

WEBVTT

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00:00:07.910 --> 00:00:14.569

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Hi, everybody! Thanks for joining us. We're just gonna give everybody a couple of minutes to filter in before we get started.

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00:01:08.800 --> 00:01:11.280

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Hello, everybody, and welcome today.

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00:01:12.440 --> 00:01:20.040

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Thanks for joining us. My name is Laura Feinstein, and I am for sustainability, resilience, policy director.

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00:01:20.050 --> 00:01:37.120

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Many of you here today are spur members. So, if so, thank you for your support. If you're not a member, I encourage you to join us to support first ongoing work and using education, policy, analysis and advocacy to make our cities and region more prosperous, sustainable, and equitable places to live.

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00:01:37.130 --> 00:01:52.240

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Your financial support enables us to continue our work, including the hosting of programs like today's you'll find more information about membership online at Spur Org Join and we'd also like to thank San Francisco Estuary Institute for helping us to promote this event.

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00:01:52.890 --> 00:02:12.789

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Our next digital discourse is scheduled for Tuesday, October eleventh, at twelve thirty Pm. It's resiliency in the face of a changing climate join us in conversation with California. Natural resources. Secretary Wade crowded as we discover what the Natural Resources agency is working on, and how it's preparing California for a more climate, resilient future.

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00:02:13.460 --> 00:02:33.309

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): And today's digital discourse is telling the story of sea level rise, sea, level rises. Climate change is sleeper impact. By the end of the century flooding could displace eighty thousand homes, subject thirty thousand socially vulnerable residents to daily flooding and expose. Base your communities to resurface toxic waste just here in the bay area alone,

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00:02:33.320 --> 00:02:53.079

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): but because the results of gradual increases in water levels, aren't immediately visible. These risks can slip out of sight and out of mind. How do we spread the word about these impactful consequences of climate change? Today we'll have a discussion with two journalists who serve an essential role as expert storytellers bringing the abstract notion of sea level rise to life.

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00:02:53.640 --> 00:03:12.990

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): And we want this to be an interactive question uh interactive question. We want this to be interactive conversation. Um. So we encourage you to submit any questions that you may have by using the Q and A. Panel. So you'll see both the chat panel, and you're welcome to drop comments in there. Um! That your other audience members can see.

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00:03:13.000 --> 00:03:27.990

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): But when it comes to asking questions that you'd like us to address in the Q. A. Session at the end. Please go ahead and look for that button that's called Q. A. And put them in there, and when we get to the last fifteen minutes, Ariane and I will be asking those questions of our speakers

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00:03:28.230 --> 00:03:42.300

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): and um I'd also like to introduce Arian Harrison, who will be my co-moderator today. Arian. Hi! My name is Arian Harrison I am the Co. The the the founder in the Ed of Marie Harris, the community foundation in

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00:03:42.310 --> 00:03:58.580

Arieann Harrison: for social and environmental justice. Ww: Can we live? Dot org? Um. There can be no social justice without environmental justice and those of the areas that we pre-cover in May be one hundred point Um, the southeast sector of San francisco i'm so glad to be here today

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00:03:58.590 --> 00:04:03.730

Arieann Harrison: to get in the forefront of this uh, this pressing issue for all shoreline communities.

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00:04:06.020 --> 00:04:19.519

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Thank you, Arian. So uh with that we're going to introduce Ezra David Romero. He's a climate reporter for K. Qed News. He covers the absence and excess of water in the bay area. So things sea level rise, flooding, and drought

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00:04:19.529 --> 00:04:29.150

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): for more than a decade he's covered. How warming temperatures are altering the lives of Californians! He's reported on. Farmers worried that their pistachio trees aren't getting enough

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00:04:29.370 --> 00:04:30.530

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): um

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00:04:30.640 --> 00:04:39.039

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): and uh families desperate for water, and scientists studying giant sequoias and alongside firefighters containing wildfires.

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00:04:39.470 --> 00:04:44.869

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): And uh, i'm gonna go ahead and play a clip for all of you of one of Ezra's recent stories,

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00:04:52.300 --> 00:04:53.190

good

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00:04:58.950 --> 00:05:08.260

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): as you do all the technology. And today's story is from Kqvd climate reporter, Ezra David Romero, and it's about a family who fled climate change. Once before,

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00:05:08.370 --> 00:05:16.230

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): when I first met Mama D. And Papa Santa outside their home in East Palo Alto, they were hesitant to talk about climate change.

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00:05:16.240 --> 00:05:35.529

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Those are their nicknames. The real names are Apollonia and Santa Ula Mulangi. I'm reluctant to talk about this issue because of emotional issues pain. Fear that a lot of mainstream people don't understand.

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00:05:35.540 --> 00:05:44.780

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): The couple immigrated from Samoa to America in the one thousand nine hundred and seventys. They still have family there. Climate change was, and is still tangible to them.

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00:05:46.910 --> 00:05:55.239

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): That was a clip from a story um doing part of what Esther does so well, which is getting the perspective of regular people on sea level rise,

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00:05:55.250 --> 00:06:07.030

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): and Ezra was hoping you could start us off by talking about your Sacrifice Zone series that's been airing recently on K. Qed. How did you develop the idea for the series? And what are the things you want? Your listeners to learn from it.

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00:06:07.280 --> 00:06:33.790

Ezra Romero / KQED: Yeah, that story was born out of um talking to people around the Bay area and what they're going through. Um, there's this toxic tides report that came out last November, showing casing like nine hundred plus toxic hazardous sites around California that are, you know, prone to flooding because of sea level rise, and I wanted to like, contextualize that with people and like all these people, are important because people live next to them.

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00:06:33.800 --> 00:06:40.640

Ezra Romero / KQED: And so I thought like, let's go talk to people who live next to these places, and that's how i'm in are in, and then others, and

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00:06:40.750 --> 00:06:48.490

Ezra Romero / KQED: the idea for that sacrifice zones came about because there are so many people working on this issue at the ground level,

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00:06:48.500 --> 00:07:03.470

Ezra Romero / KQED: for the very fact that they want to have better lives, that they want to breed clean air. They they want to like, have clean water, that, and they want to like a secure future. So that's kind of how it was born out. It's like this is what people are talking about, and it's their lives are hanging in the balance,

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00:07:06.290 --> 00:07:26.540

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): and Lauren uh like to turn it over to you for a minute. Um. Lauren is the correspondent on Npr's climate desk, where she specializes in climate science, and how communities are preparing for climate change before joining Npr. She spent more than a decade at K. Qed in San Francisco, where she covered water, wildfires and the environment, and she's based in the Bay area.

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00:07:26.570 --> 00:07:30.619

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): So we have also a clip from Lauren. Give me a second here.

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00:07:36.590 --> 00:08:06.550

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): So Lauren did Facebook know that when they built there they did. And now the risk is getting even bigger, because sea levels are rising in a hotter climate. So the region is looking at building a bigger levy sixteen feet tall. It'll cost more than one hundred million dollars, and the Federal Government just preliminarily awarded about half that money. But that's raising questions about who should be footing the bill for adapting to the consequences of climate change. Coastal cities are going to need billions of

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00:08:06.560 --> 00:08:10.069

to protect their shorelines from rising seas.

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00:08:12.360 --> 00:08:30.800

Arieann Harrison: Hi! So Lauren. In this story we just heard a clip, a clip of you talking about places of contrast where the underserved communities of East pale also in tech the tech Tight and Facebook. And now Meta occupy the same stretch of shoreline. What show you to this story?

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00:08:31.610 --> 00:08:51.419

Lauren Sommer / NPR: Yeah. And i'm at the airport. Everyone. So it's the background. It's really bad. Please uh use the chat and tell me I just canceled flight today. Sorry um, but uh, yeah, I mean for me, Um! It really was this kind of like perfect encapsulation of some of the really tricky issues that a lot of regions

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00:08:51.430 --> 00:09:01.390

Lauren Sommer / NPR: are facing around the bay area. Right. You have very valuable real states. You have people that want to build there that maybe you're building in places we know are from the sea level rise.

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00:09:01.400 --> 00:09:20.329

Lauren Sommer / NPR: And then you also have people that have lived there for a long time and are facing a lot of gentrification. Pressures are facing. Uh, I mean, these follow up. So it's kind of like this island that's left of this low income media color on the on the Peninsula. And so the question of what's fair you should pay? What

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00:09:20.340 --> 00:09:30.909

Lauren Sommer / NPR: if you built there now versus you? Built there a long time ago? Does that change? How much you should pay? These are really hard questions in it, and that that one little neighborhood can see to encapsulate all of those.

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00:09:33.830 --> 00:09:35.030

Thank you.

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00:09:35.430 --> 00:09:41.840

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Yeah, absolutely. It does seem like, uh one of the big themes that comes up over and over again is

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00:09:41.870 --> 00:09:50.819

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): uh, how and whether to develop along the shoreline um as well as sort of Who who's our priority for protection from sea level Rise,

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00:09:50.960 --> 00:09:55.669

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Um! And I think we'll be talking about it more as the conversation goes on.

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00:09:56.180 --> 00:10:02.199

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Um! We're gonna turn back to um to Ezra, and we have one more clip to play for today.

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00:10:14.020 --> 00:10:30.259

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): So this is um as recovering uh some of what he was talking about earlier in terms of this toxic tides issue, which is around the idea that as seawater rises and it pushes up ground water levels, it can resurface all very contaminants in the soil, which is

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00:10:30.270 --> 00:10:43.320

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): i'm a a a serious problem, particularly in disadvantaged communities and communities of color that often were co-located with all of the most uh sort of toxic industries in the Bay area.

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00:10:45.180 --> 00:10:52.920

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): This race's history has now put people of color in West Oakland on the front lines of the climate emergency.

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00:10:53.410 --> 00:11:05.349

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Margaret Gordon sits on a park bench in front of her apartment, as semi-trucks crawl the street and a Bart trains of spy she tells me climate justice must mean reparations,

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00:11:10.650 --> 00:11:24.329

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): for golden reparations mean more than payment to the descendants of slaves. They mean actions that restore consent to the community like cleaning up toxic sites and giving residents power and climate policy.

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00:11:26.770 --> 00:11:33.880

Arieann Harrison: So so that was great as we Can you tell us how reparations as part of this discussion about sea level rise.

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00:11:35.060 --> 00:11:36.310

Ezra Romero / KQED: Yeah, I mean,

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00:11:36.430 --> 00:11:51.029

Ezra Romero / KQED: I didn't know it was. I started doing this reporting, and I met with, You are in, and I met with Miss Margaret Gordon and this Terry Air screen in um, Rinsey and others in In In these conversations I was asking them

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00:11:51.040 --> 00:12:08.419

Ezra Romero / KQED: you and others like what's going on your community? What are you thinking about when it comes to climate change? And you all independently said the same. Two things like we want to make sure we have a secure future when it comes to climate change. We have these issues when it comes to toxic in our community, and we want reparations

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00:12:08.620 --> 00:12:17.339

Ezra Romero / KQED: here in these communities as well. And so you all kind of spurted on to like. Do do that series because you're saying that

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00:12:18.090 --> 00:12:24.979

Ezra Romero / KQED: systemic racism isn't just like slavery itself, comes from slavery itself. It's like it. It is.

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00:12:25.440 --> 00:12:41.020

Ezra Romero / KQED: I mean, how the very look Feel the streets, the lights, the what the reason why freeways cut through neighborhoods the reason why they're super fun sites and community. The reason why there's disinvestment or not investment at all in these places, and you're They were saying that

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00:12:41.490 --> 00:13:00.299

Ezra Romero / KQED: being involved in climate, adaptation plans as a form of preparation, because it's securing a future for people who have been historically divested in on purpose without their consent. And so that this is why the two are together, and it's born out of really conversations with people of color in the bay area who are like

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00:13:00.310 --> 00:13:04.199

Ezra Romero / KQED: doing this for themselves, because people, Aren't, stepping out on behalf of them,

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00:13:04.380 --> 00:13:33.549

Arieann Harrison: You know I commend you for bringing up that for for bringing it to the forefront of what we're asking for. But I think it's also more prevalent in responsible and important to say why? Because sometimes sometimes people just cover the reparation smart, but they don't cover what we're saying. Why, it's necessary in what we're actually asking for, you know, and that's the the number. One killer of people's finances is help, which I think that everybody can agree to that. So

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00:13:33.560 --> 00:13:40.860

Arieann Harrison: thank you so much. And in also you know, needing the needing the specialized period we're going to need being impacted so

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00:13:40.870 --> 00:14:01.660

Arieann Harrison: so strongly in those communities Um would in the inundated by toxic chemical ways we've been toxic toxicly exposed, so it it's very important to all of us as long as turtleining communities that they meet these demographics to let people know that the the health burden is are really high. And so thank you so much for covering that

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00:14:02.230 --> 00:14:03.379

Arieann Harrison: that's right.

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00:14:07.240 --> 00:14:23.129

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Yeah. I just wanted to ask some more general question Now, um Lauren, I was kind of hoping that you could weigh in, and then Ezra, maybe following up um on what you sort of see is the state of the Bay area's response to sea level rise. And what are the biggest challenges to solve?

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00:14:24.780 --> 00:14:26.730

Lauren Sommer / NPR: Yeah, I think Um,

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00:14:26.810 --> 00:14:44.450

Lauren Sommer / NPR: you know that one of the main things that came up in that series which you know is going to be a long term Question is, is the kind of who pays question right? Because you have East Palo Alto. Why kind of right there in Menlo Park is the Dun Barton Bridge comes in. You've driven by there. Um, you know, putting in a similar amount of money to Facebook to Meta.

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00:14:44.460 --> 00:14:57.029

Lauren Sommer / NPR: Um for this big levy project. Um! And the bulk of the money will be from the Federal Government. They went through Fema's Rick program, right, which is a lot of money That's that's intend to help me become more resilient around the country

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00:14:57.240 --> 00:15:05.539

Lauren Sommer / NPR: the year they apply for brick. They They got the largest grant fifty million dollars. Um and I talked to another of other

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00:15:05.610 --> 00:15:23.269

Lauren Sommer / NPR: people around the country would apply for a similar. Those grants and didn't get them. They're not as well resourced um to do the Grant applications, and there's a fair amount of frustration around the country, saying, Why is this money going to Facebook like? Why is all this these dollars that we need in different States going to them.

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00:15:23.280 --> 00:15:27.970

Lauren Sommer / NPR: So I think that that sentiment is also in

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00:15:27.990 --> 00:15:31.390

Lauren Sommer / NPR: we're putting in some money. Why, in our neighbors step up, I mean, that's

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00:15:31.740 --> 00:15:50.910

Lauren Sommer / NPR: the incentive is to build in the bay area on these very expensive and beautiful pieces of property on the shoreline. It's really hard for cities to say No, it's hard for cities to say, Well, you can, but we're going to charge you a bunch of extra money so that you can. We can actually build whatever project we might need to protect the shoreline like I don't

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00:15:50.920 --> 00:16:07.789

Lauren Sommer / NPR: There's different models around the Bay area. I don't know if anybody's quite correct the code, and it's so much money that's for some of these things. So I think you know that's happening everywhere around the country. You know I've seen it in many other. It needs to, and and there's no formula at this point.

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00:16:08.800 --> 00:16:25.759

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): And when you say there's no formula, are you kind of hinting at the idea that maybe there does need to be some kind of more systemic approach to these questions of, You know, if you're going to, if you're going to by choice, build in an area vulnerable to sea level rise that there should be some

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00:16:26.020 --> 00:16:31.890

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): uh, some more systemic approach to deciding who pays for the defense of that area.

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00:16:32.580 --> 00:16:42.919

Lauren Sommer / NPR: I mean, I think that's that's the kind of values and fairness discussion each community is having to have on their own, which is really hard, Right? Like. Is there a development fee?

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00:16:43.320 --> 00:17:03.100

Lauren Sommer / NPR: Do we know how much we're going to need to protect what you want in the future? Can we get that amount of money, or how much is there fair share of that money? I mean, that's a really hard values discussion to have. And And when did you build? I mean East Palmonto. Those homes, you know, as I walked around with with the community there. They've been really long time

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00:17:03.340 --> 00:17:12.689

Lauren Sommer / NPR: Facebook building massive new campus brand new, with the knowledge that sea level rights is going to be a problem. Does that change? How much you should pay, you know. And

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00:17:12.700 --> 00:17:24.419

Lauren Sommer / NPR: I mean one formula, I mean. Maybe some planners would love it if there was like one special formula just like plug it in, and everyone because it's values and fairness that's really hard to do

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00:17:24.849 --> 00:17:52.659

Arieann Harrison: right. I don't really do business, but I mean how good of an investment it could be with the projected bill that the projections of sea level rise in the possibly a bit surrounding the agency. I mean they must have some great insurance. That's all I have to say about that because i'm just like, there's a lot of things to consider consider which is what is the valuable uh project, and what are the put that They probably have it not so.

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00:17:53.070 --> 00:18:09.409

Arieann Harrison: I know there's probably missing pieces that I don't know. I don't, you know, in North you. I just know the of emergency for our communities to have been long standing, and I'm just like really stoked that you guys are covering this stuff. I just get this stuff is just like. Oh, my God! Finally, right

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00:18:09.420 --> 00:18:34.019

Arieann Harrison: um! Somebody's hearing was actually going on in these uh, you know, lowing him voice with almost communities that are are spending a lot of time, you know, yelling at their their supervisors supervisors, and having these conversations with them, and trying to go up the food chain to actually get get them to. At least, you know, uh progressively, think about solutions for this stuff, you know.

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00:18:34.620 --> 00:18:38.459

Arieann Harrison: I say, do no harm right,

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00:18:38.910 --> 00:18:50.060

Lauren Sommer / NPR: and it's one thing to say, like we're going to build a new building, and we're going to raise it up, which is what Facebook did with its new buildings. Right? They raise up the buildings. So they said, Hey, we're playing for sea level rise.

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00:18:50.070 --> 00:19:00.859

Lauren Sommer / NPR: I mean, everyone here knows this. But, like you gotta get people to work on roads to come to your building, and if those roads are underwater, you're in big trouble, so

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00:19:00.900 --> 00:19:03.470

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): you still need the infrastructure to get there,

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00:19:03.550 --> 00:19:06.049

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): and that's usually a public resource.

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00:19:06.420 --> 00:19:13.380

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): So, Ezra, do you want to weigh in? What do you kind of see As the state of the Bay area is response to sea level rise and what the big challenges are.

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00:19:13.770 --> 00:19:23.399

Ezra Romero / KQED: Yeah. Well, I took this job over from Lauren actually like a year and a half ago I used. She used to have this job, and now I have her old job, you know. I put together a spreadsheet

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00:19:23.510 --> 00:19:31.299

Ezra Romero / KQED: uh, like a cool dock of like all the agencies that are involved in this stuff, and like I just stopped that like one hundred and fifty

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00:19:31.310 --> 00:19:50.649

Ezra Romero / KQED: like I was just like this is so much. I don't even know what to do like how to go about it like, How do I contact every city, every planning commission, every blah blah blah blah like. There's just, I think that's one of the hindrances in the bay area. So many agencies, cities, um departments, um private sector

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00:19:50.660 --> 00:20:00.749

Ezra Romero / KQED: groups all involved in this, and then like, and all the environmental advocates and everything just a huge amount of people involved. And I think the other part is, you know, like

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00:20:00.920 --> 00:20:06.279

Ezra Romero / KQED: there are some like regional plans like with like the with B. C. Dc. But there,

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00:20:06.330 --> 00:20:16.759

Ezra Romero / KQED: based on volunteerism, right like everyone has to volunteer to do these different parts of this really huge plan, and it's like a system of like begging different

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00:20:16.770 --> 00:20:33.379

Ezra Romero / KQED: entities to be part of it. And so it's. It feels less like It's this whole thing together that's happening in the bay area, and a very piecemeal thing each place on its own, and it's still kind of almost like the wild wild West, right like every place on its own, thinking about how they're going to do this thing

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00:20:33.390 --> 00:20:38.839

Ezra Romero / KQED: that Hasn't happened yet, but that's like in the future. But we see in here like

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00:20:39.160 --> 00:20:45.869

Ezra Romero / KQED: how it could happen when we look at when we look at drought, when we look at wildfires and things that are happening right now like it's to come.

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00:20:46.080 --> 00:20:47.250

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Mhm

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00:20:47.830 --> 00:21:05.219

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Yeah, I mean, It's funny. People think of California as kind of a heavy regulation state, and I feel like sometimes people don't appreciate just how much they're still is a lot of local authority over so many of these choices like where to build how to respond to sea level, rise, and so on.

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00:21:05.230 --> 00:21:16.810

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Um! And do you hear from people on both sides people kind of arguing that it should really be a local decision versus people who should who say that it should be a more centralized decision how to respond to sea level Rise.

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00:21:16.850 --> 00:21:25.929

Ezra Romero / KQED: Yeah, I think we hear both. I think there's I did a story about the City of New work, and how they wanted to build. They want to build like a bunch of homes like It's more than a thousand homes like on this

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00:21:25.940 --> 00:21:50.629

Ezra Romero / KQED: marshland, right? And you have, like a local government right that wants to do this and like use, more of like a moderate level of sea level rise, scenarios, older science. And then you have environment like it's in in scientists saying that needs to actually go further. Um! People who don't have faith in like we have gas emissions are going to decline. So there's this tension. Um, because everyone's sort of doing it on their own way with different models.

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00:21:56.040 --> 00:21:58.129

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): And did you want to chime in?

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00:21:58.390 --> 00:22:20.030

Arieann Harrison: Yeah, that is so. That's so. Very true. I think that it it, you know individually, for myself. Personally, I know that that we're We have all these strategies that we're thinking about in and trying to collaborate with the people in power, and bringing the scientists and all of all of the uh, the people that really have some some solutions to these equations. But

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00:22:20.480 --> 00:22:41.689

Arieann Harrison: you gotta adapt it. You have to adapt the the science first and all that kind of stuff. So those are some of the challenges that we're happy, having here in um in base you, for instance. Um, But I think that to what I wanted to add kind of add to that is, that when we were when we kind of shake it, shaking loose the per streets to add resources

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00:22:41.700 --> 00:22:49.730

Arieann Harrison: to the community, these communities that we serve. Um, i'm a super huge resource person, and I just see the

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00:22:49.890 --> 00:23:10.849

Arieann Harrison: I just see the irony of it all when i'm thinking about looking at different states and uh what the States have done, and you know, across the Us. And stuff like that, and how there has been so kind of redirecting of the funding that was intended for for for those communities to really address their their personalized problem and try to mitigate some of the impact that it's having

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00:23:10.860 --> 00:23:22.279

Arieann Harrison: um on the on the broader community, you know. I just I mean I wouldn't really really really like to to know how to make that a better system. But um

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00:23:22.370 --> 00:23:42.190

Arieann Harrison: trust me, i'm, i'm. So i'm still like wide open to people that have strips where do not come into the table, and actually having a a date tank on, you know, to do something that would probably be a effective for everyone across the shoreline

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00:23:42.200 --> 00:24:01.320

Arieann Harrison: before you know It's just a it's not a matter of how it's a matter of when we're gonna have a natural disaster or something like that. I'm not praying for it or wishing for it. But what we've experienced as far as climate change and all that kind of stuff directly in our communities. We it's just like a taking time bomb for us.

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00:24:01.810 --> 00:24:05.430

Ezra Romero / KQED: I think one thing I can add kind of on this, but

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00:24:05.520 --> 00:24:17.400

Ezra Romero / KQED: in the start of that reported is a lot of developers and cities are thinking about projects within like a thirty fifty year. Lifespan like they're thinking they plan it like This Is these houses Aren't going to exist after this time period.

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00:24:17.410 --> 00:24:29.880

Ezra Romero / KQED: But, as like people know, like they people live in these homes a lot longer than that. And so in these places. And so I think that some of the tension is like. There's one way to develop and think about the a life span and a project. And

112

00:24:29.890 --> 00:24:45.279

Ezra Romero / KQED: from from a homeowner's perspective, often or community member, they're thinking like i'm gonna. My family might live here for a hundred years or more. Um! And they want to be another different way for the future of them and their children, and their children, who might live in that home or that part of the bay.

113

00:24:46.000 --> 00:24:54.849

Arieann Harrison: The I of it all is it most of us are, you know, are, you know, working working working class. But you know just the

114

00:24:54.860 --> 00:25:12.090

Arieann Harrison: I don't think there's even a middle class in that anymore. That that margin has shrunk so much. It's just like we're the poor working class and um in our community. We really, because of red lining and different different things that we've experienced over the years. We can't afford to go anyplace else.

115

00:25:13.160 --> 00:25:29.059

Arieann Harrison: To be quite frank, to be, you know, quite frank with you, You know it's it's it's really hard. Um! The cost of living is is way up, you know, and it's it. But the um. But the environmental outcomes of the places that we live are really bad.

116

00:25:29.650 --> 00:25:39.729

Lauren Sommer / NPR: Yeah. And I think talking to you know, the folks in East Pal out so like everyone's very aware of what happened after Katrina and other disasters. Right? We're communities we're displaced.

117

00:25:40.030 --> 00:25:45.760

Lauren Sommer / NPR: We don't have the we are supposed to build. You're probably moving. Um, and they're very aware that like

118

00:25:45.900 --> 00:25:53.319

Lauren Sommer / NPR: the floods, and these call out that happened before they get another big one. They don't want to move two to three hours into the valley,

119

00:25:53.390 --> 00:26:05.069

Lauren Sommer / NPR: away from the community that they love so much in the community that they really share. But they know they're like that close right like one disaster away. Um, I always say you know what

120

00:26:05.080 --> 00:26:25.240

Arieann Harrison: part of California is on fire, and in it one is uh getting what is destined to have a earthquake. You know what i'm saying, or something like that. And the last thing we need is for to have capping it capping and over a toxic on site that is astronomical way, bigger than what they do. Presumably said it was,

121

00:26:25.250 --> 00:26:35.129

Arieann Harrison: and um, you know It's just for me, I think that you know people need to go back to the drawing board, and uh do something that's going to be effective.

122

00:26:35.140 --> 00:26:45.469

Arieann Harrison: They they don't worry about the numbers and and it because being cost-effective when they're doing their own projects, and one of the one communities, but they always leave out

123

00:26:45.480 --> 00:27:03.480

Arieann Harrison: the residents that actually been there for a very long time, because, I think, objectively, They feel that they're going to push everybody out of eventually, anyway, and then that that way to it. Also them them to light on our personal stories in the in the fight. You know the activism that went behind

124

00:27:03.490 --> 00:27:17.419

Arieann Harrison: being able to clean up, you know, clean up certain spaces. So uh new resident members in in uh local resident members could have access to that to that space. So um it's a it's a hard job We have to

125

00:27:17.480 --> 00:27:29.670

Arieann Harrison: do our very best to to start um pressing the issue of bringing our best minds together to uh, to really do something that's very realistic, and that happens to.

126

00:27:29.680 --> 00:27:47.559

Arieann Harrison: We have the people in charge, like, you know, like California. Epa. A um Us. Epa Carb. Very air district and department to the chemical waste. All of those parties need to be need to start talking collectively together, you know, in order to make a a real

127

00:27:47.570 --> 00:27:53.729

Arieann Harrison: emergency contingency plan that's uh feasible for all of our communities.

128

00:27:54.480 --> 00:27:56.370

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Yeah, very true,

129

00:27:56.860 --> 00:28:09.500

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Ezra. I wanted to ask a question. Um, It seemed like you've really made environmental justice a focus of many of your stories. How did you come to see that as such a compelling um part of the story of sea level? Rise.

130

00:28:10.210 --> 00:28:23.990

Ezra Romero / KQED: Yeah, just take a step back like I was a reporter, and Fresno at the Npr. Station there for five years, and then in Sacramento for four at the conversation there, and as a person of color myself, like covering climate in those places.

131

00:28:24.010 --> 00:28:41.389

Ezra Romero / KQED: I just I didn't see many stories that were centering other people of color, You know they were often like policy stories, or if they, if they are people of color, and the stories they were used as like a line in the story. And uh, when these people like people that look like me like our

132

00:28:41.400 --> 00:28:55.669

Ezra Romero / KQED: like, I go into some of these terrible things, and like wanting their lives to be better. I just was like compelled to tell their stories, because, like there's some of my family stories, they're the story of Californians and um,

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00:28:55.700 --> 00:28:57.160

Ezra Romero / KQED: I just thought like

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00:28:57.340 --> 00:29:06.180

Ezra Romero / KQED: this is what's happening to this include their voices and center their voices. Um! While talking about all the other things as well, and so

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00:29:06.190 --> 00:29:23.539

Ezra Romero / KQED: getting this job and coming now learning about a whole new ecosystem the bay area. I'm thinking about sea level rise in a place where there's like what eight and a half million people, and you have like communities of color all around the bay area who live in these places that have been historically red, blind, and Um,

136

00:29:23.550 --> 00:29:38.979

Ezra Romero / KQED: it's just like the story that was like very apparent. Um! The people who are reaching out to me the people still in like people who are doing the work on the ground that are like trying to change policy. You know I just felt like their stories are are worth telling like

137

00:29:38.990 --> 00:29:46.350

Ezra Romero / KQED: um, and they're people who are like trying to make change. And so I think that's why environmental justice is like a through line through my work, and I think it's

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00:29:51.400 --> 00:29:55.549

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): It's definitely something that I've noticed about your stories. Is that

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00:29:55.560 --> 00:30:20.390

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Um, yes, there'll be um a scientist talking, and yes, there'll be somebody from a Government agency talking, but the proportions are switched. It's it's. You hear mostly from people who live in heavily impacted communities and people who live in community communities of color, and it's really their narrative with other people kind of chiming in, which is, I think, swapping the perspective.

140

00:30:20.800 --> 00:30:39.650

Ezra Romero / KQED: Yeah, I think so much of journalism can like have a white centered days, right like we have a story that, like centers, the white scientists and the white policy leaders. And then you have a community member. Three forces the way around. But I think like that should change, but not in every story, but many stories that can change where it's like

141

00:30:39.660 --> 00:30:42.990

Ezra Romero / KQED: the people who are impacted by the thing or the person of color.

142

00:30:43.000 --> 00:31:02.389

Ezra Romero / KQED: And let's not explain their lives like let's have other people of color who are professionals who are doing this work. But listen more lived experiences also be the people who are, you know. Maybe maybe the scientists and things like that as well in the story as much as possible. And so, yeah, I just think there's a huge

143

00:31:02.400 --> 00:31:10.660

Ezra Romero / KQED: way to grow in the way in journalism, and that that's what kind of what I want to do in mind is like Center The people who are going through the thing

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00:31:10.710 --> 00:31:11.990

Ezra Romero / KQED: and like

145

00:31:12.480 --> 00:31:26.910

Ezra Romero / KQED: send to them in that way, because it get the stories about that. If there's a story about a white neighborhood and what's going on there like we're going to center that community, it's it's whoever the stories of that would center them in it. And to think about beforehand

146

00:31:27.050 --> 00:31:34.720

Ezra Romero / KQED: how we're going to tell that story and think about what we're going to do with it. But which journalists do. This is just like my gaze, and how i'm doing,

147

00:31:34.870 --> 00:31:36.190

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Mhm

148

00:31:36.250 --> 00:31:41.180

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): and it's very centered on community voices as opposed to kind of that expert

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00:31:41.230 --> 00:31:44.880

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): being dominated by the expert perspective.

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00:31:45.810 --> 00:32:03.719

Ezra Romero / KQED: Yeah, in some ways, I mean, I think there's a I think, some part of my journalism. What we're doing is we're seeing the community members also as experts like the

community members, have the lived experience. Maybe they don't have like the college degree, but they have the lived experience they have. They've educated themselves about it like

151

00:32:03.730 --> 00:32:19.770

Ezra Romero / KQED: people like Arian and Miss Terry Harrison and Um, the smarter Gordon in West Oakland. They have spent decades thinking about these issues and have more lived experience. They've like home databases. They have this like larger understanding that perhaps other

152

00:32:20.040 --> 00:32:29.019

Ezra Romero / KQED: like professors and people don't have. So we're i'm trying to. We're trying to like, See them as experts and give them the leverage of who who they are, and what they are,

153

00:32:30.440 --> 00:32:44.209

Arieann Harrison: and this is really to really get ready to um to to cross-reference. Your information, because sometimes the professionals get in the room, and they're not. They're they're That means you got to compute you comparative information

154

00:32:44.490 --> 00:33:03.600

Arieann Harrison: to what the uh companies are seeing and what the community is actually experiencing. And sometimes it's not. It's not okay just to do surface level investigating. That means, I'm: listening to this professional, this, this really their job is to protect the in they. The industries are the companies that are

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00:33:03.670 --> 00:33:13.640

Arieann Harrison: doing the most harm in most cases, and not in all cases, but in some cases. So we. So I know that we're fighting hard to change that in that that narrative

156

00:33:13.650 --> 00:33:26.819

Arieann Harrison: to actually um support, you know, support those that are in charge charge with the information that we have, and also bring to the meetings and bring them from behind their desk into the community, so they can see what's actually happening themselves

157

00:33:27.820 --> 00:33:46.560

Ezra Romero / KQED: like when telling a human centered climate change story story. That's a I think. Sometimes climate stories focus on other parts and not the people who are affected. So we're trying to try and tell the stories about people, and if we're in terms of that, people, let's include the people who are most affected in this way.

158

00:33:46.820 --> 00:33:47.810

Yeah,

159

00:33:48.400 --> 00:34:06.260

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Lauren, you sort of broadened your scope since you moved to Npr. Now you can. Now you report sometimes on national or international stories, and i'm curious to hear. Um, you know, are there? Are there things that you're starting to cover in other areas that you think the bay area should be thinking about

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00:34:06.300 --> 00:34:09.649

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): as it's constructing its own response to sea level rise,

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00:34:12.460 --> 00:34:14.879

Lauren Sommer / NPR: I mean, I think it's.

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00:34:16.130 --> 00:34:28.080

Lauren Sommer / NPR: I think it's still easy for anyone to look at a disaster happening somewhere else, and feel like Well, it's not going to happen here. It's like we don't get hurricanes in the bay area. Right? Um, but I, you know,

163

00:34:28.179 --> 00:34:33.259

Lauren Sommer / NPR: been a journalist in California. My whole career, like I've covered floods

164

00:34:33.370 --> 00:34:46.969

Lauren Sommer / NPR: to droughts. You know what I mean, like this stuff happens, and it's not fifty years down the line. So I think that is an instinct that's really hard to overcome, right, which is like, Well, you know, of course it happens in Florida,

165

00:34:46.980 --> 00:35:05.209

Lauren Sommer / NPR: you know. It's not us, though, like it's not gonna um, you know, when really like, there's plenty of there. We live, and you know we'll be tested in terms of how prepared we are. Um, you know, especially communities that don't have the resources and time to like. Do that planning. Um.

166

00:35:05.370 --> 00:35:24.649

Lauren Sommer / NPR: So yeah, I I I think I really enjoyed that about this drop is that I can kind of see these conversations happening all over the country, and in some places they're ahead, you

know. In some places they're talking about moving people out of the way, I mean for free buyouts. Um, they're having those conversations. So

167

00:35:24.660 --> 00:35:30.489

Lauren Sommer / NPR: you know, it's going to keep trickling around to the coastal community. It's kind of a question of when and

168

00:35:30.510 --> 00:35:31.459

Lauren Sommer / NPR: um,

169

00:35:31.840 --> 00:35:38.630

Lauren Sommer / NPR: yeah, I think like What lessons can we take from from this place having to go through it? Now, I think that's what I really like about the job,

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00:35:40.500 --> 00:35:49.199

Arieann Harrison: and you want to ask a question.

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00:35:49.210 --> 00:36:08.819

Arieann Harrison: I'm just right. I'm not. You know. I just want to say, Thank you guys, for your faces with me, because this is my first time doing this, and i'm really stuck about it going. Well, I was curious. Um as well. If we can kind of hear what you've learned about how to craft a story on sea level rise that connects with people and stays with them.

172

00:36:10.340 --> 00:36:11.730

Um, I guess

173

00:36:12.840 --> 00:36:22.569

Ezra Romero / KQED: what i'm doing is like. I'm just talking to a lot of people like a lot of community members. And I think what ends up in the story. I'm like looking for those moments that like

174

00:36:23.350 --> 00:36:25.340

Ezra Romero / KQED: turn to motion in me

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00:36:25.380 --> 00:36:26.390

Ezra Romero / KQED: like

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00:36:26.460 --> 00:36:41.929

Ezra Romero / KQED: are in Harrison when we, when you and I talked for for those hours of you know, when I we did those interviews like you talked about your mother, and like this relationship you had with you had with her, and like how you took on her calling. And there's just like

177

00:36:41.940 --> 00:36:48.909

Ezra Romero / KQED: moment in your life that happened, and you real. And then you realized, sure, like later, that climate change was part of that. I thought like

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00:36:48.920 --> 00:37:13.890

Ezra Romero / KQED: That was an important moment to put into a story because it like showed intent. It shows, like the heart of the community. It showed you. It showed your vulnerability. It showed beauty. It showed like all these things. And so I think that's what i'm looking for in a story around sea level riser, any story that's community centered is to like. Put the person's humanity in there, because right at the end of the day we care about climate change because it's affecting our lives.

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00:37:13.900 --> 00:37:19.570

Ezra Romero / KQED: It's affecting the lives of people. And um, let's talk about those people in a way that

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00:37:19.860 --> 00:37:33.319

Ezra Romero / KQED: that humanizes another person versus like a quote in a story. So that's what I'm looking for in stories is to like. Have like them be represented in a way that's beautiful, and not just a way that's like um

181

00:37:33.330 --> 00:37:50.979

Ezra Romero / KQED: taking away from them. I'm like I'm going to get this from you and put it in the story. I want to like. Commune with the person, have a relationship with them in those moments, and bring the essence of that into the story. So then you have a story that moves you and maybe make you cry. That made me cry an interview that like

182

00:37:51.020 --> 00:37:57.930

Ezra Romero / KQED: because we were real humans interviewing other real humans and then talking about the future as real humans. And so

183

00:37:58.360 --> 00:37:59.229

at my

184

00:38:03.690 --> 00:38:23.250

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Lauren. A lot of the people listening today are people that work on sea level rise. Um, But you know you serve this sort of unique role um of being a storyteller about sea level rise, and how? What sort of the wisdom you'd pass on about how to tell stories about sea level rise that uh people will listen to and care about.

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00:38:24.920 --> 00:38:26.910

Lauren Sommer / NPR: Yeah, boy, If I

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00:38:26.960 --> 00:38:39.549

Lauren Sommer / NPR: some of that one, my job would be so easy. I think a lot of people do. Listen to your story. That's one hundred and eight years. Um, yeah, no. I think what as we said is right on. I like that,

187

00:38:39.560 --> 00:38:51.680

Lauren Sommer / NPR: you know, as an approach. I know we talked about a K. Three dates, and we we talk about M. Pr. Like This is about people making choices right now, and real people and um! It's not two thousand and fifty. It's not two thousand one hundred like.

188

00:38:52.550 --> 00:39:09.760

Lauren Sommer / NPR: Sometimes they're not connecting the dots about decisions that are made every single day, and they are climate decisions. Um: And then the people. Yeah, it sense for a sense like this is about real people having to to figure this out in their communities without time and resources, and they're busy and like

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00:39:09.770 --> 00:39:17.290

Lauren Sommer / NPR: they're stress. They've got lots going on in their light like they're dealing with lots of other pressures. And this is kind of that added layer

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00:39:17.370 --> 00:39:28.280

Lauren Sommer / NPR: where to say, like what's plan for two thousand and fifty like That's that's really hard. So I don't know, I think, for me it's about the decision making that tap. I'm always looking for those those moments where

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00:39:28.410 --> 00:39:35.889

Lauren Sommer / NPR: you know we can show It's not a report about what's gonna happen in twenty, one hundred and this many seats,

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00:39:35.930 --> 00:39:47.329

Lauren Sommer / NPR: and we've science as this. Now it's about like the City Council meeting is actually about climate change, but nobody saying it out loud. You know, I think, that those are the moments that i'm looking for, because those are happening constantly,

193

00:39:47.410 --> 00:40:06.570

Lauren Sommer / NPR: and those are, You know, our building decisions. Those are the social support networks we have. Those are, you know, health decisions, people you know, access that they have for those types of things. Um, you know. I think that's that's the kind of thing i'm hunting for, and then it does have a more immediacy and emotional resonance. As for, was saying like, these are really,

194

00:40:06.580 --> 00:40:16.719

Lauren Sommer / NPR: and that's I think our job as i'm a journalist is to say, like this: Isn't just an old report sitting on someone's shelf like this is someone's life right now.

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00:40:19.810 --> 00:40:24.960

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Yeah, I think that's a lesson that a lot of us can take from journalists is um

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00:40:25.090 --> 00:40:26.409

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): how to treat

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00:40:26.510 --> 00:40:35.960

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): uh the stories of people who are actually experiencing these problems as um as an important part of the story, and not, you know, not marginalize that

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00:40:36.060 --> 00:40:37.339

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): um

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00:40:37.830 --> 00:40:49.950

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): which I know is a hard habit to break for those of us who kind of tend to focus on the numbers and the graphics, and so on. Um is remembering that the the narratives and the stories that people have to tell. It's just as important.

200

00:40:50.590 --> 00:41:09.460

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Um, We have a lot of questions in the Q. A. Panel, so I want to turn um our attention to those. Um. I think one interesting question here: Are there any State led efforts to coordinate either sea level, rise, projects, or land use permitting to reduce new development. That might be at risk any thoughts on that from either one of you.

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00:41:10.590 --> 00:41:13.009

Ezra Romero / KQED: There is, like the San Francisco,

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00:41:13.050 --> 00:41:29.960

Ezra Romero / KQED: the B. C. Dc. Right. They are a state agency that has that. They're regulating the first one hundred feet of the shoreline, and they've been joined platform where they're thinking about this, and that's when I was alluding to earlier. That's like It's a volunteer venture where they are asking

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00:41:29.970 --> 00:41:36.509

Ezra Romero / KQED: to fill all these roles. And so they're they're at another state. There's like the Coastal Commission, and um,

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00:41:37.560 --> 00:41:39.409

Ezra Romero / KQED: maybe it's something

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00:41:43.710 --> 00:41:48.700

Lauren Sommer / NPR: but one giant agency that's in charge of all the the responses across the State.

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00:41:48.980 --> 00:41:53.240

Lauren Sommer / NPR: If that's for someone, please. Time in on the chat.

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00:41:56.200 --> 00:41:58.880

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Yeah, it's definitely um

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00:41:59.430 --> 00:42:07.020

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): uh, It's a complicated setting, like I just saying, and everybody has authority over different parts of it at this point.

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00:42:07.970 --> 00:42:16.600

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Uh, we have a question here. It's very similar here, I think, in spirit to that last one. Um! So why do you think that the Governor and Jared Blumenhall,

210

00:42:17.340 --> 00:42:36.930

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): mit Ctl. And formerly had actually of the State's Department of Environmental Protection? I think he just resigned or announced. He's about to resign. But anyway, him or his successor, why aren't they directing, and the Department of Toxic Substance control, and the water board to protect new housing areas and existing buildings from rising groundwater and contaminants, one hundred and fifty.

211

00:42:36.990 --> 00:42:48.130

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Our regional water board has said they'll consider it in the San Francisco Bay area. But there's been no clear commitments coming from the head of those agencies. Um! Can these State leaders be held to account?

212

00:42:51.960 --> 00:43:09.230

Ezra Romero / KQED: I'm not exactly sure why they are not. But I am in contact with these agencies. A lot like I just was getting text from a press person from Dts. Earlier today, after hearing this is from the question from Dr. Christina. Hell, you know, at U. Berkeley. He was on a call with us yesterday at Kqd. Um.

213

00:43:09.240 --> 00:43:16.959

Ezra Romero / KQED: They heard that, and then they're responding to us and say they want to maybe start doing something about this, or have a conversation or something like that. So I think

214

00:43:17.120 --> 00:43:36.160

Ezra Romero / KQED: part of this. It's some of this is new. These things are new. They're people are barely thinking about them. They have arisen to that level. There, Hasn't, been foresight in that way. And so some of these things are happening right now in real time. Um! And some of these solutions are going on now, even though other people have been talking about them for a long time.

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00:43:36.960 --> 00:43:42.700

Lauren Sommer / NPR: I do think that like it's I mean, I hi Christina, I know you keep raising it so keep raising it like this is,

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00:43:42.930 --> 00:43:47.110

Lauren Sommer / NPR: we tend to think of protections and levies and sea walls as being the

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00:43:47.180 --> 00:43:49.370

Lauren Sommer / NPR: you know. That'll do it. And I know

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00:43:49.390 --> 00:43:59.040

Lauren Sommer / NPR: different cities are doing really good analysis or trying to get there about like what's the groundwater that it do. But I I come across that a lot, even from people who are in official positions of like.

219

00:43:59.250 --> 00:44:01.069

Well, we're going to build a levy.

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00:44:01.180 --> 00:44:02.839

Lauren Sommer / NPR: So it should be okay.

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00:44:02.870 --> 00:44:05.419

Lauren Sommer / NPR: Let me know in some places that's that's not the case.

222

00:44:06.160 --> 00:44:16.950

Ezra Romero / KQED: Yeah, I think there's a lack of understanding what's actually going on in my reporting on this like groundwater stuff this summer and talking to agencies and people. There are people thinking about this,

223

00:44:16.960 --> 00:44:36.240

Ezra Romero / KQED: but it seems like the change that understanding is a long, slow process. I did talk to the water, but the San Francisco Bay water board this summer, and they were saying that they've actually turned down some um of these toxic sites that where they've cleaned it up to a certain level, and they've turned them down saying that you can. You can be

224

00:44:36.250 --> 00:44:46.580

Ezra Romero / KQED: like build here now, because of the new of new sea level rise models, and they want it to be clean it to a further standard. So I think there is change happening. It's just slow,

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00:44:50.310 --> 00:44:56.740

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): absolutely, and I think, um! It's that people are definitely slow to grasp that. Um

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00:44:56.770 --> 00:45:03.640

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): uh that. The way we've been thinking about sea level rise has to change yet again. Um! And uh,

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00:45:03.810 --> 00:45:15.010

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): and that process of the science changing, and then that trickling down through plans and through regulations is, it's definitely a slow one for sure.

228

00:45:15.230 --> 00:45:24.320

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Um, And we're in kind of this funny, funny place, I think, with groundwater rise where the science has emerged. But it hasn't really percolated through all the regulatory agencies. Yet

229

00:45:25.170 --> 00:45:44.690

Arieann Harrison: I I would agree with you, I i'm just you know, as a person that's on the ground and stuff, and I don't the ground allergy would have boots on around this. What I mean with you know we're getting uh information, you know, pertinent information and education to uh city resident members about what's actually happening in the community. And and why um

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00:45:44.700 --> 00:46:03.600

Arieann Harrison: people are experiencing certain sicknesses that astronomical uh rate is also we have from our stand stands. We don't have have the patience for the we have to really wait for them to figure it out. You know it's just It's that you said. The process is long, and

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00:46:03.610 --> 00:46:06.979

Arieann Harrison: that's just how it is, and we already know that.

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00:46:07.070 --> 00:46:21.550

Arieann Harrison: But with us it's like It's a a sense of of a urgency within us, because we've experienced so much so um uh, so much that negative um and negative impacts of things things for so long.

233

00:46:21.860 --> 00:46:31.820

Arieann Harrison: And um, we don't, you know. It's hard for us to determine our understand why the why the process is so it's so slow, incredibly slow.

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00:46:32.070 --> 00:46:37.199

Arieann Harrison: Yeah. So so that it that sometimes it appears to your average person. It's non-existent.

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00:46:37.900 --> 00:46:38.899

Yeah,

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00:46:39.720 --> 00:46:51.179

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): for sure. Well sort of along those lines. Um, we have a question here in the Q. A. Um about um. If either one of you can comment on how climate change is influencing immigration.

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00:46:51.560 --> 00:47:10.509

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Um! And the the lack of compassion our Government has towards those migrating from our Southern border and the Caribbean Um, I think what they're getting at is the fact that um so many people coming from Latin America and from the Caribbean at this point. Um are being impacted directly by climate change, and that's part of the reason why they're migrating

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00:47:10.520 --> 00:47:18.509

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): um to the United States. Do you have any sort of thoughts on on immigration and climate change in our response to it?

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00:47:23.760 --> 00:47:37.239

Ezra Romero / KQED: I don't really have an answer to that. I don't I haven't really done that well. But I mean I've read stories that that is happening, and also Fred stores the people not coming, not integrating here and immigrating other places because of our current government and policies.

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00:47:38.000 --> 00:47:39.160

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Really,

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00:47:40.040 --> 00:47:45.399

Ezra Romero / KQED: I think there's there's some story. Well, there's stories like, just on the past couple of weeks about

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00:47:45.430 --> 00:47:47.220
Ezra Romero / KQED: people

243

00:47:47.250 --> 00:47:59.620

Ezra Romero / KQED: to the United States, because not sure if they can actually have a good life here, because, like they're reaching so much resistance, even getting here. And then there's people people may know here are having a hard time.

244

00:47:59.630 --> 00:48:07.459

Ezra Romero / KQED: Um, for I think a lot of the American interviews are real to a lot of people, and I think that message is clear to people that their countries at times,

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00:48:09.210 --> 00:48:11.459

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Lauren, any thoughts about that

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00:48:11.660 --> 00:48:27.789

Lauren Sommer / NPR: about immigration, and how it's influencing or sorry. How climate change is influencing immigration. Uh well, that's like someone's thesis right? Uh: I think like what to me an issue that's kind of interesting is is like,

247

00:48:27.800 --> 00:48:38.259

Lauren Sommer / NPR: Do we call people climate refugees when we call them climate refugees? Does that change? How our government deals with people like that. I think that is a space that's really changing rapidly

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00:48:38.340 --> 00:48:41.280

Lauren Sommer / NPR: and given just how many disasters

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00:48:41.810 --> 00:48:52.269

Lauren Sommer / NPR: you know. It's just like It's steady from heat at this point. So yeah, I I I think that's shifting. It's kind of just to see how that does change if we're linking those things more closely.

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00:48:56.460 --> 00:49:00.340

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Ariana, Do you want to ask any of the questions sitting there in the Q. A. Panel?

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00:49:00.670 --> 00:49:08.439

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Yes, I'm. Trying to connect with it. Okay, I'll give you a second. Let me know. Let me know when you want to jump in,

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00:49:11.360 --> 00:49:17.520

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): so i'll go ahead and ask this question. You just you just chime in once you've got the Q. A. Working for you.

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00:49:17.620 --> 00:49:32.780

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Um. So we have a a question here. Um has um Has either one of you thought about doing a report on the oraloma horizontal levy. Um! It's a really interesting test case uh for filtering water entering the bay and cleaning it. Um!

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00:49:33.400 --> 00:49:40.359

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Has either one of you covered the the horizontal levy at, or Loma in the Hayward area, or any thoughts on covering that

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00:49:42.450 --> 00:49:49.590

Ezra Romero / KQED: I have not covered it. Um, but I've done other stories with horizontal levies in them, and there's There's both

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00:49:49.650 --> 00:50:00.840

Ezra Romero / KQED: questions about whether they work or not. Um depending on how much sea level rise there is, and you know they only work for a certain level. Um things like that. Let me maybe learn it.

257

00:50:01.280 --> 00:50:04.039

Lauren Sommer / NPR: I the same I've covered. I haven't been to that one? I know it's really cool

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00:50:04.180 --> 00:50:18.299

Lauren Sommer / NPR: to see um. But yeah, I think I think it's really like obviously not building concrete is a really important thing for us as journalists to be showing people what are the options? Um. And I think

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00:50:18.740 --> 00:50:34.570

Lauren Sommer / NPR: you know, the question of space is a really important one like, How can we get the space we need if we do want to do greater solutions right? Because the horos on a

levy isn't quite the same as this, you all in terms of how much real estate it means. And and I think one of the things that honestly got me interested in in

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00:50:34.580 --> 00:50:44.919

Lauren Sommer / NPR: it's covering both Sunnyvale and Google, and then Facebook and and and then we'll talk in this. Colorado is the South, based off on Restoration project, because I was always curious

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00:50:45.320 --> 00:50:49.299

Lauren Sommer / NPR: how much integration was happening with those coastal communities,

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00:50:49.780 --> 00:51:04.170

Lauren Sommer / NPR: and how those that restoration was going to be part of a larger solution um to kind of see level rise in general. Um, and that's kind of what's sparking, even just looking into it. In the first place, because it it did seem like things were happening kind of each on their own.

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00:51:07.720 --> 00:51:22.290

Arieann Harrison: So i'm looking at the chat. I can't see anyone, but I want to ask the question. Anyway, i'm gonna take the shot. Sorry. And uh, somebody put in a question to say, cities cities are encouraging development along the bay edge in order to get the development money

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00:51:22.390 --> 00:51:33.210

Arieann Harrison: to maybe raise, and for infrastructure, and even build sections of Liberty and Bernie Sanding down in a redwood city. How do we get away from this approach.

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00:51:35.000 --> 00:51:41.439

Lauren Sommer / NPR: Good question, Or do we want to, right? We even do. We want to? Yeah.

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00:51:41.470 --> 00:51:49.060

Lauren Sommer / NPR: Um, I think that's a really interesting thing that's playing down Sunnyville right now. Um, because you have

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00:51:49.810 --> 00:52:07.349

Lauren Sommer / NPR: Google buying a ton of parcels right there in Moffat Park right on the shoreline. They want to build a very green campus with housing with green space the kind of

thing that cities are really looking for right now, like housing with walkable neighborhoods and affordable housing. Um! It is

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00:52:07.360 --> 00:52:17.180

Lauren Sommer / NPR: very much in a zone that's expected to be inundated by sea level rise. And so there's a real debate that's been happening in that community of like. Should we put housing there when there's no housing there right now?

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00:52:17.410 --> 00:52:28.070

Lauren Sommer / NPR: But if we do allow a development, maybe we'll get the resources for some very expensive projects. We know we're coming our way to protect the shoreline. But um,

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00:52:28.460 --> 00:52:34.369

Lauren Sommer / NPR: yeah, I think I think that is a huge story. Um! Because what's the model?

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00:52:34.920 --> 00:52:43.999

Lauren Sommer / NPR: If you don't do that, Are you relying on Federal money? You know. I I mean like I think each region is having to tease out like, How do we actually see things together right now?

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00:52:45.810 --> 00:52:51.079

Arieann Harrison: Yeah, that is that you know that that piece right? There is very interesting, because

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00:52:51.930 --> 00:53:05.000

Arieann Harrison: cause you know we're we're just It's like we're we're in baby. We're just like one of the last places that I guess they they feel that they can build, and um, you know, and they they have some really uh,

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00:53:05.010 --> 00:53:20.640

Arieann Harrison: you know, beautiful plans, you know we want. We want a beautiful space to live in, and but it all is that I mean, i'll try it as a great, but we can't have a dress up mess. That's my only uh piece with that is that you know it's like, Okay, Um,

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00:53:20.650 --> 00:53:48.559

Arieann Harrison: really, really, really, development has never been our friend. But you know, because a lot of people get this place. However. Um for us that are there we've been advocating. We're advocates like a catch twenty-two We've been advocating for for green space and different

stuff, and one end, and all these different initiatives. But then we it's kind of like. If you I feel okay for lack of better words, I feel like they had all of these years

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00:53:48.870 --> 00:54:04.500

Arieann Harrison: to do the right thing and do it right. Right. You know our company is close to right. It probably would have been more cost effective to to clean up as much of that toxic chemical way as they possibly could, and if they, you know, and if their suggestions were

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00:54:04.510 --> 00:54:15.199

Arieann Harrison: like the ones that we have. Now, then, they would know that these these certain things are are inevitable to happen so. And um, it puts me in a position to feel,

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00:54:15.940 --> 00:54:27.910

Arieann Harrison: to feel conflicted, and and also feel bad in a way that that when something does happen, you know just um when something does occur we might not be able to come back from that.

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00:54:27.920 --> 00:54:41.039

Arieann Harrison: What's going on in Is it going to affect this? All Just all the shirline communities in the rest of San Francisco and some of the the Uh. The The beautification plans can go directly out the window,

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00:54:41.050 --> 00:54:49.769

Arieann Harrison: and I think they need to be more mindful of how they're how they're constructing, and how they're building. If they can't you know if they for these plans, it's just

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00:54:50.530 --> 00:55:10.300

Arieann Harrison: Oh, my God! I don't even I don't. I just don't even know how to explain it. You know, when the construction companies come in they don't respect the communities that they're in. So they're stirring up that dirt. And there's wind tunnels in in this silica based isotopes and different things that I just creating. They can cancer in the respiratory line of these, and it's really making it tenfold, you know.

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00:55:10.710 --> 00:55:34.700

Arieann Harrison: So that's the thing. And I think somebody had brought up something about the uh about creating new laws and stuff like that. I'm. Currently sitting, you know, getting ready to participate in the ad hoc group and all that stuff to work on law. So we something I'm very interested in. But I also know that California in in general has great great um environmental laws and environmental laws. With The

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00:55:34.710 --> 00:55:47.600

Arieann Harrison: The biggest problem is why create more laws, and to we can get them to enforce the ones that they currently have. Enforcement has been a a barrier and a challenge, I think, for all of us, you know.

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00:55:49.660 --> 00:56:04.909

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Yeah, absolutely as there's a kind of a interesting question here. Um, which is, how Do you even find people and community members impacted by sea level rise when it isn't even happening yet, or it hasn't happened to any substantial extent yet?

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00:56:05.590 --> 00:56:13.769

Ezra Romero / KQED: Yeah, I The way I am looking at it is like I There's just so many groups around the bay. People advocacy groups

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00:56:13.780 --> 00:56:30.520

Ezra Romero / KQED: um every week I hear from like a new community that reaches out and says, like we're experiencing, flooding, and xyz in this place around the bay we're dealing with this already existing issue, And these groups are thinking about sea level rise because they live on the remember the bay. And there's just

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00:56:30.530 --> 00:56:35.680

Ezra Romero / KQED: dozens of of these groups, and people who are thinking about it. And so I think

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00:56:35.840 --> 00:56:51.959

Ezra Romero / KQED: maybe the water isn't rushing in right now to West Oakland, or to maybe Hunter's Point, or anything like that. But these communities are preparing and thinking about it. Um! And so I think one for a in is like to think about the other issues around the bay,

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00:56:51.970 --> 00:56:56.339

Ezra Romero / KQED: and like, maybe talk to those groups. So the people who live in those communities, and

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00:56:56.370 --> 00:57:15.819

Ezra Romero / KQED: I bet you they're thinking about it. And there's a story within that, and usually I find that by like having relationship with the people, and like spending some time with them getting to know them, and then they bring it up. But this is part of it part of the issue.

Maybe it's not they. It's all of them. Just not like what they're thinking about the forefront of their mind right now. They're thinking about like

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00:57:15.830 --> 00:57:23.989

Ezra Romero / KQED: affordable housing. They're thinking about how to have clean streets. They're thinking about their kids and education, but they're thinking about the future as well.

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00:57:25.100 --> 00:57:28.610

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Lauren, did you want to weigh in on that? How do you find people

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00:57:28.790 --> 00:57:44.249

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): to give personal stories about sea level rise when it hasn't really started happening uh to any any really serious extent yet. Or the perhaps that's that's the wrong choice of words. But it's. You know It's It's sort of a The worst impacts are still a couple of decades off.

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00:57:44.570 --> 00:57:45.609

Oh, there it is.

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00:57:45.800 --> 00:57:50.370

Lauren Sommer / NPR: Yeah, yeah. And I think what what that is exactly right, and I think

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00:57:51.460 --> 00:58:05.560

Lauren Sommer / NPR: we need to be connecting more with our building decisions and and communities, no matter what you need. You are. You care about what the team looks like now, and it's going to look like in the future, and people live there. Can they afford to live there, and they have their lives there like

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00:58:05.750 --> 00:58:19.409

Lauren Sommer / NPR: those are huge questions that everybody thinks about. We just don't often like club sea level rise into it quite enough. Um. So it's not that we don't have opportunities to talk about sea level rise or no one's thinking about it. It's just that it's wrapped into these larger discussions of what

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00:58:19.850 --> 00:58:26.700

Lauren Sommer / NPR: who lives here? We can keep living here. We can afford to live here. What do we need to put here? What do we not need to build here. Um,

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00:58:27.120 --> 00:58:30.599

Lauren Sommer / NPR: and it's all tied up kind of in those moments, and people do think about that.

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00:58:32.600 --> 00:58:41.569

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): So we are at time, unfortunately. Um, but it's been a really great discussion. I want to thank you and thank everybody for coming,

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00:58:42.940 --> 00:58:44.620

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): Harry on. Do you

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00:58:44.680 --> 00:58:47.359

have any last comments before we wrap up.

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00:58:47.380 --> 00:59:07.309

Arieann Harrison: No, I just want to say thank you guys, for having me in this space. Um! This is my first time doing this sort of thing right like this. So you know, Hope I did. They cool enough for everybody on there. I kind of struggle with the Q. And A. Thing. But you know, I think we need to have more of these conversations. I think that

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00:59:07.320 --> 00:59:23.839

Arieann Harrison: they are productive. I think it gives people not led to just to to share the concerns and say what's actually happening in their cities. And um just so grateful, eternally grateful for for Ezra and for um for Lauren for covering this stuff and this

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00:59:23.850 --> 00:59:43.740

Arieann Harrison: this this and all you guys, this for having me here to allow me to take this time to be a part protective part of this process. It's great, and I think that um, I think you're on the right track, as you know. Um, because we for a long time. We we feel very voiceless, and

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00:59:43.750 --> 00:59:46.810

Arieann Harrison: and it kinda kind of um People lose hope,

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00:59:47.540 --> 01:00:05.970

Arieann Harrison: and they feel like collateral damage in in all of this, you know. And um, I think that we have to do things so different collectively, is It's going to take all of us to to really Foster fosters into a um. You know a better living situation where we have

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01:00:05.980 --> 01:00:25.820

Arieann Harrison: things like clean Eric water and land. I don't think that's a a big tall as, but you know some circles it might be for us. Unfortunately, it seems like it is. Yes, Well, thanks, everybody for joining us today. Thanks for your audience. Um, we will be emailing out Um, connect uh,

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01:00:25.830 --> 01:00:34.779

Laura Feinstein (SPUR): uh, uh, When we post the video, we will email out a link to that. And um, thanks for joining us. Thank you, Ezra. Thank you, Lauren.

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01:00:35.110 --> 01:00:38.649

Ezra Romero / KQED: Thanks for having us.