

Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative and Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Traditional Ecological Knowledges and Climate Adaptation Workshop
Thursday, September 7 – 1:00pm – 4:00pm
West Sacramento Community Center

Agenda

1:00 Welcome

Kathleen Ave, Climate Program Manager, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and Chair of the Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative (CRC)

Rev. Amanda Ford, Coalition Coordinator, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

1:20 The Climate Privilege Check

Rev. Amanda Ford, Coalition Coordinator, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

1:40 Traditional Ecological Knowledges in Climate Resilience

Rev. Amanda Ford, Coalition Coordinator, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (Facilitator)

Chief Caleen Sisk, Spiritual Leader and Tribal Chief, Winnemem Wintu Tribe

Kenneth Holbrook, Executive Director, Maidu Summit Consortium

Brittani Orona, Ph.D. Student, Native American Studies with a Designated Emphasis in Human Rights, University of California, Davis

Gregory Feather Wolfen, Environmental Specialist, Pit River Tribal Environmental Department

2:40 Break

2:50 Small Group Discussions

3:25 Member Presentations and Stakeholder Updates

PG&E's Approach to Climate Resilience

Kit Batten, Climate Resilience Chief, Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Sacramento County Regional Sanitation District and Sacramento Area Sewer District Presentation

Bernie Creelman, Business Citizen Assistance Representative, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District / Sacramento Area Sewer District

Open Discussion/Stakeholder Updates

3:50 Closing Remarks

Kathleen Ave, Climate Program Manager, SMUD and Chair of the CRC

Rev. Amanda Ford, Coalition Coordinator, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

4:00 Adjourn

Speaker Biographies

Rev. Amanda Ford is based in Sacramento, California and is the Coalition Coordinator at EJCW. In addition to being an ordained Interfaith minister and co-founder of Take Care Institute for Equity and Justice Ministries, she has her Master's Degree in Sustainable International Development from Brandeis University, with an emphasis in Environmental Peacebuilding. At EJCW, Amanda leads the development and coordination of EJCW's environmental justice coalition efforts, including Human Right to Water (AB 685) implementation, pollution prevention, democratic water governance, and outreach to Indigenous Nations. She has worked on Environmental Peacebuilding and Environmental Justice projects in 20+ countries and still actively advises eco-spiritual projects around the world.

Chief Caleen Sisk is the Spiritual Leader and Tribal Chief of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe, who practice their traditional culture and ceremonies in their territory along the McCloud River watershed in Northern California. Since assuming leadership responsibilities in 2000, Chief Sisk has focused on maintaining the cultural and religious traditions of the Tribe, and has led the revitalization of the Winnemem's H'up Chonas (or War Dance) and BaLas Chonas (Puberty Ceremony), which had not been practiced for decades. She advocates for California salmon restoration; healthy, undammed watersheds, and the human right to water. She is also currently leading her Tribe's efforts to work with Maori and federal fish biologists to return wild Chinook salmon from New Zealand to the McCloud River. In doing so, she advocates for the inclusion of traditional ecological knowledge in federal, state and local environmental research and planning.

Kenneth Holbrook, a Jamánim Májdy is in his 5th year as the Executive Director of the Maidu Summit Consortium. He is a graduate of UC Santa Cruz with a degree in US History, where he was a recipient of the UC Alumni Scholarship and a one-time Fellow of Yale University's Endangered Language Fund. Ken's passion for forest conservation and preservation of his Maidu language and culture began for him as a child, his mother being a passionate Maidu historian and scholar. All the while, he spent many a Summer in the forests of Lassen and throughout the Plumas region, in camps, the stepson of a 3rd generation logger. These two forces in his upbringing has led him to a strong commitment to working toward improved forest restoration practice and advocacy for Traditional Ecological Knowledge. His current projects include the development of a specialized Land Management Plan for the 2,325 acre Tásmam Kojóm site at Humbug Valley (near Lake Almanor), planning for recreational facility expansion and construction of protective fencing and riparian habitat improvement projects, as well as transactional negotiations for 6 separate grants of land through the Stewardship Council process... and of course, fundraising!

Brittani Orona is an enrolled member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe and completed her Master of Arts in Public History at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) in Fall 2014. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History from Humboldt State University in 2010. She is currently a Doctoral Student at UC Davis in Native American Studies with a Designated Emphasis in Human Rights. Brittani also works for the Department of Toxic Substances Control in the Office of Environmental Justice & Tribal Affairs. She is interested in repatriation, federal Indian law, cultural resources management, environmental justice, and environmental history as they relate to California Indian tribes.

Gregory Feather Wolfin is Iss-Illmawi and a citizen of the Pit River Nation. Gregory Wolfin also shares lineage with Winnemum Wintu and Hupa Nations, all of which are based in Northern California. Gregory graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in the Indigenous and American Indian Studies Program with an emphasis in Tribal Sovereignty. Since graduation from Haskell, Gregory now works for the Pit River Nation within the Environmental Department, has served his band as Illmawi Council Representative for one year, and contributed countless hours of volunteer work to promote culture, traditions, and the incorporation of TEK concepts within the Tribal Community.

Dr. Kit Batten leads a company-wide initiative to increase the climate resilience of PG&E's operations and infrastructure, as well as the resilience of the communities PG&E serves. Prior to her role at PG&E, Kit served as Executive Director at the University of California, Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Environment, and the Economy, where she leveraged the university's expertise to inform California's energy, climate and transportation policies—bringing together scientific researchers and policy-makers. She has also served as the Global Climate Change Coordinator at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), where she led the agency's efforts to implement climate-resilient, low-carbon sustainable development programs in more than 40 countries.

Bernie Creelman currently works in the Policy & Planning Department of the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District and Sacramento Area Sewer District. She leads the Districts' Going Green Employee Education Program, is developing a robust Regional San "K thru college" education program, and enjoys building partnerships and liaisons around all things green and sustainable. She previously was part of the Districts' Communications & Media Office where she managed internal and external communication programs including public outreach for major construction projects throughout the region. In her "spare" time, she works on her farm and teaches English at Sac City College.

Questions for Group Discussions

1. What are three things you learned today that you were not aware of before?
2. What are the best ways to initiate a discussion on TEK?
3. How can non-Tribal organizations work to address Tribal concerns (such as TEK confidentiality) when approaching climate adaptation efforts?
4. What can you commit to in your professional work or personal life to address the challenges and barriers discussed today?