

**METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Transcript**



JUNE 16, 2025

1           **CLIMATE CHANGE: IMPACTS ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

2                           **MONDAY, JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2025, 3:15 PM**

3

4

5

6   **MEGHAN WEIR:** OKAY, THANKS FOR THE TECH SUPPORT. I THINK WE  
7   HAVE A FULL HOUSE SO WE'LL GET STARTED. THANKS EVERYONE FOR  
8   JOINING. YOU ARE IN THE RIGHT ROOM FOR CLIMATE CHANGE: IMPACTS  
9   ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND WE NEEDED A FEW MINUTES TO  
10  MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING WAS PLUGGED IN. WE HAVE SEVERAL  
11  PRESENTERS OR PANELISTS THAT ARE JOINING US REMOTELY. I HOPE  
12  YOU HAVE A VIEW OF THE SCREEN AND WE'RE HAPPY TO SHIFT AROUND  
13  AS NEEDED TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYONE CAN SEE THE SCREEN AND  
14  THE CAPTIONS IF NEEDED. SO I AM GOING TO START WITH A REALLY  
15  BRIEF INTRODUCTION FOR SOME OF THE FACILITATOR TEAM AND SOME  
16  HOUSEKEEPING AND THEN WE WILL INTRODUCE THE PANELIST AND GET  
17  THE CONVERSATION STARTED. I'M MEGHAN WEIR, I'M A  
18  TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANT AT NELSON YGAARD, WE WORK OFTEN WITH  
19  MTC SO I'M HAPPY TO SUPPORT THIS EVENT. I AM JOINED BY SEVERAL  
20  OTHER FOLKS THAT ARE PART OF THIS BREAKOUT SESSION,  
21  FACILITATION TEAM. MAYBE WE WILL JUST GO THIS WAY AROUND THE  
22  ROOM.

23

24   **SPEAKER:** HELLO EVERYONE, I'M MAGGIE. I AM THE TIME KEEPER SO I  
25  WILL MAKE SURE WE ARE ON TIME.



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1

2 **MEGHAN WEIR:** GREAT, THANK YOU.

3

4 **SPEAKER:** I'M MARY, I WORK WITH NELSON YGAARD AND I'M HERE TO  
5 TAKE NOTES AND DOCUMENT ALL OF YOUR COMMENTS.

6

7 **SPEAKER:** I AM GOING TO BE MANAGING THE ZOOM Q&A.

8

9 **SPEAKER:** I'M CORINNE AND I'M HERE TO LISTEN.

10

11 **MEGHAN WEIR:** SO, QUITE A TEAM AND WE'RE ALSO SUPPORTED BY  
12 A.S.L. INTERPRETERS, THANK YOU SO MUCH TO OUR A.S.L. TEAM. AND  
13 REAL QUICK HOUSEKEEPING, SINCE IT'S THE AFTERNOON, YOU  
14 PROBABLY HEARD THIS ALREADY BUT THERE ARE RESTROOMS ON THE  
15 GROUND FLOOR, FIFTH, SIXTH, AND SEVENTH FLOORS. THERE ARE  
16 A.S.L. INTERPRETERS AND ALSO OTHER ASSISTANTS AVAILABLE  
17 THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE. WE HAVE A QUIET ROOM AROUND THE  
18 CORNER AND CLEARLY LABELED EMERGENCY EXITS AND STAFF CAN HELP  
19 WITH ALL OF THAT. WE ALSO HAVE NOTE CARDS HERE THAT ARE  
20 ALREADY SCATTERED AROUND THE ROOM AND THERE ARE MANY EXTRAS OF  
21 THESE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE COMMENTS WITHOUT SPEAKING UP,  
22 YOU ARE WELCOME TO ADD A NOTE TO A NOTE CARD AND THERE ARE  
23 STAFF HERE THAT CAN HELP MAKE SURE THOSE ARE WRITTEN DOWN. WE  
24 ALSO HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU TO RECORD A VIDEO IN THE HALL  
25 OUTSIDE. SO, I AM REPEATING WHAT YOU ALREADY HEARD AT THIS



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1 POINT, BUT THE POINT OF THIS CONFERENCE IS REALLY TO LISTEN  
2 AND LEARN AND HEAR FROM EVERYONE AND SO I WANTED TO ENCOURAGE  
3 YOU TO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES AND YOUR PERSPECTIVE.

4

5 **SPEAKER:** WHEN IS THE VIDEO THING OPEN TODAY?

6

7 **SPEAKER:** THE VIDEO BOOTH?

8

9 **SPEAKER:** IT'S OPEN.

10

11 **SPEAKER:** HOW LATE?

12

13 **SPEAKER:** IT SHOULD BE UNTIL 8:00. THE CONFERENCE IS GOING  
14 UNTIL 5:15 AND THEN THERE IS THE RECEPTION AFTERWARDS.

15

16 **MEGHAN WEIR:** SO AT LEAST UNTIL 5:00. ALL RIGHT, SO WE'RE GOING  
17 TO START WITH SOME BRIEF PRESENTATIONS FROM EACH OF OUR  
18 PANELISTS. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM EACH OF YOU FOR ABOUT FIVE  
19 MINUTES SO THAT THERE IS PLENTY OF TIME FOR DISCUSSION AND  
20 GATHERING PERSPECTIVES AND IF YOU ALL HAVE A SPECIFIC ORDER IN  
21 MIND, THEN I GUESS SPEAK UP AND LET ME KNOW. OTHERWISE, I WILL  
22 JUST PASS THINGS AROUND. IS THERE ANYONE WHO WAS NOT PLANNING  
23 TO GO FIRST IN THIS GROUP? WELL, WHY DON'T WE START WITH YOU  
24 JESS WHO IS RIGHT HERE IN THE ROOM. TELL US WHO YOU ARE AND  
25 YOUR ORGANIZATION.



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1

2 **SPEAKER:** OKAY, SO MY NAME IS GUESS AND I AM A COMMUNITY TASK  
3 FORCE VOLUNTEER. I'M CURRENTLY WORKING WITH THE WORLD  
4 INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY. I WANTED TO TALK TODAY ABOUT  
5 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AS A STRATEGY TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE  
6 FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. A FEW YEARS AGO, I EXPERIENCED  
7 MAJOR LIFE CHANGES, ALONGSIDE THE PANDEMIC AND CLIMATE  
8 EMERGENCIES AND I REALIZED THE NEED TO REASSESS AND REBUILD MY  
9 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN AND STRENGTHEN MY CONNECTION TO  
10 THE COMMUNITY AND OUR ABILITY TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER DURING  
11 EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS. THAT'S WHEN I DISCOVERED MY LOCAL  
12 CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING, OR THE C.I.L., WHICH HAD AN  
13 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM THAT THEY INVITED ME TO  
14 PARTICIPATE IN. THIS PROGRAM EDUCATES AND EMPOWERS PEOPLE WITH  
15 DISABILITIES AND OLDER ADULTS, ENCOURAGING THEM TO BRING THIS  
16 KNOWLEDGE BACK INTO THEIR COMMUNITIES. THROUGH THIS PROGRAM,  
17 AMBASSADORS CREATE PROJECTS THAT HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT AND THEY  
18 WILL TRACK THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN THE COMMUNITY. FOR MY  
19 PROJECT, I FOCUSED ON ENHANCING ACCESSIBILITY AND SAFETY FOR  
20 DISABLED PEOPLE AND OLDER ADULTS AND I CREATED A SURVEY TO  
21 UNDERSTAND WHAT MY COMMUNITY WAS STRUGGLING WITH AND HOW THEY  
22 COULD FEEL SAFER AND ONE SPECIFIC FOCUS WAS WHETHER ACCESS TO  
23 PORTABLE HEPA DEVICES WOULD IMPROVE THEIR SAFETY AND  
24 ACCESSIBILITY. AFTER GATHERING THE SURVEY RESPONSES, I SOURCED  
25 AND DISTRIBUTED PORTABLE HEPA AIR FILTERS AND DOCUMENTED THE



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1 FEEDBACK AND THE IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM AND I HAVE A LINK TO  
2 THAT IF ANYBODY WANTS TO SEE THAT. AFTER COMPLETING THAT  
3 PROGRAM, I WAS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN SEVERAL OTHER NEW  
4 OPPORTUNITIES SUCH AS AN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM WITH THE C.I.L.  
5 AND PEER AMBASSADOR TRAINER PROGRAM, WHERE I DEVELOPED A GUIDE  
6 OF DISCOVERING DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION NEEDS, DESIGNED TO  
7 HELP INDIVIDUALS UNDERSTAND AND COMMUNICATE THEIR  
8 ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS TO EMPLOYERS AND A STEP BY STEP GUIDE FOR  
9 THAT. ADDITIONALLY, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING WITH THE  
10 ASPR TASK FORCE, THE ADMINISTRATION FOR STRATEGIC PREPAREDNESS  
11 AND RESPONSE. THIS WORK FOCUSES ON PRIVATE EQUITY TASK,  
12 LOOKING AT THE INEQUITIES DURING DISASTERS AND IMPROVING  
13 STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR SEVERAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS.  
14 I WANTED TO COMMENT THAT IT BRINGS TOGETHER -- ONE SECOND.  
15 YEAH, IT BRINGS TOGETHER POLICYMAKERS, COMMUNITY LEADERS,  
16 GOVERNMENT AND, YOU KNOW, ALL TOGETHER TO ASSESS THESE CAUSES  
17 AND EVERYBODY HAS A VOICE, ALL THE STAKEHOLDERS HAVE A VOICE.  
18 MOST RECENTLY, I WAS INVITED TO SPEAK HERE AT THE ACCESSIBLE  
19 FUTURES CONFERENCE PANEL AND I PLAN TO GET INVOLVED WITH MY  
20 NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM OR NERT, WHICH IS ALSO  
21 SOMETHING THAT EVERYBODY HAS LOCALLY. SO, CONNECTING WITH MY  
22 COMMUNITY AND FINDING OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN  
23 DISCUSSING HOW WE NAVIGATE CLIMATE CRISIS, EMERGENCIES, AND  
24 EVERY DAY CHALLENGES HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY REWARDING AND WE'RE  
25 WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE AND IMPLEMENT PLANS THAT WILL



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1 IMPROVE OUR COLLECTIVE OUTCOMES BY LISTENING AND LEARNING FROM  
2 ONE ANOTHER AND INSPIRING ONE ANOTHER IN OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE A  
3 REAL DIFFERENCE. [APPLAUSE].

4

5 **MEGHAN WEIR:** THANK YOU, I AM GOING TO MOVE IT TO THE SCREEN  
6 HERE AND I'LL ASK YOU TO START DAWN BECAUSE SORRY, WE'RE  
7 GETTING CLOSE. DAWN, I KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE CONVENERS  
8 OF THIS GROUP OF PANELISTS SO I'LL PASS IT TO YOU.

9

10 **DAWN SKAGGS:** THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

11

12 **MEGHAN WEIR:** YOUR AUDIO IS VERY QUIET, IF YOU CAN GET CLOSER  
13 TO YOUR MICROPHONE THAT WOULD HELP.

14

15 **DAWN SKAGGS:** WELL, THAT WOULD GET MY FACE LARGER ON YOUR  
16 SCREEN, BUT WE'LL GIVE IT A SHOT. IS THAT ANY BETTER?

17

18 **SPEAKER:** CAN WE TURN IT UP HERE?

19

20 **MEGHAN WEIR:** OKAY, TRY AGAIN.

21

22 **DAWN SKAGGS:** OKAY.

23

24 **MEGHAN WEIR:** WE FIXED IT ON OUR END, THANK YOU.

25



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1 **DAWN SKAGGS:** OKAY. THANK YOU SO MUCH. IT IS SUCH A PLEASURE TO  
2 JOIN YOU. IT HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS PLEASURE TO SUPPORT THE  
3 EFFORT IN GENERAL. I AM GOING TO BE AS BRIEF AS I CAN. I AM  
4 NOT KNOWN FOR MY BREVITY, BUT I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE  
5 CONVERSATION TO FOLLOW. FOLLOWING UP ON WHAT JESS MODELED FOR  
6 US JUST NOW, WE REALLY ARE LOOKING AT HOW DO PEOPLE WITH  
7 DISABILITIES TAKE THE LEAD IN THE CONVERSATION AROUND CLIMATE  
8 CHANGE AND CLIMATE JUSTICE? BECAUSE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
9 REALLY LIVE AT THE APEX OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS. THEY ARE  
10 DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED IN THE HIGH RISK AND THREAT  
11 GEOGRAPHIES, IN COMMUNITIES AND POPULATIONS THAT HAVE MORE  
12 DIFFICULTY ASSESSING ACCREDITABLE HEALTH RESOURCES AND OTHER  
13 RELATED THINGS THAT HAVE A RIPPLE EFFECT. SIMULTANEOUSLY,  
14 EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE EMERGENCY OF EXTREME HEAT AND COLD,  
15 CLIMATE GENERATED FIRES, AIR AND WATER QUALITY DEGENERATION,  
16 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, FOOD DESERTS, AND AVAILABLE  
17 HEALTH CARE IS CONSISTENTLY NOT INCLUDING THE VOICES OF PEOPLE  
18 WITH DISABILITIES WHO HAVE SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE, BOTH IN  
19 IDENTIFYING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND IN GENERATING  
20 INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE SOLUTIONS. ONE OF THE MOST UNTAPPED  
21 RESOURCES IN OUR COMMUNITIES I BELIEVE IS THE DISABILITY  
22 COMMUNITY. THEY ARE PROBLEM SOLVERS AND INNOVATORS ON A DAILY  
23 BASIS. SO, IF WE'RE LOOKING FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE, WE NEED TO  
24 BE CENTERING THE VOICES OF PEOPLE WHO ARE BEING RESILIENT AND  
25 BEING INNOVATIVE EVERY DAY. SO, WHEN WE WANT TO DO A PLAN FOR



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1 INCLUSIVE CLIMATE JUSTICE, IT'S ACHIEVED THROUGH THAT  
2 INCLUSION FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. ONE OF THE CHALLENGES THAT  
3 WE OBSERVE OFTEN IS CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN CITY PLANNING AND  
4 PUBLIC INFORMATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND ALL OF THE TYPES OF  
5 PROGRAMS THAT WE DEVELOP TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITIES ARE DONE  
6 AND THEN WE BRING IN THE DISABILITY VOICE TO MAKE IT  
7 ACCESSIBLE, IS A TERM WE ARE OFTEN ASKED TO DO ON THE WORLD  
8 INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY. CAN YOU TAKE THIS PROGRAM OR TAKE  
9 THIS SERVICE AND TELL US WHAT WE NEED TO DO TO MAKE IT  
10 ACCESSIBLE RATHER WE NEED TO BE LOOKING AT HOW DO WE START  
11 WITH ACCESSIBILITY AND DESIGN WITH UNIVERSAL ACCESS IN MIND?  
12 IN ORDER TO DO THAT, THOSE VOICES HAVE TO BE AT THE TABLE FROM  
13 THE VERY FIRST CONVERSATION. WE SEE A LOT IN THE MEDIA, ISSUES  
14 AROUND CLIMATE DISASTERS. REALLY, THOSE ARE JUST THE  
15 HIGHLIGHTS, THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG. WHAT WE NEED TO BE LOOKING  
16 AT IS HOW DO WE INTEGRATE DISABILITY INCLUSION AND  
17 ACCESSIBILITY INTO THESE CONVERSATIONS BEFORE WE GET TO THOSE  
18 HIGHLIGHT EVENTS. ONE EXAMPLE OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO THIS  
19 THAT I WANTED TO HIGHLIGHT TODAY BECAUSE OF SOME OF OUR  
20 PREVIOUS WORK IN THE AREA IS RESILIENCE HUBS. YOUR GEOGRAPHIC  
21 AREA, THE BAY AREA IS ACTUALLY VERY FAR AHEAD OF THE VAST  
22 MAJORITY OF COMMUNITIES IN BUILDING RESILIENCE HUBS, IN BEING  
23 AWARE THAT THOSE KINDS OF RESOURCES NEED TO BE BUILT AND  
24 INTEGRATED INTO DAILY LIVING. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE WERE  
25 WORKING WITH SEVERAL PEOPLE IN THE AREA TO DO IS HOW DO WE



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1 INTEGRATE DISABILITY INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY INTO THE  
2 DEVELOPMENT OF THOSE RESILIENCE HUBS FROM THE ONSET, FROM  
3 THOSE FIRST CONVERSATIONS? HOW DO WE MAKE SURE THAT THEY'RE  
4 LOCATED CLOSE TO OR ON ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
5 ROUTES, ROUTES THAT HAVE SHELTERED STOPS. SO, THE PERSON WHO  
6 IS TRYING TO GET TO THE RESILIENCE HUB BECAUSE OF THE HEAT  
7 ISN'T STANDING IN THE HEAT OR SITTING IN THE HEAT WAITING TO  
8 GET THERE, THAT THE STAFFING, THE TRANSPORTATION STAFF ARE ALL  
9 KNOWLEDGEABLE AND ABLE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE, THAT ALL OF THE  
10 ACCOMMODATIONS CONVERSATIONS ARE NAVIGABLE. A LOT OF DIFFERENT  
11 FEATURES THAT CAN SEEM VERY INTIMIDATING BUT ARE REALLY A  
12 STATE OF MIND AND A STRATEGY FOR COMMUNICATION, A STRATEGY FOR  
13 GETTING THE JOB DONE, THAT REALLY NEEDS TO BE FOR THE LAST AND  
14 FINAL TIME IN MY FIVE MINUTES, INTEGRATED FROM THE VERY FIRST  
15 CONVERSATION. WE CAN'T LAYER ON ACCESSIBILITY. WE CAN'T ADD IN  
16 INCLUSION. WE HAVE TO BE DOING THAT AS A WAY THAT WE FUNCTION  
17 ON A DAILY BASIS, IF WE WANT TO APPROACH CLIMATE JUSTICE AND  
18 BUILDING COMMUNITIES THAT ARE TRULY WHOLE COMMUNITY RESILIENT.  
19 I AM GOING TO STOP THERE BECAUSE I HOPE I HAVE MAYBE PINGED A  
20 SPARK SOMEWHERE IN SOMEONE THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO TALK ABOUT  
21 IT AFTERWARDS AND I'LL TURN IT OVER TO THE NEXT PANELIST.  
22 THANK YOU.

23

24 **MEGHAN WEIR:** I SAW A HAND GO UP, BUT I WANT TO SAY WE'RE GOING  
25 TO GET THROUGH ALL THE PANELISTS CONVERSATIONS BEFORE WE OPEN



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1 IT UP FOR DISCUSSION. ALINA, I THINK YOU HAVE SCREEN SHARING  
2 ABILITY. SO WE ARE GOING TO TRY TO SHARE YOUR VIDEO AND ONE OF  
3 THE SOLUTIONS THAT WE CAME UP WITH IN THE ROOM HERE IS THAT IF  
4 YOU SHARE IT WITHOUT SOUND BECAUSE THERE ARE CAPTIONS, WE CAN  
5 READ THE CAPTIONS AND SO EVERYONE WHO RELIES ON AUDIO  
6 COMMUNICATION CAN HEAR THE READING IN THE ROOM HERE AND OTHER  
7 FOLKS CAN ALSO READ THE CAPTIONS, IF THAT'S EASIER.

8

9 **ALINA ENGELMAN:** YEAH, I THINK THE RIGHT IDEA. I AM HONORED TO  
10 BE HERE IN FRONT OF AN IMPRESSIVE PANEL. I WANT TO SHOW A  
11 VIDEO OF A PANEL THAT WAS ON 2022 ON HEALTH. GIVE ME A MOMENT  
12 TO SHARE MY SCREEN.

13

14 **MEGHAN WEIR:** WONDERFUL, THANK YOU.

15

16 **SPEAKER:** I DON'T KNOW WHO'S HAND WAS RAISED BUT I'M THUMBS  
17 UPPING. I'M GOING TO READ THE CAPTIONS.

18

19 **MEGHAN WEIR:** PAUSE FOR JUST A MOMENT ALINA. DO YOU KNOW HOW TO  
20 MOVE THE CAPTIONS OUT OF THE WAY? LET'S SEE IF WE CAN ADJUST  
21 THEM.

22

23 **ALINA ENGELMAN:** WAIT, I'M SORRY. I'M NOT UNDERSTANDING HERE.  
24 YOU WANT ME TO TURN OFF MY CAPTIONS ON MY END?

25



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1 **MEGHAN WEIR:** NO, YOUR CAPTIONS ARE GOOD. WE WANT TO MAKE SURE  
2 OUR REAL-TIME CAPTIONS ARE NOT GETTING IN THE WAY. THERE WE  
3 GO, PERFECT, THANK YOU SO MUCH. AMAZING TEAM IN THIS ROOM.  
4 OKAY. I'LL PASS IT OVER.

5

6 **ALINA ENGELMAN:** PERFECT, THANKS.

7

8 **SPEAKER:** THE TITLE IS GLOBAL DISABILITY JUSTICE IN CLIMATE  
9 EMERGENCIES MOBILIZING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AS CHANGE  
10 AGENTS.

11

12 **SPEAKER:** I LOVE IT.

13

14 **MEGHAN WEIR:** LOOKS LIKE IT'S STILL PAUSED. IS IT POSSIBLE TO  
15 GET IT TO START PLAYING AGAIN?

16

17 **ALINA ENGELMAN:** YEAH, SORRY. HANG ON, TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES,  
18 I DON'T KNOW WHY. GIVE ME A SECOND.

19

20 **MEGHAN WEIR:** SURE, YOU'RE NOT ALONE. THIS IS THE ROOM FOR  
21 TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES TODAY. WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT.

22

23 **ALINA ENGELMAN:** OKAY.

24



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1 **SPEAKER:** FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY, I'M  
2 EXCITED TO SHARE FINDINGS ABOUT DISABILITY AND EMERGENCY  
3 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO CLIMATE EMERGENCIES. I AM A WHITE  
4 WOMAN WITH SHOULDER LENGTH AUBURN HAIR. I AM WEARING A BLUE  
5 SHIRT, BLACK BLAZER, AND THERE IS A WHITE BACKGROUND. IN  
6 SEPTEMBER OF 2022, THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL CALLED  
7 ON THE WORLD TO STOP SLEEPWALKING THROUGH THE DESTRUCTION OF  
8 OUR PLANET CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE AFTER THE FLOOD IN  
9 PAKISTAN. OUR PAPER BRINGS TOGETHER TWO DIFFERENT AREAS OF  
10 DISABILITY STUDIES. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
11 IN AN INTERDISCIPLINARY WAY. WE CENTER THE CONCEPT OF  
12 DISABILITY JUSTICE AS A WAY TO HELP EMERGENCY MANAGERS AND  
13 POLICYMAKERS INCLUDE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THEIR  
14 PLANNING AND RESPONSES. WE SHARE CASE STUDIES SPANNING THE  
15 GLOBE INCLUDING AUSTRALIA, THE PHILIPPINES, THE PACIFIC  
16 NORTHWEST, AND AREAS OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH, INCLUDING KENYA AND  
17 PUERTO RICO. WE ARE THREE DEAF SCHOLARS COLLABORATIVELY  
18 WORKING IN THIS SPACE WITH COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCES ALL OVER THE  
19 WORLD INCLUDING KENYA AND AUSTRALIA. OUR STRONG CONNECTION TO  
20 BOTH THE EMERGENCY AND CLIMATE SPACES, AND OUR LIVED  
21 EXPERIENCE WITH DISABILITY, EQUIPS US TO INVESTIGATE  
22 INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY JUSTICE IN AN ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE.  
23 SO, THERE ARE TWO KEY POINTS HERE. HOW ARE PEOPLE WITH  
24 DISABILITIES AGENTS OF CHANGE IN THESE SPACES? AND SECOND, HOW  
25 HAVE GOVERNMENTS, CIVIL SOCIETY AND NON-PROFITS RESPONDED TO



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1 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER CLIMATE  
2 EMERGENCIES? IN THE CASE OF THE 2021 HEAT WAVES IN THE PACIFIC  
3 NORTHWEST, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WERE AT A HIGHER RISK OF  
4 ADVERSE HEALTH IMPACTS, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE RELIANT ON LIFE  
5 SUSTAINING EQUIPMENT THAT REQUIRE ELECTRICITY IN THE EVENT OF  
6 A POWER OUTAGE. YET, COOLING CENTERS ARE OFTEN INACCESSIBLE  
7 AND DISABLED PEOPLE ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY POOR AND LESS  
8 LIKELY TO HAVE ACCESS TO AIR CONDITIONING OR TO HAVE STABLE  
9 HOMES IN AN AREA THAT IS PROTECTED FROM THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE  
10 CHANGE. HERE WE SEE FLOODED HOMES DURING THE 2022 FLOODS IN  
11 NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA. EMERGENCY INFORMATION WAS  
12 UNAVAILABLE IN MULTIPLE FORMATS. EVACUATION CENTERS REMAINED  
13 INACCESSIBLE. THERE WERE DISRUPTIONS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR  
14 DISABLED PEOPLE, INVOLVING HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE,  
15 TRANSPORTATION, AND FOOD. HOMELESSNESS, OF DISABLED PEOPLE,  
16 WENT UP EVEN MORE DUE TO LIVING IN DISASTER-PRONE AREAS. HERE  
17 WE SEE ONE OF THE BIGGEST REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE WORLD IN KENYA.  
18 IN OUR PAPER, WE SHARE ONE WAY DISABLED PEOPLE ARE AGENTS OF  
19 CHANGE. IN KENYA, DISABILITY INCLUSION AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES  
20 LED FOR AND BY, EMPHASIS, OPERATED FOR AND BY DISABLED PEOPLE,  
21 WORK WITH DISABLED REFUGEES ON ACCESSIBLE ASSESSMENTS FOR  
22 ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS IN THESE CAMPS. OUR  
23 KEY FINDINGS ARE FIRST, THAT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES HAVE  
24 BEEN AND ARE AGENTS OF CHANGE. SECOND, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES,  
25 THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR, AND CIVIL SOCIETY ALL NEED TO INCLUDE



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1 AND ELEVATE THE VOICES OF DISABLED PEOPLE, REALLY BOTH IN  
2 PREPARING FOR AND RESPONDING TO CLIMATE EMERGENCIES. WHERE  
3 DISABLED PEOPLE HAVE SUFFERED GREATLY, WHAT CONTRIBUTED TO  
4 THIS WERE FAILURES BY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND POLICYMAKERS TO  
5 RECOGNIZE THE FACT THAT DISABLED PEOPLE ARE AGENTS OF CHANGE  
6 AND TO INCLUDE DISABILITY-OPERATED, I MEAN LED NON-PROFITS AT  
7 THE TABLE. THE CASE STUDIES IN OUR PAPER SHOW THIS.  
8 GOVERNMENTS, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND MAINSTREAM NON-PROFITS IN BOTH  
9 THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE  
10 SECTORS CAN LEARN FROM HOW DISABLED PEOPLE HAVE LED DIASTER  
11 RISK REDUCTION EFFORTS AND INITIATIVES WORLDWIDE. THESE  
12 EFFORTS WILL ENABLE DISABILITY JUSTICE BY MITIGATING THE  
13 IMPACTS OF CLIMATE DISASTERS ON DISABLED PEOPLE WORLDWIDE. WE  
14 ECHO THE RALLYING CRY OF THE DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENT:  
15 NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE].

16

17 **ALINA ENGELMAN:** THANK YOU.

18

19 **MEGHAN WEIR:** WE'RE GOING TO GET OUR CAPTIONS TURNED BACK ON.  
20 EXCELLENT, THANK YOU SO MUCH. OKAY, SO IF WE STICK TO FIVE  
21 MINUTES EACH FOR OUR LAST TWO PANELISTS, THEN WE SHOULD HAVE  
22 PLENTY OF TIME FOR DISCUSSION AND SO, I'LL JUST START. WE'LL  
23 GO LEFT TO RIGHT AS IF I WERE READING. SO MARCIE, THAT MEANS  
24 YOU ARE UP NEXT. CAN YOU GIVE US YOUR FIVE MINUTE OVERVIEW?

25



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1 **MARCIE ROTH:** HI EVERYBODY, I'M MARCIE ROTH. I'M THE EXECUTIVE  
2 DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY. IT IS A  
3 PLEASURE TO BE WITH YOU ALL. I AM LOOKING AT THE TIME AND I AM  
4 GOING TO BE QUITE BRIEF BUT I AM GOING TO FOCUS AS THE OTHER  
5 FABULOUS SPEAKERS HAVE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF POLICY IN ACTION  
6 AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE  
7 IMPACTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. SO LIKE ALINA, I AM GOING  
8 TO LOOK BROAD BRUSH AT GLOBAL POLICY AND NECK THE DOTS WITH  
9 FIRST THE U.N. CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH  
10 DISABILITIES, WHICH IS AS MANY OF YOU PROBABLY KNOW, A GLOBAL  
11 TREATY DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH  
12 DISABILITIES. IT PROMOTES THEIR INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION IN  
13 SOCIETY BY ADDRESSING DISCRIMINATION, ENSURING ACCESSIBILITY,  
14 AND ADVOCATING FOR FULL AND EQUAL ENJOYMENT OF ALL HUMAN  
15 RIGHTS. IN THE VERY FIRST YEAR OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
16 GOALS ESTABLISHED IN 2015, ONE OF THE FIRST FRAMEWORKS THAT  
17 CAME OUT OF THAT WAS THE FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK  
18 REDUCTION. THIS FRAMEWORK COMMITTED TO INCREASE THE  
19 PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN DISASTER RISK  
20 REDUCTION, CHAMPIONING INCLUSIVE DECISION MAKING IN WHICH  
21 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ARE KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN DETERMINING  
22 THE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PLANS AND PROGRAMS THAT IMPACT  
23 EVERYONE'S LIFE. AND THEN IN 2022, THE U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL  
24 ESTABLISHED THE EARLY WARNINGS FOR ALL INITIATIVE, WHICH IS A  
25 GROUNDBREAKING EFFORT TO ENSURE THESE ARE THE SECRETARY



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1 GENERAL'S OWN WORDS, TO ENSURE EVERYONE ON EARTH IS PROTECTED  
2 FROM HAZARDOUS WEATHER, WATER, OR CLIMATE EVENTS THROUGHOUT  
3 LIFESAVING, EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS BY THE END OF 2027. SO, I AM  
4 GOING TO SPEND MORE TIME TOMORROW TALKING A LITTLE BIT MORE  
5 ABOUT ALL OF THIS BUT I WANTED TO FRAME SOME OF THE POLICY  
6 DISCUSSION AND EVENTUALLY GET TO HOW DO WE INDIVIDUALLY AND  
7 COLLECTIVELY TAKE ACTION BY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CONVENTION  
8 ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, THE SENDAI  
9 FRAMEWORK, PART OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND NOW  
10 THE U.N.'S EARLY WARNING FOR ALL INITIATIVE PLAYS SUCH A  
11 CRITICAL PART IN THE INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES NOT  
12 ONLY AS BENEFICIARIES OR RECIPIENTS BUT RATHER AS LEADERS AND  
13 FORCE MULTIPLIERS AND ALLIES BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER CLIMATE  
14 AND OTHER KINDS OF DISASTERS. SO I WILL LEAVE IT THERE FOR NOW  
15 AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE DISCUSSION AND FURTHER CONVERSATION.  
16 THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE].

17

18 **MEGHAN WEIR:** THANK YOU, THANK YOU SO MUCH. OUR FINAL  
19 PRESENTER, I'LL PASS IT OVER TO YOU ALEX.

20

21 **ALEX GHENIS:** YEAH, HI. THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME, I'M EXCITED TO  
22 BE HERE. SO, I JUST ALSO WANT TO KIND OF TAKE A STEP BACK AND  
23 LOOK AT CLIMATE AND DISASTERS AND ACTUALLY OTHER CLIMATE  
24 CONCERNS BECAUSE THERE ARE ACUTE IMMEDIATE DISASTERS THAT WE  
25 NEED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT AND THEN THERE ARE LONGER RUNNING,



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1 YOU KNOW, CLIMATE CHANGES, USUALLY NOT CALLED A CLIMATE  
2 DISASTER IN THE VERNACULAR, BUT THAT WILL DISPROPORTIONATELY  
3 IMPACT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND ALSO TO CONSIDER IN THE  
4 BAY AREA, SOME OF THE LONG-TERM CHANGES THAT PLACE PEOPLE WITH  
5 DISABILITIES AT GREATER RISK OF EXPERIENCING ACUTE CLIMATE  
6 DISASTERS AND MAKE IT HARDER FOR US TO KIND OF BUILD OUR WAY  
7 OUT OF THAT. SO, WE KNOW THAT DISASTER RESPONSE INCLUDING  
8 GOVERNMENT POLICY, COMMUNICATION, EVACUATION AND SHELTERING  
9 DOESN'T EXIST IN A VACUUM. HOW WE MANAGE IT, THE TAXATION OF  
10 THE LAND, ET CETERA, SHAPES HOW THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT COMES TO  
11 BE, WHERE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LIVE AND HOW VULNERABLE WE  
12 ARE TO CLIMATE CRISES, WHETHER SLOWER MOVING CRISES LIKE  
13 CLIMATE MIGRATION. CALIFORNIA RECENTLY, MOST RECENT I SAW WAS  
14 49 OUT OF 50 STATES IN THE UNION IN TERMS OF HOMES PER CAPITA  
15 AND THEN THAT TRANSLATES TO US BEING, I THINK THIRD FROM LAST  
16 IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION THAT HAS A  
17 DISABILITY. PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, YOU KNOW, ARE  
18 DISPROPORTIONATELY LOW INCOME, SO IF YOU CAN STRAIN HOUSING,  
19 HOUSING GETS MORE EXPENSIVE, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES GET  
20 PRICED OUT TO OTHER STATES. THAT'S KIND OF WHAT HAPPENED. THE  
21 PROBLEM IS ESPECIALLY ACUTE IN THE BAY AREA'S MAIN JOB AND  
22 POPULATION CENTER. THE PENINSULA IS QUITE EGREGIOUS JUST IN  
23 TERMS OF JOBS TO HOMES AND THEN PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE WITH  
24 DISABILITIES, MUCH OF IT STARTED IN THE 1970s AND IN SOME  
25 CITIES LIKE BERKELEY, HARDLY ANY HOUSING WAS BUILT IN



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1 SUBSEQUENT DECADES. IN BERKELEY, THE ONLY HOUSING THAT WAS  
2 BUILT FROM THE 1980s TO THE MID 2000s OR EARLY 2000s WAS IN  
3 THE BERKELEY HILLS BECAUSE THAT'S PRETTY MUCH THE ONLY PLACE  
4 THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO BUILD HOUSING AND WE KNOW THERE IS A  
5 BIG FIRE RISK AT BERKELEY HILLS, RIGHT? MUCH OF IT WAS SHUT  
6 DOWN IN BERKELEY, I'M JUST USING BERKELEY AS AN EXAMPLE. MUCH  
7 OF THE HOUSING THAT WAS SHUT DOWN WAS DOWNTOWN AND IT WAS  
8 SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY, THAT ESPECIALLY CATER TO A LOT OF  
9 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. AS A RESULT OF ALL OF THIS, WE HAVE  
10 AN OLD HOUSING STOCK THAT IS BUILT IN ACCESSIBLE AND EXPOSES  
11 RESIDENTS TO EXCESSIVE CLIMATE RISK. THE MEDIAN HOME AGE IN  
12 BERKELEY IS 1944, IT MAY HAVE CHANGED WITH THE HOUSING BOOM  
13 OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS BUT JUST THINK ABOUT THE  
14 ACCESSIBILITY AND THEN CLIMATE ISSUES WITH HAVING THAT KIND OF  
15 OLD HOUSING. SENSE A LOT OF THE "NOT IN MY BACKYARD" SYMBOLISM  
16 OCCURRED ACROSS THE STATE IN JOB CENTERS, PEOPLE WITH  
17 DISABILITIES ARE PUSHED TO MOVE IN OTHER STATES, IN LESS  
18 DESIRABLE OR HOTTER OR RISKIER AREAS OF CALIFORNIA. PROP 14  
19 MADE IT SO THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE AGING INTO DISABILITY ARE  
20 DISINCENTIVIZE FROM MOVING TO SAFER AREAS AND ADOPT A GREATER  
21 RISK THAT WAY. I HAVE ABOUT ONE MINUTE, THE THINGS WE NEED TO  
22 DO IS PUSH FOR MORE ACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENT, INCLUSIVE  
23 MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION. WE CAN HAVE LOWER CARBON EMISSIONS  
24 AND THEN BETTER CLIMATE RESILIENCE IF WE HAVE DECENT URBAN  
25 DENSITY. WE CAN RECOGNIZE MULTIPLE BENEFITS SUCH AS TRANSIT



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1 UTILIZATION, AFFORDABILITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH SOCIAL  
2 INTERACTION, ORGANIZING POTENTIAL, THAT PEOPLE WITH  
3 DISABILITIES CAN MORE EASILY MEET EACH OTHER, ORGANIZE, AND  
4 ADVOCATE. SO, I AM JUST GOING TO LEAVE IT THERE AND BE OPEN TO  
5 QUESTIONS LATER ON.

6

7 **MEGHAN WEIR:** GREAT, THANK YOU. THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL OF OUR  
8 PANELISTS. [APPLAUSE].

9

10 **MEGHAN WEIR:** AND THANKS FOR BEING VERY FLEXIBLE AND ADJUSTING  
11 SO THAT WE CAN FIT THIS IN. WE HAVE 30 MORE MINUTES. WE HEARD  
12 QUITE A BREATH OF PERSPECTIVE AND RESPONSE TO THIS QUESTION OF  
13 HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES EFFECT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND  
14 I GUESS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT KIND OF STANDS OUT TO ME FROM  
15 HEARING FROM ALL OF YOU IS THAT IN ADDITION TO THE NOTHING  
16 ABOUT US, WITHOUT US WAY OF MAKING PLANS, IT GOES BEYOND THAT  
17 INCLUDING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AS WE'RE SHAPING POLICY AND  
18 PROGRAMS MEANS THAT EVERYONE GETS TO BENEFIT FROM THE  
19 PERSPECTIVE OF THESE CHANGE AGENTS AND PEOPLE WHO ARE  
20 RESILIENT AND RESOURCEFUL EVERY DAY. SO, I WANT TO MAKE SURE  
21 THAT WE GET TO WORK THAT INTO ALL OF OUR PLANNING AND  
22 COMMUNITY COORDINATION. SO, I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. I  
23 SEE ONE HAND UP. SO JUST IN A MOMENT, WE'LL START IN THE BACK  
24 THERE AND WHAT WE'RE INTERESTED IN, SIMILAR TO THE OTHER  
25 BREAKOUT SESSIONS YOU HAVE BEEN A PART OF, IS HEARING YOUR



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1 PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE AND SPECIFIC NEEDS AND ALSO BROADER  
2 COMMUNITY NEEDS THAT YOU CAN SHARE, WHAT WORKS WELL FOR YOU,  
3 WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BARRIERS, AND WHAT DO YOU WANT ALL OF US  
4 TO KNOW ABOUT THIS TOPIC ON CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS WITH PEOPLE  
5 WITH DISABILITIES. I'LL START IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM. I SAW  
6 YOUR HAND UP.

7

8 **SPEAKER:** I'M GOING TO STAND UP BECAUSE I THINK IT HELPS YOUR  
9 CAMERA, RIGHT?

10

11 **MEGHAN WEIR:** SURE.

12

13 **SPEAKER:** ALL RIGHT. SO I'M SHEELA GUNN FOR THE INTERPRETER  
14 IT'S SHEELA GUNN. I AM AN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR  
15 AT THE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING IN BERKELEY. THE FIRST  
16 THING I WANT TO TELL YOU, I WORK FOR THE CENTER FOR  
17 INDEPENDENT LIVING IN BERKELEY AND WHAT I FIRST WANT TO SAY IS  
18 THAT I HAVE MULTIPLE DISABILITIES. PEOPLE SEE THE WHITE KING,  
19 THAT'S GREAT. I HAVE CEREBRAL PALSY ON ONE SIDE. I HAVE  
20 MULTIPLE SENSITIVITY, WHICH MEANS I CAN GET MIGRAINES FROM  
21 STUFF THAT DOESN'T WORK WELL WITH MY BODY AND I DON'T KNOW IT  
22 UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE. I CANNOT -- I TYPE WITH ONE HAND. I AM  
23 SAYING ALL THIS STUFF BECAUSE I AM WORKING HARD TO MAKE THIS  
24 COMMUNITY AS RESILIENT AS POSSIBLE BUT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT  
25 WE HAVE THAT IS A PROBLEM IS THAT THE HEATING AND COOLING MAPS



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1 FROM THE ALAMEDA COUNTY O.E.S., OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES  
2 ARE NOT ACCESSIBLE. THAT'S THE A.D.A. BUZZER, I DON'T KNOW HOW  
3 TO DO AN INTERPRETATION FOR THAT. ANYWAY, I CALL THAT THE  
4 A.D.A. BUZZER. IT POPS UP A LOT. THERE IS A WAY OF FIXING  
5 THIS. I AM NOT AN EXPERT. I HAVE THE INFORMATION. TIM ELDER  
6 GAVE IT TO ME. I CAN GIVE IT TO SOMEONE IF THEY ARE  
7 INTERESTED. WE NEED TO FIX THIS. AS A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN AN  
8 ADVOCATE IN MY COMMUNITY SINCE THE MID '90s, ACTUALLY, '91 OR  
9 SO, I AM NOT SURE HOW TO CRACK THIS NUT BECAUSE IT'S IMPORTANT  
10 THAT WE DO IT BUT THE WILL DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THERE. I -- YOU  
11 KNOW, THERE IS THE CENTER FOR ACCESS AND TECHNOLOGY, THE  
12 LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND, THE LIGHTHOUSE IS IN QUITE A PICKLE  
13 RIGHT NOW, BUT THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT WE NEED TO FIND WAYS OF  
14 MAKING THINGS ACCESSIBLE AND I CANNOT LOUDLY ENOUGH SCREAM MY  
15 AGREEMENT ACCESSIBILITY FROM THE BOTTOM UP. I ALSO HAVE A  
16 QUICK FUN THING. I WROTE THIS SONG IN JANUARY 6TH OF THIS YEAR  
17 WHEN I WAS AT THE CONCERT. IT'S AN EAR WARMER. I'M GOING TO  
18 WARN YOU. COMMUNITY, RESILIENCY, TOGETHER WE GO ON. THAT'S ALL  
19 IT IS, BUT YOU KEEP REPEATING IT. LAST THING, SORRY. THE  
20 CENTER FOR I WANT LIVING IN 2023 AND 2024, AND WE HAVE CREATED  
21 A REPORT AND I WONDER IF SOMEONE CAN GET THIS ON THE SCREEN.  
22 THE U.R.L. FOR IT, I DON'T KNOW, IT'S LONG AND WEIRD. IF YOU  
23 GO TO THE C.I.L. WEBSITE AND YOU GO TO THE EMERGENCY  
24 PREPAREDNESS SECTION, WHICH HAS A LOT MORE GOODIES THAN THIS  
25 BUT I AM JUST GOING TO GO HERE. YOU WILL SEE A HEADING FOR OUR



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1 REPORT AND YOU WILL SEE THE PICTURE THAT IS ON THE FRONT PAGE  
2 OF THAT REPORT. THAT REPORT IS FOR USE FOR EVERYONE. IT'S  
3 ABOUT ALAMEDA COUNTY OF WHICH WE COVER THE UPPER HALF BUT I  
4 THINK THE PROBLEMS THAT ARE IN ALAMEDA COUNTY ARE NOT SO  
5 DIFFERENT THAN OTHER COUNTIES IN THIS REGION. WE CAN USE THE  
6 INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT, INCLUDING DATA THAT DIDN'T GET IN  
7 BECAUSE WE DIDN'T PUT EVERYTHING IN THERE, BECAUSE THERE WOULD  
8 BE TOO MUCH. IT WOULD GET OVERWHELMING.

9

10 **SPEAKER:** CAN YOU SAY THE NAME OF THE REPORT?

11

12 **SPEAKER:** IT'S LONG. DAWN, CAN YOU PULL THAT UP?

13

14 **DAWN SKAGGS:** I CAN DO ONE BETTER THAN THAT. I CAN ENCOURAGE  
15 EVERYONE TO COME TOMORROW MORNING TO THE NEXT SESSION ON  
16 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WHERE WE WILL BE SHARING THE LINK FOR  
17 IT AND LITTLE BIT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT IT.

18

19 **SPEAKER:** GOOD.

20

21 **MEGHAN WEIR:** THANK YOU.

22

23 **SPEAKER:** SO THAT'S ALL I HAVE.

24



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1 **MEGHAN WEIR:** GREAT, THANK YOU. THAT'S ACTUALLY A GOOD REMINDER  
2 DAWN, THANK YOU. THIS SESSION IS IMPACTS ON PEOPLE WITH  
3 DISABILITIES. TOMORROW MORNING, THERE IS A SESSION  
4 STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE,  
5 PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES THAT IS SPECIFICALLY FOCUSED ON  
6 PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES. THERE IS A LOT TO COVER AND  
7 PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES IS URGENT AND AS SOMEBODY ELSE  
8 PHRASED IT, ACUTE. SO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCUSSING  
9 THAT TODAY, BUT WE'LL HAVE A CHANCE FOR A DEEPER DIVE TOMORROW  
10 MORNING AS WELL.

11

12 **SPEAKER:** YOU'LL HEAR MORE FROM ME THEN.

13

14 **MEGHAN WEIR:** A QUESTION ONLINE.

15

16 **SPEAKER:** FOR ANY OF THE PANELISTS, HOW DO YOU THINK CLIMATE  
17 CHANGE AFFECTS COLLEGE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES?

18

19 **MEGHAN WEIR:** GREAT, THANK YOU. I AM GOING TO SAY THAT ONE MORE  
20 TIME. THE QUESTION THAT CAME IN FROM OUR REMOTE WEBINAR IS,  
21 HOW DO YOU THINK CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS COLLEGE STUDENTS WITH  
22 DISABILITIES? THE QUESTION IS AIMED TO THE PANELISTS BUT I  
23 ALSO WANT TO INVITE EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM WHO MAY HAVE A GOOD  
24 DEAL OF EXPERTISE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION AS WELL. THAT CAN BE  
25 PART OF OUR CONVERSATION TODAY. IS THERE ANYONE IN THIS --



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1 NON-PANELISTS IN THE AUDIENCE THAT HAS A RESPONSE YOU WANT TO  
2 SHARE BEFORE WE OPEN IT BACK UP? GO AHEAD.

3

4 **SPEAKER:** SO I WAS A STUDENT AT UNIVERSITY AND GRADUATED IN  
5 ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES. I WAS A STUDENT THERE AND GOT INVOLVED  
6 IN STUDENT CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS ABOUT GREEN,  
7 SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE, SO WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT  
8 SUSTAINABILITY, THAT WAS THE FIRST PLACE THAT I GOT TO  
9 UNDERSTAND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ON YOU KNOW, HOW WE'RE  
10 IMPACTED BY CLIMATE AND I THINK THE FIRST THING THAT IS  
11 MISSING FOR A LOT OF US IS HOW CLIMATE REALLY IMPACTS US.  
12 WHERE DOES IT COME FROM? WHERE DOES IT BEGIN? THE FEEDBACK  
13 LOOP AND UNDERSTANDING THE TERMINOLOGY. IT'S REALLY  
14 OVERWHELMING AND TRYING TO SIMPLIFY AND PUT IT INTO EVERY DAY  
15 LANGUAGE WAS SOMETHING THAT WE WERE ENCOURAGED TO THINK ABOUT,  
16 HOW YOU DESCRIBE IT AND EXPLAIN IT IN SIMPLE LANGUAGE. MY  
17 EXPERIENCE WITH THAT IS DOING HANDS-ON PROJECTS AND UNDERSTAND  
18 THAT HEAT, COMPRESSING, BREAKING IT DOWN INTO THE SOIL AND IT  
19 GETS BACK INTO THE EARTH, HOW COOL THE LAND IS AND  
20 UNDERSTANDING THE NATURAL CYCLE OF NATURE AND HOW NATURE-BASED  
21 SOLUTIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, AND JUST HAVING THE  
22 UNDERSTANDING. I USED TO WORK AT A RESIDENTIAL GROUP HOMES, SO  
23 AT THAT TIME, I WAS WORKING THERE AND I GOT TO BRING THAT  
24 INFORMATION AND SHARE IT WITH THEM AND A LIGHT BULB HIT ME.  
25 THIS IS NOT ACCESSIBLE TO THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE. SO I WAS



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1 EXPLAINING IT, SIGNING IT, USING MY LANGUAGE, THEIR LANGUAGE,  
2 THEY REALLY GOT TO SEE JUST WHAT IT MEANT. SO I JUST THINK IF  
3 YOU GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL OR COLLEGE CAMPUS ORGANIZATION  
4 AND TAKING CLASSES AND UNDERSTANDING THE CLIMATE IMPACTS AND  
5 HOW CLIMATE WORKS AND HAVING CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR  
6 SUPERIORS, YOU CAN DEVELOP A BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND  
7 UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU CAN DO.

8

9 **MEGHAN WEIR:** YEAH, THAT'S GREAT. THAT REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING  
10 THAT JESS WAS SAYING JUST AT THE VERY BEGINNING ABOUT HOW  
11 EMPOWERING THE EXPERIENCE CAN BE TO GET INVOLVED AND BE PART  
12 OF THE SOLUTION. THANK YOU.

13

14 **SPEAKER:** I HAVE A QUESTION.

15

16 **MEGHAN WEIR:** I JUST SAW SOMEONE ELSE'S HAND GO UP SO WE'RE  
17 GOING TO MOVE AROUND THE ROOM.

18

19 **SPEAKER:** I JUST WANT TO GIVE MY CONTACT INFO TO ALINA.

20

21 **MEGHAN WEIR:** BEFORE YOU LEAVE, SHARE YOUR CONTACT INFO AND  
22 WE'LL MAKE SURE THE PANELISTS GET IT TOO. I SHOULD HAVE SAID  
23 THAT AT THE BEGINNING. I DON'T THINK I SAID THIS EARLIER, IF  
24 YOU CAN SAY YOUR NAME AND PART OF YOUR PERSPECTIVE, THAT WOULD  
25 BE GREAT.



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1

2 **SPEAKER:** MY NAME IS WENDY. WANTED TO ECHO SOMEONE ON THE  
3 PANEL, THAT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, AND EMERGENCY  
4 MANAGEMENT SHELTERS, AND REPLACEMENT HOUSING AFTER, THERE IS  
5 NOT REPLACEMENT HOUSING FOR THE VERY LOW INCOME. THIS IS  
6 ALREADY AN EXISTING PROBLEM IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND AFTER A  
7 DISASTER IS EVEN A HIGHER BARRIER TO BE ABLE TO LIVE  
8 INDEPENDENTLY AND FOR PEOPLE, ALSO FOR PEOPLE IN SINGLE FAMILY  
9 HOMES AND STUFF LIKE THAT, A LOT OF ACCESSIBLE UNITS ARE ON  
10 THE GROUND FLOOR, WHICH IS PRONE TO FLOODING. SO THAT IS ALSO  
11 SOMETHING THAT I FORESEE GOING INTO THE FUTURE. SOME PEOPLE'S,  
12 SOME CITIES AND STATES, THEY ELEVATE THEIR HOMES. OKAY, THAT'S  
13 NOT GOING TO BE HELPFUL FOR PEOPLE WHO CONDITION CLIMB STAIRS  
14 AND DOESN'T HAVE AN ELEVATOR AND STUFF LIKE THAT. MORE ACUTE  
15 AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER IS THAT EVEN IN A CITY LIKE  
16 SAN FRANCISCO WHERE I LIVE, OKAY, THERE IS A PUSH TO BUILD  
17 MORE MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING AND WHAT I WAS THINKING ABOUT IS  
18 THAT IN MULTIFAMILY HOUSING, INCREASINGLY YOU ARE HEARING MORE  
19 AND MORE ABOUT LITHIUM ION BATTERY FIRES THAT ENGULF THE  
20 ENTIRE BUILDING AND STUFF LIKE THAT. THIS IS BECOMING A MORE  
21 PERSISTENT ISSUE BECAUSE OF A LOT OF PEOPLE, THEY CHARGE THEIR  
22 SCOOTERS AND THINGS OF THAT NATURE. I KNOW IT'S LOWER RISK BUT  
23 ALL THE COMPUTERS HAVE DEVICES. THEY ALL RELY UPON LITHIUM ION  
24 BATTERIES THAT IS A FIRE DANGER. SO, YOU KNOW, WHAT HAPPENS TO



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1 PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN BUILDINGS THAT ARE FIRE CONSUMED AND NO ONE  
2 HAD REALLY BROUGHT THAT UP. SO, THOSE ARE MY COMMENTS.

3

4 **MEGHAN WEIR:** THANK YOU. IS THERE ANYONE ELSE WHO WANTS TO ADD  
5 TO THE CONVERSATION? YEP, GO AHEAD.

6

7 **SPEAKER:** DO WE HAVE A MIC?

8

9 **MEGHAN WEIR:** NO, THIS WILL PICK YOU UP. THE MIC IN HERE IS  
10 POWERFUL.

11

12 **SPEAKER:** OKAY MY NAME IS MAYA SCOTT. MY PRONOUNS ARE  
13 THEY/THEM, SHE/HER, AND ZE/HIR, WHICH IS A FUN ONE. I'M WORK  
14 AT THE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING AND A PURE ADVOCATE IN  
15 HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION JUSTICE ORGANIZER FOR SENIOR  
16 DISABILITY ACTION. I AM ALSO A MEMBER OF THE LGBTQIA ALPHABET  
17 SOUP COMMUNITY. I AM AN ELDER AND A FORMALLY HOUSELESS DURING  
18 THE TIME OF THE PANDEMIC DUE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. I WROTE A  
19 LETTER FOR THE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING WHILE I WAS IN  
20 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER IN HAYWARD ABOUT EMERGENCY  
21 PREPAREDNESS FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN THE INTERSECTIONS THAT MY  
22 FAMILY WAS LIVING IN. MY DAUGHTER WAS SEXUALLY ABUSED BY MY  
23 FORMER PARTNER AND ALMOST DIED IN THE HOSPITAL AS SHE HAS  
24 MULTIPLE DISABILITIES. DUE TO INCREDIBLE ABLEISM AND RACISM  
25 AND EVERY FORM OF OPPRESSION WITHIN THE CHILD PROTECTIVE



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1 SERVICES ARENA, I WAS IMMEDIATELY TOLD THAT CLEARLY I COULD  
2 NOT TAKE CARE OF MY CHILD. MY THIRD DAY IN A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
3 SHELTER HOTEL BECAUSE I WAS IN A WHEELCHAIR AND I WAS A WHORE.  
4 I VOLUNTARILY HAD TO RELEASE THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILD THAT I  
5 BIRTHED. SO, THERE IS A LOT TO SAY ABOUT THAT BUT THE INCREASE  
6 OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEX  
7 TRAFFICKING, AND HUMAN SLAVERY AROUND THE WORLD WENT UP HUGEY  
8 DURING THE PANDEMIC. MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE STATISTICS IN THE  
9 UNITED STATES IS THAT OVER 300% INCREASE IN VIOLENCE OF ALL  
10 FORMS RECORDED. SO, MY OWN EXPERIENCE IS THAT IT TOOK ME OVER  
11 SIX WEEKS WORKING MORE THAN FULL TIME TO BE MY OWN ADVOCATE,  
12 IT TOOK ME OVER SIX WEEKS TO FIND AN ACCESSIBLE SHELTER ROOM  
13 IN A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER IN THE BAY AREA. I FINALLY, I  
14 AM A GRASSROOTS ORGANIZER WHO IS DEEPLY CONNECTED TO OUR  
15 SYSTEM AND I AM AN ENGLISH SPEAKER, I WAS BORN IN THIS  
16 COUNTRY, I'M A CISGENDER PASSING, AND PEOPLE UNDERGROUND GOT  
17 MONEY FROM ME FOR FOOD AND PARA TRANSIT. THE RISK OF DEATH DUE  
18 TO VIOLENCE FOR LOW INCOME DISABLED PEOPLE WHO ARE LIVING  
19 INTERSECTIONALLY IN COMMUNITIES THAT ARE MARGINALIZED. I'M A  
20 WHITE PERSON THAT WAS IN A TRANS AND QUEER AND MULTIRACIAL  
21 FAMILY AND I AM PRIMARILY AN ABOLITIONIST AND I'M UNWILLING AS  
22 MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO DEAL WITH THE POLICE BECAUSE ALL OF OUR  
23 FAMILY WAS AT RISK TO INVOLVE THEM. SO I RARELY HEAR THE RISK  
24 AND OF COURSE AT THIS POINT, TRANS PEOPLE OF ALL SOCIOECONOMIC  
25 AND RACIAL AND CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS ARE FLEEING THIS COUNTRY



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1 AS THERE ARE SO MANY UNDOCUMENTED FOLKS AND STUFF. YEAH, I  
2 GUESS THAT. WE TALK ABOUT INTERSECTIONALITY. THE LAST THING IS  
3 THE DISABILITY JUSTICE IN THE BAY AREA IS PART OF CROSS TURTLE  
4 ISLAND CRYPT SURVIVAL NETWORK THAT HAS GATHERED. WE ARE NOT  
5 OUTWARD FACING YET, WE HAVE BEEN BUILDING IN THE LAST THREE  
6 YEARS INTERNALLY. IT'S PREDOMINATELY BIPOC, PREDOMINATELY  
7 LGBTQ CENTERING HISTORICALLY MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES WITHIN  
8 DISABLED COMMUNITIES AND I WOULD REALLY SAY THAT WHEN WE DO  
9 THIS MORE IN THE FUTURE, TO REALLY CENTER HISTORICALLY  
10 MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES AND LEADERSHIP. SO, I WOULD NOT BE  
11 ALIVE WITHOUT -- I HAVE AN EMERGENCY HOUSING NOW BUT IT TOOK  
12 ME THREE YEARS TO FIND ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE, AND INHABITABLE  
13 HOUSING IN THE BAY AREA.

14

15 **MEGHAN WEIR:** THANK YOU FOR SHARING THAT. OBVIOUSLY SHELTER AND  
16 HOUSING IS TIED TO EMERGENCY RESPONSE. JUST A QUICK TIME  
17 CHECK, WE HAVE A LITTLE MORE THAN 10 MINUTES LEFT. I DO WANT  
18 TO HONOR THE QUESTION THAT CAME THROUGH ZOOM. IT WAS POINTED  
19 TOWARDS THE PANEL. I WANTED TO MAKE SURE WE HEARD FROM FOLKS  
20 IN THE AUDIENCE AS WELL. I'M CURIOUS IF ANYONE THAT IS PART OF  
21 THIS PANEL HAS A DIRECT RESPONSE TO THAT QUESTION ABOUT HOW  
22 CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SPECIFICALLY  
23 THE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE. ALSO, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO ADD ONE  
24 MINUTE BEFORE WE WRAP UP, IF THERE IS ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANTED  
25 TO POINT OUT THAT HAS BEEN RAISED IN THIS CONVERSATION TODAY.



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1

2 **MARCIE ROTH:** THIS IS MARCIE AND I WILL JUMP IN. I HAVE BEEN  
3 FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS WORKING WITH UNIVERSITIES THAT HAVE  
4 FOUND THEMSELVES VERY POORLY PREPARED OR NOT PREPARED AT ALL  
5 FOR EXTREME WEATHER AND OTHER EVENTS AND IT HAS REQUIRED A  
6 NUMBER OF LAWSUITS THAT HAVE BROUGHT FOLKS, LIKE FROM THE  
7 WORLD INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY, TO THESE SETTINGS TO, YOU KNOW,  
8 TO HELP BRING STUDENTS TOGETHER WITH THE UNIVERSITY TO PLAN  
9 FOR THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE RELATED EXTREME WEATHER. I HAVE  
10 SEEN SOME EXCITING AND HOPEFUL STUDENT LED INITIATIVES BUT I  
11 ALSO HAVE SEEN MANY OF THEM ARE PRETTY SILOED, SO YOU KNOW, I  
12 HAVE SEEN STUDENTS WHO ARE VERY FOCUSED ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE,  
13 BUT THEY REALLY AREN'T FOCUSED ON DISABILITY INCLUSION OR  
14 DISABILITY INCLUSION LEADERS WORKING ON ACCESSIBILITY BUT NOT  
15 WORKING WITH THE CLIMATE ACTION FOLKS. THIS IS TRUE IN HIGHER  
16 EDUCATION AND FRANKLY IT'S BEEN TRUE IN JUST ABOUT EVERY  
17 INITIATIVE THAT I HAVE SEEN OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS WHERE THE  
18 SILOS BETWEEN DISABILITY, CLIMATE, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION,  
19 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, I COULD GO ON BECAUSE THERE IS A  
20 FAIRLY LONG LIST OF INITIATIVES THAT HAVE JUST NOT ADEQUATELY  
21 BUSTED THOSE SILOS. YOU KNOW, WE AGAIN CAN TALK MORE ABOUT  
22 THIS TOMORROW BUT YOU KNOW UNTIL WE FOCUS ON GIVING PEOPLE  
23 ACTIONABLE INFORMATION IN REDUNDANT, MULTIPLE WAYS THAT ARE  
24 ACCESSIBLE TO THEM, UNTIL PEOPLE ARE NOT ONLY INVITED TO THE  
25 PLANNING TABLE BUT ARE INVITED TO HELP BUILD THE TABLE, WHEN



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1 WE START ADDRESSING THE HOUSING ISSUES THAT SEVERAL PEOPLE  
2 HAVE TALKED ABOUT TONIGHT BEFORE PEOPLE LOSE THEIR PRIMARY  
3 HOUSING, WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE TO WORK IN SILOS. I THINK THE  
4 LEADERSHIP OF STUDENTS IS A VERY HOPEFUL CENTER FOR A LOT OF  
5 WHAT COULD BRING ALL OF THIS TOGETHER BUT AS LONG AS WE  
6 CONTINUE TO THINK OF DISABLED PEOPLE AS VULNERABLE AND AS LONG  
7 AS WE DON'T BRING TOGETHER THE POWERFUL LEADERS OF SEVERAL  
8 ACTION ORIENTED AREAS OF FOCUS, YOU KNOW, I'M AFRAID WE ARE  
9 GOING TO CONTINUE TO REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKES AND THEN BE  
10 SHOCKED THAT WE JUST KEEP GETTING THE SAME RESULTS.

11

12 **MEGHAN WEIR:** YEAH, THANK YOU.

13

14 **ALEX GHENIS:** YEAH.

15

16 **MEGHAN WEIR:** HOW ABOUT DAWN AND THEN ALEX. I SEE YOU ARE BOTH  
17 READY TO SPEAK AND THAT MIGHT BE PERFECT TIMING. WE ONLY HAVE  
18 A FEW MINUTES LEFT.

19

20 **DAWN SKAGGS:** I WILL BE VERY BRIEF. HAVING WORKED ON A CAMPUS,  
21 IN A CENTER ON DISABILITY STUDIES, THE QUESTION RESONATES FOR  
22 ME A LOT, AS I'M SURE IT DOES FOR ALINA. WHAT COMES TO MY MIND  
23 RELEVANT TO THIS CONVERSATION AND THE QUESTION SPECIFICALLY IS  
24 WHAT A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY THIS IS TO BREAK THOSE SILOS  
25 BECAUSE WE -- HEAT KILLS MORE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY THAN



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1 HURRICANES, FIRES, AND FLOODS COMBINED EVERY YEAR. THE  
2 MAJORITY OF THOSE PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. SO,  
3 WHEN WE LOOK AT THAT FACT AND WE LOOK AT THE FACT THAT STUDENT  
4 LIFE IS NOT INTENDED. I MEAN THE WHOLE STRUCTURE OF A CAMPUS  
5 IS BETWEEN BUILDINGS. THERE IS A LOT OF EXPECTATIONS OF  
6 TRANSMITTING THE CAMPUS OF BEING IN AND OUT OF BUILDINGS,  
7 EXPECTATIONS FOR THAT MOBILITY FOR STUDENTS. WHEN YOU LOOK AT  
8 THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE ON STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ON A  
9 CAMPUS, LIKE MARCIE SAID, THERE ARE SO MANY MOVEMENTS  
10 HAPPENING ON A CAMPUS, BUT THEY ARE HAPPENING INDEPENDENTLY.  
11 IN ORDER TO ADDRESS ANY OF THOSE MOVEMENTS, WE REALLY NEED TO  
12 BE LOOKING AT WHERE IS THE APEX? WHERE IS THE SHARED NEED?  
13 WHEN WE LOOK AT THE IMPACT ON STUDENTS WHO ARE DISABLED ON A  
14 CAMPUS FROM CLIMATE, EVEN JUST LOOKING AT ONE FEATURE, WHICH  
15 IS THE HEAT, WE CAN'T ADDRESS THAT WITHOUT ADDRESSING IT  
16 COLLABORATIVELY AND BRINGING THOSE THINGS TOGETHER BECAUSE ANY  
17 OF THE OTHER SOLUTIONS ARE NOT SUFFICIENT. SO, THAT'S WHAT I  
18 JUST WANTED TO BRING SOME TANGIBLE TO THAT. I LOVE THE  
19 QUESTION BECAUSE IT IS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THE WHOLE TOPIC  
20 THAT WE'RE HERE TO DISCUSS TODAY, WHICH IS WHAT IS THE IMPACT.  
21 THE IMPACT IS REALLY SIGNIFICANT AND IT'S LIFE-CHANGING AND  
22 IT'S POTENTIALLY LIFE-THREATENING. SO, WE NEED TO BRING THOSE  
23 PIECES TOGETHER PROACTIVELY AND STUDENTS ARE THE BEST MOVERS  
24 AND SHAKERS. SO, IT'S THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF WHERE WE COULD  
25 START TO MAKE THOSE CHANGES. GO AHEAD.



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1

2 **ALEX GHENIS:** YEAH, I'M THINKING BACK TO COLLEGE WHEN I LIVE IN  
3 THE CO-OPS AT CAL AND THOSE DIDN'T HAVE A/C AND THEY WERE SOME  
4 OF THE ONLY AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING UNITS FOR PEOPLE  
5 WITH DISABILITIES. NOW BERKELEY HAS SINCE ADDED APARTMENT  
6 BUILDINGS THAT ARE MORE ACCESSIBLE THAN WHEN I WAS GOING  
7 THERE. SO THERE ARE MORE OPTIONS, BUT THOSE ARE ALSO MORE  
8 EXPENSIVE. SO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, WHEN EXTREME HEAT  
9 HITS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE IN MARGINAL HOUSING AND MORE  
10 AFFECTED BY THAT. I THINK THERE ARE BENEFITS ABOUT THE TYPE OF  
11 COMMUNITY THAT YOU HAVE WHILE AT COLLEGE AND A LOT OF PEOPLE  
12 MISS COLLEGE BECAUSE THEY HAVE A GREAT COMMUNITY AND THAT WAS  
13 FACILITATED BY RUNNING INTO PEOPLE, GOING TO AND FROM CLASSES,  
14 IN BETWEEN BUILDINGS AND HAVING EVENTS AND THINGS LIKE THAT.  
15 THAT COMMUNITY CAN BE A REALLY VALUABLE FOR CLIMATE  
16 RESILIENCE, I THINK THERE IS A BENEFIT THERE. THIS IS ALSO  
17 JUST A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD UP ACTIVIST CHOPS AND ADDRESS  
18 SOMETHING THAT IS INTERSECTIONAL, THAT IS NOT BEING ADDRESSED  
19 AS MUCH. GOING BACK TO COLLEGE AGAIN, SOME FRIENDS WITH  
20 DISABILITIES AND I REALIZED NOT ENOUGH OF US WERE GETTING  
21 DATES SO WE STARTED UP A PANEL DISCUSSION GOING AROUND THE CO-  
22 OP AND DISABILITIES CLASSES TALKING ABOUT SEX RELATIONSHIPS  
23 AND DISABILITIES AND IT OPENED SOME MINDS AND I THINK THAT  
24 SIMILARLY TAKING THINGS BY THE REINS, TO EDUCATE YOUR PEERS ON  
25 A TOPIC THAT IS NOT BEING ADDRESSED AND TO USE THAT AS AN



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1 OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE YOURSELF, INCLUDING DOING DEEP DIVES  
2 AROUND SAY DISABILITY CLIMATE AND MIGRATION, WHERE RIGHT NOW  
3 THERE IS A DEARTH OF LITERATURE ON THAT BUT YOU COULD BUILD UP  
4 LITERATURE OR BUILD UP YOUR EXPERIENCE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
5 AND THE LAST THING IS THAT YOU KNOW, THIS IS A NEGATIVE THAT  
6 CLIMATE CHANGE IS GOING TO EFFECT THE ECONOMY AND PEOPLE WITH  
7 DISABILITIES ARE ALWAYS KIND OF THE FIRST TO GET LAID OFF AND  
8 THE LAST TO GET HIRED. SO, YOU KNOW COLLEGE STUDENTS PREPARING  
9 FOR AN ECONOMY THAT IS GOING TO BE MORE EFFECTED BY CLIMATE  
10 CHANGE HAS THAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO AND SHOULD BE NETWORKING  
11 WITH THEIR PEERS AND PROFESSORS AND SUCH TO FIGURE OUT THEIR  
12 BEST PATH FORWARD GIVEN CLIMATE CHANGE.

13

14 **MEGHAN WEIR:** ALL RIGHT, THANK YOU.

15

16 **SPEAKER:** DO I HAVE TIME?

17

18 **MEGHAN WEIR:** YES, LAST MINUTE.

19

20 **SPEAKER:** YEAH, SO. WHAT THIS BROUGHT TO MIND FOR ME WAS ONE OF  
21 THE PROJECTS THAT DIDN'T GET COMPLETED DURING ONE OF THE PEER  
22 AMBASSADOR PROGRAMS BUT THAT WE CAME UP WITH IS SAY THERE WAS  
23 -- SO THE CLIMATE CHANGE, HEAT WAVES, GREATER FIRES, CREATES  
24 MORE ELECTRICITY OUTAGES AND SO FOR EXAMPLE PEOPLE NEEDING TO  
25 EVACUATE THE BUILDING AND ELEVATORS GET SHUT DOWN, RIGHT? SO



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1 PEOPLE CAN'T USE THE STAIRS DIDN'T HAVE A WAY TO GET OUT OF  
2 THE BUILDING AND WE FOUND OUT ON MANY COLLEGE CAMPUSES. SO,  
3 THE CONCEPT -- SO THERE IS A TYPE OF CHAIR THAT YOU CAN BE  
4 STRAPPED INTO AND MOVE DOWN THE STAIRS, BUT MOST BUILDINGS  
5 DON'T HAVE THOSE AND THEY REQUIRE TRAINING ON HOW TO USE, SO  
6 THE IDEA WAS TO ACQUIRE AND PROVIDE THESE DEVICES TO COLLEGES  
7 IF THEY AGREED TO TAKE THE TRAINING AND HAVE A CLASS WHERE  
8 THEY TRAIN STUDENTS TO DO THIS, TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO THIS  
9 KIND OF PROBLEM OR EMERGENCY, RIGHT? I THINK THAT, SO THAT'S  
10 LIKE A POSITIVE. I THINK THERE ARE WAYS -- LIKE SOLUTIONS IF  
11 WE'RE LISTENING TO THE PEOPLE WHO ARE HAVING THE PROBLEMS AND  
12 NOT WRITING THEM OFF AND ALLOWING THEM ROOM, RIGHT? ONE OF THE  
13 THINGS THAT I KEEP IN MIND WHEN I DESIGN MY PROJECTS AND I  
14 ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO IS TO CREATE PROJECTS OR IDEAS THAT ARE  
15 SCALEABLE AND TRANSFERABLE SO THAT IF WE CAN CREATE A HUB OR  
16 RESOURCES THAT ALL THESE DIFFERENT SILOS CAN ACCESS, PEOPLE  
17 DON'T HAVE TO KEEP REINVENTING THE WHEEL IF THERE IS A PROGRAM  
18 THAT WORKED OUT WELL OR WE CAN PROVIDE FEEDBACK ABOUT THESE  
19 PROGRAMS, RIGHT? WHAT WENT WELL AND WHAT DIDN'T GO WELL,  
20 RIGHT? I FEEL LIKE THAT IS A WHOLE BIG PROJECT IN AND OF  
21 ITSELF THAT COULD EXIST, LIKE THAT.

22

23 **MEGHAN WEIR:** GREAT, THANK YOU. WHAT A WONDERFUL NOTE TO END  
24 ON. WE'RE AT TIME, A LITTLE BIT OVER BUT I APPRECIATE THE



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1 CHANCE TO HEAR FROM OUR PANELISTS AND TO HEAR FROM EVERYONE IN  
2 THE ROOM. THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU. [APPLAUSE].

3

4 **MEGHAN WEIR:** EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VERY NIMBLE  
5 INTERPRETATION AND TECH TEAM TODAY. I KNOW WE GOT A LITTLE BIT  
6 OF A LATE START WHILE WE WERE NAVIGATING THAT BUT WE HAVE  
7 EVERYTHING SET UP WELL. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE ON THE SCREEN.  
8 WE WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION ON  
9 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TOMORROW. THANKS EVERYWHERE FOR  
10 JOINING. IF YOU WANT TO SHARE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION, YEAH,  
11 OH, PERFECT, THANK YOU.

12



*Broadcasting Government*