

# ES SEMINAR SERIES

12:30-1:30 pm  
02/09/2022

[Zoom](#)

## Pablo Ortiz

*Climate change and water in California:  
what it means for vulnerable communities  
in the San Joaquin Valley*



**Abstract:** Climate change will fundamentally transform how, when, and where California gets its water, and those changes have profound implications for the state, the environment, and therefore for us. More than 1,300 federal, state, and local surface reservoirs across California capture precipitation, snowmelt, and runoff. Thousands of miles of canals, rivers, streams, and pipes bring that water to the state's 40 million residents, 10 million acres of irrigated farmland, and thriving industries. The state's 515 groundwater basins supply additional water throughout the year, acting as a vital buffer during dry periods. Climate change threatens to break California's water system altogether, creating new vulnerabilities for which infrastructure and institutions are unprepared. These breaks mean more impactful droughts and floods, damage to infrastructure, and other impacts that ultimately increase our water crisis. In this seminar, you will also learn what these impacts mean for the most vulnerable communities in the San Joaquin Valley.

**Bio:** Dr. Pablo Ortiz is a Bilingual Climate and Water Scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists. He plans, designs, and carries out primary analysis on how changing climate patterns are impacting key sectors and populations, especially with regards to precipitation and water supply changes. Pablo also works on developing strategies for vulnerable sectors and people in California to cope and adapt to the current and projected impacts of climate change, mainly related to water impacts.



### Readings:

[Inter-model agreement on projected shifts in California hydroclimate characteristics critical to water management](#)

[Climate change in the San Joaquin Valley: a household and community guide to taking action](#)