

Press Release from...

THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB OF CALIFORNIA

595 Market Street San Francisco, CA 94105

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The Commonwealth Club of California
Presents “Cool Clear Water” Series
Hosted By Member Led Forums

SAN FRANCISCO – According to the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children’s fund more than one billion people are living without access to adequate clean water to meet their basic daily living needs. Here in California, with the recent call for mandatory WATER cutbacks in Marin and Sonoma counties, WATER will increasingly command attention and concern as pollution, drought and conflicting interests affect the lives of every resident. With the fragile supply and increasing demand of the state and the world’s waters at a near boiling point, The Commonwealth Club is proud to present its second series of special lectures “Cool Clear Water” this August, 2007.

Chair of the member led forums Carol Fleming, Ph.D., who spearheaded the series commented, “The general public in the United States is unaware of the basic facts about the water they use and drink and enjoy. The Club’s extensive series this coming summer will help bring those issues home to Americans; to help ‘mainstream’ the issue, as it were.”

Adds President and CEO of the Commonwealth Club, Dr. Gloria Duffy, “As we contemplate water rationing here in California, as well as, ongoing issues like widespread use of bottled water and the health of the oceans, the Club’s water series could not be more timely.”

The series, comprised of 24 programs, will address the gamut of critical water issues – from protection of the environment and the health of the San Francisco bay, rivers and ocean, to the impact of global warming on water resources, to use of water for irrigation and industry, to conservation of water for household use. The series will also explore the lighter side of this vital life force, acknowledging the joys of water recreation, the future of seafood, and water’s role in the health of all life forms.

A day-long canoe trip and habitat improvement adventure on Bair Island launches “Cool Clear Water” on July 28. National Geographic oceanographer, Dr. Sylvia Earle, the famed champion of the oceans and ocean wildlife, kicks off the speaking series with an overview of the health of the world’s oceans at the Aquarium of the Bay on August 1. The next evening, Dr. Peter Gleick, who co-founded the Pacific Institute, a co-sponsor of the series, will discuss the threats and solutions to the world’s – and California’s – water challenge. Other program highlights include filmmaker Deborah Kaufman and Jeffrey Snitow speaking on “Thirst,” the subject of their recent PBS film about conflicts worldwide over water resources; former SF Supervisor Susan Leal speaking about the Hetch Hetchy issue; Patrick McCully of the International Rivers Network on hydroelectric power and global warming, Save the Bay’s Executive Director David Lewis on current efforts to protect and preserve the San Francisco Bay, and a program at the Bay Institute’s Aquarium of the

Bay.

The programs, featuring identified experts, panel discussions, films, and even several field trips, will be open to the public. Most programs will be held at The Club offices located at 595 Market Street, 2nd Floor in San Francisco, unless otherwise noted. Please find a detailed list of scheduled events below.

“Cool Clear Water ” is co-sponsored by Oakland's Pacific Institute for Studies in Environment, Development, and Security, a non-partisan, independent think-tank. Using science, economics, policy analysis, and coalition building, the Institute takes an interdisciplinary approach to solving threats to sustainability in California and worldwide. Founded in 1987 in Berkeley, the Institute celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. For more information, visit www.pacinst.org.

The series is being underwritten in part by the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund.

Founded in 1903, The Commonwealth Club of California is the nation's premier non-profit public affairs forum, with more than 18,000 members. Based in San Francisco, The Club hosts speeches, debates and discussions on issues of regional, national and international significance. At least half a million people hear The Commonwealth Club's weekly radio broadcasts on more than 150 public and commercial radio stations across the country. The Club also broadcasts on XM Satellite Radio, and recently began pod casting its programs. A selection of The Club's programs is now also televised on Comcast Premium Digital Cable. For the past century, The Club has fostered free speech and civic dialogue on wide-ranging topics, addressing key issues in society, culture, politics, the economy and more. For more information, visit www.commonwealthclub.org.

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July 28, Sat. 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Partner: **Save the Bay and Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge**

Bair Island Canoe and Restoration (Redwood City) Remove non-native ice plant from Middle Bair Island, accessible only by canoe. An afternoon of fun and service as you paddle out to the island and improve habitat.

Rating: Moderate Canoe and Restoration Trip Save the Bay members: \$25 (and Commonwealth Club Members)

Minimum Age: 10, children ages 10-12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian

Aug. 1, Wed., 5:30 pm reception, 6:15 program, Aquarium of the Bay, Pier 39.

Speaker: **Sylvia Earle** Oceanographer, deep sea diver, Time Magazine “Hero of the Planet.”
“A Celebration of Oceans”

Aug. 1, Time & Venue TBD.

Speaker: **Blue Planet Run.**

“Bringing Safe Drinking Water to All: The Blue Planet Run Comes to the San Francisco Bay Area”

Aug. 2, Thur., 5:30 registration, 6:00 Garcetti, 6:15 Gleick (Blue Room).

Speaker: **Peter Gleick** Founder/Director Pacific Institute BBC's “Visionary on the Environment” and **Gil Garcetti** photographer.

“Fresh Water in the 21st Century.”

Aug. 3, Fri., 11:30 registration, 12:00 program (Gold Room).

Speaker: **Alrie Middlebrook**, Author.

“13 Ways to stop Global Warming by Designing California Native Gardens.”

Aug. 4, Sat., 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Partner: **Save the Bay and East Bay Regional Parks District**

Improve Wetland Habitat at the Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline Park (Oakland) Spend this Saturday morning lending a hand along the Oakland shoreline. Volunteers will help remove non-native plants like bull thistle and Russian thistle.

This is a free event!

Aug. 6, Mon., 5:30 register, 6:00 program (Gold Room).

Speaker: **Patrick McCully** Executive Director, International Rivers Network.

“Dams and Global Warming: Polluting Reservoirs, Droughts and Floods.”

Aug. 6, Mon., 5:30 program (Board Room).

Book Discussion. *Water Wars: Drought, Flood, Folly And The Politics Of Thirst*, by Diane Raines Ward.

Aug. 7, Tues., 5:30 register; 6:00 program (Gold Room).

Speaker: **Remi Cohen**, Winegrower and Vineyard Operations Manager, Merryvale Vineyards.

“Maximum Wine, Minimum Water.”

Aug. 8, Wed., 5:30 register; 6:00 program (Gold Room).

Speaker: **Diana Amodia MD**, CPMC Health and Healing Clinic How.

“Essential is Water to Good Health?”

Aug. 9, Thurs., 5:30 register; 6:00 program (Gold Room).

Speaker: **Meena Palaniappan**, Senior Associate, Pacific Institute.

“Colonial History and India’s Water Woes.”

Aug. 13, Mon., 5:30 register; 6:00 program (Gold Room).

Speakers: **Deborah Kaufman & Jeffrey Snitow** Documentary filmmakers, authors.

“The Privatization of Water.”

Aug. 14, Tues., 5:30 register; 6:00 program (Gold Room).

Speaker: **Susan Leal** *Executive Director, S.F. Public Utilities Commission.*

“Hetch Hetchy and Beyond.”

Aug. 15, Wed., 11:30 register, 12:00 program.

Speaker: **Heather Cooley** Research Associate, Pacific Institute Water and Sustainability Program.

“The Nexus of Water, Energy, and Climate.”

Aug. 16, Wed., 11:30 register, 12:00 program (75 minutes) (Gold Room or maybe Blue)

Panel: **Raymond Seed**, Ph.D., Professor, UC Berkeley, Panel Moderator

Peter D. Rabbon, US Army Corps of Engineers

Les Harder, Deputy Director, California Department of Water Resources

Dave Brent, Manager of Engineering Services, City of Sacramento

Ron Stork, Senior Policy Advocate, Friends of the River

“Keeping Katrina Out of California”

Aug. 16, Wed., 6:00 register, 6:30 program, The Bentley School, 1000 Upper Happy Valley Rd, Lafayette

(www.bentleyschool.net/index.php)

Panel: **Mike Taugher**, Contra Costa Times Writer on Environment and Energy
Greg Gartrell, Contra Costa Water District;
Ellen Hanak, Public Policy Institute of California;
Tom Graff, Environmental Defense

“Delta Doomed? The Sustainability of the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta and the Peripheral Canal.”

Aug. 20, Mon., 5:30 register; 6:00 program (Gold Room)

Speaker: **Steve Castleberry**, CEO, Bay Area Water Transit Authority
“The Return of a World-Class Bay Area Ferry System”

Aug. 21, Tues., 5:30 register; 6:00 program (Gold Room).

Panel: **Dale Hoffman-Floerke**, Chief DWR Colorado River & Salton Sea Office
Rick Daniels, Executive Director of the Salton Sea Authority
Michael Cohen, Pacific Institute

“Future of the Salton Sea”

Aug. 22, Wed., 5:30 register; 6:00 program (Gold Room)

Speakers: **Vincent Resh**, Prof., UC Berkeley and **Jim Boylson**, Founder and CEO of Pure Water Associates, Ltd.

“Water and Human Disease in Developing Countries”

Aug. 27, Mon., 5:30 register; 6:00 program (Gold Room)

Speaker: **Tully McCarroll**, Educator, Chair of Bay Area Skeptics.
“Sacred Water.”

Aug. 28, Mon., 5:30 register; 6:00 program (Gold Room).

Speaker: **Booker Holton**, Consultant on water conservation & use.
“Water and Israel, A Political and Environmental Issue.”

Aug. 29, Wed., 5:30 register; 6:00 program (Gold Room).

Panel: **David Lewis**, Exec Director, Save The Bay;
Sylvia McLaughlin, co-founder, Save the Bay;
The Honorable Paul N. (Pete) McCloskey, former U.S. Representative

“Saving the Bay Again”

Aug. 30, Thur., 11:30 register, 12:00 lunch and program, Farallon Restaurant

Speakers: **Paul Johnson**, Owner, Monterey Fish Market in conversation with **Ed Uebbers**
Director of Ocean Programs - National Park service.

“Luncheon and discussion of the future of seafood.”

Aug. 30, Thur., 5:30 register, 6:00 event (Blue Room)

Panel: **Amy Vanderwarker**, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, moderator.
Whitney Dotson, North Richmond community activist
Mark Franco, Headman of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe
Laurel Firestone, Co-director, Community Water Center

“The Struggle for Water Justice”