



May, 2026 MBCAAN'ections

Monterey Bay Climate Adaptation Action Network News



Register:

MBCAAN Summer Quarterly Meeting,
1 PM - 4 PM Tuesday, June 2, 2026
Aptos Village Park Hall
100 Aptos Creek Road, Aptos, CA 95003

Email Lauryn@Californiansf.org to attend remotely.



Environmental Restoration: A Viable Military Defense Strategy?

A recent article published in April 2026 issue of [Anthropocene Magazine](#), entitled: “[Forget border walls. The new national defense could be a restored wetland](#),” makes the case for the national security benefits of marshes, mangroves and wetlands as a deterrent to invasive forces. The authors, Jelliman, Schmidt, and Chandler suggest that coastal environmental restoration not only protects against storm surges, erosion, and provides carbon sequestration, but that a “rewilded” coastline could also deliver a cost-effective national defense strategy.

Reading this article, I became curious about quantifying the value for environmental restoration and conservation for our national defense. California has 840 miles of coastline and if you include inlets and bays the total shoreline grows to 3,427 miles. Vast kelp beds could add a layer of defense that is cost-effective and self-regenerative. Efforts being undertaken through the Climate Resilient Monterey Bay (CRMB) work include converting low-lying farmland back to wetlands, fortifying dunes along our beaches to protect infrastructure from storm surges. Could these dunes also provide protection against possible amphibious vessel surges? Would California's southern border be better served and more cost effective managed by a nature-based solution, working with the environment instead of against established environmental regulations?

Could economic valuation of ecosystem services formulas include a dollar value attributable to national defense, reinforcing future environmental restoration as an advantageous and cost effective national security strategy?

Something to think about.

Read the rest of my blog [HERE](#).

Website!



MBCAAN WEBSITE In Spanish!



Tenemos la fortuna de que este fondo financie tantos proyectos importantes y de gran impacto en la región de la Bahía de Monterey, California.

A continuación, encontrará breves resúmenes de cada proyecto, agrupados según las cuatro áreas de enfoque de la iniciativa: Colaboración Regional, Desarrollo de la Fuerza Laboral, Reducción del Riesgo de Inundaciones y Reducción del Riesgo de Incendios.



You can now toggle MBCAAN.org to Spanish for a completely translated website. There are also translated one-pagers on each project page!

Partner Spotlight

Land Trust of Santa Cruz County

In April, Emily and Lauryn had the pleasure of visiting the Pajaro Estuary Restoration Project, which will restore agricultural properties affected by flooding to estuarine wetlands. This work is in collaboration with growers, in addition to ag landowners, led by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County.



The program includes the fully acquired 247-acre Beach Ranch and planned acquisition of conservation easements on the 63-acre Malatesta Ranch and 111-acre West Beach Ranch. In addition to the fully acquired Beach Ranch, 62 acres of Mini Ranch are fully acquired and now part of Watsonville Slough Farm. Together, these properties encompass 2.8 miles of shoreline and 70 acres of coastal wetlands. Restoration efforts aim to enhance estuary function, provide accommodation space for floodwaters, protect inland farmland, roads, residences, and park infrastructure, and establish a nature-based buffer to reduce climate-related risks such as storm surge, sea level rise, and saltwater intrusion. Initial work is underway in land negotiations, and the Advisory Team, experts from agencies, nonprofits, and universities, has formed and will have its third planning meeting in May.

Conservation Director Bryan Largay (pictured above) shared that they will end up restoring around 120 acres of wetlands along over 3 miles of shoreline in the Pajaro River Estuary, which will have immense benefits for the ecosystem, wildlife quality, and flood protection of adjacent areas.



PARTNER NEWS AND EVENTS

[Arbor Day Celebration](#) - Thursday, May 7: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

- Location: University Terrace Park
- Hosted By: City of Santa Cruz

The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County will be tabling at this event with various other local organizations. In addition, this event includes volunteer opportunities to help plant trees, as well as interactive educational booths and activities for those who want to drop in and enjoy the festivities.

Registration: [Click Here](#)



[Salinas River Workshops](#)

[Salinas River Workshop: Salinas](#)

Tuesday, May 8: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Location: Agricultural Center Conference Room

Salinas River Workshop

New studies and implications for management

Thursday, May 7 | 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Braga Fresh Training Room
32898 San Vicente Road, Soledad

Friday, May 8 | 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Agricultural Center Conference Room
1432 Abbott Street, Salinas

Attention landowners and growers along the Salinas River in Monterey County! You're invited to a workshop by the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County and the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, in partnership with the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Monterey County Farm Bureau, Salinas River Management Unit Association, and Grower-Shipper Association of Central California.

Two sessions will be held with the same content at both.

Come to the workshops to learn about and provide feedback on:

- New analyses on factors contributing to flooding and flood impacts
- Allowable river management activities under existing programs
- Other water, vegetation, and program management approaches to explore

Your participation will help guide future program development, permitting, and funding efforts!



Please RSVP:
eventbrite.com/cc/salinas-river-workshops-483595



Hosted By: The Salinas River Partnership, RCD of Monterey County, and Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Monterey County Farm Bureau, Salinas River Management Unit Association, and Grower-Shipper Association of Central California will be hosting the Salinas River Workshop coming up!

Please fill out this [Salinas River Management Pre-Workshop Survey](#) whether or not you can attend the workshop!

[Pitch-in County-Wide Clean Up](#) - Saturday, May 9, 2026: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

- Location: University Terrace Park
- Hosted By: City of Santa Cruz

Join a cleanup near you across Santa Cruz County! Many partners are hosting cleanups including the City of Watsonville, UCSC, Ecology Action, the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County Visit, and Watsonville Wetlands Watch, click the link to find a cleanup event in your area. Registration: [Click Here](#)



CSUMB College of Science

Capstone Festival - Friday,

May 15: 9:00 AM-12:30 PM

- Location: Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library, 3054 Divarty St, Seaside, CA 93955.
- Hosted By: CSUMB

It's open to the public. Students will be doing oral presentations, and there will be a couple of poster sessions throughout the morning. Registration to be posted [here](#).

Wild + Scenic Film Festival - Saturday, May 16: 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

- Location: Foothill College in Los Altos (12345 El Monte Rd, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022)
- Hosted By: Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST)

This free event celebrates community, nature, and action! Explore 20+ community booths, connect with local organizations, and learn about environmental initiatives in your area. Enjoy live music, delicious food, and a rare chance to get up close with birds of prey thanks to our special guests—falconers showcasing magnificent raptors! Registration: [Click Here](#)

Neighborhood Resiliency Workshop -

Westside Workshop Saturday, May 17: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Location: Garfield Park

Seabright Workshop Tuesday, June 16th: 5:30 PM-7:30 PM

Location: O'Neill Sea Odyssey

- Hosted By: City of Santa Cruz and Ecology Action

We are upcoming Neighborhood Resiliency Workshops for City of Santa Cruz locals, especially Westside and Seabright residents: Registration: See Above.



First Friday: Mini Museum -

Friday, June 5: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: 911 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Hosted By: The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County

The Land Trust is participating in First Friday! We're opening the doors of our office to invite the public to explore our newly installed mini museum in our lobby. Exhibits curated by interns from the Kenneth S. Norris Center for Natural History will feature pressed native flowers, feather-and-bone species, preserved insects, and more. A flyer is attached to this email for additional details. No registration.



UCSC Coastal Science and Policy Symposium

Day 1: June 8th, 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM (zoom room opens at 12 PM)

Day 2: June 9th, 9:30 AM-2:45 PM Pacific (doors open at 9:30AM, welcome at 9:40 AM, first talk at 9:45 AM Pacific)

Location: [Register](#) for Zoom

Hosted By: UCSC

We'd like to invite folks to join us for this year's virtual Coastal Science and Policy Symposium, it will include talks from our graduating CSP MS students, including grant-funded student Eric Medina (who worked with the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County and the Central Coast Wetlands Group) and our graduating PhD-designated emphasis students (akin to a minor in Coastal Science and Policy). All sessions held on Zoom and recordings will be posted by the end of June. You can see the entire lineup on our [website](#).

Save the Taste, Stop the Waste - Tuesday, June 9: 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

- Location: [Register](#) for Zoom
- Hosted By: Ecology Action and UCANR Master Food Preservers

In this one-hour webinar, we will talk about the basics of food preservation and how an everyday person can start preserving food today, how to keep

your food fresher, longer in the refrigerator, and the environmental benefits of food preservation.

Conferences:

[Restore America's Estuaries \(RAE\)](#)

September 22-25, 2026 Coastal & Estuarine Summit: Where the Future of Our Coasts Takes Shape – San Francisco, California

Restore America's Estuaries is dedicated to the protection and restoration of bays and estuaries as essential resources for our nation.

Registration is NOW OPEN, and Early Bird pricing runs through July 13.

[Resilient California Summit](#)

October 20 – 22, 2026 for the three-day Resilient California Summit – SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento, California

The Summit will gather California's climate adaptation and resilience practitioners to share best practices and crucial information to inform climate science, policy, and action. We anticipate broad participation from local government, tribal partners, community organizations, state agencies, utilities, private firms, and academia.

[Bay Adapt SF](#)

November 9, 2026 Rising Together: The Bay Adapt Summit – The Exploratorium San Francisco, California

The region's premier gathering for sea level rise adaptation a unique climate change adaptation — presented by BCDC in partnership with the Exploratorium and Greenbelt Alliance.

Recent Media



In the outside and in the field, we have been **collaborating** with our partners to share the climate resilience work being done with our partners and community. Check out our recent [collaborations](#) with the Indigenous Youth Council and Watsonville Wetlands Watch!

Resources

[Multilingual Translation Hub:](#)

Richard Castillo at Ecology Action shared this link from "Listos California," which has free materials in many languages (including Mixteco) that you can use and share to promote disaster preparedness in your home and community.

English and Spanish Adaptation Strategies and Coastal Processes Terminology Guide

Another great resource from Richard is the [English Terminology Guide](#) (made by the City of SC) and the [Spanish Terminology Guide](#), which he has created, adding the CRMB logo. Please feel free to share these for education and outreach events.

[Indigenous Sovereignty and Collaborative Science Resource Collection](#)

If you want to or do work with tribes, check out the NERRS Indigenous Sovereignty and Collaborative Science Resource Collection (modules on how to approach Indigenous sovereignty to gift giving) and the [Guide to Collaborative Science](#). Here is a very insightful [Webinar Summary](#), too, if you'd like to check it out.

[A Short Film on Good Fire](#)

Jared Childress with CCPBA shared this wonderful video about "good fire". For context, the National Fire Networks and TNC's North America Fire recently released some short films highlighting different stories of fire resilience. One of them is focused specifically on [PBAs in California](#).

Book Nook

We are in the Middle of Forever by Stan Rushworth and Dahr Jamail

We Are the Middle of Forever: Indigenous Voices from Turtle Island on the Changing Earth is a 2022 nonfiction book edited by environmental journalist Dahr Jamail and Indigenous scholar Stan Rushworth that explores the ongoing climate crisis and our relationship with the natural world through interviews with Native leaders, traditional ecological knowledge, and stories of spiritual and cultural resilience.

Join the Watsonville Reads:

Thursday, May 7, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Watsonville Public Library, 275 Main St Ste 100, Watsonville,
Main Library, Meeting Room

Stan Rushworth will be in person, sharing the story *We Are the Middle of Forever*. This innovative work of research and reportage places Indigenous voices at the center of conversations about today's environmental crisis.

Community Read Books

"Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Book Discussion: *Braiding Sweetgrass*
Thursday, April 2 from 6-8pm
Main Library, Multi-purpose Room

Join us for a discussion of the book "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer whose collection of essays weaves together the author's experience as a Potawatomi botanist with scientific knowledge and Indigenous wisdom to reframe humanity's relationship with nature. The book advocates for reciprocity, gratitude, and a gift economy, urging readers to treat the Earth as a beloved family member, not just a resource.

"We are the Middle of Forever" edited by Dahr Jamail and Stan Rushworth

Book Discussion: *We are the Middle of Forever*
Thursday, May 7 from 6-8pm
Main Library, Meeting Room

Join us for a discussion with Stan Rushworth about the book, "We are the Middle of Forever: Indigenous voices from Turtle Island on the changing Earth" edited by Dahr Jamail and Stan Rushworth. An innovative work of research and reportage places Indigenous voices at the center of conversations about today's environmental crisis.

WATSONVILLE Reads

2026 Programs Guide

Watsonville PUBLIC LIBRARY Friends of the Library

Have a good read you would like to share? Send suggestions and a brief review for inclusion in a future edition of *MBCAAN'ctions* to emily@californiamsf.org

Save the Date: Register for 2026 Quarterly Meetings

[Tuesday, June 2, 2026 \(Hybrid Event\)](#) (Location and time TBD)

[Wednesday, October 7, 2026 - \(in person event\)](#) (Location and time TBD)

[Wednesday, December 9, 2026](#) (Location The Grove, Santa Cruz, CA)

Drop me a line!

I am delighted to return to my favorite coast and learn more about the amazing work happening around the region.

Emily Franc, MBCAAN Coordinator
emily@californiamsf.org



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The Monterey Bay Climate Adaptation Action Network is committed to building adaptive capacity in the Monterey Bay region, including coordination and planning for future adaptation and resilience actions in the Monterey Bay region.

[Learn more](#)

California Marine Sanctuary Foundation | 99 Pacific Street, Suite 455 | Monterey, CA 93940 US

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