



October, 2025 MBCAAN'ections

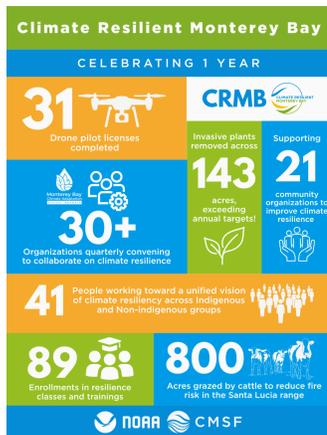
Monterey Bay Climate Adaptation Action Network News



Santa Lucia Preserve, looking out toward Carmel Bay -Jesse Traller Ojeda

Save The Date: MBCAAN Winter Quarterly Meeting, 418 Project, Santa Cruz, CA -
Friday December 5, 2025
[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

WHAT A YEAR!



Climate Resilient Monterey Bay

Just one year ago this month, a coalition of 30 organizations was awarded a significant grant to implement adaptation strategies to reduce risks from fire and floods, train a climate-ready workforce, and establish a network of local nonprofits, community based organizations, tribes, local governments and agencies, and academic institutions across the Monterey Bay watershed.

Look at the progress we've made! The data in the chart demonstrates the impact in just the first year of this five year effort.

Quarterly Meeting Wrap-up

This past September, MBCAAN partnered with the Wetlands for Climate Partnership (W4C) at its fall quarterly meeting. Many of the takeaways from the workshop were familiar concerns and priorities such as the desire for clearer, more efficient permitting and regulatory requirements and processes, monitoring that provides linkages between ecological outcomes and social and economic benefits,

and durable long-term funding for conserved land stewardship. With over 70 practitioners in the room and online, we shared concerns, best practices and how to navigate a way forward to develop solutions.

W4C has been convening similar meetings for the North Coast and South Coast regions to collect information, data, and recommendations that will be shared in a summary report of their findings at a statewide forum, and recommendations will be shared with legislators and state regulatory decision makers.

At MBCAAN, we will be creating space for a deeper dive into the permitting and regulatory processes for the Central Coast region at an upcoming quarterly meeting in 2026.



Above Photos: Salinas River State Beach Dune Restoration tour led by Sarah Stoner-Duncan, SJSU

Partner Spotlight

MBCAAN Community Advisory Group

Members of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) actively engage in the MBCAAN Community Advisory Group's monthly meetings, focusing on topics involving community resilience, preparation for weather emergencies, and topics of relevance to the communities in which they work.



These organizations include MILPA, the Monterey Bay Central Labor Council (MBCLC), Ventures, Monarch Services, and the Community Action Board (CAB), alongside additional community members not formally affiliated as CBOs. This Advisory Group represents CBOs from across the tri-county area of Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties and as part of the Monterey Bay Climate Adaptation Action Network.

Recently, Community Advisory Group members supported Watsonville Wetlands Watch and the Pajaro River Watershed Network through outreach and tabling at the "Celebration of the Trees" at Pajaro Middle School. Their

local perspective, community connection, and collaboration around MBCAAN topics and priorities strengthen local bonds throughout the region.



Above Photos: *Celebration of the Trees*, Pajaro Middle School, Watsonville, October 4, 2025

Santa Lucia Conservancy

Over the spring and summer, Climate Resilient Monterey Bay, has made major progress on its wildfire risk reduction strategy for resiliency. As part of the grant, the proposed wildfire adaptation initiatives include fuel reduction activities on over 5,000 acres, installation of over 6 miles of shaded fuel breaks, and prescribed and cultural burning on 115 acres.



Just last month, Climate Resilient Monterey Bay partner Santa Lucia Conservancy reached their annual grazing goal of 800 acres! Their cattle grazing program helps reduce the dense thatch and fine fuels on grassland and oak savannah lands in the preserve. Additionally, they have also treated invasive stands and ladder fuels on 143 acres, exceeding their target of 135 acres for the year!



Site visit with Santa Lucia Conservancy September 11, 2025

Santa Lucia Conservancy is not the only wildfire partner that has made strides in the recent months. In addition, several site visits have been made with the Burn Boss (the leader overseeing controlled burns), Tribal partners, and the Big Sur Land Trust team to assess the landscape and establish location-specific burn plans for the prescribed and cultural burning occurring in years 2-5.

All these efforts are instrumental in reducing the risk of uncontrolled, high-intensity wildfires to our communities, property, native ecosystems, and public health in the Monterey Bay coastal region.

You can follow more progress on Climate Resilient Monterey Bay by checking out our Instagram @MontereyBayAction.

UPDATE: NOAA - Resilience Challenge Technical Assistance Expo Enhancing Coastal Resilience with Expert Support

As CRMB grant recipients, we are fortunate to receive not only funding to implement 27 current coastal resilience projects, but also dedicated and funded support in addition to existing grant funded budgets. This additional technical assistance (TA) from the NOAA Office of Coastal Management is designed to strengthen the technical capacity of partner organizations—both for current grant activities and future planning efforts. TA may be used to build skills in community engagement, understand the permitting process, improve modeling and mapping capabilities, and address a wide variety of technical needs.

At our first MBCAAN quarterly meeting last January, we collaboratively identified specific **TA needs** across all projects. CRMB Grant Partners expressed a strong interest in support for creating materials that showcase project success stories, eliciting and highlighting community engagement, and producing videos to document achievements.

One great resource for finding assistance in this area is the [Registry of Adaptation Practitioners](#), which is available to all grant partners. In the registry, selecting the service area “*Communicating and Engaging*” filters the list to 21 practitioners specializing in this type of support. Each listing includes a brief description, allowing partners to find a practitioner that aligns with their outreach goals. For example, **Climate Central Inc.** specializes in web-based maps and data visualizations that help communicate planning strategies, boost public awareness, and support resilience effort.

Once a suitable practitioner is identified, the next step is to contact our TA Specialist **Melis Ökter (Melis.Okter@noaa.gov)** and cc **Jesse Traller Ojeda** and **Susan Robinson** outlining your project needs and requesting the services of your selected TA provider.

Example of TA in Action

The Central Coast Wetlands Group (CCWG) is leveraging TA through the **Digital Coast Network** to support their project goals. Paige Siegel, NOAA Coastal Resilience Fellow, is interested in their high resolution **C-CAP Regional Land Cover** spatial data that includes 20 land cover categories, 6 of which are different wetland types. She plans to use this data to ascertain the current extent of wetlands and dunes on the Central Coast, so they can include these in their monitoring efforts.

Need Help Getting Started?

To explore technical assistance options or get help identifying a practitioner, please reach out to Jesse Traller Ojeda, Emily Franc, or Susan Robinson. You may also

bring your questions to the [CRMB Monthly Coffee Chats](#), held every third Wednesday at 11:00 AM—these are a great forum for discussing resources and learning from others.

PARTNER NEWS AND EVENTS

Draft Nature-Based Adaptation Strategies Policy Guidance Open for Public Comment

Comment period closes October 24, 2025

The public is invited to review and comment on the Commission's Draft Nature-Based Adaptation Strategies (NBAS) Policy Guidance. The guidance covers four main topic areas: 1) a set of principles that will facilitate the Commission on future permitting and planning actions related to NBAS, 2) various permitting pathways for NBAS, 3) how these projects may be analyzed under the Coastal Act, and 4) key considerations and topics that should be addressed when designing and implementing NBAS projects.

[View the Draft Nature-Based Adaptation Strategies Policy Guidance](#)

The Draft Guidance will be considered for adoption at a future meeting. Public comments may be sent to statewideplanning@coastal.ca.gov.



Deep Dive: Resilience of the Monterey Bay Region

Dr. Joseph Fiksel will share insights on how organizations and municipalities can enhance sustainability and resilience in the face of climate change and unexpected disruptions. Dr. Fiksel's talk is based on his years as an engineer and engineering professor at Ohio State University. This event is presented by the Responsible Business Innovation Lab in partnership with the Monterey Bay Stanford Club.

Date: October 25, 2025

Time: 3:00 to 5:00 pm

Location: CSUMB Business and Information Technology Building Room 104
3722 Divarty Street, Seaside, CA 93955

[Event Link](#)

Ecology Action Workshop:

Monterey Bay Area focused SB1 Funding Coordination Meeting

Wednesday October 29th from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM via zoom to connect your organization directly to TA resources to support an application and/or identify potential cross-jurisdictional project teams to develop a proposal together with facilitation and support. The Workshop will explore potential

regional partnerships and connect applicants with Technical Assistance providers for the [SB1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation funding program](#).

To be added to our calendar invite directly please email Bennett Williamson (bennett.williamson@ecoact.org).

Save the Dates:

MBCAAN Winter Quarterly Meeting

Friday, December 5, 2025

10:00am - 5:00pm

Location: **The 418 Project**, 155 River St S, Santa Cruz, CA

Topic: "Climate Crossroads" - MBCAAN Formation and Decision-Making Workshop

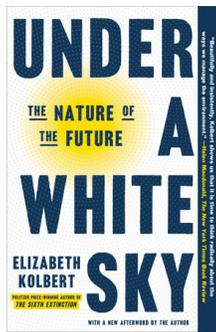
[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

MBCAAN Holiday Party

Friday, December 5, 2025

5:30pm - 7:30pm

The 418 Project, 155 River St S, Santa Cruz, CA



Book Nook

Under the White Sky, by Elizabeth Kolbert

The Pulitzer Prize–winning author of *The Sixth Extinction* returns to humanity's transformative impact on the environment, now asking: After doing so much damage, can we change nature, this time to save it?

"Beautifully and insistently, Kolbert shows us that it is time to think radically about the ways we manage the environment."—Helen Macdonald, *The New York Times*

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

Drop me a line!

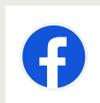
I am delighted to return to my favorite coast and learn more about the amazing work happening around the region.

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](#)

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