
Monterey Bay Climate Adaptation Action Network News



Harbor Seals in Elkhorn Slough, photo credit: Lauryn Cummins



Save the Date: MBCAAN Fall Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

1 PM - 4:30 PM

Agricultural Center Conference Room

[1428 Abbott Street, Salinas, CA 93901](#)

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

Updates from Emily

Two Seasons, "wet" and "dry"

As a kid, we joked that California had two seasons: "wet" and "dry." This year, both seasons promise to be more extreme versions than experienced in the past. Our hills are more charred than golden. And, this winter's El Niño promises to bring significant coastal flooding and warmer waters that will impact both land and sea life.

Driving up Highway 101 this past weekend, evidence of the extreme "dry" season was abundant, with wildfire smoke from the Plaskett and Timber fires casting an eerie Halloween haze over the ridgeline and the sun (photo: on the 101, San Lucas, CA). The Ridge Fire left swaths of scorched earth and blacked trees along significant stretches of the Grapevine, and the Antelope Fire on Route 46 between Kecks Corner and Paso Robles turned the golden hills to black char.



Can it get any drier or wetter? California's upcoming 5th Climate Assessment data confirms yes, it can, and it will. Storm models from the 5th Climate Assessment also demonstrate the potential for a 100-year sea level rise scenario that could impact over

20,000 central coast residents. For comparison, the 2023-2024 El Niño impacted 3,000 residents, causing billions of dollars of infrastructure damage to the Santa Cruz Pier, the Harbor Marina, and boats. Here in the Monterey Bay region models are projecting a 24% increase in sea level rise over the winter.

So, what are our coastal communities doing to reduce wildfire impacts and potential flooding due to an intense El Niño?

The Climate Resilient Monterey Bay Impact Report and Story Map highlighted further in this Newsletter provide information about progress being made across the region to implement adaptation strategies designed to reduce extreme wildfire and flood impacts.

The Resilient California Summit this October in Sacramento will bring together practitioners, decision-makers, researchers, and community members from across the state to address climate acceleration, insights from the 5th Climate Assessment and interactive sessions to develop strategies for the future of all Californians. Two of those sessions will be led by Jesse Traller Ojeda and Emily Franc to showcase the collaborative work being done through Climate Resilient Monterey Bay and the Monterey Bay Climate Adaptation Network to reduce fire and flooding impacts and support a resilient workforce.

Read further to participate in a Wildfire Resilience Workforce Training Survey, attend Firesafe Council meetings, and plan to attend the upcoming Fall MBCAAN Quarterly Meeting in October and the Central Coast Climate Resilience Symposium in December.

-Emily Franc

Website!

[CRMB Impact Report](#) **is Live!**

CRMB partners, check out the [Impact Report Media Kit](#) to see how you can celebrate our success and share our vision for regional resilience.

Share loud and proud with your community!

**CLIMATE RESILIENT
MONTEREY BAY**

**2025 Impact Report
& New Economic Data**

\$126.3 M
total economic output

705 Jobs
over 5 years

**2025
IMPACT
REPORT**

**CLICK TO SEE
THE REPORT**

CHECK US OUT
MBCAAN.org

FOLLOW US
[@Montereybayaction](https://twitter.com/Montereybayaction)

[StoryMap](#)

The Climate Resilient Monterey Bay StoryMap is now live on our website, too! Learn more about specific projects and the history of our grant.

Partner Spotlight

Creating Pathways for Career Development in Climate Adaptation

Tribal members and MBCAAN members from across the Monterey Bay and Big Sur region came together for a hands-on day focused on designing career pathways in climate adaptation work. The group explored ways to develop careers ranging from land stewardship and fire management to nonprofit leadership and financial management. Participants rolled up their sleeves and co-created tangible ideas for both the career curious and those looking to make a mid-career shift. Groups are carrying the work forward to prototype internships, training opportunities, coaching, and opportunities to build relationships with potential employers, all with an eye toward long-term paid roles in climate resilience work. The energy in the room was powerful with one participant describing the day as life-changing. The group left with concrete next steps and new relationships to carry the work forward. This month, we will be repeating the workshop in a virtual format to keep weaving relationships and catalyzing more career pathways.



Members of climate resilience organizations and Tribes collaborate at the Listening Session about Creating Pathways for Career Development in Climate Adaptation, August 25th, 2024

Partner News and Events

Greater Farallones Association Hiring: [Coastal Resilience Operations Coordinator](#)

To run the day-to-day operations of a growing coastal resilience program spanning multiple state and federal grants, partners, and deliverables.

Wildfire Resilience Workforce Training Survey

Sierra Business Council is conducting a survey on workforce training within California's wildfire resilience sector. Input is being invited by Organizations who have a direct role in:

- Providing workforce training and education related to wildfire resilience, and/or
- Employing/contracting people to implement wildfire resilience work

[SURVEY LINK](#)

Findings will help the California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force identify the wildfire resilience workforce training needed to support implementation of its 2026-2031 [Action Plan](#), and may also inform other state and regional workforce investments, policy decisions, and program design. Deadline is September 15, 2026
Questions? Contact Emily Blackmer at e_blackmer@sierrabusiness.org



CMSF Has Moved!

Our new office is located at 1315-A Pacific Avenue in Santa Cruz.

Firesafe Council Outreach

There are several upcoming virtual forums advocating for fire safety and informing residents about valuable resources hosted by the [Fire Safe Council for Monterey County](#). In September, RCDMC will be presenting on our recently completed **Carmel Valley Fuelbreak Project** as part of the series.

Firewise 101 (monthly) - for residents to project their communities(attached flyer) Mon 9/21 @2pm and Mon 10/19 @2pm



FIREWISE 101
Hosted by Fire Safe Council For Monterey County

Join us for monthly workshops and open forums designed to support communities at all stages of Firewise!

Each session encourages shared learning and collaboration. Anyone interested in wildfire preparedness, current applicants for Firewise, and Firewise leaders are welcome!

LIVE MONTHLY SESSIONS
EVERY 3RD MONDAY
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
[ZOOM REGISTRATION](#)

Recordings & slides posted after each session

Monterey Bay Firewise Partners Forum

(quarterly) - larger organized panel speakers Mon 9/14 @ 3 PM (tentative date)

Board Meetings (monthly) - open to the public

Thursday, 9/24 @10:30AM

Location: & CAL FIRE BEU Expanded Dispatch, 2221 Garden Rd, or ZOOM

Lastly, here is a [Google Calendar link](#) for FSCMC and other wildfire-related community events!

Call for 2026 Applicants: Wiegel Scholarship for Coastal Studies

The California Shore and Beach Preservation Association is pleased to open the 2026 call for applicants, intended to honor a graduate student pursuing a graduate degree at a California university or college whose work best exemplifies a passion for coastal science and/ or coastal engineering. Deadline: October 15, 2026
Submission: [Online Form](#)

Please visit [here](#) for more information about the scholarship, including past winners



The Robert L. Wiegel Scholarship for Coastal Studies

2026 Call for Applicants

This scholarship, sponsored by the California Shore and Beach Preservation Association, honors a graduate student pursuing a graduate degree at a California university or college whose work best exemplifies the passion for coastal science and/or coastal engineering that typified the career of Robert L. Wiegel, Professor Emeritus of Coastal Engineering, University of California, Berkeley. Between 1946 and 2016, Professor Wiegel's involvement as an investigator, instructor, mentor, advisor, and consultant to students, private industry, public utilities, and government agencies (both national and international) spanned virtually every phase of coastal and oceanographic research. His textbook, *Oceanographical Engineering*, established the practice of coastal and ocean engineering as a legitimate career path for a large number of grateful and admiring students.

Award Criteria	Application Requirements
- The award will be made to an applicant who currently is pursuing a graduate degree at a California university or college pertaining to the coastal or nearshore environment, or who has completed such a degree after December 1, 2025. - Relevant areas of study include nearshore oceanography, coastal processes, coastal structures, ports and harbors, estuarine processes, and wetlands, preferably in the state of California. - A primary objective of the study shall be to develop a practical solution to a pressing problem affecting one or more California coastal communities. - As presented by Prof. Wiegel throughout his career, the work must demonstrate a high level of scholarship in which the applicant clearly identifies the importance of the research and cites relevant studies that have been neglected by others. - Preference will be given to applicants who undertake field work in their study of the California coastal and/or nearshore environment.	- A concise description of the study that includes the findings to date (3 pages maximum). - A concise, annotated bibliography that demonstrates knowledge of pertinent research by others (3 pages maximum) and how that knowledge relates to the study. - A statement of support from an academic advisor or educational mentor. - A personal statement that includes the applicant's professional aspirations and the reason for selecting this area of study.
Award Particulars - Application Deadline: October 15, 2026 - Anticipated Award Date: On or before December 31, 2026 - Award Amount: One or more awards, the total amount of which is anticipated to equal or exceed \$5,000.	APPLICATION SUBMITTAL FORM Questions? Email calcoastchapter@nabpa.org

Early Bird Registration for the Resilient California Summit closes September 4.

This major conference will convene 1,000+ participants from across the state to make progress on the policies, partnerships, and practices needed to build resilience as climate change accelerates.

Summit Dates: October 20-22, 2026



Coastal GeoTools Conference:

Submit an abstract to share your best practices, lessons learned, or tools you've developed to build resilience in local communities. This major conference in Charleston will convene 1,000+ participants from across the nation to make progress on the policies, partnerships, and practices needed to build resilience as climate change accelerates.



Promoting Partner Events:

As a reminder MBCAAN members are welcome to promote their events on our MBCAAN Calendar. [Fill out this form](#) to add your organization's events.



Recent Media



Our Annual Impact Report & Economic Data are out!

Help share our success by reposting on [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Facebook](#) by clicking the small repost button. Every repost helps get the word out!

Follow along if you aren't already!

Resources

Coastal Resilience: Practitioner Training Series

The Practitioner Exchange for Effective Response to Sea Level Rise (PEERS) is offering an interactive online training series for US-based practitioners working on coastal resilience, offered as live online modules on 8 consecutive Thursdays from September 17 - November 5, 2026. Each session will be four hours long. Detailed schedule and expert instructors

The registration fee for the entire course is \$250. (If the fee will prohibit your participation, please indicate so on the application above.)

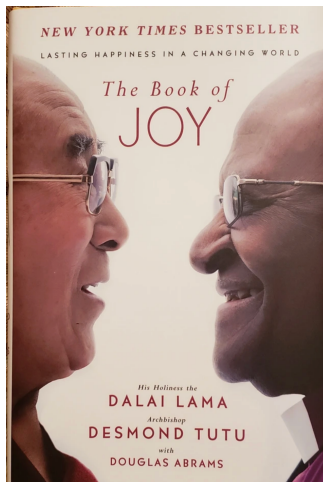
UCSC Coastal Science and Policy Program's Annual Symposium [Recordings Available](#)

From the UCSC Coastal Science and Policy Program's Annual Symposium featuring the Class of 2026 Master's and PhD Designated Emphasis students are up!

Including [NOAA-funded student Eric Medina-Can](#), who worked with the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County! These graduates have advanced research and practical applications across a suite of coastal science, policy, and sustainability issues with the passion and drive it takes to effect change.

Climate Resilient Monterey Bay Regional Monitoring Program

The Climate Resilient Monterey Bay Regional Monitoring Program is now featured on the [California Estuary Monitoring Program \(CalEMP\)](#), which is an ongoing, statewide effort to assess the quality and condition of California estuaries by leveraging regional and local monitoring programs and projects. Shoutout to NOAA Fellow Paige Siegel and the CCWG team for making this happen!



Book Nook

The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World is a 2016 nonfiction book by Nobel Peace Prize laureates His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, alongside Douglas Abrams, that explores the pursuit of enduring happiness in the face of life's inevitable suffering through an intimate week-long dialogue in Dharamshala, candid reflections on exile and hardship, and ultimately, a transformative framework of shared wisdom and practical spiritual tools to help humanity cultivate genuine peace, compassion, and resilience.

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 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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