

[Sample Article #1 for station program guides]

RISE: Climate Change and Coastal Communities

A series of three hour-long radio documentaries with accompanying multimedia “web stories”.

There is broad consensus among scientists that climate change is real, and that human activity is a significant contributing factor. Climate change is causing the seas to rise, as well as creating increased storm surges, higher waves, bigger tides, and more rainfall. Together, these factors converge to create widespread coastal flooding. Most of the world’s great cities were built beside water, and anyone living in coastal areas will feel the impact, as our urban infrastructure of roads, airports, hospitals, sewage treatment plants, power plants and farms are damaged by the rising seas.

How will this alter the landscape of the planet we call home? What impact will it have on our lives? What will it take to confront the challenges we face now and into the future?

RISE: Climate Change and Coastal Communities hones in on these questions from the perspective of a particular region and ecosystem: the San Francisco Bay. Scientists and coastal management experts outline the issues. We hear from those who are working to create solutions to the problems brought by sea level rise – solutions both mundane and fantastic. The listener meets individuals whose ways of life are most threatened. Through their stories we ask some hard questions such as why many of us are not willing to face this reality and how adapting to climate change will create winners and losers.

• **Steve Mello**

Steve Mello’s farm is located on Tyler Island in the San Francisco Delta. Tyler is one of the many islands in the region encircled by levees holding back the tributaries of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. Over the years, farming has caused this land to sink as much as 30 feet below sea level, and the levees are the only things keeping the islands from turning into lakes. Climate scientists predict that climate change’s effects will increase water pressure on the levees, making Delta islands such as Tyler unsustainable. But Steve Mello says he isn’t moving – come hell or high water.

- **Chuey Cazares**

Chuey Cazares has lived in the little town of Alviso all his life, along with over 300 family members who comprise much of this close knit community. This hamlet, surrounded by salt ponds, is perched at the southern tip of the San Francisco Bay. Chuey's family recounts the massive flooding in 1983 that destroyed numerous homes and businesses. Because of its beauty and proximity to San Jose, Alviso will be protected from future sea level rise by levees and the conversion of salt ponds to wetlands. But the solution may be bitter sweet for Chuey and his family.

- **Craig Hartman**

Adapting to sea level rise is a complex problem requiring innovative solutions. Architect Craig Hartman, a partner at the prestigious SOM firm, has what some may think is an extreme idea: He proposes to install an inflatable curtain across the Golden Gate, which would sit at the bottom of the Bay. Standing on the shore just below the Golden Gate Bridge, Craig shows us how the curtain would rise to the surface when a storm surge, coinciding with a high tide, threatened to pour too much water into the Bay. This plan is one of many ingenious ideas being proposed by planners who are thinking outside of the box in grappling with this difficult issue.

Change is coming to the Bay Area and to the planet, as climate change increasingly affects all of our lives. Understanding and learning how to live with this reality may move society itself in surprising and perhaps positive ways.

RISE: Climate Change and Coastal Communities is compelling, sound-rich radio that gives science a human face through the stories of real people and places.

Series producer/director Claire Schoen, has been creating award-winning documentaries in radio, film and video for over 25 years.

For the full story, please go to www.searise.org.