



ICARP

INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCY PROGRAM

Technical Advisory Council

Item 9c: Panel: Extreme Heat Needs and Opportunities

April 14, 2023

Introduction

Extreme heat threatens California's communities, natural systems, and economy, and poses profoundly disproportionate consequences for the most vulnerable among us. Recognizing the need for a strategic and comprehensive extreme heat response, the state released the [Extreme Heat Action Plan](#) in 2022. It outlines California's all-of-government approach to mitigating the health, economic, cultural, ecological, and social impacts of increasing average temperatures and heat waves. The Action Plan identifies 13 goals with 55 existing actions and 71 recommendations to improve heat resilience in California. In addition to the Extreme Heat Action Plan, the FY [2021-22](#) and [2022-23](#) state budgets allocated funding to support the state's preparedness for extreme heat.

The Action Plan and investments provide a strong framework and resources to support communities' extreme heat adaptation needs. However, there are still opportunities to respond to all facets of the threat posed by extreme heat. This panel will elevate some less understood challenges posed by extreme heat, understand the incentives and barriers to integrating heat resilience, and explore opportunities to scale up innovative solutions.

Panelist Information

Dr. Annette B. Jones, D.V.M., State Veterinarian

Dr. Jones graduated with honors from U.C. Davis with an undergraduate degree in Economics and a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. After practicing as a private veterinarian, she joined the California Department of Food and Agriculture in 2001. On July 1, 2004, Dr. Jones was appointed Director of the Animal Health and Food Safety Services, currently overseeing 356 people in diverse programs related to animal agriculture. In September of 2010, besides continuing to perform as Director, Dr. Jones was appointed State Veterinarian.

During her tenure, she has led multiple State level emergency animal health and food safety responses. She has addressed animal needs during natural disasters like extreme heat, fire, snow, and floods; has directed State mandated disease control and eradication actions during potentially catastrophic disease outbreaks in poultry, cattle, swine, and horses; and has initiated mandatory recalls during food contamination events.

Dr. Jones also has held several state and national leadership roles. She was the president of the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, Chair for the National Institute of Animal Agriculture, Treasurer for the United States Animal Health Association and served on the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health. She currently serves on the California Veterinary Medical Association Agriculture and Legislative Committees.

Maria Song, President and Principal, Interactive Design Corporation

Ms. Song started her architecture career in Boston, Massachusetts and returned to California in 1999 to find a position at Interactive Design Corporation, which eventually led to partnership. She has been leading the firm and the valley in sustainable principles starting with her LEED certification when the program was at its origin. She co-authored the *Green For Life* manual and authored the *Guide to Net Zero Energy*, both for the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, available to the public at every Building Department counter in Coachella Valley.

Ms. Song was Project Architect on the Palm Desert Visitor Center (currently Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm Desert), the first LEED-certified (Silver) commercial building; and Wolff Waters Place in La Quinta, the first LEED-certified (Gold and Silver) multi-family building in the Valley.

Dr. Edward Flores, Faculty Director, U.C. Merced Community and Labor Center

Dr. Edward Flores is a sociologist at the University of California Merced. He is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology, and faculty director at the [UC Merced Community and Labor Center](#).

Dr. Flores' areas of expertise include labor, immigration, religion, and race. His research has included [God's Gangs](#) (winner of a major sociological book award), as well as articles in leading journals, including: [Sociological Forum](#), [Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion](#), [Social Problems](#), and [Ethnic and Racial Studies](#).

Dr. Flores' work has been published in dozens of mainstream media outlets and has informed the development of major policies.

Discussion Questions

- Some of the challenges described by the panelists are primarily experienced by rural communities during extreme heat events. What specific policies or programs might better respond to these distinct needs? What strategies have been effective in urban and suburban settings that might also succeed in a rural community?
- What cascading and compounding impacts might occur if the challenges of extreme heat in agriculture, housing, and outdoor work environments aren't addressed?
- How can we encourage heat-resilient buildings and workplaces without