



## CAPITAL REGION CLIMATE READINESS COLLABORATIVE

### CRC Quarterly Workshop

## Climate Action in the Capital Region: 2019 ReCAP

**December 16 | 12:30 PM – 4:00 PM**

SMUD's Customer Service Center, Rubicon Room  
6301 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95820

### Welcome, Collaborative Updates, and Introductions

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**Meg Arnold** | CRC Chair & Project Leader, Valley Vision

- New Members - CRC established a new category for state agencies, and welcomed on the Department of Water Resources, Delta Stewardship Council, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy as a result. We also welcomed Sierra Club Mother Lode Chapter, Yuba Water Agency, City of Elk Grove, cbec eco engineering, Regional Water Authority, San Juan Water District, Smart Local 104 Union, and the City of West Sacramento! We are so excited to have new voices at the CRC table.
  - Webinars - CRC strives to provide the region with as much information and resources as possible to help the region and the communities they encompass plan and prepare for climate change. In June, we partnered with the California Office of Planning and Research to share resources and tools for the Sacramento Valley on the Adaptation Clearinghouse. In August, we partnered with CRC member, Institute for Local Government, to host a webinar about how to authentically engage communities. Lastly, in September we hosted a webinar with ecoAmerica about how to communicate effectively about climate impacts and climate action. These partnerships were across all scales – we partnered with a nonprofit, state agency, and a national organization - which was very exciting for CRC, especially since 2019 was our first year hosting webinars. In 2020, we will be launching a webinar series to disseminate the findings and next steps of action from the Sacramento Air Districts Urban Heat Island Model Study; this webinar series will begin in February – stay tuned!
  - Flood Safety and Awareness PSA Campaign - One of CRC's programmatic pillars is informing the public of climate impacts and solutions for how they can adapt and be resilient to these impacts. Each year, through our social media networks, we disseminate two PSA Campaigns focused on public safety and awareness for extreme heat and flooding. If you're interested in partnering with CRC on this PSA, please connect with Grace.
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### New Member Presentations

**Carrie Whitlock** | Strategic Planning & Innovation Program Manager, City of Elk Grove

- Couple of key things the city is working on in the environmental area
  - Community mobility resiliency plan. Caltrans funded projected. Started in June, hoping to finish by end of 2020
  - Fiscal impacts of mobility landscape. Flooding and heat impacts and how to better plan to adapt to these issues.
  - Update to CAP adopted in February. Just did the first amendment last week. Working on implementation.

- Putting together a sustainability plan for city operations and services. Looking at equity, fair trade practices, etc.
- Elk Grove has a very active & engaged community. 350 Elk Grove is coming together
- Putting together first ever home Energy Efficiency Expo in March – working with SMUD and AIA to determine how to educate the citizens of Elk Grove in terms of residential energy use, cost saving. Broad educational event.
- Electric Vehicle Expo – hoping to repeat again this summer.
- City council and planning commission members are on the Mayor’s Commission on Climate Change.

**Paul Helliker** | General Manager, San Juan Water District

- Wholesale water supplier for eastern part of county. Has a large water treatment plant and a number of pumps. SJWD has a lot of electricity consumption which is mostly supplied by solar (soon expect to be 100%). Also working on electrification of their fleet.
- Placer County getting a CCA soon. Worked in the Bay Area. Focused on adaptation measures to be sure water resources and facilities are ready for the changes.

**Chris Bowles** | Managing Director, cbec

- Fantastic to be within this group, been a member for 4-5 months.
- cbec are consultants on environmental/ecological engineering. Trying to balance the natural environment with humans. Work with biologists and ecologists and we’ve been around for 12 years.
- In October there were a series of 3 workshops – first in Sacramento, next 2 in Tahoe City. 3 days drove home what he expected. Some incredible research has been done in atmospheric sciences – rivers, flood control. While huge amounts of money are being done by universities around the countries there isn’t much being done for runoff, flood control, and what it means for our environment. cbec started an internally funded research initiative to develop hydrologic tools. To see hydro precipitation patterns, 30 models and predictions and convert to what it means for runoff. Studies in the past (expensive and timely). Looking for case studies now. Applied it once in the central coast CA. Presenting these tools to various partners and agencies. Tool is ready to be used anywhere in CA. Looking for partners! Would be interested to talk to anyone here interested in hearing about this (water agencies).

**David Tilley** | Principal Planner, City of West Sacramento

- Many things going on in West Sacramento. Has recently joined the CRC. Has been participating in Yolo-Resiliency Collaborative.
- Last few months have formally engaged to complete CAP work. Been heavily engaged on the Mayors’ Commission of Climate Change by being a part of the technical advisory committee meetings. Starting to head toward home, tracking that effort and expect to plug in as much of that work as possible into our own CAP and implement the measures. Commission has done a great job in sorting these things out.
- Recently become associate members of Valley Clean Energy (CCA), in a PG&E region. Heavily engaged in this space, full support from city council. Council determined 5-10 priorities and finishing climate work is one of them. This is an issue not one of us can handle by ourselves

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## American River Basin & Forest Resilience

Ryan Ojakian | Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager, Regional Water Authority

### **American River Basic Study**

- The study is a hydrologic analysis of what we expect the impacts of climate change to be on our basin. The river is what we care about. What is going on, what is the health, supplies, ecosystem.
- RWA is comprised on drinking water suppliers, advocacy (my position), collaboration and teamwork. Big part of focus is on planning (operations). Water efficiency. We are very interested in climate change. Our water supply is directly related to the climate we live in. Going to go through what the impacts are going to be. What the future will look like and the effects. Potential adaptation strategies. RWA has been much better after joining Water Forum. We are comprised on 21 water supplies (drinking water). Serve 2 million people. Spread out through 5 counties.
- With increased temperature, decreased snow, runoff will change. This means we will have to change how we operate our water infrastructure. Water supply works on an annual basis (which is slow). Planning for changes in water supply also moves slow – it could take years or decades to plan for changes. Need to have a better sense on a watershed scale of what those changes will look like so we can adapt to them.
- Watershed is the focus area of the study. Based off of data from the 5<sup>th</sup> IPCC report. Builds off of previous Bureau studies. Looks at 5 different climate scenarios – 5<sup>th</sup> is the combo of the first 4 (main focus here). Total of 15 different datasets.
  - What we learned – it's going to get hotter!
  - It's going to get particularly hotter in the upper watershed.
  - Looking at a 6 degree increase in daily average temperatures. This means less snow, more rain.
  - This means changes in timing of runoff more than anything, not necessarily volume. Will create increased tensions between flood control and water supply.
  - Dual purpose functions under water supply. Flood control and water supply period don't currently overlap – in the future they are going to overlap.
  - Going to have increased demand. Plants need more water, which will increase both ag and urban demand. Can address urban demand with water efficiency program.
- Historical runoff midpoint – in 2050. We aren't going to see significant changes in runoff volume. Expecting very little change mid-century. Historical – most runoff came in March – May. Going to shift to Jan-Feb. This is when it's being monitored for flood control. This is the biggest issue we found.
  - We're already seeing these changes.
- We're losing the snowpack (our reservoir). Our groundwater basin 1.8million acre-feet. Twice the size as Folsom reservoir.
- How would the water bank work? - When its wet, shut off the groundwater pumps. Want the groundwater basin to refill itself. On dry days, turn the pumps back on and DON'T pull from the river.
- Water-use efficiency. Lower American river – temperature is key to the health of this portion of the river.
  - RiverArc – coordinate American and Sacramento river.
  - Water bank – more recycled water, flood improvements.
- Audience Questions
  - *Audience Question* – Folsom has a new water control manual? Was climate change considered?

- Ryan – it was not known at the time of its inception. We’re in a good place to adapt it though.
- Audience Question – The months have shifted to the flood control period, there’s going to be some difficulties here.
  - Ryan – Yes definitely, collaboration will help with this. Enhance their relationships. Suite of projects is going to help with the timing of the way the water runoff comes off and how we are working with that. Can’t just operate our reservoir for flood control period and surface supply period, need to do it together.
- Audience Question – Are you able to speak on impacts of fracking on the river bank?
  - Ryan – To my knowledge there is no fracking there. Can take this conversation offline.
- Audience Question – Did this study go into the possible effects of increased pollutants?
  - Ryan – We look at water quality separate from this study. We have had historical pollution in our *groundwater* mostly from military. Have a robust monitoring system as well as mitigation agreements with the military to address the quality issues.

**Willie Whittlesey** | Assistant General Manager, Yuba Water Agency

**Forest Resilient Bonds Project**

- Yuba Water Agency formed in 1959 in Yuba County for water supply and flood control. Built reservoir on north Yuba River. Supplies for irrigation for ag lands, hydroelectric generation, and flood control.
- Our forests are overcrowded. In 1905 you could see through the forests, sparse. In 1993 it is dense and overstocked. The difference is fire. In lower elevations the forests were burned off. In high elevations lightning strikes caused fires.
- In the north Yuba river – the reddest part – is the highest risk. Primary tributary to reservoir. Probability of a large fire over the next 30 years. No difference between forest conditions of our watershed and areas that have burned in recent fires. All of the sierras are in this condition due to fire suppression. Due to unnatural, overstocked position.
 

In a race to restore our forests, we have to remove trees. Can’t burn because it could go out of control. Do this by thinning. Years down the road we’ll be able to manage wildfires by letting it burn at a more natural rate.
- There’s many small-scale fire safe communities which is great for protecting residents. Watershed scale needs to be done to restore the natural process of the Sierras.
- We’ve had wildfires in the area – but we haven’t had the conditions that have led to a catastrophic fire. Hoping to restore before this happens.
- One of the direct benefits of managing forests - reduce the amount of woody debris in our reservoir. We also want to reduce the risk of sedimentation. Removed in 2017, spent millions to do so. Imagine the woody debris and sedimentation removal costs from a catastrophic fire (which they haven’t experienced yet).
- We care about the volume and quality of the water. We are going to implement a pilot forest restoration project and will study the water quality changes and improvement. Reducing vegetation per acre will help with runoff. We’re going to see an improvement in reduction of sedimentation and woody debris, along with water quality improvement. Figured any amount will benefit us, just want to get started. We are going to measure with satellite technology.
- Benefits summary

- Reduced fire risk to infrastructure
- Reduced woody debris flows
- Job creation and economic security
- Potential to increase and sustain water quality
- Protects water quality
- Yuba project is in the upper region of the Yuba watershed. Was shelf ready but had no funding. Financing mechanism – Forest Resilience Bonds
- Starts with the restoration activities – what we want to get done. Need to look at the money flow. Investors have the money and put the money in the Forest Resilience Bond (a loan). Implementation partners are the people doing the work. Then we see the benefits which will all be measures. Beneficiaries pay back the money. Problem is they don't have money for cycles ready to go which is why they turn to investors. The beneficiaries will see the benefits over years (increased water runoff, increased hydroelectric generation) and want to pay the money off over time. Helps gets projects done off the ground soon.
- All about collaboration. Yuba Water Agency has money in reserves. Could have paid to get the work done but because these investors wanted to get stuff done at one time and not have a piecemeal the project over 10 years, we figured it could be a catalyst to get this going beyond our region.
- Only Forest Resilience Bond to be implemented so far!
- Going to take 3-5 years. It's going to take 5-10 to see what's really going on. Got an opportunity to grow to the entire north Yuba watershed.
- Audience Questions
  - *Audience* – Economic benefits to local population and state – how are you utilizing the material that is thinned? How much revenue does that generate to pay for the project?
    - *Willie* – It is taken to sawmills in Quincy (only commercial one in the area). Forest service plans did not include biomass harvest. Burn only. We are working with forest service on the larger scale project to take the biomass material to a plan in Loyalton. Making a biomass plant facility on the other end so that there can be a facility on both ends of the project. Hoping to use it for biomass energy.
  - *Audience* – How long will the project take?
    - *Willie* – 20 years for the larger project. First smaller one was 3-5 years.
  - *Audience* – Why not have Yuba county join in with SMUD and become a CCA?
    - *Willie* – Can't tell you the direction we're going but we are discussing some form of aggregated management of the utility.
  - *Audience* – What are the sources of funds the beneficiaries are using? Reduced costs? General operating?
    - *Willie* – Hydroelectric revenue.
  - *Audience* – 20 years is a long time. The forest could get burned before that happens. This is technically maintenance.
    - *Willie* – Took 150 years to get into this scenario. It's going to take some time to get out of it. Would love to do it tomorrow but there is no perfect NEPA categorical exclusion for this work. There are animals and other species, archaeology (prehistorical mining) which all has to be surveyed before beginning.

- *Audience* – Can you give an order of magnitude of the commercial cost and biomass? What percentage of costs would they cover if at scale?
  - *Willie* – There is not revenue that comes from biomass but it pays for itself (breakeven). Timber harvest 1.4 million revenue. A quarter to a third of the work will be paid for by the trees that come out. Thinning the trees, trees grow very big. “Small trees” are actually quite large. Not trying to extract timber value, choosing trees that will make sense.

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## Mayors' Climate Commission: Updates, Implications, Next Steps

**Laurie Litman** | President, 350 Sacramento; Commissioner

- Have been working on climate change issues for the last 9 years when we started 350 Sacramento. It's definitely the biggest, most challenging issue in our lifetimes. The fact that our mayors have elevated the issues to the level they have with the Commission is really encouraging.
- Started by West Sac and Sac Mayors. Told the Commission to be bold and courageous, we all hold this in our hearts as we make decisions and think about it. Goals are to achieve carbon zero by 2045, strengthen local/regional partnerships, engagement community and business leaders, social equity, etc.
- Commissioners are a mix of heads of agencies and decision-makers, as well as people like me representing the environmental, equity, and disability communities. Good combination of people working towards the same goals but bring a lot of different perspectives.
- Carbon zero by itself isn't enough, we need to go carbon negative. Looking at this through the equity lens which Jackie will touch on. We need to bring everyone on. The most vulnerable people are being hit first and the hardest by climate change, which isn't going to affect everyone equally.
- Climate Commission has been listening. One example is youth involvement. Julia Burrows (City of Sacramento) organized a couple of youth events – one with college students (240 students) and a high school summit (100 students) who gave their suggestions on what the Climate Commission should do.
- There are a number of Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) – Built Environment, Mobility, Community Health & Resilience (CH&R). First two have already chosen and voted on their strategies.
  - Built Environment adopted strategies:
    - Going to make 90% of growth along established central corridors – emphasizes infill.
    - By 2023 all new construction will be electric to eliminate fossil fuels.
    - Transition 25% of existing to electric by 2030
  - Mobility adopted strategies:
    - Make 30% of all trips by active transportation by 2030, and 50% by 2045. Walking and rolling. Of the trips left going to improve transit to be as appealing as taking your own car. Of the cars left on the road, 70% EV by 2030 and 100% by 2040.
  - CH&R has provided draft ideas to the Commission who will vote on it next time.
  - There is also a Finance TAC and 2 roundtables. All recommendations go through equity roundtable. There is also a business roundtable.
  - Next steps – parallel effort going on by the cities, completing a CAP. Eventually the recommendations will go into the CAPs. The CAP and General Plan finals aren't going to be until mid-2021.

- What's missing is the urgency. Right now, even since it started a year ago, we've had reports claiming we have less and less time to react. According to the best science, we need to cut 15% of our emissions each year to keep the heat below 1.5 degrees. The 2045 goal is a start, but we need to get most of the carbon out of our system by 2030.
- Encourage you to participate in Commission meetings. There's a place to do online comments. You can participate in the CAP and GP meetings. STA has meetings about transportation measures coming up. If they do it wrong we'll have lots of new roads. We need to convince them to have a holistic transportation plan for our community.

**Kathleen Ave** | Senior Climate Manager, SMUD; TAC Lead

- Was asked by LGC staff to participate in co-leading the CH&R TAC with Dan Woo. Incredibly urgent issue to address. This is a different way to elevate climate work planning. Lots of CAP veterans in the room. This seemed like a way to breakthrough some of the obstacles that kept it from being as successful as it could be.
- What the CH&R TAC is all about, recommendations, etc.
  - We're the last TAC. The work in the previous TACs were important and hit the largest sources of emissions. What's left on our table now is broader – health of our communities and resilience to the effects of climate change.
  - We spent a lot of time talking about how to make a community resilient. Dealing with poverty and injustices in our society today.
  - Our recommendations fell into 3 buckets:
    - Urban greening and forestry
      - Plant a lot more trees than we've been planting
    - Sustainable food systems
      - Reduce the emissions by creating a circular economy concept.
    - Community climate resilience
      - Reduce exposure to climate impacts by 2022 and prepare for our biggest threats. We know we have some major health / economic disparities in our communities and it's not a good foundation to start from to deal with climate change. Need to address these root causes first.
- One of the Commissioners asked how we are going to create local demand if we have other regions trying to localize their food economies and pointed out that this is one of our biggest opportunities for exports.
  - Traditional economic development activities will undermine work in the climate space.

**Jackie Cole** | Principal, VG Consulting; Equity Roundtable Lead

- Was pulled into the conversation because was helping with the Environmental Justice (EJ) element in the general plan. In an interest of trying to bridge the objective I accepted the contract to help build the equity roundtable to have a conversation of what that should look like. How to anchor into reality.
- Role and status of equity roundtable: As we were listening to the built environment recommendations we realized none of the conversations were discussing and community involvement. The timelines



weren't lining up. Aligned some EJ organizations to build the equity TAC. We've met 3 times so far. The conversations are good, happy to review the recommendations as they come out. However, we're just advocates, not representatives of the community. We've been able to identify blind spots so far. Engaging community members is so important. Most decision-makers don't know what it looks like in the community. Need to create shared language and concepts to make sure we get our boots on the ground and into our community.

- The disconnect between economic development and equity. There aren't the resources to really dig into the conversation with our community members. Have a working definition of equity –
  - Equity means making the decisions to ensure the fair and proportional distribution of impacts, opportunities, resources, and costs. Equity also demands inclusivity, the practice of including relevant stakeholders and communities, particularly marginalized communities and groups that have been historically left out, in the policymaking and governance process, in order to ensure fair and equitable outcomes.
- None of us still have a genuine, concrete understanding of relaying these conversations with the community. Working our way through these concepts.
- Priorities- resources and infrastructure for basic community needs. People understand this is important but there are other barriers (such as getting food on the table) in the way. Need to listen to those issues first.
  - Address tree canopy disparity and food deserts. The way we have laid our communities out directly demonstrate the disparities. Need to have a mechanism in place for stewardship.
  - Food deserts – our communities were built this way.
- Urban beautification and neighborhood revitalization
  - Need to talk about displacement measures first. When we're talking about this, we need to take into consideration what it means to make those improvements.
- Workforce development
  - Inclusive economic development – how do we connect our food systems? All these barriers in place preventing people from development the way we want to see
- Partnering with existing community organizations
  - These are the folks who will be doing all the work. It isn't about starting over from scratch – it is capitalizing from those relationships that already exist.
- We can't do this without collaborating. We have all these different ways to tackle the problem but we're talking about it in different rooms!
- Audience Questions
  - *Audience* – Do you have the plans and will of the politicians to implement what you need to electrify?
    - *Laurie*– At 350 we don't want to wait until 2021 when the CAP comes in. We'd like to do it immediately. We can put some ordinances in place and do some preliminary work so that we're ready to go when the CAP comes out. There are some small EV fleets, pilot projects. Every time we accomplish something we say 'how can we do this faster'.
    - There is the imperative to move quickly.



- *Audience* – In terms of implementation have we discussed monitoring from the community standpoint?
  - *Answer* – We haven't come up with absolute plans. Monitoring and metrics are being discussed. We can't do any of this without having those measurements and targets. Vancouver has annual targets with lead people on their staff who are responsible for tracking those targets. We can take the best of what other people are finding and hopefully be models for the rest of CA. It's absolutely necessary.
- *Meg* – Only parts of the region is considered the Capital Region. How does this city specific approach be contemplated and adopted by other jurisdictions in the region given the various variables? CRC should ask what role they hope to play as this goes forward.

### **PSPS: Resiliency When the Power Goes Out (panel discussion)**

**Meg Arnold** | CRC Chair & Project Leader, Valley Vision (Moderator)

- This is a delicate topic. I'd like to ask that we focus on looking forward, responding to, and learning lessons from the PSPS rather than any blaming or finger pointing. As a reminder, PG&E is a member of the CRC.

Question to Panel: Please share about the role that your organization has had in your communities in the context of the recent PSPS.

- **Lisa Baker** | Chief Executive Officer, Yolo County Housing
  - We serve just under 3000 families, population equivalent to Winters but spread across thousands of miles. Water treatment, 3 sewer treatments, 6 full road systems, street lights, as well as the apartments themselves. A little over half are elderly and disabled. Lots of children under 18 as long as a multitude of languages with little English proficiency. We provided deeply affordable housing. Units we own, subsidize in private marketplace, general partnership, master lease, portfolio mix. Have been spending time getting more self-sufficient.
  - Diesel backup generators for water and sewer operations. Secondly went to community rooms. We'll view any sort of situation like this as either an incident in it of itself or an opportunity to practice for a larger scale situation.
  - Most of our properties weren't affected by PSPS but were affected through ancillary services. Was more difficult in units we don't have management over. There were places we didn't have water so we were able to work with our partners but one of our properties was affected for multiple days.
  - One thing that went right – one township with a migrant farmworker education center, there wasn't adequate water. OES sent a generator overnight to make sure this area had power. In terms of planning, we were able to tell the farmworker education center that we weren't going to allow them to hold class during the PSPS so they were able to cancel a huge food shipment they were expecting (hence, preventing food waste).
  - For the medically vulnerable, anyone who takes insulin (diabetes) needs good refrigeration. We were able to set up centralized medication fridges.

- Good to practice it, but we fortunately didn't need it. Biggest component is communication with resident's in multiple languages as well as pushing information on social media.
- Erik White | Air Pollution Control Officer, Placer County Air Pollution Control District
  - Representing Placer County. Certainly one of the counties hardest hit by the PSPS. Originally I think there was an interest in how this impacted the organization. Beyond my comprehension, we weren't impacted. A lot of impact however on our staff and operations in other parts of the county.
  - It was a wake-up call to look at if we were prepared to deal with things that could affect our operations – staff being in a rural area who had their power turned off, we also use a lot of EVs in our operations. Forced us to look back at how we respond to disasters.
  - While we were fairly well spared, the county as a whole was very impacted. The local news had a study – 3k people responded to online survey – 93% said they were impacted with 67% of them in the area between Loomis and Coalfax. Quarter to third of population in that area.
  - Food spoilage was a big disruption. Business impact was significant – 70% of business-owners lost up to \$5000 in inventory.
  - What has been the response? The state immediately made money available to LGs to harden their systems and be more resilient. Placer County got \$450,000 to do that.
    - First thing was to go out and buy diesel generators (ironically). Certainly need this for residents who require medical equipment. Providing cooling centers. Knee-jerk reaction was to buy the diesel BUGs. County also decided it was important for residents to ensure they have power at home.
      - While the air district does not regulate residential generators, the county decided they were going to waive the permit fees – not very expensive, incentivized people to buy one. This equipment is much dirtier than what we see from the grid. Trying to understand what those emission impacts are. As it relates to emergency equipment, it was developed when PSPS were not the norm, mostly used for testing.
      - It's opened up a lot of 'how do we look at our programs in a way to push people toward other technologies, how to not kill efforts to electrify and move away from fossil fuels'.
- Will Mitchell | Senior Manager of Facilities, Raley's Supermarkets
  - We've been chatting with PG&E and trying to prepare for this for two years. We had 2 generators on hold on a lease. We went up to 4. That said, with 48 hours notice, it's really hard to get those rolled and in place. The company we got it from deployed 160 generators in that span. The event was larger than anticipated. At least 10 stores impacted at one time. There were a handful of stores that could not get generators. Ended up having to get trailers that run on diesel. Not a good long-term solution so we are looking into that. Potentially looking at fuel cells but that still requires fossil fuels. As far as the impact to Raleys – a significant number of employees but customers as well. Became a community hub for stores that had generators. The one without generators became a desert.

*Meg to Panel* – To various degrees you highlighted an opportunity you encountered, can you talk a little more about the observations that you noticed were or weren't working well?

- Erik – As an organization there were 3 separate PSPS events predicted to have impact on our offices. We had 48 hours to react. The quick response was to send everyone home and shut down for a number of days to ride it out. Where we did lose power we were thinking about how to operate with limited operations. It forced us to look back and think about how to handle it. Thought the biggest threat would be a fire in the American Canyon that would impact Auburn. How to get to the building and whether we'd have one. 'Manmade emergencies' like this weren't on our radar. Good opportunity to go back and prepare for something on this level. As businesses and residents went through a number of these they learned how to adapt. Not that we want to see these on a regular basis, residents did learn how to manage this and how to better prepare for it.
- Will – We were warned a year and half prior but we hadn't ever seen a real one. The scope, number of, and frequency was not predicted. We got together with our vendors and manufacturers. It's the end of the season, ice production was slowing down and they weren't making it. We were ordering trailers and trailers of ice to store food. After the first event we used social media to make sure customers knew where to go to get groceries and where we were dark. We learned as far as the generator piece is that we are going to have to be better prepared next year. All we want to do is power the refrigerator system. Hoping to isolate it so that we can just power the refrigerated goods in the future.
- Lisa – As soon as we knew this was coming we stood up our emergency operation center. Made it ourselves. Able to coordinate with county's emergency operations folks and quickly assess our strengths and weaknesses. For us it was hard to tell who was in and out of PSPS, a lot had to do with the polygon shaping of PG&E. Need some finer tuning to understand which areas will be impacted, where the feed is coming, where will be affected. PG&E had issues with mapping staying up so as soon as people weren't able to see they called us. For us the biggest issue takes us back to the earlier panel on equity and where people put their attention when they're low-income. They're not watching the news – they're working 3 jobs, taking care of children and parents, don't have money to buy emergency kits and such (let alone diesel BUGs). Hard to reach them and in other languages was very difficult. We put our attention on our communications. Hand delivered a flyer with what to do to everyone. One of the bigger issues is starting to build out the ability to build micro power grids with transfer switches and push on the battery and storage development to reduce reliance on diesel generators. If we build micro-grids we can connect them to mini grids. We have 4 solar farms, which of course also went down, residents didn't understand that, had to educate our constituents on the complexity of energy and its deployment.

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## Lightning Round Presentations

**Tom Ghoring**, Executive Director at The Water Forum (CRC Member) – **Topic:** Ecosystem Processes under changing climate

- Climate change is going to affect our ecosystems. It's going to be warmer in the summer, colder in the winter. Going to impact the most sensitive species. Those impacts are going to look like a change in timing of lifecycle events. Lots of our species are key to things like controlling temperature. We'll see food web disruptions which will come together to create threshold affects. Entire populations of species will collapse. Parasites and disease. All will lead to an extinction lists. Coldwater species are thermally

challenged, if we lose them there is a ripple effect. It will snowball. What are going to do about this? A lot of decisions we are making about resources management and extractions, water use and forestry are going to become crisis positions which we will have a lot of arguments about.

**Carol Davydova**, Individual & Major Gifts Officer at Grid Alternatives (CRC Member) – **Topic:** Battery storage pilot program

- We believe those most impacted by environmental injustices should be the first to benefit from an improved economy. Grid is piloting solar, EV charging and coordinated upgrades for electrification. Geographic expansion of new low-income solar program. In particular the impact of the current program restrictions on the equity battery program. Communities most impacted by PSPS are most in need of resiliency funding. Gathering funding to complete a number of solar and storage pilot projects in federal wildfire disaster areas. Elevating community dialogue on energy, health, equity and climate resiliency.

**Chris Brown**, Coordinator at the Sacramento Climate Coalition – **Topic:** Climate Emergency Declaration

- Our city adopted a climate emergency declaration. 27 CBOs promoted the campaign since the end of last year. Almost 1-year anniversary. It calls for meeting climate goals by 2030 rather than 2045. Ambitious goal to ramp up what has been talked about so far. What is needed to coordinate other agencies, cities, and counties. Commitment to tracking and meeting accountability to GHG reduction goals. Planning which engages community in an emergency plan. We've done it with drought, let's do it with climate. Meeting the goals and getting better at it as we go. International campaign. 9 tipping points have been identified as already active. 30 cities and counties in the state have adopted the declaration. We need help with technical advice!

**Julia Cohen**, Climate Fellow with CivicSpark at the Yolo Resilience Collaborative – **Topic:** The YRC's adaptation planning toolkit

- A staff-based organization kicking off resiliency planning on Yolo. We can't do this individually; all systems are interconnected. If we work together all communities can thrive. Last year they created a toolkit. Some think a form of heat adaptation is more AC, which makes effects worse. Toolbox has examples of adaptation strategies; better building designs help comply with SB379. Working on this week, adding wildfire adaptation planning, communications strategy to work across other jurisdictions to improve work. We are all in this together so want to make resource available to all communities.

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## Closing Remarks and Announcements

Some key themes we discussed today:

- Urgency
- Interplay and reliance between mitigation and adaptation. Both imperative and increasingly so
- Heard a fair bit about practicing and losing – whether in crisis situations or with respect to collaborating and think broadly (Yuba project).
- The non-monetary value that an effective collaboration can create. The imperative to innovate, keep thinking big, and trying hard things.
- See you next year!