NEWS FROM THE BERKELEY CLIMATE CHANGE NETWORK - JUNE 26

Funded by: RCNR, CIEE, VCRO, Law, CED, Haas, Goldman, SPH, Chemistry, I&E, Physics CDSS, Engineering, Education, Journalism, Social Sciences, Arts & Humanities, LBNL

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WE ARE HERE TO CONNECT YOU — WHO IS WORKING ON X?
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1. Why We Do This Work: Floods, Heat, Turbulence, Record GHGs
   Record-setting floods in the Midwest. Extreme heat in Mecca overwhelms those without resources (an old story). Yes, the hotter planet is linked to increased air turbulence. And Yes (again) 2023 set a new high for global greenhouse gas emissions.

2. J-School Story: Bay Area Heating Up - Infrastructure Not Keeping Up
   In Inside Climate News, first year J-School student Ruchi Shahagadkar reports on the bad mix of a hotter Bay area, traditionally low AC usage, rising electricity costs and new demand on our electrical grid.

3. Berkeley Scientists: Measure River Flow to Manage the Trouble Ahead
   In Nature Sustainability, ESPM’s Lucy Andrews and Ted Grantham show that water flow is measured in only 8% of California’s rivers and streams. In this new era of water extremes — record dry and record wet — that is A Big Problem for decision-makers.

4. Energy Institute @Haas: E-Bikes Getting More Expensive (#%&!)
   Andy Campbell blogs that E-Bikes are (a) great for climate, health, and cities (b)
wildly popular in this country, and (c) about to become significantly more expensive. New Biden admin tariffs on Chinese goods (nearly all bikes) are “driving” this left-hand/right-hand conflict. On the other hand... Sustainable San Mateo just published the very cool “20 Actions to Support E-Bikes.”

5. LBL’s Alan Rhodes Co-PI on New $747K Heat-Snow-Drought Project
Biden-Harris announce project to “unpack the long-term influence of warming and changing precipitation patterns on snowpack and characterize how much heatwaves have historically influenced isolated and serial snow drought in the western U.S.”

6. CA OPR Issues Call for Statewide Climate & Migration Project
The Governor’s Office of Planning and Research has issued a $250K call for a team of UC/CSU researchers to study how climate migration and forced displacement will impact California and how we should get ready. BCCN advocated for this study and we will be helping campus experts put together a (winning!) proposal.

Great challenges for total decarbonization: The role of hydrogen as long-duration energy storage and as an international energy carrier for electricity sector decarbonization. New paper by Kenji Shiraishi, Won Young Park and Dan Kammen.

8. Kids Win Big Climate Lawsuit with Hawaii!
Just before trial was to begin, Governor announces settlement of lawsuit by Our Children’s Trust and Earthjustice on behalf of 13 young people in State of Hawaii. “Groundbreaking” settlement means Hawaii will develop a legally-binding plan for zero emissions from all transportation by 2045.

9. AI is Exhausting the Power Grid
The Washington Post takes a good look at our AI demands on the grid and the “miracle” solutions big tech companies are pursuing to deal with this.

10. The Good Summer Read: Jeff Goodell
PBS News Hour interviews Jeff Goodell, climate expert and author of “The Heat Will Kill You First. See the interview here. In the mostly good news department, Cal OSHA this week just passed (under heavy duress) new workplace protections for INDOOR workers against extreme heat events. Unfortunately, similar protections for thousands of workers in CA prisons and jails were removed from the regs at the last minute.
Global surface-air temperatures in April averaged 1.5°C higher than the 1850-1900 global average. Carlo Buontempo, the Copernicus director, said that as remarkable as the trend is, “this string of hottest months will be remembered as comparatively cold” without action to reverse it.