Sticks: What is Feasible?

**Rodney Boyd, Climate Policy Initiative**

**Kam Ghaffarian, X-Energy**

**Michelle Romero, Deputy Director, Green for All**

What financial and other incentives are needed to meaningfully limit carbon dioxide emissions, and what regulatory or other requirements might facilitate, or hinder, this effort? How are utilities responding to current efforts? How does this translate to jobs?

**5:00 p.m.** Seminar adjourns

## REGISTRATION

2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Location: California Ballroom Foyer

If you didn't sign up ahead of time for the Saturday night party or Sunday brunch at the Library Galleria, there may still be room — please check with registration.

## SEJ INFORMATION TABLE

2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Location: California Ballroom Foyer

Sign up here for Wednesday Open Screen, Friday beat dinners and Saturday mini-tours. Read up on SEJ Board candidates, and find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services. Pick up copies of *SEJournal* and other SEJ information.

## MEET-AND-GREET PARTY

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Location: California Ballroom and Outdoor Patios

Join old friends and meet new ones as we gather outdoors in the hotel's patios and gardens prior to the evening festivities. Environmental artists from the region will have their work on display and UC Davis researchers will be on hand to explain their scientific research. After checking in at registration, head on over to grab a drink and delve into some great conversation.

## OPENING RECEPTION AND DINNER

### WELCOME TO CALIFORNIA!

5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

The bar opens early, so grab a drink and mingle. Chat with colleagues and network with sources. Browse the work of California artists and, at the poster session, learn about ground-breaking research on environmental issues. We've invited Governor Jerry Brown to offer welcoming remarks that kick off an evening designed to help you appreciate the significance of where you've landed in the Golden State and frame the discussions you'll have over the next few days. Oh yeah, we'll probably slip in a celebrity or two... after all, this is California. Later, there's a screening of the Emmy-winning, science-based and inspirational movie, "Becoming California."

#### Emcees:

**Joe Barr**, Chief Content Officer, Capital Public Radio

**Carolyn Whetzel**, Staff Correspondent, Bloomberg BNA

#### Speakers:

**Jim Baxter**, Executive Producer, "Becoming California" and the California Environmental Legacy Project, and Professor of Biological Sciences, Sacramento State University

**Baba Brinkman**, Climate Rapper, "Rap Guide to Climate Chaos" Off-Broadway Show

**Governor Jerry Brown** (invited)

**Ted Danson**, Actor (invited)

**Helene Dillard**, Dean, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of California, Davis

**Eldridge Moores**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Structural Geology and Tectonics, Earth and Planetary Sciences, University of California, Davis

**Darrell Steinberg**, Sacramento Mayor-elect, former California Senate President Pro Tempore

**Kit Tyler**, Producer and Director, "Becoming California," and Independent Filmmaker, Writer and Photojournalist

## SEJ OPEN SCREEN

9:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

The SEJ Open Screen is a celebration of visual storytelling in environmental journalism. Participants can show up to 10 minutes of their visual journalism and spend a few minutes with Q&A afterwards. Members are invited to bring slideshows or video to share with attendees in an informal show-and-tell format. Media producers as well as overseeing editors, publishers and contributors are all welcome to show content. Look for a link to a sign-up form on the website and in listservs a week or so before the conference.





# THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

## REGISTRATION

4:30 - 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Location: California Ballroom Foyer

If you didn't sign up ahead of time for the Saturday night party or Sunday brunch at the Library Galleria, there may still be room — please check with registration.

## SEJ INFORMATION TABLE

All Day

Location: California Ballroom Foyer

Sign up here for Friday beat dinners and Saturday mini-tours. Read up on SEJ Board candidates, and find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services. Pick up copies of *SEJournal* and other SEJ information.

## TOURS IN THE FIELD

Advance registration is required for all Thursday tours. Attendance on each tour is strictly limited, so registering early is important. Departure times vary (see below), but all Thursday tours will return to the Doubletree Hotel about 5:00 p.m. For those looking for some exercise, tours 1, 4 and 8 are your best options. Other tours involve moderate exercise. Tours 3 and 9 are best suited for wheelchair accessibility.

Buses will stage and depart from the parking lot outside the California Ballroom foyer, near registration. A cash-and-carry kiosk is available for tours leaving before 7:00 a.m.

Some tours might be able to take stand-by passengers. To tour standby, report to registration 20 minutes before the scheduled departure time and have your tour fee available. Standby passengers will be admitted on a first-come first-served basis after those already on a wait list.

Buses will return to the Sacramento Doubletree around 5:00 p.m. for a night of wining and dining by hosts of independent receptions. You'll find hors d'oeuvres, drinks, press kits, chats with environmental experts, good cheer and great networking.



Image courtesy of Jacob Noth

### 1. Fire and Water: Lake Tahoe's Ecological Splendor and Stressors (5:00 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

Lake Tahoe is the second deepest lake in the U.S., and one of the most beautiful. It is also threatened by stressors such as drought, climate change, development, wildfire and invasive species, which we will explore on this trip. The tour will include two tracks: land and water. We will ride a research boat with scientists from UC Davis and the University of Nevada, Reno, who have been monitoring the lake for many years. We will also take a hike with wildlife ecologists and wildfire experts, who will share with us their research on watershed restoration, wildlife ecology and more. You will be dazzled by the lake and its surrounding Sierra, and you will walk away with sources and story ideas that will resonate in other regions as well. **Total drive time – 5 hours.**

#### Tour Leaders:

**Mary Catherine O'Connor**, Independent Journalist  
**Amy Westervelt**, Independent Journalist and Co-host,  
"Range: Stories of the New American West" Podcast

#### Speakers:

**Brant Allen**, Field Lab Director and Boat Captain, Lake Monitoring and Aquatic Ecology, University of California, Davis  
**Sudeep Chandra**, Associate Professor of Limnology and Conservation Ecology, Natural Resources and Environmental Science, and Principal Investigator, Aquatic Ecosystems Analysis Laboratory at Tahoe, University of Nevada, Reno  
**Graham Kent**, Director, Nevada Seismological Laboratory, and Professor, Department of Geological Sciences and Engineering, University of Nevada, Reno  
**Patricia Maloney**, Project Scientist, Department of Plant Pathology, Tahoe Environmental Research Center, University of California, Davis  
**Christine Ngai**, Fish Ecologist, Aquatic Ecosystems Analysis Laboratory at Tahoe, University of Nevada, Reno  
**Julie Regan**, Chief of External Affairs, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency  
**Geoffrey Schladow**, Director, Tahoe Environmental Research Center, and Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of California, Davis



## 2. Feeding the World: Big Ag, Big Impacts (6:00 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

It's been called the breadbasket of the world, and for good reason. Farmers in California's enormous Central Valley grow more than 250 crop varieties, generating tens of billions of dollars in revenue each year. But while many people have no idea where their food comes from, so, too, are they unaware of the environmental consequences of "Big Ag": the conversion of historic wildlife habitat, the depletion of streams and groundwater, and the spraying of pesticides on the edge of urban communities. In fact, despite being surrounded by some of the world's most fertile farmland, thousands of Valley residents live in "food deserts" without easy access to fresh fruits and vegetables. From the rice fields of the lower Sacramento Valley to the sweeping almond orchards of the San Joaquin, we'll explore the successes and failures of agriculture and the implications for California and the U.S. Total drive time – 3 hours.

### Tour Leaders:

**Tony Barboza**, Staff Writer, *Los Angeles Times*  
**Alex Breitler**, Staff Writer, *The (Stockton) Record*

### Speakers:

**Daniel Bays**, Third-generation Almond and Apricot Grower  
**Kathy Grant**, Member, Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Committee  
**LaCresia Hawkins**, REACH Program Manager, Public Health Advocates  
**Eric Holst**, Associate Vice President, Working Lands Program, Environmental Defense Fund  
**Aaron Lange**, LangeTwins Family Winery and Vineyards  
**Emily Marquez**, Staff Scientist, Pesticide Action Network  
**Arsenio Mataka**, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs, California Environmental Protection Agency  
**Katelyn Roedner Sutter**, Environmental Justice Coordinator, Catholic Charities of Stockton  
**Chris Scheuring**, Managing Counsel, California Farm Bureau Federation  
**Jeremy Terhune**, Director, PUENTES  
**Jeff Wingfield**, Director of Environmental & Public Affairs, Port of Stockton



## 3. Bodega Bay: Boats, Buoys and Bivalves (6:15 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

The California Coast and Pacific Ocean are a great starting point for understanding the environmental challenges and solutions offered on the other 71 percent of the planet that's blue. Bodega Bay is famous as the site where Alfred Hitchcock filmed "The Birds" (years before avian flu emerged). This tour will include visits to the Bodega Bay Coast Guard Station and UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory, with options to ride on an 87-foot Coast Guard Cutter and hike a natural headland. You'll learn about scientists working with a local oyster company on ocean acidification, newly created marine protected areas, and new research on oil spill response, sea level rise, marine noise pollution and other cutting-edge issues impacting the ocean, coasts and communities. And, we'll have Hog Island oysters after lunch.

Total drive time – 4.5 hours.

### Tour Leaders:

**David Helvarg**, Author and Executive Director, Blue Frontier  
**Rona Kobell**, Staff Reporter, *Chesapeake Bay Journal*

### Speakers:

**Rick Grosberg**, Professor of Evolution and Ecology, and Director, Coastal and Marine Science Institute, University of California, Davis  
**Deborah Halberstadt**, Executive Director, California Ocean Protection Council  
**Suzanne Olyarnik**, Director, Bodega Marine Reserve  
**Dirk Rosen**, Director, Marine Applied Research & Exploration  
**Terry Sawyer**, Founding Partner, Hog Island Oyster Co.  
**Michael Stocker**, Acoustician and Executive Director, Ocean Conservation Research  
**Susan Williams**, Professor, Bodega Marine Laboratory, Department of Evolution and Ecology, University of California, Davis  
**Coast Guard Representative from West Coast Strike Team – Oil Spill & Pollution Response**  
**Representative from Fish School Alameda**



# *Engineering California's Future*

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PECG represents 13,000 state-employed engineers and related professionals responsible for designing and inspecting California's infrastructure, improving air and water quality, and developing clean energy and green technology.



## Congratulations to InsideClimate News Winner of the 2016 John B. Oakes Award for Distinguished Environmental Journalism



Photo: Richard Werthamer



### “EXXON: THE ROAD NOT TAKEN”

### 2016 John B. Oakes Award Finalists

Climate Central

“PULP FICTION”



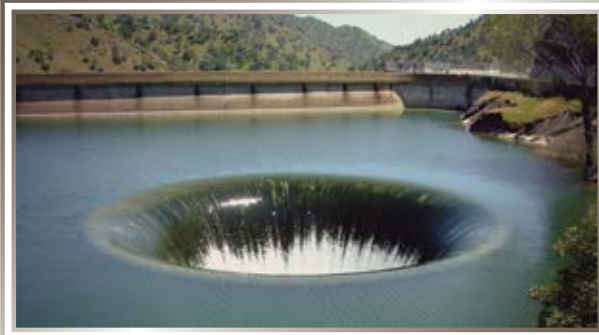
Photo: Ted Blanco

International Consortium of  
Journalists/Huffington Post/Food &  
Environment Reporting Network/  
Other Media Partners

“EVICTED AND ABANDONED”



Photo: Ben Hallman/The Huffington Post



#### 4. Mercury Pollution, Wildfire and Fault Line Impacts on Lake Berryessa (6:30 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

When President Obama designated the Lake Berryessa landscape a national monument last year, it made headlines across the country. The biologically diverse region is full of active geysers, water snails, newts, mountain lions, bald eagles and leather oak. But, it's also quietly recovering from environmental damage. Mercury mines from the 1950s left a trail of pollution. In fact, the lake's grebes have the highest mercury levels in the state. And the Wragg fire scorched 8,000 acres last year, near the monument's geologically active pull-apart basin. And then, there's the drought. We'll explore this beautiful and dynamic landscape on a morning hike, climbing 2,000 feet before discussions followed by lunch overlooking the lake.

**Total drive time – 3 hours.**

##### Tour Leaders:

**Lindsey Hoshaw**, Interactive Producer, KQED Science  
**Danielle Venton**, Radio Reporter and Science Writer

##### Speakers:

**Judy Ahmann**, Land Owner and Rancher  
**Jeffrey Clary**, Director, Stebbins Cold Canyon Natural Reserve, UC Davis Natural Reserve System  
**Adam Cline**, Land Owner and Rancher  
**Stephen McCord**, President, McCord Environmental, Inc.  
**Eldridge Moores**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Structural Geology and Tectonics, Earth and Planetary Sciences, University of California, Davis  
**Bob Schneider**, Senior Policy Director, Tuleyome



#### 5. Mines, Vines and Wines: Gold and Grapes in the Sierra Nevada (6:45 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

Deep in the Sierra foothills, we visit Gold Country and the remnants of California's historic mining era. At Malakoff Diggins, the state's biggest hydraulic mine, powerful water jets carved away cliffs to extract gold. Waste from hundreds of operations filled rivers and San Francisco Bay, carrying mercury that can taint fish 150 years later. Nearby stands the restored ghost town of North Bloomfield. September is harvest time for the reemerging wine industry here. We'll go to vineyards and slake our miners' thirst at tastings flourishing in the higher elevation complementary to rich red and crisp white grapes. Foothills farming experts tell us how changing climate, water scarcity and dynamic geology affect viticulture. **Total drive time – 3.5 hours.**

##### Tour Leaders:

**Jane Kay**, Environment Writer  
**Laura Mahoney**, Sacramento Staff Correspondent, Bloomberg BNA

##### Speakers:

**Charles Alpers**, Research Chemist, California Water Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey  
**Matthew Green**, Chief Ranger, Sierra District, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
**Elizabeth Martin**, Chief Executive Officer, Sierra Fund  
**Dan Millsap**, Project Management Supervisor, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
**Carrie Monohan**, Science Director, Sierra Fund  
**Mike Naggiar**, Owner, Naggiar Vineyards & Winery  
**Tapan Pathak**, Extension Specialist, Climate Adaptation in Agriculture, Sierra Nevada Research Institute, University of California, Merced  
**Chris Smith**, Owner, Smith Vineyard  
**Gary Smith**, Owner, Smith Vineyard  
**Lynn Wunderlich**, Farm Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension

Image courtesy of David Kendall



**6. Living with Fire: Wildfires and Forest Health**  
(7:00 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

Last year, wildfires nationwide burned more than 10 million acres and firefighting costs skyrocketed to \$2.1 billion. More than 2,000 homes in California alone were destroyed by wildfire. We'll head to the Eldorado National Forest, where the King Fire burned 97,000 acres in 2014 and scorched 50,000 acres in just one day. We'll examine the effects of large-scale wildfires in the Sierra Nevada and discuss fire behavior in the face of drought and climate change. We'll learn about the current and historical role of fire and how it affects a watershed, species diversity and wildlife habitat. We'll take a hike at the Blodgett Forest Research Station, where since the 1950's UC Berkeley scientists have studied ways to improve forest management. We'll also visit homeowners who lost property during the King Fire and talk about living in the wildland-urban interface. **Total drive time – 3 hours.**

**Tour Leaders:**

**Jane Braxton Little**, Freelance Journalist  
**Amy Quinton**, Environment Reporter, Capital Public Radio

**Speakers:**

**Tom Boscow**, Homeowner, Pacific House, CA  
**Jennifer Chapman**, Public Affairs Officer, Eldorado National Forest  
**Mark Egbert**, District Manager, El Dorado County & Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts  
**Becky Estes**, Central Sierra Province Ecologist, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Forest Service  
**Alissa Fogg**, Central & South Sierra Program Leader, Point Blue Conservation Science  
**Malcolm North**, Research Associate, Department of Plant Sciences, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of California, Davis; and Research Scientist, Ecosystem Function and Health, Pacific Southwest Research Station, U.S. Forest Service  
**Scott Stephens**, Professor of Fire Science and Chair, Division of Ecosystem Science, Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Management, College of Natural Resources, University of California, Berkeley

**Pat Trimble**, District Ranger, Georgetown Ranger District, Eldorado National Forest  
**Dana Walsh**, Silviculturist, North Zone, Eldorado National Forest  
**George Wuerthner**, Author, "Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy" and "Yellowstone & the Fires of Change"  
**Rob York**, Research Stations Manager and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Forestry, Center for Forestry, University of California, Berkeley



Image courtesy of Luis Paredes

**7. Water Is for Fighting: Drought, Water Supply and Climate Change**  
(7:30 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

Take a visit to ground zero of California's water wars: the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The largest estuary on the West Coast is the central hub of the state's vast and antiquated water-delivery system. Conflicts here over Delta water signal what's to come across the country amid climate change. You'll visit huge water pumps so powerful they can make rivers run backwards in order to ship water hundreds of miles to Southern California. You'll see massive fish screens that seek to protect several species of endangered fish. You'll hear from supporters and detractors of a controversial plan to re-plumb this fragile estuary. The trip will feature a boat tour and, if time allows, a beer break at the quaint and quirky Fosters' Bighorn saloon in Rio Vista. **Total drive time – 4 hours.**

**Tour Leaders:**

**Ryan Sabalow**, Reporter, *The Sacramento Bee*  
**Lauren Sommer**, Science Reporter, KQED

**Speakers:**

**Brian Bergamaschi**, Biogeochemist, U.S. Geological Survey  
**Jon Bureau**, Hydrodynamics Project Chief, U.S. Geological Survey  
**Jay Lund**, Director, Center for Watershed Sciences and Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of California, Davis  
**Karla Nemeth**, Deputy Secretary for Water Policy, California Natural Resources Agency

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

We believe that  
conservation solutions  
that make economic sense  
stand the test of time.

Lasting change is achieved by creating new and unexpected partnerships among conservation, business and community interests to build durable solutions to big problems. We invest in organizations and programs that pursue conservation solutions for oceans and rivers while also recognizing the role these waters play in the livelihoods of those who live and work nearby.



# IF IT MOVES

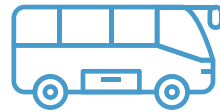
ENOW CAN PROVIDE A SOLAR SOLUTION



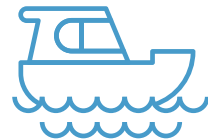
RVs



TRUCKS



BUSES



BOATS





**Roger Patterson**, Assistant General Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
**Kate Poole**, Senior Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council

Image courtesy of Rachel Kirk



### 8. Kayaking California's Imperiled Inland Sea

(7:45 a.m. departure, \$50 fee, includes lunch and kayak rental; kayakers will be on the water for 60 to 70 minutes, making it a gentle to moderate paddle)

We'll paddle through marshes and a flooded island and examine environmental problems that have brought the Delta smelt to the edge of extinction — if not over it — and caused havoc with other wild fish. We'll set out from the Big Break Regional Shoreline to get a sea-level view of California's huge Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, ground zero for the struggle to allocate water between fish, farms and people. Peter Moyle, the UC Davis scientist who alerted the public to the brewing demise of the smelt, will be among our expert guests. We'll lunch at the Big Break natural history center and afterwards check out part of the Suisun Marsh, the largest brackish water estuary on the West Coast and home to duck clubs and extensive waterfowl habitat. **Total drive time – 3.5 hours.**

#### Tour Leaders:

**Denis Cuff**, Reporter, Bay Area News Group  
**Tim Wheeler**, Managing Editor & Project Writer, *Chesapeake Bay Journal*

#### Speakers:

**Gary Bobker**, Rivers and Delta Program Director, The Bay Institute  
**Holly Heyser**, Editor, *California Waterfowl* magazine  
**Mike Moran**, Supervising Naturalist, East Bay Regional Park District Visitor Center, Big Break Regional Shoreline  
**Peter Moyle**, Professor Emeritus, Department of Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology; and Associate Director, Center for Watershed Sciences, University of California, Davis  
**Jason Peltier**, Executive Director, San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority  
**Carl Wilcox**, Delta Policy Advisor to the Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife



Image courtesy of Rolf Mooibrek

### 9. California: The Clean Energy Prouing Ground

(9:00 a.m. departure, \$40 fee, lunch included)

In October 2015, California Governor Jerry Brown signed legislation that codified two goals from his 2015 inaugural address: increasing energy efficiency in California buildings by 50 percent and generating half of the state's electricity from renewable sources by 2030. This tour offers a glimpse of how California plans to meet the ambitious targets. We begin with a visit to the California Independent System Operator, including a tour of the control room, the nerve center of the state's grid. Next, we visit 2500 R Midtown, a net-zero energy neighborhood, touring homes equipped with rooftop solar panels and advanced energy storage systems. Last, we visit CleanWorld's Sacramento anaerobic bio-digester, which converts up to 100 tons of food waste daily into renewable natural gas, electricity and fertilizer. **Total drive time – 2.5 hours.**

#### Tour Leaders:

**Justin Gerdes**, Independent Journalist  
**Sarah Terry-Cobo**, Energy Reporter, *The Journal Record* (Oklahoma City)

#### Speakers:

**John Adair**, Resident, 2500 R Midtown  
**Matt Campbell**, Vice President, SunPower  
**Chris Capra**, Public Information Specialist, Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
**Joseph Desmond**, Senior Vice President, Marketing and Government Affairs, BrightSource Energy  
**Steven Greenlee**, Senior Public Information Officer, Cal ISO  
**Lupe Jimenez**, Smart Grid Senior Project Manager, Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
**Larissa Koehler**, Attorney, California Clean Energy Team, Environmental Defense Fund  
**Debi Le Vine**, Director of System Operations, Cal ISO  
**Paul Schwartz**, Resident, 2500 R Midtown  
**Julie Southern**, Resident, 2500 R Midtown  
**Andrea Stephenson**, Marketing Manager, CleanWorld  
**Ruihong Zhang**, Professor, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, University of California, Davis

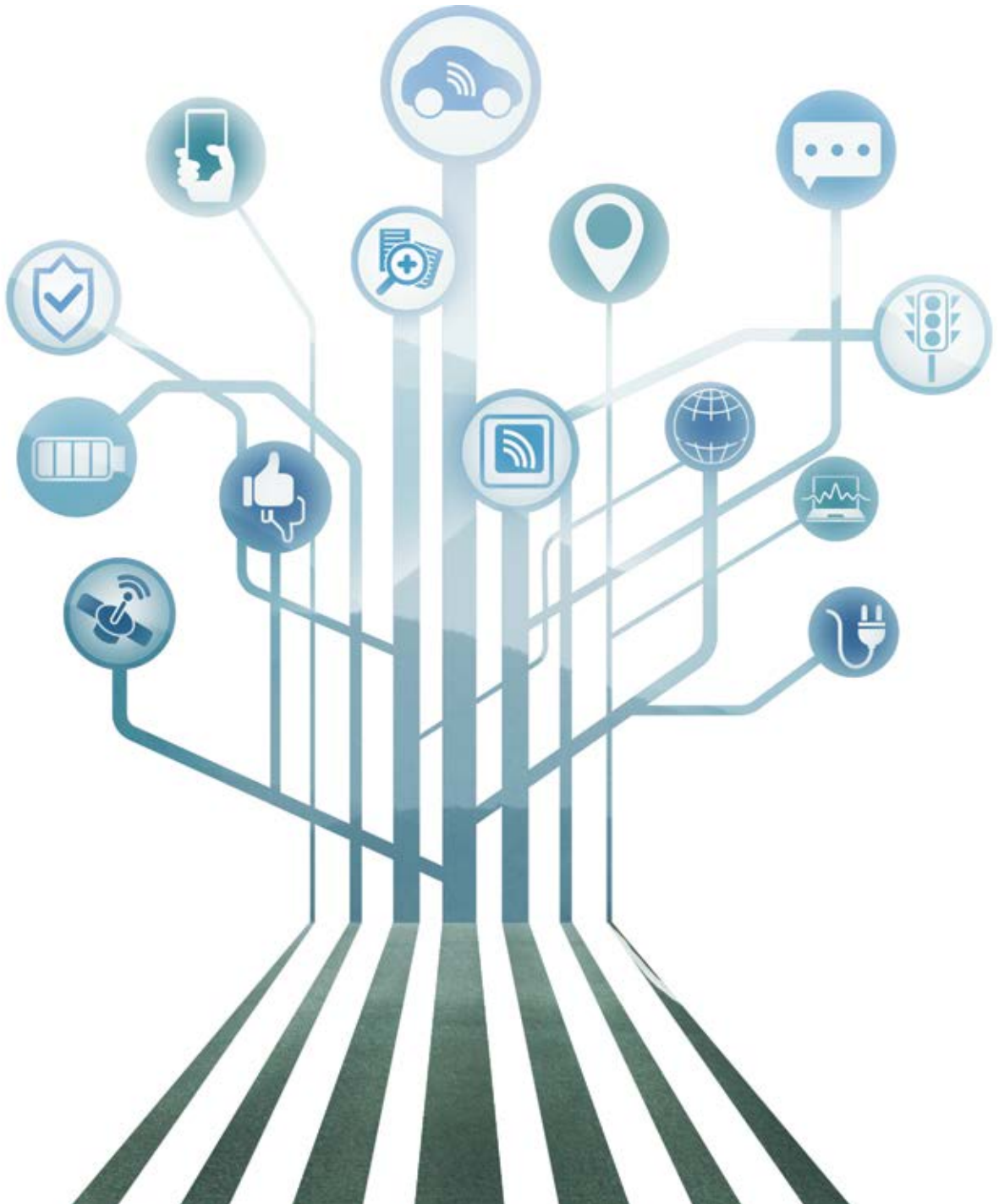
SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

THURSDAY

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## BOOKSTORE

5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: California Ballroom Salons 1/2, Booths 11/12

The UC Davis bookstore is on site to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference. Authors book signings scheduled from 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.



## INDEPENDENT HOSPITALITY RECEPTIONS AND EXHIBITS

5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: California Ballroom

Now a popular SEJ tradition, this is the conference's best networking opportunity. After spending the day out and about on tours, meet with the hosts of multiple receptions. They'll have experts on hand, as well as displays, materials and, of course, great food and drink. There are multiple locations, so be prepared to make the rounds — and don't miss the sneak peek at exhibits and alternative-fuel vehicles. Sign up for test-drives during the receptions.



- Outside the California Ballroom Foyer  
**Diesel Technology Forum**
- Grand Ballroom  
**Environmental Defense Fund, Novozymes, The Walton Family Foundation, The Wilderness Society — plus VW/Audi and other exhibits**
- California Foyer  
**The Pew Charitable Trusts and test-drive sign-up tables**
- California Ballroom Salons 1/2  
**Booths and tables, including the UC Davis Bookstore**
- California Ballroom Salon 3  
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Fellowships for Journalists

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2016

As a journalism organization that believes in an open society, SEJ each year welcomes a diverse group of attendees to our annual conference. Attendees include representatives of business, government and environmental groups, as well as working journalists, academics and students.

Because non-journalists are here, you may see or hear presentations or responses to presentations that you might not expect from mainstream journalists. The presentations and any responses do not necessarily reflect the views of SEJ or any of its members.

As our guest, you should respect our interest in open discussions of environmental issues by thanking all participants in sessions you attend and not disrupting presentations of views you disagree with.

Finally, please respect our rule that SEJ members are given preference during question-and-answer sessions.

All sessions, as well as registration, exhibits and breaks, will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sacramento, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, California, 95815, (800) 445-8667, unless otherwise indicated.

### REGISTRATION

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: California Ballroom Foyer

If you didn't sign up ahead of time for the Saturday night party or Sunday brunch at the Library Galleria, there may still be room — please check with registration.

### SEJ INFORMATION TABLE

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: California Ballroom Foyer

Sign up here for Friday night's beat dinners and Saturday mini-tours. Read up on SEJ Board candidates before the election, and find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services. Pick up copies of *SEJournal* and other SEJ information.

### SEJ EXHIBITS

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom, Grand Ballroom foyer, California Ballroom Salons 1/2 and auto technology exhibits just outside the California Foyer doors

Don't miss the wealth of information offered by the 2016 exhibitors. Learn about environmental issues and innovations, educational opportunities, see some great displays and add to your source list. Sign up for test drives in the California foyer.

### BOOKSTORE

10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: California Ballroom Salons 1/2, Booths 11/12

The UC Davis bookstore is on site to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference.

### BREAKFAST SESSIONS

Breakfast sponsored in part by The Auto Alliance

Breakfast will be available beginning at 7:00 a.m. in both the Grand Ballroom and the California Ballroom near registration. Browse the exhibits, test drive alternative vehicles and watch technology demos.



Image courtesy of Cozde Otman

#### 1. Moving Target: Preparing Students for an Evolving Profession

7:30 - 8:45 a.m.

Location: California Ballroom 3

Panelists will discuss challenges, opportunities and best practices for teaching environmental journalism to spark discussion at a teacher's round table. Come swap ideas, share techniques, raise concerns — lament the difficulties of melding science, environment and journalism into one curriculum. This session targets academic members but all are welcome whether you teach environmental journalism, thought about it or are curious about it. Breakfast is available in the nearby Exhibits space.

Moderator:

**David Poulson**, Senior Associate Director, Knight Center for Environmental Journalism, Michigan State University

Speakers:

**Don Corrigan**, Professor of Media Law and Global and Environmental Journalism, School of Communications, Webster University

**Michael Kodas**, Associate Director, Center for Environmental Journalism, University of Colorado Boulder

**Mark Neuzil**, Professor, Communication and Journalism, University of St. Thomas



Image courtesy of Rudolfo Bellotti



## 2. Forest Wildfire Legislation: Do We Need To Control Wildfire?

7:30 - 8:45 a.m.

Location: California Ballroom 4

Grab your breakfast from California Salons 1/2 (exhibits room) and join a lively session on the pros and cons of forest wildfire legislation, including the Emergency Wildfire and Forest Management Act now before the Senate. The panel will discuss this act and other legislation dealing with wildfires and firefighting. Is the current Forest Service approach to wildfire control and timber management working to reduce fires and thus risk to humans? Are wildfires really a disaster and do we need to spend more on fire control? Finally, what are the potential consequences to ecosystem health from legislative proposals to increase logging on public lands?

### Moderator:

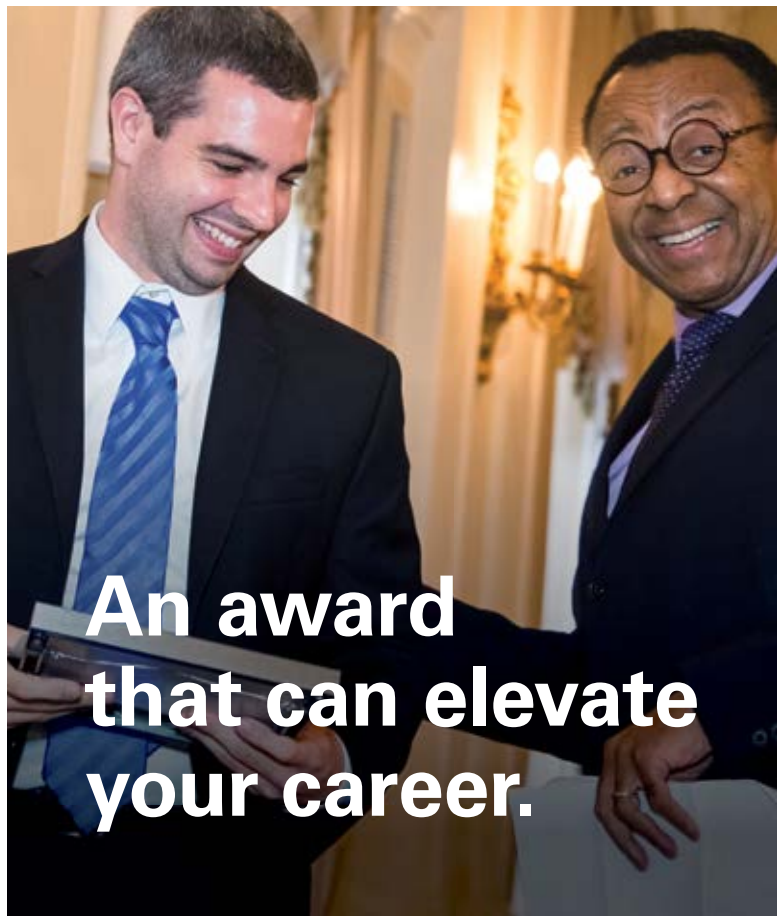
**George Wuerthner**, Author, "Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy" and "Yellowstone & the Fires of Change"

### Speakers:

**Dominick DellaSala**, President and Chief Scientist, Geos Institute; Editor and Primary Author, "Temperate and Boreal Rainforests of the World: Ecology & Conservation"; and Co-editor and Author, "The Ecological Importance of Mixed-Severity Fires: Nature's Phoenix"

**Chad Hanson**, Research Ecologist, John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute; and Co-editor and Author, "The Ecological Importance of Mixed-Severity Fires: Nature's Phoenix"  
Society of American Foresters representative TBA

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Recognizing Young Journalists

# HOW MANY LAWYERS DOES IT TAKE TO UNSCREW THE ENVIRONMENT?

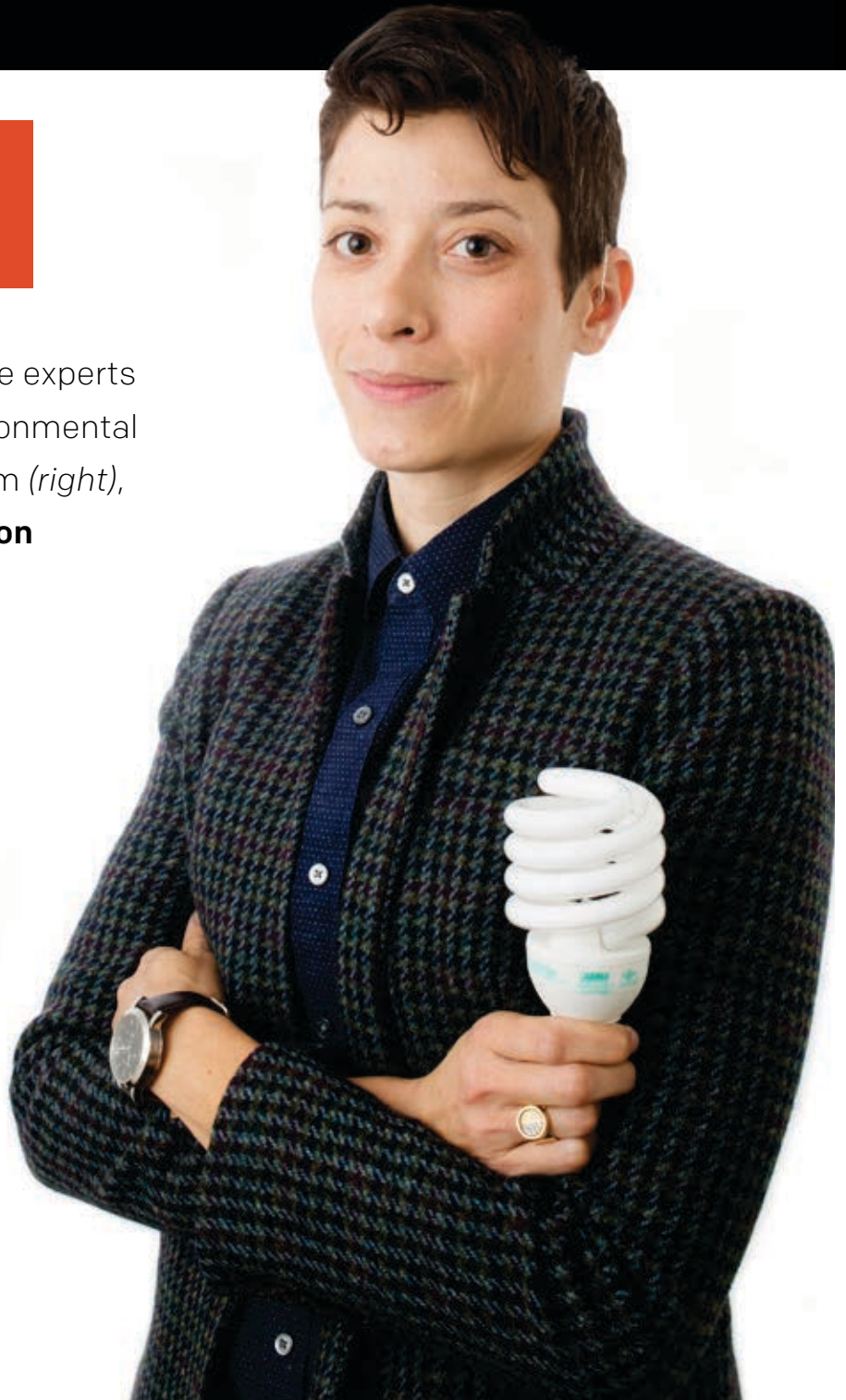
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# OPENING PLENARY



## THE ENVIRONMENTAL BELLWETHER STATE: What Happens in California Doesn't Stay in California

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

Mining carved the mountains and fouled streams and rivers. Decades of agricultural development and urban growth created engineered water delivery systems that forever altered the state's ecologically rich delta and estuaries and the desert landscape. And then there's the air pollution that plagues Los Angeles and the Central Valley. But California has been a global leader in acknowledging and addressing its myriad environmental challenges with precedent-setting legislation and innovative solutions. From the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 and the subnational movement to battle carbon emissions to ambitious renewable energy and clean vehicle goals and green chemistry policies — come hear what may be in your state's future.

Moderator:

**Joe Barr**, Chief Content Officer, Capital Public Radio

Speakers:

**James Connaughton**, President and CEO, Nautilus Data Technologies, former Chairman, White House Council on Environmental Quality

**Kevin De León**, Senate President Pro Tem, California

**John Laird**, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency

**Mary Nichols**, Chair, California Air Resources Board

**Bob Perciasepe**, President, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions and former Deputy Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

## BEVERAGE BREAK

10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Location: California Ballroom Salons 1/2 and Grand Ballroom

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.



Image courtesy of superdevresources

### THE CRAFT 1

#### Survival Journalism: How To Do More Faster

Location: Capital Ballroom A

Okay, so you figured out publishing online. But now there are 20 other new things to learn: Twitter, Tumblr, Facebook Live, Snapchat. How do you decide what to prioritize? How do you balance reporting with all the promotion and “extras” reporters are now expected to do, too? This session will feature both freelancers and staff writers discussing their strategies for keeping up with the “hustle” of our modern news era.

Moderator:

**Kate Sheppard**, Senior Reporter and Environment/Energy Editor, Huffington Post

Speakers:

**Katherine Bagley**, Web Editor, Yale Environment 360  
**Raven Rakia**, Freelance Journalist

Image courtesy of Ave S.



**THE CRAFT 2**  
**Freelance Pitch Slam**  
**Location: Capital Ballroom B**

What are the secret thoughts of editors as they read your pitch? How can you write more pitches that will dazzle them and win story commissions? Get your answers straight from the source. SEJ's ever-popular freelance pitch slam returns this year, giving you the chance, in 90 seconds or less, to present your story pitch to a panel of editors and receive instant feedback. Learn what editors most need, what they pay, what types of stories they commission from freelancers and how best to break in. Whether you are a new writer or a seasoned veteran, you'll leave this session with new insights about publishing — and maybe even a new story assignment.

**Moderator:**  
**Madeline Ostrander, Freelance Journalist**

**Speakers:**  
**Kathleen Palmer, Senior Associate Editor, *Wired* Magazine**  
**Todd Reubold, Publisher and Director, *Ensis* Magazine**  
**Jennifer Sahn, Executive Editor, *Pacific Standard***  
**Tom Zeller Jr., Editor in Chief, *Undark* Magazine**

Image courtesy of Dollarphotoclub



**CLIMATE AND AIR**  
**Capping It Off: US and Canada Tackle Greenhouse Gas Emissions with Market Trading**  
**Location: Capital Ballroom C**

Ontario has become the latest North American jurisdiction to turn to market solutions to try to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, with plans to join California and Quebec in their Western Climate Initiative cap-and-trade program. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative in the Northeastern part of the United States was the first mandatory market-based program in the United States to reduce GHG emissions, but the WCI program goes farther in addressing more sectors of the economy. These regional efforts in the United States could gain additional momentum as governments look for ways to meet the promise of the Paris climate agreement. What's next for California and its trading partners now that Ontario is in the mix and what are the prospects for other jurisdictions to join their mitigation efforts?

**Moderator:**  
**Gloria Gonzalez, Senior Editor, Crain Communications**

**Speakers:**  
**James Bushnell, Professor, Department of Economics, University of California, Davis**  
**Michael Gibbs, Assistant Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board**  
**Erica Morehouse, Senior Attorney, Environmental Defense Fund**  
**Roger Williams, President, Blue Source**



Image courtesy of Studio SoulDesign



**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND JUSTICE**  
**Toxic Tradeoffs: Eliminating Harmful Ingredients, Avoiding Regrettable Substitutes**

**Location: Capital Ballroom D**

Getting rid of a toxic substance in a consumer product sounds easy. But these chemicals often play a vital role in a product. Alternative chemicals sometimes are available but may cost more, don't work as well, or worse, could pose a different health risk than the substances they replace. We'll explore California's struggle with its groundbreaking green chemistry law requiring that toxic ingredients in consumer products get replaced with safer alternatives.

**Moderator:**

**Cheryl Hogue**, Assistant Managing Editor,  
*Chemical & Engineering News*

**Speakers:**

**Jack Linard**, Head, Regulatory Affairs Personal Care Products,  
Unilever

**Karl Palmer**, Chief, Safer Consumer Products Branch,  
California Department of Toxic Substances Control

**Veena Singla**, Staff Scientist, Natural Resources Defense  
Council



**WATER**

**Water in a Time of Scarcity:  
Adapting to Drought**

**Location: California Ballroom 3**

Drought changes everything. Wildfires strengthen. Diseases emerge. Fish suffocate. Crops wilt. Above all, there is widespread concern about water supplies. The science is clear: much of the American West and the world's midsection will become hotter and drier. We will have to live with water scarcity. How to do that? What changes must be made? The four panelists, each helping to develop new practices and policies, will discuss what is being done: in cities, on farms and within watersheds.

**Moderator:**

**Brett Walton**, News Correspondent, Circle of Blue

**Speakers:**

**Martin Adams**, Senior Assistant General Manager —  
Water System, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

**Newsha Ajami**, Director of Urban Water Policy, Water in the  
West, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment

**Nadine Bailey**, Chief Operations Officer, Family Water Alliance

**Brian Stranko**, California Water Program Director, The Nature  
Conservancy

Image courtesy of Paul Hames,  
California Department of Water Resources

FRIDAY  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2016

Image courtesy of Debbie Mous



**ENERGY AND LAND**  
**Renewable Energy on Public Lands**  
**Location: California Ballroom 4**

It's increasingly difficult to build renewable energy projects on public land in California, despite the state's ambitious climate goals, world-class solar and wind resources, and abundant open space. Especially in the desert, plans to build solar and wind farms have butted up against opposition from local communities and conservationists, many of whom say the desert and its fragile ecosystems are being sacrificed to industrial energy facilities. With that conflict in mind, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger instructed state agencies in 2008 to develop the 22.5-million-acre Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), which was meant to identify locations where solar and wind energy could be developed with minimal impacts to desert tortoises and other threatened species, while preserving scenic vistas and leaving space for off-roaders. But perhaps unsurprisingly considering its outsize ambition, the DRECP has frustrated energy developers and conservationists alike — and it still isn't finished. This panel will explore the difficulty of balancing clean energy development with other priorities on public land, even in a place as favorable to renewables as California.

**Moderator:**  
**Sammy Roth**, Energy Reporter, *The Desert Sun*

**Speakers:**  
**Karen Douglas**, Commissioner, California Energy Commission  
**Shannon Eddy**, Executive Director, Large-scale Solar Association  
**David Lamfrom**, Director, California Desert and National Wildlife Programs, National Parks Conservation Association

Image courtesy of Robb Kendrick



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**  
**Food Security and Public Health: Causes, Consequences and Responses**  
**Location: Garden Room**

According to the United Nations, some 795 million people worldwide lack enough food to live healthy, active lives. Poor nutrition causes nearly half the deaths of all children under five. Here in the U.S., about 50 million people are considered food insecure; about 15 million of them are children. The healthcare costs of this situation are enormous. This panel will discuss these issues from both a global and local perspective, examining causes and consequences — and policy responses. Experts we'll hear from include a climate change scientist, public health policy specialist who works with agricultural communities and a journalist covering these issues in East Africa.

**Moderator:**  
**Elizabeth Grossman**, Freelance Writer

**Speakers:**  
**Zoey Goore**, Pediatrician and Northern California Chapter President, American Academy of Pediatrics and Co-Founder, Sacramento Reverse Food Truck  
**Alexis Guild**, Senior Health Policy Analyst, Farmworker Justice  
**Rosalia Omungo**, News Editor and Television Journalist, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation, Nairobi  
**Rebecca Shaw**, Chief Scientist, World Wildlife Fund

### SunPower R&D Ranch

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### Yolo County

Thanks in large part to a 5.8 megawatt SunPower solar solution, it's the only grid-positive county in the nation.

### UC Davis West Village

With power generated by SunPower rooftop and carport systems, it's the largest planned net-zero energy community in the country.

### UC Davis Solar Power Plant

At 16 megawatts, it's the largest solar installation in the UC system. See it on Thursday's Tour in the Field, *California: The Clean Energy Proving Ground*.

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## OCEANS AND GLOBE

### Crimes Against Nature: Law and Disorder from the Deep Forests to the High Seas

Location: Terrace Room

Illegal logging, wildlife trafficking and unregulated fishing: the unlawful natural resource trade is valued at billions of dollars a year. But fighting these global crimes is an enormous and underfunded challenge. And behind the scenes lurk even more serious crimes: human trafficking, drug trade, homicide and terrorism. This panel features reporters who are doing groundbreaking investigations into the big picture of environmental crime, from the impacts of Central America's violent drug trade, China's illegal fishing off the coast of Ghana, to modern day sea slavery around the world. A government official in charge of international conservation will join them to explain what the U.S. can (and can't) do to stop these crimes.

**Moderator:**

**Meaghan Parker**, Writer/Editor, Environmental Change and Security Program, Wilson Center

**Speakers:**

**Sharon Guynup**, Freelance Journalist and Public Policy Fellow, Wilson Center

**Adu Koranteng**, Freelance Investigative Reporter (Ghana)

and **Grantee**, Fund for Investigative Journalism

**Richard Ruggiero**, Chief, Division of International Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Ian Urbina**, Investigative Reporter, *The New York Times*

## CELEBRATING ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM LUNCHEON

12:15 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

We'll start out with an eye-opening remembrance of environmental photojournalism over the years, followed by SEJ's Environmental Reporting Awards program, and then wrap up with a panel of 2016 environmental reporting award winners discussing the past year's top stories. And, we'll throw in a few surprises along the way.

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2

2:00 - 3:15 p.m.



Image courtesy of Katie Rausch

### THE CRAFT 1

#### Lessons from Flint:

#### Environmental Journalists Explore Their Options Following the Poisoning of a City

Location: Capital Ballroom A

What can environmental journalists learn from the chain of decisions that allowed damaging lead to leach for months from the drinking water pipes of Flint, Michigan? How can journalists report about aging infrastructure in ways that prevent similar problems from developing in other cities? When and how should journalists consider doing their own water testing? What role did the demographics of Flint play in its water crisis, and how can journalists address that question?

**Moderator:**

**Emilia Askari**, Journalist, Teacher, Game Developer, University of Michigan

**Speakers:**

**Christina Devine**, Ph.D. Student, Virginia Tech

**Ron Fonger**, Reporter, *The Flint Journal*

**Curt Guyette**, Investigative Reporter, American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

**Bruce Lanphear**, Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University

Image courtesy of Joanne Kim



## THE CRAFT 2

**EJ Reporting: Don't Forget the Science**

**Location: Capital Ballroom B**

For some of us, the environment is but one beat within science journalism. We can't see reporting on Earth, climate and living resources without understanding the mechanisms that create, perturb — and sometimes destroy — the once-natural relationships between them. Our panel of journalists will explain why they have made science the basis of their environmental reporting, and why you should too.

**Moderator:**

**Janet Raloff**, Editor, *Science News Magazines*

**Speakers:**

**Brian Bienkowski**, Editor, *Environmental Health News* and *The Daily Climate*

**Dan Fagin**, Director, Science, Health and Environmental Reporting Program & Science Communication Workshops, New York University

**Christopher Joyce**, Correspondent, Science Desk, National Public Radio

**Sarah Zielinski**, Freelance Blogger/Writer/Editor; *Science*, *Scientific American*, *Discover*, *Science News* and National Geographic News

Image courtesy of Freeimages.com



## CLIMATE AND AIR

**Fallout from the Methane Blowout**

**Location: Capital Ballroom C**

The 2015 blowout of a well at the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage field near Los Angeles resulted in the largest U.S. release of methane ever, scientists said. Over nearly four months, about 100,000 tons of the potent greenhouse gas poured into the atmosphere. The disaster drew national attention to the vulnerabilities of an aging energy infrastructure. Questions and issues this panel will tackle include: How has Aliso Canyon informed methane policies and regulations? Did the leak advance efforts to address methane emissions from oil and gas operations and other leaky infrastructure? Which states are out in front in addressing methane emissions? What new technologies are being deployed to measure and identify methane leaks? What are the climate and economic benefits of reducing methane?

**Moderator:**

**Mark Chediak**, Energy Reporter, *Bloomberg News*

**Speakers:**

**Stephen Conley**, Atmospheric Scientist, University of California, Davis and Pilot/President, *Scientific Aviation*

**Dan Grossman**, Rocky Mountain Regional Director and National Director of State Programs, Oil & Gas, Environmental Defense Fund

**Kathleen Sgamma**, Vice President of Government and Public Affairs, Western Energy Alliance

**4th speaker TBA**



# The Green Heart of Pittsburgh

**The Center for Sustainable Landscapes** at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is the only building in the world to meet all four of the most rigorous green building standards: the Living Building Challenge — a challenge so rigorous that only 11 buildings have achieved it — LEED Platinum, 4 Stars Sustainable SITES and Platinum WELL Building certifications.



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**Richard Piacentini**, executive director,  
Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

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Image courtesy of David Lat



**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND JUSTICE**  
**Expanding the Environmental Justice**  
**Battlefront**

**Location: Capital Ballroom D**

For decades, grassroots organizations have been working to bring environmental justice to economically and pollution-burdened urban and rural communities. In California, these advocates are using newly available data and scientific research to advance local and statewide policies to address environmental and public health threats to disadvantaged communities. At this session, California's top environmental justice players, including a scientist and a lawyer, will discuss new ways to transform these vulnerable communities.

**Moderator:**  
**Jane Kay, Environment Writer**

**Speakers:**  
**Marisol Aguilar, Northern Region Director, Community Equity Initiative, California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.**  
**Tiffany Eng, Green Zones Program Manager, California Environmental Justice Alliance**  
**Kim Harley, Associate Director of CHAMACOS Study, Center for Environmental Research and Children's Health, University of California, Berkeley**  
**Arsenio Mataka, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice and Environmental Affairs, California Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Kenneth Tang, Community Organizer, Asian Pacific Environmental Network**

Image courtesy of Roi Sabarov



**WATER**  
**Groundwater: Making It Count**  
**Location: California Ballroom 3**

In California, groundwater has long been surface water's less famous — and ignored — partner, part of the same hydrological system but strangely unregulated. That changed in 2014 when the state became the last in the American West to pass a groundwater management law. Now state and local officials are tasked with creating sustainability plans that include returning water to the ground as well as pumping it out. But how does the state begin to value something long taken for free? Good science, plus legal and policy changes, will play roles. Researchers from UC Davis have mapped optimal farmland for groundwater recharge. Monterey and Santa Cruz counties are testing a “net metering rebate” approach: farmers' meters run backwards if they recharge. An NGO suggests recharge credits that would count against pumping limits and could be sold or banked. Long an environmental leader, California has lagged on groundwater. Can new policies make up for lost time?

**Moderator:**  
**Erica Gies, Freelance Environmental Journalist**

**Speakers:**  
**Ellen Hanak, Water Economist and Director, Water Policy Center, Public Policy Institute of California**  
**Tara Moran, Sustainable Groundwater Program Lead, Water in the West, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment**  
**Anthony O'Geen, Soil Resource Specialist, Department of Land, Air and Water Resources, University of California, Davis**  
**Chris Thomas, Staff Attorney, The Freshwater Trust**



Image courtesy of Andrew Nixon, Capital Public Radio

## ENERGY AND LAND

### Living with Fire

Location: California Ballroom 4

The 2015 fire season was one of the worst on record. In Northern California, 3,000 structures were destroyed in just two wildfires alone. Such devastation makes splashy headlines, but deepening people's understanding of the forces at play makes for better stories — and more challenging reporting. Wildfire science is complex. Climate models predict that fire activity will increase across much of the northern hemisphere, but whether a given location will be more fire-prone depends on what controls wildfire occurrence there now. For example, drought may increase the acreage burned in coniferous western forests but reduce the wildfire potential in arid regions. This panel of scientists will discuss fire behavior in the face of drought and climate change, examine fire's historical role and ecological benefits, and look at how we can better live with fire.

**Moderator:**

**Amy Quinton**, Environment Reporter, Capital Public Radio

**Speakers:**

**Jon Keeley**, Senior Scientist, Western Ecological Research Center, Sequoia-Kings Canyon Field Station, U.S. Geological Survey

**Hugh Safford**, Regional Ecologist, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Forest Service, and Research Faculty Associate, Department of Environmental Science and Policy, University of California, Davis

**Edward Smith**, Forest Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy

**LeRoy Westerling**, Associate Professor, Sierra Nevada Research Institute, University of California, Merced



Image courtesy of Daily Yonder

## FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

### Hidden Hunger: Uncovering Stories from Food Deserts

Location: Garden Room

Despite the Sacramento region's agricultural abundance, it's estimated that more than 100,000 people in the community don't always know where their next meal will come from. Capital Public Radio's award-winning multimedia documentary, Hidden Hunger, approached the story of food insecurity in low-income neighborhoods through a community engagement process that helped uncover causes of hunger in the Farm-to-Fork Capital of America and helped move the community to action. You'll hear from a project reporter and the school advocate whose ground-breaking work was featured. The panel also includes perspectives from a pediatrician whose work on obesity led her to start a Reverse Food Truck and a national editor who has covered food deserts around the US.

**Moderator:**

**Catherine Stifter**, Senior Editor for Innovation, Capital Public Radio

**Speakers:**

**Zoey Goore**, Pediatrician and Northern California Chapter President, American Academy of Pediatrics and Co-Founder, Sacramento Reverse Food Truck

**Julia Mitric**, Food and Sustainability Reporter, Capital Public Radio

**Naomi Starkman**, Founder and Editor-in-Chief, Civil Eats

**Amaya Weiss**, Executive Community Director, Sacramento City Unified School District

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONTINUED

2:00 - 3:15 p.m.

Image courtesy of UC Davis



### OCEANS AND GLOBE

What's New on the Blue Beat?

Location: Terrace Room

As crises along our coast and ocean expand — populations at risk, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, overfishing, pirate fishing, at sea slavery and migrant surges, oil, deep-sea mining, chemical and plastic pollution, nutrient runoff, etc. — the only resource not at risk is good stories. Hear and question some of the top ocean and coastal reporters in the U.S. to learn more about the emerging issues they're covering in depth.

Moderator:

David Helvarg, Author and Executive Director, Blue Frontier

Speakers:

Rona Kobell, Staff Writer, *Chesapeake Bay Journal*

Mark Schleifstein, Environment Reporter, *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune* and *NOLA.com*

Ian Urbina, Investigative Reporter, *The New York Times*

## BEVERAGE BREAK

3:15 - 3:30 p.m.

Location: California Ballroom Salons 1/2 and Grand Ballroom

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

All are welcome for the Annual Membership Meeting of the Society of Environmental Journalists. SEJ members, please attend to hear from candidates and cast your vote to fill open seats on SEJ's 2017 Board of Directors. Reports, Q&A and lively discussion of hot topics and future plans for SEJ membership, finance and programs will round out the hour.

## NETWORKING HAPPY HOUR

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

The bar will open early. Choose a discussion table on a wide range of timely topics, reporting tips and freelance business advice. Check the Networking Happy Hour flyer in your conference bag or at the SEJ Information Table for a list of topics.

## BEAT DINNERS ARE BACK!

6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

**Buses depart the Doubletree promptly at 6:00 p.m. from just outside the entrance to the California Ballroom Foyer near Registration.**

It's harvest time and Farm-to-Fork celebration week in Sacramento. We'll head downtown to the main restaurant scene in "America's Most Diverse City" to get you out and about to some of the city's finest eateries and to some affordable local treasures. Consult your Beat Dinner flyer in your conference packet, or the web agenda, for details. Sign up at the SEJ Information Table for the Beat Dinner of your choice.

ADVERTISEMENT

“The premise behind *There Is Still Time* is the **biggest question in human history:**

**“Ingenious as our species may be, is it also wise enough to do what it will take to keep our civilization viable, before it's too late?”**

— Alan Weisman, author

Countdown: *Our Last, Best Hope for a Future on Earth?* & *The World Without Us*



**THERE IS STILL TIME to Look at the big picture... And act.**

Irrefutable evidence makes it clear that we are headed for massive human misery as our planet's health rapidly worsens, yet we fail to respond in a rational, meaningful way. *There Is Still Time* shows us how we can fix this. We must look at the big picture. This means facing and dealing with the basic cause of most of our problems, ourselves.

“There is a lot here that needs to be said... As a species, we are in deep trouble, and this book helps explain why this is so.”

— Lester Brown, author *Plan B 4.0*

“The author has packed this book with wisdom and insight. It highlights substantial flaws in current institutions, misguided cultural beliefs, and dangerous psychological biases...”

— Mathis Wackernagel, President, *Global Footprint Network*

“Seidel's blend of pessimism and idealism brings intellectual heft to this unconventional approach...” — *Kirkus Review*

Available from Amazon, Itasca Books, and where books are sold.

# SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

As a journalism organization that believes in an open society, SEJ each year welcomes a diverse group of attendees to our annual conference. Attendees include representatives of business, government and environmental groups, as well as working journalists, academics and students.

Because non-journalists are here, you may see or hear presentations or responses to presentations that you might not expect from mainstream journalists. The presentations and any responses do not necessarily reflect the views of SEJ or any of its members.

As our guest, you should respect our interest in open discussions of environmental issues by thanking all participants in sessions you attend and not disrupting presentations of views you disagree with.

Finally, please respect our rule that SEJ members are given preference during question-and-answer sessions.

All sessions, as well as registration, exhibits and breaks, will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sacramento, 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, California, 95815, (800) 445-8667, unless otherwise indicated.

## REGISTRATION

7:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Location: California Ballroom Foyer

If you didn't sign up ahead of time for the Saturday night party or Sunday brunch at the Library Galleria, there may still be room — please check with registration.

## SEJ INFORMATION TABLE

8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Location: California Ballroom Foyer

Sign up here for Saturday mini-tours. Read up on SEJ Board candidates, and find information about SEJ Award winners, membership and services. Pick up copies of *SEJournal* and other SEJ information.

## SEJ EXHIBITS

7:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Location: Grand Ballroom, Grand Ballroom foyer, California Ballroom Salons 1/2 and auto technology exhibits just outside the California Foyer doors

Don't miss the wealth of information offered by the 2016 exhibitors. Learn about environmental issues and innovations, educational opportunities, see some great displays and add to your source list. Sign up for test drives in the California foyer.

## BOOKSTORE

10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Location: California Ballroom Salons 1/2, Booths 11/12

The UC Davis bookstore is on site to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference.

## BREAKFAST WITH EXHIBITORS AND TECH DEMOS

**Breakfast sponsored in part by The Auto Alliance**  
Breakfast will be available beginning at 7:00 a.m. in both the Grand Ballroom and the California Ballroom near registration. Browse the exhibits, test drive alternative vehicles and watch technology demos.

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS 3

9:00 - 10:15 a.m.



Image courtesy of Carsten Mueller

### THE CRAFT 1

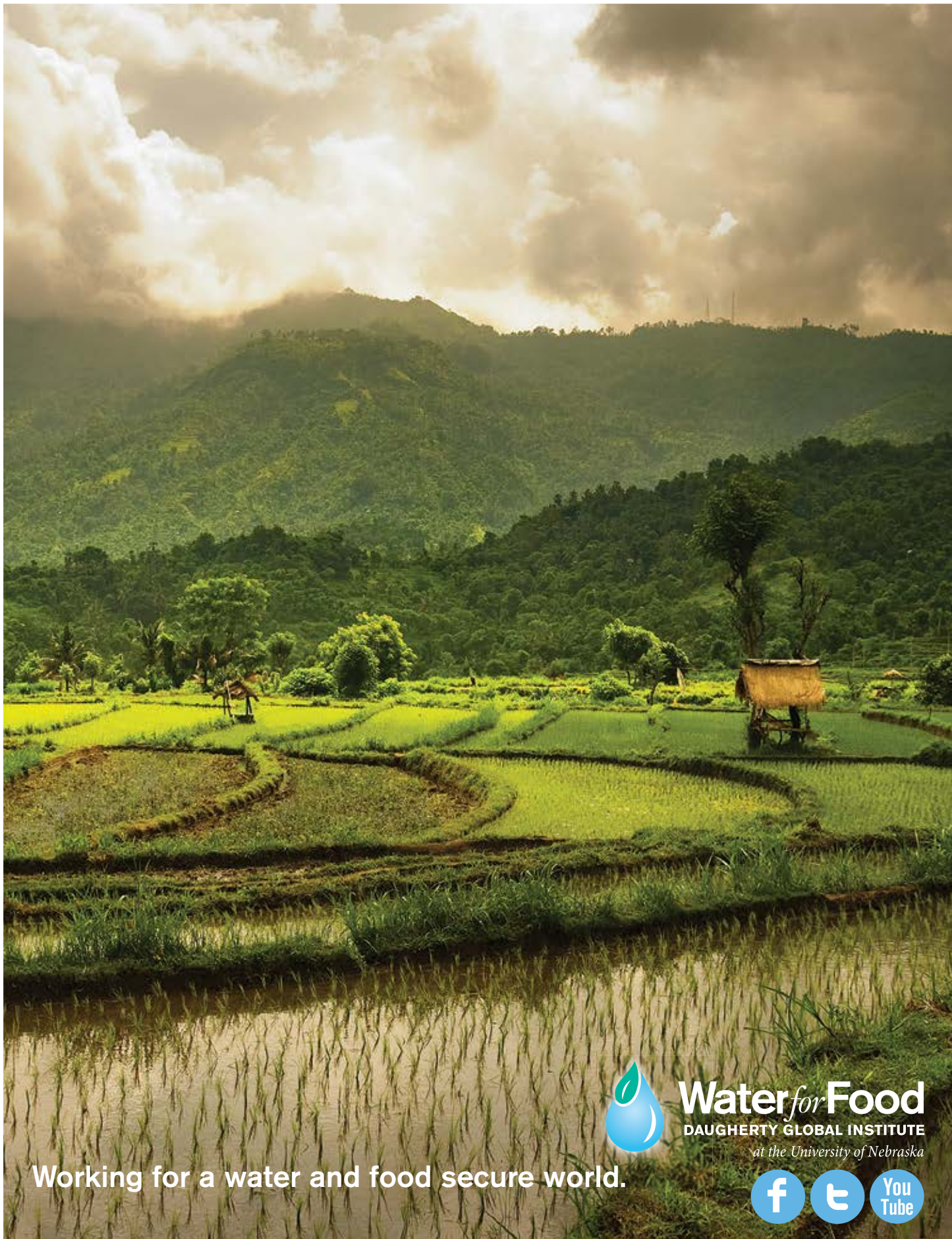
**Data Journalism 101: Mining Databases**  
Location: Capital Ballroom A

From U.S. EPA toxic releases to endangered species, data has long been key to environmental reporting. But new tools and the availability of more complex data sets have expanded the reach of how we can cover the environment. This panel will give you tips and tools for using data on the environmental beat.

**Moderator:**  
**Jennifer LaFleur**, Senior Editor for Data Journalism, The Center for Investigative Reporting

**Speakers:**  
**Cheryl Phillips**, Data Journalism Lecturer, Department of Communication, Stanford University  
**Lisa Song**, Reporter, InsideClimate News  
**Eric Sagara**, Senior Data Reporter, Reveal, The Center for Investigative Reporting

SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2016



**Water for Food**  
DAUGHERTY GLOBAL INSTITUTE  
*at the University of Nebraska*

Working for a water and food secure world.





## Volkswagen of America is proud to support the Society of Environmental Journalists at their 26th annual conference in Sacramento

Volkswagen is pleased to bring you the e-Golf, the company's first fully electric vehicle for the U.S. market launched in 2014. The e-Golf is powered by a synchronous permanent-magnet alternating current (AC) motor, capable of delivering 199 lb-ft of torque along with 115 horsepower, all the while not using a single drop of fuel and producing zero tailpipe emissions.

Make sure to stop by for a ride and drive and learn more about the vehicle based on the award-winning Golf architecture which redefined the hatchback category with enough space for five adults.

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**Friday, September 23**

Test drive our e-Golf!

**Saturday, September 24**

Test drives continue!



[media.vw.com](http://media.vw.com)

Image courtesy of NOAA



## THE CRAFT 2

### Communicating Climate Change

Location: Capital Ballroom B

Children born today will live through an era of rapid global warming in which the future of the climate no longer looks like the past. But public awareness of the urgency of the climate challenge remains low even as journalists report more deeply about how global warming will alter our cities and environment and how we'll have to adapt to those changes as wildfires rage, ice sheets melt and seas rise. A panel of journalists and climate communication experts will discuss how the media can effectively communicate the urgency and complexity of the climate threat with reporting that rises above the white noise and encourages audiences to pay attention.

**Moderator:**

**Bobby Magill**, Journalist | Photographer

**Speakers:**

**Patrick Gonzalez**, Principal Climate Change Scientist, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, U.S. National Park Service  
**Jon Krosnick**, Frederick O. Glover Professor in Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Communication, Stanford University

**Emmanuel Vincent**, Project Scientist, University of California Merced, and Founder, Climate Feedback

Image courtesy of Lisa Fanuchi



## CLIMATE AND AIR

### Transformational Transportation and Energy Policies

Location: Capital Ballroom C

California is exceptional for many reasons, and one of them is that it has more policies to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions than any other state in the world. Some of them have been around for decades and have been copied by other governments, while others are still the first of their kind. How is California doing in its quest to cut emissions? Which policies are the best? How are people responding to them? Let's find out!

**Moderator:**

**Debra Kahn**, Reporter, E&E Publishing

**Speakers:**

**Simon Mui**, Director of California Vehicles, Fuels, Energy and Transportation, Natural Resources Defense Council  
**Tiffany Roberts**, Director of Fuels and Climate Policy, Western States Petroleum Association  
**Daniel Sperling**, Founding Director, Institute of Transportation Studies, University of California, Davis and Member, California Air Resources Board

SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

SATURDAY

Image courtesy of Angela Jau



**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND JUSTICE**  
**After the Disaster: Whose Lives Matter?**

**Location: Capital Ballroom D**

As climate change increases natural disasters and other complex emergencies, the human toll will increase. The most vulnerable people — women, children, minorities, refugees and indigenous people — are the most threatened, the least served and the least likely to bounce back. In the chaotic aftermath of major disasters, being prepared and receiving appropriate and timely assistance is critical to individual survival, community resilience and government stability. A panel of reporters and experts will investigate the inequities that threaten to undermine disaster preparedness and recovery in communities from California to Calcutta.

**Moderator:**

**Elijah Wolfson, Deputy Editor for Science and Health, Quartz**

**Speakers:**

**Alisha Graves, Co-Founder, The OASIS Initiative**  
(Organizing to Advance Solutions in the Sahel)

**Ian James, Reporter, *The Desert Sun***

**Priyali Sur, Freelance Journalist and Documentary Filmmaker**

Image courtesy of Adam Stone



**WATER**

**Trouble at the Tap: Does America's Safe Drinking Water Act Have Our Back?**

**Location: California Ballroom 3**

Join us as we discuss how — in a little more than two years — the Elk River chemical spill near Charleston, W. Va., Toledo's algae-infused water crisis and Flint's highly offensive experience with lead poisoning have more in common than what meets the eye with California's massive drought, the nation's vanishing groundwater supplies and nutrient pollution in Iowa, the Carolinas, the West Coast, the Chesapeake Bay and just about any other part of the country where large numbers of people, sewers, crop farms, chemicals and CAFOs come together. With the population expanding, effects of climate change becoming more acute and wars over land use intensifying, how well is the nation's federal law designed to ensure safe drinking water is up to the challenge? Is clean drinking water a humanitarian right and what does our failure to deliver it say about us as a society?

**Moderator:**

**Tom Henry, Environmental Writer/Columnist,**  
*The (Toledo) Blade*

**Speakers:**

**Joseph Cotruvo, President, Joseph Cotruvo & Associates LLC;**  
former Director, Drinking Water Standards Division and former Director, Risk Assessment Division in Pollution Prevention and Toxics, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

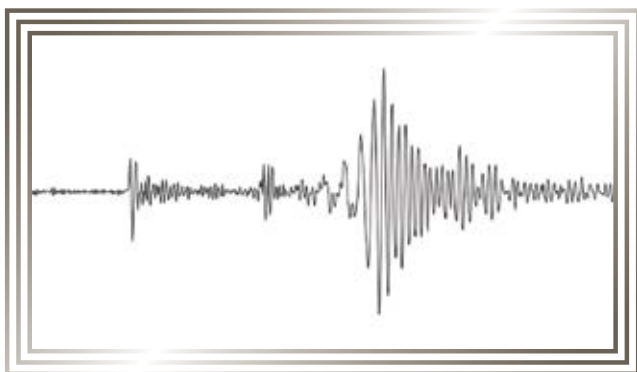
**Laurel Firestone, Co-director and Attorney at Law,**  
Community Water Center

**Peter Gleick, President and Co-founder, Pacific Institute**

**Thomas Harter, Endowed Chair for Water Resources Management and Policy, Department of Land, Air and Water Resources, University of California, Davis**



Image courtesy of Dave Schumaker



### ENERGY AND LAND

#### What's Shaking with Earthquake Science – And Why You Need To Know About It

Location: California Ballroom 4

There are three cutting-edge aspects of earthquake science that journalists need to know about. When does the Big One arrive and will we get any warning? What have recent quakes taught us about how they work and what's to come? Is human activity increasing the risk? Our panel brings to SEJ state-of-the-art expertise in all three of these emerging areas of study, with relevance to anyone who lives and works in Earthquake Country, and even beyond.

**Moderator:**

**Craig Miller**, Science Editor, KQED

**Speakers:**

**Richard Allen**, Director, Seismological Laboratory, Department of Earth and Planetary Science, University of California, Berkeley

**Joan Gomberg**, Geophysicist, U.S. Geological Survey

**Mark Zoback**, Geophysicist, Benjamin M. Page Professor in Earth Sciences and Senior Fellow at the Precourt Institute for Energy, School of Earth, Energy and Environmental Sciences, Stanford University (invited)

Image courtesy of UC Davis



### OCEANS AND GLOBE

#### Restoring the Deep and the Shoreline

Location: Terrace Room

We'll have one of the leaders of efforts to use money from the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill to restore habitat on the coast and the waters of the Gulf of Mexico; a veterinarian to talk about how wildlife are cleaned and restored to health in the aftermath of an oil spill; and a reporter to talk about her work documenting the status of fisheries around the Pacific Marshall Islands 60 years after atomic bomb tests.

**Moderator:**

**Mark Schleifstein**, Environment Reporter, *The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune* and NOLA.com

**Speakers:**

**Justin Ehrenwerth**, Executive Director, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

**Ashlan Gorse Cousteau**, Journalist and Advocate

**Michael Ziccardi**, Director, Oiled Wildlife Care Network, Wildlife Health Center, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis

### BEVERAGE BREAK

10:15 - 10:45 a.m.

Location: California Ballroom 1/2 and Grand Ballroom

SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

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## CONCURRENT SESSIONS 4

10:45 a.m. - Noon

Image courtesy of John Upton,  
Climate Central



### THE CRAFT 1

#### Data Journalism 102: Drones, Satellites and Other Hi-tech Tools

Location: Capital Ballroom A

Drones, satellites and other sensors are being used by scientists and journalists. Whether the technology fuels a citizen-science project or whether the data is available from scientists for use by journalists to plumb for stories, it's a facet of data journalism that is particularly relevant to environmental reporting. Come learn how drones are being used to detect environmental hazards such as gas leaks and airborne disease microbes, how planes equipped with sensors can tell us about ecological change and how DIY sensors placed in homes by journalists generate data and stories about the impact of heat waves.

#### Moderator:

**Loretta Williams**, Independent Public Radio Journalist

#### Speakers:

**Gregory Asner**, Principal Investigator, Carnegie Airborne Observatory and Staff Scientist, Department of Global Ecology, Carnegie Institution for Science

**Molly Peterson**, Freelance Environmental Reporter

**Brendan Smith**, Graduate Researcher, Mechatronics, Embedded Systems and Automation (MESA) Lab, University of California, Merced



Image courtesy of Emilien Auneau

### THE CRAFT 2

#### 2016 Elections: A Pivotal Moment for U.S. on Climate Change

Location: Capital Ballroom B

The Republican and Democratic presidential candidates couldn't be further apart on what the U.S. should or shouldn't be doing on climate change. A Republican victory could mean GOP control of both chambers in Congress and the White House for the first time in a decade. That would put U.S. participation in the Paris climate deal and Obama's domestic climate actions in the crosshairs. Alternatively, a Democratic president would be looking to expand on Obama's climate regulations and also provide enough coat-tails to return the Senate to Democratic control — and perhaps give new hope to resurrecting climate bills or a national carbon tax.

#### Moderator:

**Dean Scott**, Senior Climate Change Reporter, Bloomberg BNA

#### Speakers:

**James Connaughton**, President and CEO, Nautilus Data Technologies, and former Chairman, White House Council on Environmental Quality

**Bob Perciasepe**, President, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions and former Deputy Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Heather Zichal**, Senior Fellow, Global Energy Center, Atlantic Council and former Deputy Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change (Obama Administration)

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 24, 2016



## Audi of America invites you to an electrifying experience.

We invite you to stop by for a ride and drive to learn more about the dynamic A3 Sportback e-tron® and experience this versatile vehicle that is intensively engineered and meticulously crafted.<sup>1</sup>

The Audi A3 Sportback e-tron® offers the efficiency and versatility of a hybrid without sacrificing on premium features, design or performance. The e-tron® offers the cleaner, more efficient operation of an electric vehicle with the range and convenience of a gasoline drivetrain.<sup>2</sup>

**Friday, September 23**

Test drive our  
A3 Sportback e-tron®

**Saturday, September 24**

Test drive continues

[audiusa.com/newsroom](http://audiusa.com/newsroom)



Image courtesy of Andrew Nixon,  
Capital Public Radio



### CLIMATE AND AIR

#### Innovating with Nature: Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Risk

Location: Capital Ballroom C

Coastal wetlands restored to defend cities against sea-level rise. Forests thinned with prescribed burns to enhance drought resilience. Farm and range land managed for carbon sequestration. Find out about these and other approaches being tested to learn how nature can do better than manmade solutions to reduce future climate impacts and prepare for those already on the way. Question top experts to get stories in your backyard about the science, policy and practical implementation of nature-based solutions to climate adaptation.

**Moderator:**

**Adam Glenn**, Editor, *AdaptNY.org*,  
*ReportingOnClimateAdaptation.org* and *SEJournal*

**Speakers:**

**Jessica Grannis**, Adaptation Program Manager,  
Georgetown Climate Center  
**Mark Schwartz**, Director, John Muir Institute of the  
Environment, University of California, Davis  
**Laura Tam**, Sustainable Development Policy Director, SPUR  
(San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research  
Association)

Image courtesy of Annie Jenkins



### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND JUSTICE

#### Indigenous Rights and the Environment

Location: Capital Ballroom D

On this panel we'll look specifically at Californian Native issues, including current economic development, the impacts of environmental regulations and the state and federal policies that affect tribes that are not state or federally recognized. Speakers include a tribal chief who works to restore ancient salmon runs, a tribal historic preservation officer whose efforts encompass the breadth of indigenous issues and a former tribal chairman who advocates for indigenous rights to gain access to traditional coastal lands and to protect cultural resources.

**Moderator:**

**Peggy Berryhill**, General Manager, KGUA (Gualala, Ca)

**Speakers:**

**Morningstar Gali**, Ahcumawi, Tribal Historic Preservation  
Officer, Pit River Tribe  
**Caleen Sisk**, Chief, Winnemem Wintu Tribe  
**Eric Wilder**, Artist and former Tribal Chairman,  
Kashia Band of Pomo Indians



SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

Image courtesy of Ben Shafer



**WATER**

**Clean Water Act Rumble**

**Location: California Ballroom 3**

The Obama Administration's bid to resolve four decades of disputes over how far upstream the Clean Water Act's protections reach has spurred a full-on nationwide rumble over the future of water-pollution enforcement, with 31 states among the dozens of entities in the fight. Supporters say it's impossible to clean up waterways as vast as the Great Lakes and Mississippi River unless you start with waterways as small as rainy-season ponds in a wheat-field. Many farmers and scores of other opponents say the federal government is attempting a vast overreach that threatens property rights and the powers of the 50 states.

**Moderator:**

**Ellen Knickmeyer, Reporter, Associated Press, San Francisco**

**Speakers:**

**John Duarte, Fourth-generation California Farmer**

**Jan Goldman-Carter, Director of Wetlands and Water Resources, National Wildlife Foundation**

**Felicia Marcus, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board, California Environmental Protection Agency**

Image courtesy of USFWS



**ENERGY AND LAND**

**The New Energy Infrastructure**

**Location: California Ballroom 4**

California has bold, ambitious plans for its energy future, and all include squeezing the last drops of carbon out of the grid. How will the state's overburdened electric grid adapt to manage the off-peak glut of renewable energy, the puzzle of distributed generation and rooftop solar, and the loss of nuclear power? How best to integrate a blizzard of new consumer technology and what is the plan to power the millions of electric cars expected to flood the market? How to build in flexibility, grid response and storage? Will the private sector and cutting-edge technology save the day?

**Moderator:**

**Julie Cart, Reporter, CALmatters**

**Speakers:**

**Heather Sanders, Principle Manager, Regulatory Affairs & Compliance, Southern California Edison**

**John White, Executive Director, Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies**

**3rd speaker TBA**

Image courtesy of Max Mittenkov



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**  
**What Is Sustainable Agriculture?**  
Location: Garden Room

Sustainable agriculture means different things to different people, and is also a term bantered about vaguely. But it is a term and aspiration in wide circulation. In this session, our panelists will offer what sustainable agriculture means to them, how their work is sustainable agriculture in practice, what the pertinent science is for sustainable agriculture, and what the needs and challenges ahead are, especially in a future of population growth, climate change and various local environmental stresses. Also, we will look at how different stakeholders — industry, organic farmer and indigenous and environmental groups — have different and conflicting assertions for agricultural rights and resources. Our panelists will offer reflections to these and other questions that stem from the first question, “What is Sustainable Agriculture?”

**Moderator:**  
**Richard Blaustein, Freelance Science and Environmental Journalist**

**Speakers:**  
**Raoul Adamchak, Market Garden / CSA Coordinator at Student Farm, Agriculture Sustainability Institute, University of California, Davis**  
**Lynn Epstein, Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California, Davis**  
**Jeffrey Herrick, Soil Scientist, Jornada Experimental Range, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Co-Principal Investigator, Jornada Basin LTER; and Adjunct Faculty, Department of Animal and Range Sciences, New Mexico State University**  
**Tom Tomich, Director, Agriculture Sustainability Institute, University of California, Davis**

Image courtesy of Vlad Sarkisov



**OCEANS AND GLOBE**  
**California’s Marine Reserves: After 10 Years Are There Unexpected Surprises?**  
Location: Terrace Room

Nearly a decade after all of the shouting, what’s become of the necklace of marine reserves off the coast of California? State-appointed officials in Sept. 2007 set aside 29 protected areas in the Central Coast region spanning more than 200 square miles. It was the first batch in a statewide rollout of marine protected areas that came despite protests from ferocious fishermen, and forecasts of economic ruin. How has the decision reorganized life under the sea and above as the reserves approach a 10-year anniversary? Have some species rebounded? Is California’s experience a failure or a success story that should be considered by other states fearful of taking up the issue due to pressure from the fishing industry? And in the face of ocean acidification and other climatic changes, do reserves play a role in ocean resilience? A panel of scientists, decision makers and fishermen analyze what’s known, what’s not, and size up the role of marine reserves in answering these key questions. New developments in state level commitments will be explored.

**Moderator:**  
**Nancy Baron, Science Outreach Director | COMPASS, National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis**

**Speakers:**  
**Scott Hamilton, Professor, Department of Ichthyology, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, California State University**  
**Tessa Hill, Associate Professor, Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences and Bodega Marine Laboratory, Coastal & Marine Sciences Institute, University of California, Davis**  
**Michael Sutton, Project Manager, Pacific Flyway Fund; Board Member, Ocean Champions; and Author, “Ocean and Coastal Law and Policy”**  
**Chris Voss, President, Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara**

# LUNCH PLenary



Image courtesy of Ilker

## CAN TECHNOLOGY SAVE THE PLANET? A Discussion with Innovators and Ecologists

Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Ballroom

Technology has advanced our lifestyles and cultures in countless ways. Major leaps like the Industrial Revolution and in transportation have polluted the air, water and land. Even with the Information Age and Green Revolution, the exploitation of Earth's already stressed resources continues. How far can technology take us on a finite living planet that ecologists warn is unraveling before our eyes? Are human societies dependent on functioning natural systems, or can technology replace these systems enough to sustain our burgeoning population growth?

Moderator:

**Christopher Joyce**, Correspondent, Science Desk,  
National Public Radio

Speakers:

**Jonathan Foley**, Executive Director / William R. and  
Gretchen B. Kimball Chair, California Academy of Sciences  
**Deb Frodl**, Global Executive Director, Ecomagination, General  
Electric

**Mary Ruckelshaus**, Managing Director, Natural Capital Project,  
and Consulting Professor, Woods Institute for the Environment,  
Stanford University

**Daniel Sperling**, Founding Director, Institute of Transportation  
Studies, University of California, Davis and Member, California  
Air Resources Board

## AFTERNOON MINI-TOURS

2:15 - 5:30 p.m.

Sign up on-site at the SEJ Information Table beginning Wednesday afternoon for SEJ's popular mini-tours. Consult your Mini-tour flyer in your conference packet for details. Additional flyers are available at the SEJ Information Table.

Departure: Following the lunch and plenary session, go downstairs to the California Ballroom foyer and outside the glass doors. Conference staff will be outside to help you find your bus.



Image courtesy of UC Davis

## TASTINGS AND TALES AND DINNER AND DANCING

5:30 - 11:00 p.m.

Location: UC Davis

*For dinner attendees who did not go on a mini-tour, a bus will stage at the Doubletree, just outside from registration, for departure promptly at 5:00 p.m. for the UC Davis reception and dinner party. Buses will loop between the campus and hotel following the mini-tours. Last bus leaves UC Davis at 11:00 p.m.*

Following the mini-tours, all will gather at UC Davis' Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science for wine and beer, olive oil, honey, tomato and other tastings and tales of innovative food research. Dinner will be in the nearby Good Life Garden. Following dinner, attendees will have a choice of a dance party or a taping of the public radio show "Science Friday." **Pre-registration and \$35 fee required.**

Thanks to UC Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the *San Francisco Chronicle* for in-kind support of this event.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

SATURDAY

# SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

8:30 a.m.

**Buses depart from the front entrance of the Doubletree Hotel for the Sunday program at the Sacramento Library. Be sure to check out in time and have your luggage with you if you're going directly to the airport from the morning program.**

Pre-registration and \$25 fee required. Breakfast and airport transportation included.

## BOOKSTORE

8:00 a.m. - Noon

Location: Library Galleria

The UC Davis bookstore is on site to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference.

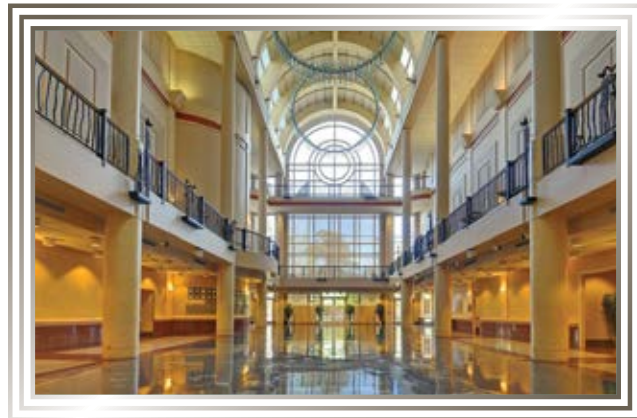


Image courtesy of City of Sacramento

## SCIFI AND CLIFI AT THE LIBRARY

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

We'll have a full breakfast in the spectacular Tsakopoulos Library Galleria of Sacramento's Central Library, which opened in 1918 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Science fiction and climate fiction authors will join us and discuss their genre within context of today's environmental issues and climate change science. Does SciFi advance climate change discussion or does it obscure realities? Does it bum you out or give you hope?

**Moderator:**

**Christy George, Independent Journalist**

**Speakers:**

**David Brin, Author, "Existence," "Earth," "The Postman," "Kiln People," the Uplift series, and YA, graphic novels, and nonfiction including "The Transparent Society"**

**Nancy Lord, former Alaska Writer Laureate and Author, "The Pteropod Gang" (clifi) and "Early Warming" (nonfiction)**

**Kim Stanley Robinson, Author, "Green Earth" (The Science**

in the Capitol Trilogy: "Forty Signs of Rain," "Fifty Degrees Below" and "Sixty Days and Counting"); Mars Trilogy "Red Mars," "Green Mars" and "Blue Mars"; and Three Californias Trilogy "The Wild Shore," "The Gold Coast" and "Pacific Edge"



Image courtesy of Andrew Nixon, Capital Public Radio

## SELF-GUIDED TOURS

Time: 11:00 a.m. - Noon

Following the session attendees can tour the library and nearby historic Capitol Building and Crocker Art Museum, which will waive the admission fee for conference attendees.

## CONFERENCE ADJOURNS AT NOON.

**Shuttles take attendees back to hotels or to airport, with airport arrival no later than 1:00 p.m.**

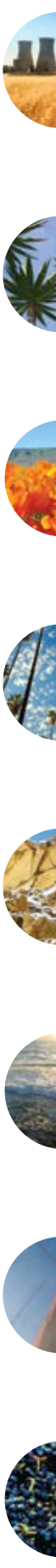
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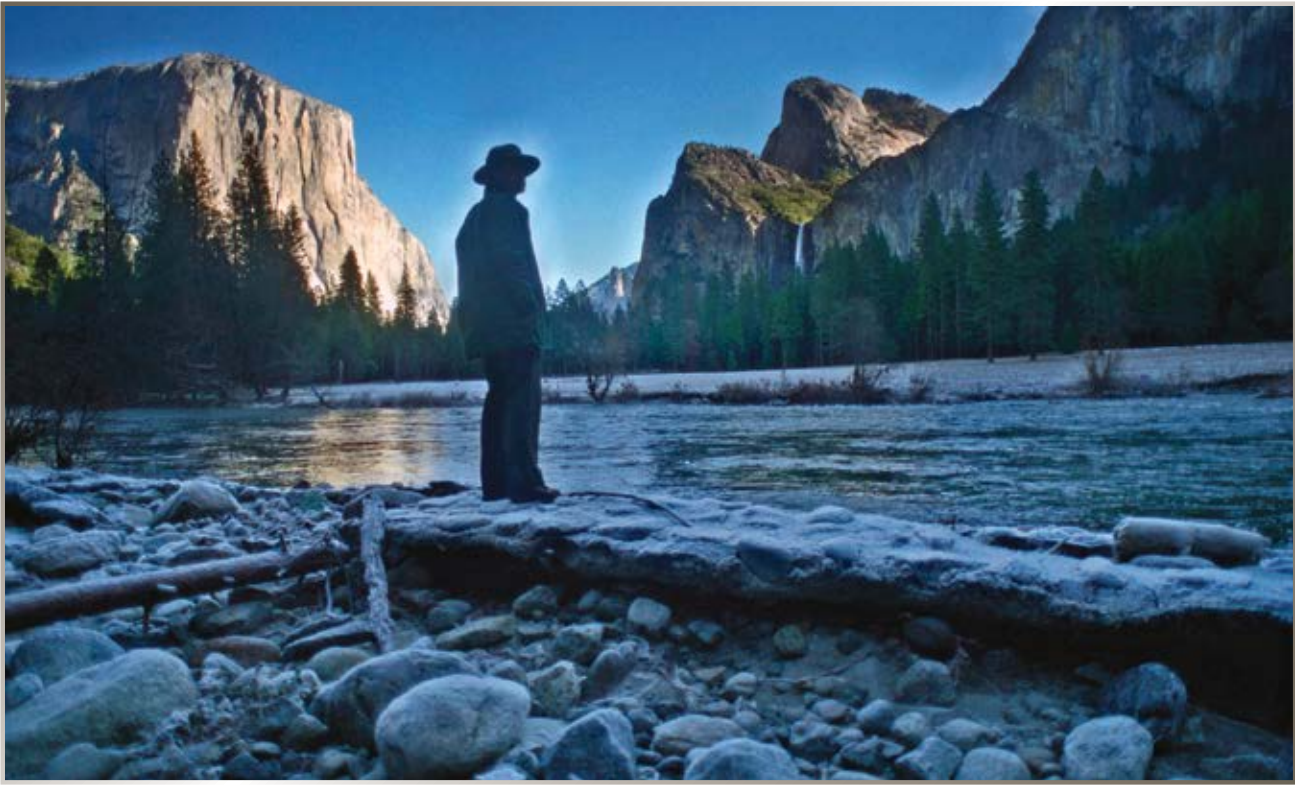


Image courtesy of Jay Mather

## POST-CONFERENCE TOUR

**Tall Trees and the Range of Light**  
(Sunday, September 25 – Wednesday, September 28)

Trek to the Sierra Nevada to celebrate the National Park Service centennial by visiting three of its most fêted units: Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks. From our tent cabins we'll visit Half Dome, Bridalveil Fall and Glacier Point, viewing these iconic spots through the scientific lens of climate change. At Sequoia/Kings Canyon we'll learn how four years of drought are affecting the biggest trees in the world and the ecological importance of mountain meadows. Along the way we'll hear from top park officials and the myriad stakeholders that collectively make management of our national treasures a complex equation.

This tour departs Sacramento following the Sunday authors program and returns to Sacramento no later than 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 28, when you are on your own for lodging. (Vans will drop you at the airport or your hotel, whichever you prefer.) The \$400 fee covers all transportation and lodging in the parks and some meals and fees. Lodging is two per tent cabin with bathrooms and showers nearby. This tour has been confirmed — go ahead and book your flight, keeping in mind you may not be back in Sacramento until 8:00 p.m. on Wed.

### Tour Leaders:

**Jane Braxton Little**, Freelance Journalist  
**Amy Quinton**, Environment Reporter, Capital Public Radio

### Yosemite and Other Speakers:

**Marcia Argust**, Director, Restore America's Parks, The Pew Charitable Trusts  
**Ben Cunningham-Summerfield**, Indian Cultural Program, Yosemite National Park  
**Scott Gediman**, Public Affairs Specialist, Yosemite National Park  
**Kelly Martin**, Chief of Fire and Aviation Management, Yosemite National Park  
**Don Neubacher**, Superintendent, Yosemite National Park  
**Gregor Schuurman**, Ecologist, Climate Change Response Program, National Park Service

### Sequoia and Kings Canyon Speakers:

**Dana Dierkes**, Public Affairs Specialist, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks  
**Erik Frenzel**, Ecologist, Division of Resource Management and Science, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks  
**Koren Nydick**, Science Coordinator/Ecologist, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks  
**Nate Stephenson**, Research Ecologist, Western Ecological Research Center, U.S. Geological Survey

The Society of Environmental Journalists is grateful to all whose financial support and personal efforts made this conference possible.

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Thanks to all our contest judges!

And an extra, extra special thanks to SEJ's only executive director ever, **Beth Parke**, who is turning over the helm this year after safely steering the SEJ ship for 24 years and through troubled-journalism waters.

Beth has written so many special thanks to others over her tenure that we finally decided to give her her own extra special thanks box in our own freaking thank you section, because, by God, if we don't thank her for all her special thanks to others, who will?



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Special thanks to **Chris Bowman, Jane Braxton Little, Justin Gerdes, David Helvarg, Jane Kay, Sunshine Menezes, Craig Miller, Mark Schleifstein, Sarah Terry-Cobo, Amy Quinton** and **George Wuerthner**.



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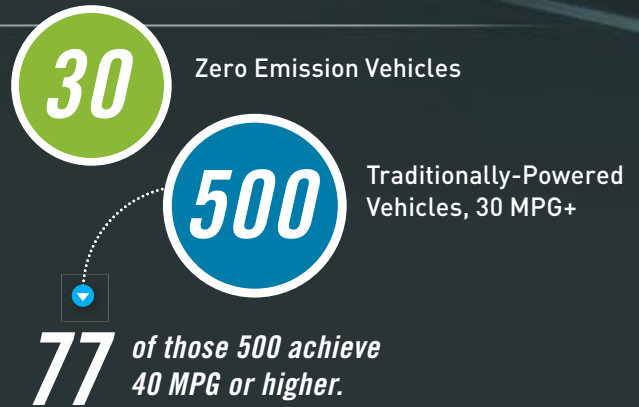
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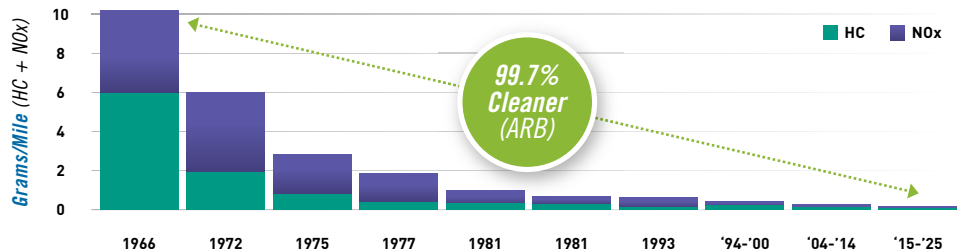
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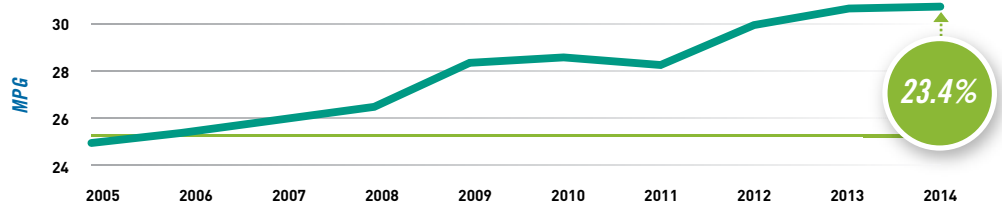
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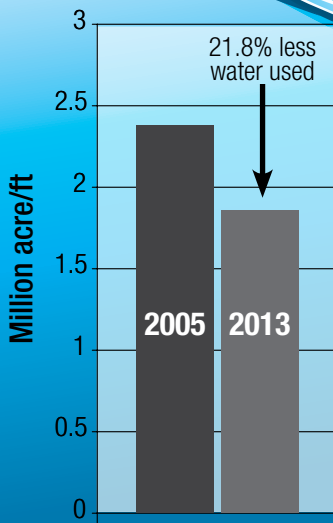
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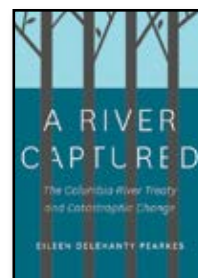
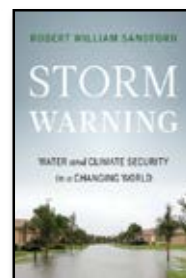
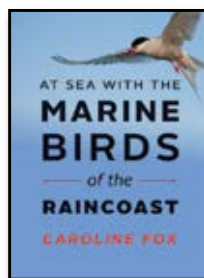
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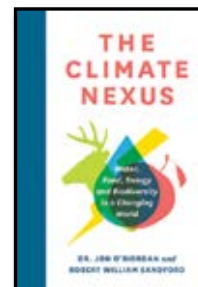
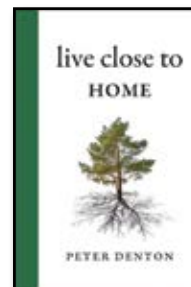
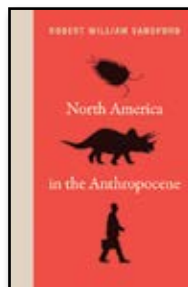
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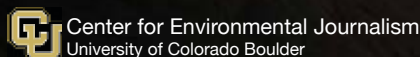
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