

Speaker Biographies



David Behar, Climate Program Director, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

David Behar chairs the Sea Level Rise Committee for the City and County of San Francisco, and was founding chair of the Water Utility Climate Alliance, a coalition of ten of the largest water utilities in the U.S. He sits on the Working Group on Regional Climate of the World Climate Research Programme and was appointed co-chair of the Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science in May 2013

by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.



Roger-Mark De Souza, Director of Population, Environmental Security, and Resilience, Wilson Center

Roger-Mark De Souza leads programs on climate change resilience, reproductive and maternal health, environmental security, and livelihoods, including the Global Sustainability and Resilience Program, Environmental Change and Security Program, and Maternal Health Initiative. Prior to joining the Wilson Center in 2013, De Souza served as vice president of research and director of the climate program at

Population Action International and director of foundation and corporate relations at the Sierra Club. He also directed the Population, Health, and Environment Program at the Population Reference Bureau for 10 years, designing and implementing research, communications, and capacity-building projects in the U.S., Africa, Southeast Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.



Chris Field, Perry L. McCarty Director, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment; Melvin and Joan Lane Professor for Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies; Professor, School of Earth, Energy & Environmental Sciences; Senior Fellow, Precourt Institute for Energy, Stanford University

Chris Field assumed leadership of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment in September 2016. He is a climate scientist whose research focuses on improving climate models, prospects for renewable energy systems, and community organizations that can minimize the risk of a

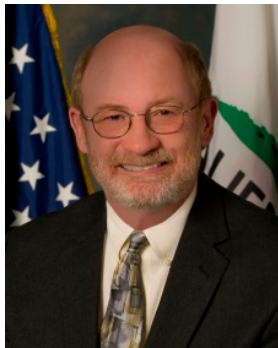
tragedy of the commons. He has been deeply involved with national and international scale efforts to advance science and assessment related to global ecology and climate change. He served as co-chair of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation” (2012) and the Working Group II contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (2014) on Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability.



Alice Hill, Research Fellow, the Hoover Institution

Alice Hill’s work focuses on building resilience to destabilizing catastrophic events, including the impacts of climate change. Prior to joining Hoover, she served as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Resilience Policy for the National Security Council under President Obama. While at the White House, Hill led the development of national policy regarding national security and climate change, incorporation of climate resilience considerations into international development, federal efforts in the Arctic, building national capabilities for long-term drought resilience, and establishment of national risk management standards for three of the most damaging natural hazards.



John Laird, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency

John Laird has spent almost 40 years in public service, serving as a City Councilmember and Mayor of Santa Cruz and a legislator in the California State Assembly. As a leader in the field of conservation in California, Secretary Laird has worked to preserve the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and establish the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.



Katharine Mach, Director of Stanford Environment Assessment Facility - Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment; Senior Research Scientist - Department of Earth System Science, Stanford University; Visiting Investigator - Carnegie Institution for Science

Katharine Mach’s research focuses on integrative assessment of climate change risks and response options. From 2010 to 2015, Mach co-directed the scientific activities of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which culminated in the IPCC’s Fifth Assessment Report and its Special Report on Managing Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation.



Len Materman, Executive Director, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

Len Materman is the Executive Director of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority, a regional government agency named after the physical feature that divides and unites cities and counties in the heart of Silicon Valley. Serving a Board of elected officials from five jurisdictions, Materman leads the agency's projects, operations, finances, and communications. The Authority plans, designs, and implements regional projects to reduce a proven flood threat, enhance ecosystems, create recreational opportunities, and improve disaster response. Previously, Materman worked at Stanford University; as a consultant to nonprofits, foundations, and the U.S. State Department; and as executive producer of a film on water that was broadcast nationally on PBS.



Jennifer Liebeler Michael, Senior Environmental Policy Advisor, Chevron Corporation

Jennifer Liebeler Michael is an oceanographer and environmental scientist who has worked on conservation issues throughout her career and in the academic, nonprofit, and business sectors. In her role with Chevron in San Ramon, California, she works on issues of energy and environmental policy and corporate responsibility and sustainability. Liebeler previously managed biodiversity issues for Chevron in the Gulf of Mexico. She led the development of land and water environmental performance standards for Chevron, designed to reduce the company's environmental impacts on land and freshwater and optimize the physical footprint of development projects worldwide. Prior to joining Chevron, she worked with environmental and conservation NGOs on coral reef and coastal zone conservation issues.



Fiorenza Micheli, Director, Center for Ocean Solutions, David and Lucile Packard Professor of Marine Science and Senior Fellow at the Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford University

Fiorenza Micheli is a marine ecologist and conservation biologist whose research focuses on the processes and interactions shaping coastal marine communities and incorporating this understanding in the management and conservation of marine ecosystems. Her research also seeks to apply community ecology to increase our understanding of human impacts on the marine environment and to design conservation and restoration strategies. She is also a Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation and a fellow of the California Academy of Sciences.



Chairman, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Julie Packard helped found the Monterey Bay Aquarium in the late 1970s. She has served on many boards and committees related to conservation, including the California Nature Conservancy and the World Wildlife Fund. As an international leader in ocean conservation and a marine biologist, she has been a leading voice for science-based policy reform in support of a healthy ocean.



Mary Ruckelshaus, Managing Director, Natural Capital Project, Stanford University

Mary Ruckelshaus oversees all work of the Natural Capital Project partnership including strategy, coordination, fundraising, communications, and hiring. The main focus of her recent work is on developing ecological models including estimates of the flow of environmental services under different management regimes in marine systems worldwide. She serves on the Science Council of the Nature Conservancy and is a past chair of the Science Advisory Board of the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis.



Dustin Schroeder, Assistant Professor, Department of Geophysics, Stanford University

Dustin Schroeder is a radio glaciologist and geophysicist who works on the fundamental problem of observing and understanding the configuration and evolution of ice sheet boundary conditions using ice penetrating radar. His work informs estimates of future sea level rise and the habitability of icy moons. Before coming to Stanford, he was a radar engineer with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Caltech.



Jane McKee Smith, Senior Research Scientist for Hydrodynamics, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Smith is stationed at the US Engineer Research and Development Center, Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory in Vicksburg, MS. She earned a PhD from the University of Delaware in Civil Engineering with an emphasis in Coastal Engineering. Her research focus is on coastal hydrodynamics, including nearshore waves and currents, shallow-water wave processes, and storm surge. Her projects include theoretical and numerical studies as well laboratory and field experimentation. She is Chair of the Coastal Engineering Research Council of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and Past President of the Governing Board of the Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute of ASCE.



Climate Central

Benjamin Strauss is a scientist, national expert, and author of numerous scientific reports and papers on sea level rise, as well as the architect behind the Surging Seas suite of maps, tools, and visualizations. Before his tenure at Climate Central, Strauss was a founding member of Grist.org and the Environmental Leadership Program. He has testified before the U.S. Senate and appeared as an expert on national network news, nationally syndicated radio, and documentary television.



Fran Ulmer, Chair, U.S. Arctic Research Commission

Fran Ulmer works to advance federal research on the arctic, the climate, and the prevention of oil spills. She was previously appointed to the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling and chancellor of the University of Alaska Anchorage. Ulmer also served as the Mayor of Juneau, a state representative and the Lieutenant Governor of Alaska.



Fran Weld, Vice President, Strategy and Development, San Francisco Giants

Fran Weld is responsible for managing the design, financing, and entitlements of Mission Rock, a mixed-use public-private partnership between the Giants and the City and Port of San Francisco. In addition to her work on the team's real estate portfolio, Weld guides long-term planning efforts for the future growth of the overall organization, including new business opportunities and strategic investments. She also serves on the Advisory Team to the Port's Waterfront Land Use Plan, and on the Executive Steering Committee for Mayor Lee's Seawall Resiliency project. She holds a B.S. in Physics from MIT and an MBA with a concentration in Public Management from Stanford's Graduate School of Business.



Dan Wolford, Science Director & Secretary, Coastside Fishing Club

Dan "Danny" Wolford is a fishing industry professional who currently serves as the Science Director and Secretary for the Coastside Fishing Club, a community of recreational fisherman. In this role, he is a voting member of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) and as such is involved in the development of regulations to balance robust salmon fishing opportunities with healthy, sustainable salmon populations. In 2012, Wolford was appointed to the Pacific Council's at-large seat under NOAA's regional fishery council.