

July, 2025

MBCAAN'ections

Monterey Bay Climate Adaptation Action Network News



Save The Date: MBCAAN Fall Quarterly Meeting, Tuesday, September 9, 2025
[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

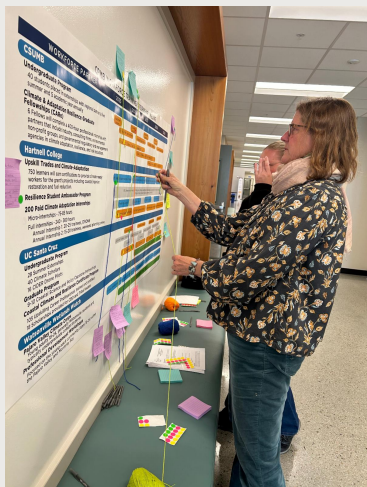
June Quarterly Meeting Update

The Monterey Bay Climate Adaptation Action Network (MBCAAN) held its second quarterly meeting hosted by Hartnell College, at the Castroville Education Center. Over 60 participants were in attendance representing 21 member organizations. We covered a lot of ground and learned a lot about what our Workforce Development Committee has planned as part of our NOAA grant "*Climate Resilient Monterey Bay.*"



Our first panel took a broad look at the future of workforce opportunities across the region with speakers Francisco Rodriguez ([Monterey Bay Central Labor Council](#)), Tatiana Brennan ([Santa Cruz County Office of Response, Recovery, & Resilience](#)), and Eloy Ortiz ([Regeneración, Pajaro Valley](#)) weighing in on their perspective on risks and opportunities we are facing today, the importance of a living wage, upskilling our seasonal workforce, and the value of mentorship. Two large economic drivers in the Central Coast are agriculture and hospitality. Harvest time is decreasing due to climate, technology efficiencies and drought, which means decreasing paid labor hours. Our members were encouraged to consider the people, not just the policies when coming up with strategies to reduce climate risk, and to emphasize public private partnerships, working closely with businesses and groups that are dependent on economies at risk from changing weather patterns, especially agriculture and tourism hospitality.

During the second panel, Hartnell College, UCSC, CSUMB and Watsonville Wetlands Watch provided information on their workforce development programs and paid training opportunities from micro-internships (36-72 hours), to one-year fellowships that will eventually serve and place over 700 learners in a variety of settings. Attendees were invited to participate in breakout sessions and interact with a timeline poster to demonstrate interest in engaging interns and trained workforce for their future work.



The breakout sessions were incredibly informative as we heard about what skills our partner organizations are looking for, the needs and barriers to taking on interns, whether paid or not; innovative technologies and equipment; and local and state policies. A common barrier was limited physical office space, lack of operational capacity to process payroll, limited time to properly mentor interns and/or oversee interns in possibly hazardous conditions, liability, and student apathy.

Information collected through the breakout sessions and timeline poster have been shared with the Workforce Development Committee which has since created an [FAQ sheet](#) and [Workforce Development Program Summary](#). If your organization is interested in hosting an intern(s) or fellow, please fill out the [Intake Form here](#). We will be sure your inquiry gets reviewed so you're able to be part of building a climate resilient workforce in Monterey Bay!

Breakout session notes and powerpoints from the June meeting may be accessed [HERE](#)

In an effort to continually provide excellent “attendance worthy” content at our quarterly meetings, please fill out a brief survey about your experience.

[MBCAAN MEETING SURVEY](#)



Jon Detka, CSUMB, provided a Drone Demonstration during the June MBCAAN meeting hosted at Hartnell College

MBCAAN Fall Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

9:00am - 1:30pm

Moss Landing Marine Labs

8272 Moss Landing Road

Moss Landing, CA 95039

Topic: **Strategies to Navigate Permitting, Governance, Funding, and Other Barriers to Resilience Project Implementation**

This quarter, our co-hosts are MBCAAN Member Central Coast Wetlands Group and the Wetlands for Climate (W4C) Partnership.

Wetlands for Climate Partnership (W4C) includes The Nature Conservancy, San Francisco Estuary Institute, the Pew Charitable Trusts, ERG, and others. The W4C Partnership is a growing group dedicated to advancing wetland restoration and management at the pace and scale necessary to meet California’s climate and biodiversity goals, while also delivering local ecological, social, and economic benefits. W4C is holding workshops across California to gather success stories and understand local challenges to inform statewide strategies for wetland conservation, restoration, and management.

We are excited to learn more about their work and contribute discussions centered on crosscutting funding, governance, and permitting challenges.

Together we will:

- Identify tangible recommendations and lessons learned from the Central Coast that the W4C Partnership could share with state agencies.
- Explore regional challenges and solutions to accelerate the pace and scale of wetland restoration, fire management efforts, conservation, and management to address the climate crisis.
- Discuss and showcase Central Coast case studies of innovative solutions to inform statewide and regional approaches, including those that balance the mosaic of land ownership.

Lunch will be provided featuring:

UCSC Presentation of the Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS)

Optional Activities:

1:30pm - 3:00pm - Visit Salinas River State Beach Dune Restoration Project

3:00pm - NOAA Resilience Challenge Technical Assistance (TA) Virtual Expo (MBCAAN will provide a room and popcorn at Moss landing for a group viewing of the NOAA TA Expo)

Please [RSVP HERE](#)

Meet our NOAA Climate Resilience Fellows



Lauryn Cummins
NOAA Communications and
Outreach Fellow

As the Outreach and Communications Fellow Lauryn will be creating a variety of multimedia from Tiktok videos to Informational sheets for the public, working towards developing a 5-Year Monterey Bay Climate Action Adaptation Network (MBCAAN) Communications Strategy. Overall,



Paige Siegel
NOAA Coastal Resilience Fellow

Paige is a NOAA Coastal Resilience Fellow, housed with the Central Coast Wetlands Group, and will be contributing to the Monterey Bay Climate Adaptation Regional Monitoring Project. Her work supports the monitoring, planning, and implementation of coastal and riparian wetland restoration, as well as living shoreline initiatives.

Lauryn's work will showcase the amazing projects and work supported by the NOAA Climate Regional Resilience Challenge grant!

Lauryn is a recent graduate from UC Santa Barbara with degrees in Environmental Studies (with a documentary emphasis) and Spanish, as well as a minor in Professional Writing with a focus on Science Communication. She previously worked as an Environmental Planning Contractor for the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District. Lauryn has directed and worked on several short films that have been featured in film festivals, including one on Harmful Algal Blooms and another exploring women's unique connection to the environment through climbing. She also studied abroad in Barcelona.

Some of her favorite hobbies include traveling, surfing, hiking, gardening, volleyball, and spontaneous adventures!

Email: Lauryn@californiamsf.org

Paige is a marine scientist with a background in community and landscape ecology. She earned her B.S. in Marine Science with a minor in Statistics from California State University, Monterey Bay in 2023, where she contributed to several community ecology projects within the rocky intertidal. She went on to complete her M.S. in Biology at East Carolina University in 2025, where she investigated the role of habitat characteristics on oyster settlement and survival across multiple spatial scales within Southeast estuaries.

Paige is passionate about integrating knowledge and practices from both the East and West Coasts to strengthen coastal resilience and support the health of marine ecosystems.

When she's not in the field or analyzing data, Paige enjoys running, cycling, and camping.

Email: paige.siegel@sjsu.edu

MBCAAN Network Planning Update

MBCAAN documents and surveys coming to your inbox soon!

MBCAAN staff are in the process of drafting organizational documents for the formalization of the Monterey Bay Climate Adaptation Action Network. Input from the Climate Resilient Monterey Bay (CRMB) grant partner organizations will be solicited through a series of survey questionnaires and draft documents going out to all organizational leads with guidance for providing input from your teams along with response due dates. You will be invited to share your thoughts on MBCAAN's Mission and Vision Statements, Shared Principles Document, Lands Acknowledgement, Membership, Committees, Decision Making and Governance.

The December MBCAAN meeting will focus on strategic planning, review of final documents, and include fun and interactive decision-making exercises to help us build a framework for our network.

Ideally the Design Circle (helping with input review and shepherding this process) will have a representative from each adaptation strategy: Fire, Flood, Workforce

If you are interested in volunteering for the Design Circle, or have questions or suggestions, please reach out to Emily Franc at emily@californiamsf.org.

PARTNER NEWS AND EVENTS

CSUMB's [Summer Research Symposium](#)

Friday, August 15, 2025, from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

Additionally, if anyone is interested in serving as a judge for the poster session, please have them reach out to Stephanie Spross (sspross@csumb.edu) or Eric Barajas (erbarajas@csumb.edu)

NOAA - Resilience Challenge Technical Assistance (TA) Expo

Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 3:00pm

NOAA assembled a raft of the following partner organizations to support the Resilience Challenge:

- National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Digital Coast Partnership, through the leadership of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), and
- the Climate Resilience Fund, as the lead for the Climate Smart Communities Initiative (CSCI) consortium of partners

Attend the TA Expo to:

- Meet the organizations comprising the raft of service providers
- Understand the services and opportunities available and how to access and engage
- Share input on CRRC project contexts, needs, and timing to help NOAA and providers prepare the best approaches for delivering services and opportunities
- Connect with other CRRC projects

Ecology Action Resilient Central Coast Campaign

Sign up for County specific learning and action platforms for

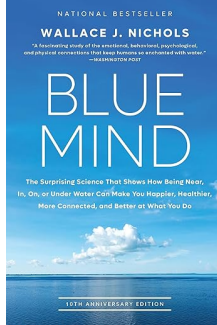
Monterey County - <https://resilientmontereycounty.org/> and

Santa Cruz County - <https://www.resilientsantacruzcounty.org/>

Ecology Action and Regeneración teams will be developing resilience specific trainings for work group capacity building, some of which will be open to the full MBCAAN membership. Look for announcements later this summer.

Book Nook

[Blue Mind: The Surprising Science That Shows How Being Near, In, On, or Under Water Can Make You Happier, Healthier, More Connected, and Better at What You Do](#)



Amazon Review: A landmark book by marine biologist Wallace J. Nichols on the remarkable effects of water on our health and well-being.

In Blue Mind, Wallace J. Nichols revolutionizes how we think about these questions, revealing the remarkable truth about the benefits of being in, on, under, or simply near water.

Combining cutting-edge neuroscience with compelling personal stories from top athletes, leading scientists, military veterans, and gifted artists, he shows how proximity to water can improve performance, increase calm, diminish anxiety, and increase professional success.

Blue Mind not only illustrates the crucial importance of our connection to water-it provides a paradigm shifting "blueprint" for a better life on this Blue Marble we call home.

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



Did a friend forward you this newsletter? Sign up to receive MBCAAN'ections!

The Monterey Bay Climate Adaptation Action Network is focused on 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](#)

What topic interests you the most?

Permitting, Regulatory Processes

Examples of Adaptation and Resilience in other Regions

GIS mapping, modeling: Fire, Flood, vulnerability



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