

## Leaders on Protecting the San Francisco Estuary

Greg Dalton, Moderator, Climate One  
John Laird, California Secretary for Natural Resources  
Bob Wieckowski, California Senator, District 10  
Rob Bonta, California Assemblymember, District 18  
Dave Pine, Supervisor, County of San Mateo

In the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary, local efforts are dramatically increasing to address Bay health and sea level rise. Simultaneously, state policy makers are reviewing and updating major decisions on flows and other matters affecting the Estuary, while Congress is debating how severely to cut EPA and other programs that are the foundation for Estuary planning and stewardship. Given these significant ramifications for the future of the Estuary, this panel will address a central question: “How will local and state government help the management and protection of the San Francisco Estuary and the resilience of shoreline communities in the face of climate change?” Greg Dalton, Executive Producer and host of Climate One, will moderate this panel of state administrators, legislators, and local elected officials.

**Session Title:** Leaders on Protecting the San Francisco Estuary

### **Speaker Biographies:**

**Greg Dalton:** Greg Dalton is Executive Producer and Host of Climate One. Greg founded Climate One at The Commonwealth Club in 2007 after traveling to Alaska and the Russian Arctic on a global warming symposium. Today Climate One produces a show on NPR Now on SiriusXM and other public radio stations around the country. It also produces a monthly TV talk show on KRCB TV 22 on Comcast and DirecTV in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Climate One’s approach rejects the inflammatory rhetoric of the 24-hour news cycle and changes the conversation for good. Our discussions promote understanding, expand common ground, and point us toward a clean and prosperous future.

Past guests include US Secretary of State George Shultz, former CIA Director Jim Woolsey, Texas Governor Rick Perry, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, US Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell, US EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, and IPCC Chair Rajendra Pachauri. Business executives who have been on the Climate One radio show include Google CEO Eric Schmidt, Chevron CEO Dave O’Reilly, GM Chairman Dan Akerson, and Ford Motor Co. Chairman Bill Ford.

Greg previously was a journalist for 12 years covering news in Beijing, Vancouver, New York and San Francisco for the Associated Press, South China Morning Post, McNeil-Lehrer News Hour, and Industry Standard magazine. He holds a master’s degree in international affairs from Columbia University and a bachelor’s in politics from Occidental College. He speaks rusty Mandarin and “kitchen Cantonese.”

**Secretary John Laird:** John Laird was appointed California Secretary for Natural Resources by Governor Jerry Brown on Jan. 5, 2011. He has spent nearly 40 years in public service, including 23 years as an elected official.

The son of teachers and raised in Vallejo, Laird graduated with honors in politics from the University of California Santa Cruz in 1972. In 1981, Laird was elected to the Santa Cruz City Council, and served nine years until term limits ended his council service in 1990. He was a two-term mayor from 1983 to 1984 and from 1987 to 1988. During his local government service, he served as a board member for local transit, transportation, water planning, and regional government agencies.

In 2002, Laird was elected to represent the 27th Assembly District in the California Assembly, which includes portions of Santa Cruz, Monterey and Santa Clara Counties. He was re-elected in 2004 and again in 2006. While serving the maximum three terms in the Assembly, Laird authored 82 bills that were signed into law. These bills established the landmark Sierra Nevada Conservancy, restored community college health services, expanded and clarified state civil rights protections, reformed the state mandates system, and significantly expanded water conservation.

Laird was a member of the State Integrated Waste Management Board from 2008 to 2009 and taught state environmental policy at University of California Santa Cruz.

Continuing his public service as California's Secretary of Natural Resources, Laird has made climate change adaptation, water conservation and supply reliability, enhanced relationships with tribal governments, State Parks access, farmland conservation, and oceans sustainability among other issues top priorities. As Secretary, he provides administrative oversight to thirty departments, commissions, councils, museum, boards and conservancies and is a sitting member of sixteen conservancies, councils, boards and commissions within the purview of the Agency.

Laird has been a long-time resident of Santa Cruz with his spouse John Flores. He has traveled extensively, is fluent in Spanish, enjoys conducting family history research, and is a life-long Chicago Cubs fan.

**Senator Bob Wieckowski:** Senator Bob Wieckowski was elected on Nov. 4, 2014 and represents the 10th Senate District in the California State Legislature. The district stretches from southern Alameda County into Santa Clara County and shares the member's focus on job creation, clean technologies, protecting our environment and reducing unnecessary regulations.

Mr. Wieckowski chairs the Environmental Quality Committee and Budget Subcommittee 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy and Transportation. He is also a member of the Senate committees on Judiciary; Budget and Fiscal Review; Transportation and Housing; and Ethics. He was appointed by Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de Leon to serve on the Energy and Environment Committee of the Council of State Governments West, and in 2017 became the first Californian to chair the committee.

Senator Wieckowski's district is home to more clean tech companies than any other district in the state. Whether it's solar panels, electric vehicles or other breakthrough industries, the 10th Senate

District is a major contributor to California's clean economy. The Senator is a state leader in advocating for climate adaptation programs and has participated on state and regional panels examining green infrastructure investments.

A strong voice in the Legislature for consumers and low-income earners, he received the "Champion of Justice" Award from the East Bay Community Law Center for fighting against abusive debt collectors and oppressive wage garnishments. Statewide organizations have selected him Legislator of the Year and the California Judges Association gave him its "Scales of Justice Award" for his steadfast support for increased court funding. Tech America also named him "Legislator of the Year."

Senator Wieckowski works with state departments and local officials to improve services, increase funding and to provide new opportunities to meet local challenges. He facilitated the sale of state surplus property to Santa Clara Unified School District to construct a new school campus and provide additional park space, held discussions with state officials to help open a new local library, and he passed legislation to modify the terms of another property sale to increase access to affordable housing.

**Assemblymember Rob Bonta:** Assemblymember Rob Bonta was elected to the California State Assembly's 18th District in 2012, where he represents the cities of Oakland, Alameda, and San Leandro as the first and only Filipino American legislator in the 165-year history of California.

Rob's passion for justice and equality was instilled in him at a very young age by his parents, who taught him to understand injustice and the importance of joining the struggle to empower vulnerable communities. Growing up in a trailer just a few hundred yards from César Chávez's home, Rob watched closely as his parents organized Filipino and Mexican American farm workers, infusing his formative years with first-hand experience of one of the greatest social movements of all time.

Rob attended Yale College and Oxford University in England before returning to Yale for law school where he earned his Juris Doctorate.

His legal career included work as a Deputy City Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco and as a private attorney. As a City Council member and Vice Mayor of Alameda, Bonta strongly supported public safety, fostered economic development, and exercised fiscal responsibility.

As an Assemblymember, Rob has continued to fight for social justice while making other issues such as environmental preservation a top priority.

Rob and his wife Mialisa live in Alameda with their three children.

**Supervisor Dave Pine:** Dave Pine was first elected to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in a special election in May 2011, and served as Board President in 2014. He represents District 1 which includes Burlingame, Hillsborough, Millbrae, and portions of San Bruno and South San Francisco; the unincorporated communities of San Mateo Highlands, Baywood Park and Burlingame Hills; and the San Francisco Airport.

As a board member for the SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the SF Bay Restoration Authority, and the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority, Supervisor Pine has worked extensively on the intersecting issues of flood control, sea level rise and tidal land restoration. He also serves on the governing boards of the Peninsula Clean Energy Authority, the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans), the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain), the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Bay Conservation & Development Commission, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, the Bay Area Regional Collaborative, and Joint Venture Silicon Valley.

Supervisor Pine previously was a school board member for the Burlingame School District from 2003 to 2007 and the San Mateo Union High School District from 2007 to 2011. He is also a past president of the San Mateo County School Boards Association.

Before focusing his career on public service, Pine worked as an attorney representing start-up and high-growth technology companies. After working in private practice with Fenwick & West, he served as Vice President and General Counsel for Radius, Excite@Home, and Handspring.

Originally from New Hampshire, Pine is a graduate of Dartmouth College, where he was awarded a Harry S. Truman scholarship, and the University of Michigan Law School.

Supervisor Pine was elected to his second full term in June of 2016.