

## POLICY WATCH – March 2022

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I like these hopeful thoughts on spring by Robert Hubbell ([Link](#)):

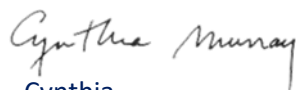
*Spring began today. During a time of unimaginable strife, new life will emerge over half the globe—ready or not. It is part of a cycle that has dominated our planet for billions of years, driven by orbital rhythms beyond our power to subdue. Amidst death and destruction, life invents new ways to abide and endure, finding purchase in pastures and bomb craters alike, reminding us that we are bit players in the vast sweep of time and space. We should be humbled and grateful in equal measure. For all our worry and torment, we are fortunate to mark the passage of another turn around our star—as our planet slowly tilts*

*its axis to the life-giving light of the sun.*

*We will make it through these difficult times—whether we are ready or not. It has always been so. It will always be so. Spring reminds us of that fact.*

We will make it through these difficult times – whether we are ready or not. I am hopeful, and confident, that no matter what this year throws at us, we will carry the spirit of rebirth and renewal that spring provides to see us through.

Best,



Cynthia

### **NBLC Joins Climate Safe California and Supports SB 833 (Dodd): the Community Energy Resilience Act**

In LiveScience’s [Alarming heat waves hit Arctic and Antarctica at the same time \(Link\)](#), by Harry Baker, we learn temperatures peaked at least 50 degrees higher than average in both polar regions. Baker says, “Both of Earth’s polar regions recently experienced unprecedented simultaneous heat waves that caused temperatures to briefly skyrocket to never-before-seen heights in some areas. While experts say such extreme temperatures cannot be solely attributed to climate change, the unusual phenomenon is nonetheless ‘dramatic’ and ‘alarming.’”

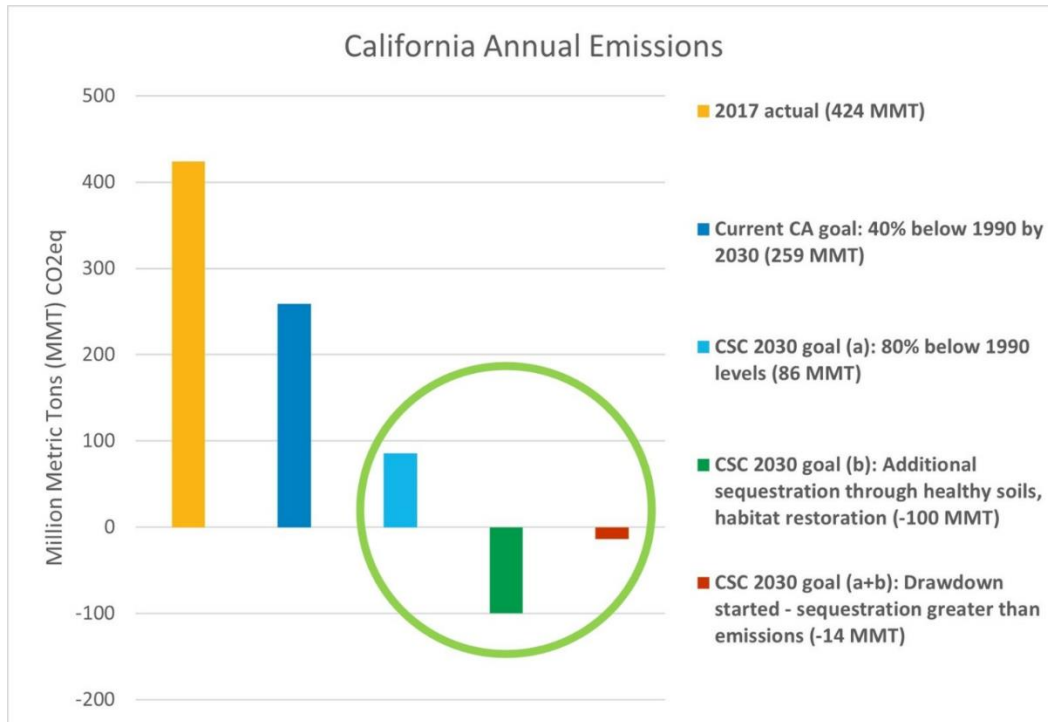
Baker says, "Individual extreme weather phenomena are difficult to attribute directly to climate change. However, experts predict that such events will become more frequent and extreme in the future if current greenhouse gas emissions are not drastically reduced. 'The warming of the Arctic and Antarctic is cause for concern, and the increase in extreme weather events — of which these are an example — is a cause for concern as well,' Michael Mann, a climatologist at The Pennsylvania State University, told The Guardian. 'The models have done a good job projecting the overall warming, but we've argued that extreme events are exceeding model projections. These events drive home the urgency of action.'"

The acceleration of climate change indeed increases the urgency of action required. NBLC has taken two steps to help be part of the solution in addressing global warming. We are pleased to announce that NBLC has joined Climate-Safe California, a unique and comprehensive campaign to remove more climate pollution from the atmosphere. Led by The Climate Center, NBLC joins hundreds of businesses, elected officials, and nonprofits and more than 1,000 individuals in this campaign. Climate-Safe California offers climate solutions at the speed and scale that science demands. It's a set of policies that would allow California to remove more climate pollution from the atmosphere than we emit by 2030 while creating thousands of jobs and building a more equitable clean energy economy. Working together, we will ensure California leads once again toward a climate-safe future for all.

We believe in thriving, healthy communities. We envision a future where everyone in California enjoys equal access to climate solutions, from clean air to renewable energy, healthy food, and more.

California has the tools and know-how to make this vision a reality — if our elected leaders act with the urgency the climate crisis demands. California must put policies in place by 2025 to accelerate equitable climate action.

Existing state policies call for achieving 80% below 1990 levels of GHGs by 2050 (Governor Schwarzenegger Executive Order S-3-05 2005) and maintaining net-negative emissions after achieving carbon neutrality by no later than 2045 (Governor Jerry Brown Executive Orders B-55-18 2018). The Climate-Safe California campaign calls for an executive order and/or legislation signed into law by no later than 2022 mandating that California accelerate these existing state policy timelines to 2030. Per the increasingly dire warnings of the world's climate scientists and policy experts, 2050 and 2045 are simply too late. The time is now to put the policies in place that will secure a safe, vibrant future for all.



[Link to graph](#)

And here is a link to more information about this exciting campaign if you would like to join, too: <https://theclimatecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Platform-Climate-Safe-CA-May-2021.pdf>

NBLC also endorsed SB 833 (Dodd) – the Community Energy Resilience Act. Climate-fueled wildfires and heat waves are disrupting lives and businesses across California as the state struggles to keep the power on. The Community Energy Resilience Act (SB 833) — sponsored by The Climate Center and introduced by Senator Bill Dodd (D-Napa) — would create a new state program to assist communities in developing energy resilience plans based on clean energy instead of diesel back-up generators.

Recent power outages have cost California billions of dollars. Emissions from backup generators are polluting our air and fueling the climate crisis. Over the past three years, purchases of toxic diesel generators jumped by 34 percent in the Bay Area. In 2021 alone, similar purchases increased by 22 percent in the Los Angeles area. It’s time to prioritize clean energy, especially in lower-income and frontline communities, to keep the lights on without compromising on health and air quality. The Community Energy Resilience Act enables local governments to collaborate with utilities in planning community-level energy infrastructure, such as solar panels and battery storage, so that communities decide what facilities stay powered during a crisis.

More than 1 million California homes and businesses already benefit from small-scale solar power, including 2,500 schools. These sites only need to add storage to enhance community resilience. The Community Energy Resilience Act also complements Governor Newsom’s Zero Emissions Vehicle Executive Order, which sets the course for California to end sales of internal combustion passenger vehicles by 2035. With proper planning, an expansion of electric vehicles could enhance grid resilience with energy storage in car and truck batteries.

This bill has unanimously cleared the Senate Energy Committee. Now it goes to the Senate Appropriations Committee. We look forward to seeing the Legislature pass it and the Governor sign it.

## **SolarCraft is Making Switching to Solar Less Challenging for Nonprofits and Public Agencies**

SolarCraft, a member of NBLC, has been working with nonprofit and public agencies to help them overcome the challenges of putting solar in their facilities. There are two challenges for nonprofits: the inability to take advantage of the tax Incentives, and for most nonprofits, the lack of resources, as they already have tight budgets and scarce financial resources. SolarCraft has arranged special financing that can both “monetize” the tax Incentives (so solar is cheaper), and also get long term financing where the monthly finance charges are cheaper than the utility bills they replace (which helps the budget). This gives nonprofits the option to not pay any money upfront, and then pay less in financing than their previous utility bills. And best of all, at the end of the finance term – the nonprofit owns the solar.

For more information, go to SolarCraft: <https://solarcraft.com/solar-for-government-schools-nonprofits/>

## **Hope for Hwy. 37 Improvements Before It Goes Underwater**

With sea level rise accelerating, we are running out of time to do the critical improvements to keep this vital artery available for North Bay commuters, essential workers, goods movement and public safety.

NBLC is supporting SB 1050 (Dodd) - State Route 37 Toll Bridge Act. This bill will ensure that the much-needed improvements to widen and elevate State Route 37 (SR37) can be achieved before the highway is under water. NBLC represents the leading employers in the North Bay with collectively over 25,000 employees. We are very dependent on having this highway available to connect the North Bay to the East Bay, as SR37 is an essential artery for our employees to commute, for goods movement and public safety.

Our employees have stressed how important it is to have access to SR37 and live in fear that it will again be underwater as what happened a few years ago. The disruption that the flooding of SR37 caused at that time was a wake-up call that this highway was critical to the North Bay economy and public safety.

Employees are willing to pay a toll to make SR37 dependable and protected from the accelerating sea level rise. They are also willing to pay a toll to see SR37 widened to improve commute times and increase the safety of using this highway. And all of us who live in the North Bay are concerned about an earthquake isolating us from the rest of the Bay Area if the ability to get in or out of the North Bay is limited.

NBLC feels that improving SR37 is urgent because this highway is now the poster child for infrastructure to be lost to sea level rise. We do not have time to delay raising this highway to make it into a causeway.

SB1050 will provide funding for the process to begin by providing the match to leverage federal and state funds. Without matching funds, the SR37 improvement project will not be competitive and will miss out on tapping into this funds that are available now. We cannot afford to miss this opportunity for potentially once-in-a-lifetime infrastructure funding.

SR 37 connects job markets and housing within Marin, Sonoma, Napa, and Solano Counties. Unfortunately, the North Bay has experienced another negative impact of climate change – wildland fires that have destroyed thousands of homes and pushed many in our workforce to the East Bay. We are experiencing a labor shortage now which is exacerbated by not having the main connector between the East Bay and North Bay able to accommodate the growing number of commuters and goods movement.

Our members are hospitals, educational institutions, construction companies and other employers providing the backbone of the North Bay economy and well-being. We need our employees to be able to come to work every day without interruption.

We are pleased that the Senate Transportation approved SB 1050, giving us hope that the bill will pass in the legislature and receive the Governor’s signature. We need these improvements urgently so our teachers, healthcare workers, hospitality staff and construction workers can do their jobs to take care of our families and make our economy strong. NBLC look forward to the dream of upgrading SR37 to be resilient, safe and accessible being achieved in the near future, not the distant unknown.

## **The 2022 National Women’s History Theme -- “Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope”**

The 2022 Women’s History theme, “Providing Healing, Promoting Hope,” is both a tribute to the ceaseless work of caregivers and frontline workers during this ongoing pandemic and also a recognition of the thousands of ways that women of all cultures have provided both healing and hope throughout history. Women as healers harken back to ancient times. Healing is the personal experience of transcending suffering and transforming it to wholeness. The gift of hope spreads light to the lives of others and reflects a belief in the unlimited possibilities of this and future generations. Together, healing and hope are essential fuels for our dreams and our recovery.

This year, in particular, we are reminded of the importance of healers and caregivers who are helping to promote and sustain hope for the future. The NWA encourages communities throughout the country to honor local women who bring and have historically brought these priceless gifts to their families, workplaces, and neighborhoods, sometimes at great sacrifice. These are the women who, as counselors and clerics, artists and teachers, doctors, nurses, mothers, and grandmothers listen, ease suffering, restore dignity, and make decisions for our general as well as our personal welfare.

Women have long advocated for compassionate treatments and new directions in public health and in women’s mental and physical health. Women have also historically led the way in mending divisions, healing wounds, and finding peaceful solutions. This timeless work, in so many ways and in addition to so many other tasks, has helped countless individuals in our communities recover and follow their dreams. The 2022 theme proudly honors those who, in both public and private life, provide healing and promote hope for the betterment of all.

The National Women’s History Alliance is based in Santa Rosa. For more information, go to: [Link](#)

## **Upcoming Events**

Save the Date: NLBC Leaders of the North Bay Awards

# LEADERS OF THE NORTH BAY AWARDS LUNCHEON



**May 13, 2022**  
**11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**  
**SAVE THE DATE!**



Keynote Speaker:  
**Hollis Belger**

*Winner, NBLC's Youth Power Speech Contest, Hollis Belger is a philanthropy advocate who has raised over \$500,000 in charitable donations with her Juggling for Jude fundraiser.*

### Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

#### Platinum



#### BANK OF AMERICA



#### Gold



#### Silver



## 2022 Honorees

### **Murray Legacy Leadership Award**

*Recognition of a Lifetime of Leadership:*

### **Steve Page**

**Sonoma Raceway**  
*(Retired)*

### **United We Stand**

*Community Building:*

### **Keith Woods**

**North Coast Builders Exchange**

### **Paint the Community Green**

*Environmental Stewardship:*

### **The Climate Center**

### **The Light Bulb Went On**

*Innovative/Entrepreneurial Spirit:*

### **Steve Dutton**

**Dutton Ranch**

### *Empowering the*

### *Latino Community*

*Leadership Within the*

*Latino Community:*

### **Canal WiFi Team**

### **From Red Tape to Red Carpet**

*Leadership in Government:*

### **David Wain Coon**

**College of Marin**



Register Online at: [www.northbayleadership.org](http://www.northbayleadership.org)

Dominican University's Institute for Leadership Studies Business Briefings Series Presents:

### Be More Productive by Delegating and Balancing Your Workloads

Learn how to be more productive by effectively delegating and balancing your workloads. If you have too much on your plate, let Herb Kessner, Ph.D., share how to lighten the load so that you and your employees can better respond to change and seize opportunities.

**Date:** April 13

**Time:** 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

**Location:** Virtual

**Ticket:** \$25.00

For more information and tickets click [here](#)

## Members in the News

### **Bank of America Announces New Secured Credit Offerings and Digital Resources to Help Entrepreneurs Start and Grow Their Businesses**

Bank of America today announced the launch of the Business Advantage Unlimited Cash Rewards Secured credit card, Business Advantage Secured Credit Line and the Start a Business Center – its latest products and resources for entrepreneurs looking to start a small business or build their business' credit history.

### **Bank of America to Support Efforts to Expand Access to Safe Water and Sanitation**

Water.org announced today that it has received a \$3 million grant from Bank of America to expand access to safe water and sanitation for people in need in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

### **Bank of America Financed the Construction Underway on 164-Unit Affordable Apartment Complex at Former Water Agency Site in Santa Rosa**

Construction is underway on a 164-apartment affordable housing project at an abandoned government office complex on the west side of Santa Rosa.

### **Exchange Bank's Officer Helps with War Effort in his Native Ukraine**

Exchange Bank trust officer and Ukrainian native Andriy Lesyshyn is described by those who love and support him as not the kind of man who stands back in retreat.

### **Midstate Construction and Burbank Housing Complete Redwood Grove Project in Napa**

General contractor Midstate Construction Corporation and developer Burbank Housing Development Corporation recently completed Redwood Grove, a new 34-unit housing community in Napa, CA.

### **SolarCraft Increases Sonoma Academy Solar Power with Third Installation**

Sonoma Academy in Santa Rosa, CA has a new 354 kW solar power system, installed by SolarCraft, a Marin, Sonoma and Napa solar installer since 1984. The Sonoma County Private High School is now generating additional 482,786 kWh of energy from the sun every year, saving the School nearly \$99,000 in utility bills annually.

### **North Bay Science Discovery Day Features Two Leading Sponsors Keysight and Ultragenyx**

Keysight Technologies and Ultragenyx sustains its longtime support as a sponsor and exhibitor at the North Bay Science Discovery Day!

### **Sonoma State University Redesigns its Professional MBA Program to Adapt to Young Workers**

Higher purpose, not higher profits, are driving Generation Z. Now a local university is taking that message and modifying its MBA program.

### **WBE Working on an 83,620 sq ft. Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Facility**

WBE recently started working on an 83,620 sq ft. pharmaceutical manufacturing facility. It is a multi-level building which consists of warehouse/shipping area, office space, lab space, and manufacturing equipment.

### **Keysight Technologies Names Successor as CEO Plans to Retire**

Keysight Technologies Inc. (NYSE: KEYS) said President and CEO Ron Nersesian plans to retire this spring, and the Santa Rosa-based global high-technology company plans to promote its chief operating officer into that role.



### **Who We Are**

Over thirty years ago, business leaders founded the North Bay Leadership Council on a simple premise: We can accomplish more by working together. Today, the Council includes 54 leading employers in the North Bay. Our members represent a wide variety of businesses, non-profits and educational institutions, with a workforce in excess of 25,000. As business and civic leaders, our goal is to promote sound public policy, innovation and sustainability to make our region a better place to live and work. For more information: Call

707.283.0028 / E-mail [info@northbayleadership.org](mailto:info@northbayleadership.org)  
[www.northbayleadership.org](http://www.northbayleadership.org)