

Title: Use of Urban Vegetation As Climate Adaptation – Effective, and Low Cost When Done Well

The fact that almost 95% of Californians live in urban areas speaks volumes as to the importance of our state's urban forests. The benefits of these forests run a great breadth of environmental, social, and economic values. Among these are wildlife habitat, water quality, flood reduction, energy conservation, enhanced property values and economic activity, climate change mitigation, and reduced crime. "Urban forestry" is the cultivation and management of native or introduced trees and related vegetation in urban areas for their present and potential contribution to the economic, physiological, sociological, and ecological well-being of urban society. There is a continuum in how we manage urban forests all the way out to very rural forests, including for fire-related issues.

Presenter: John Melvin, CAL FIRE

John Melvin is the Staff Chief for Resource Protection and Improvement for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). This position includes oversight of the Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Pest Management and Vegetation Management Programs (which relates to fuels reduction and use of prescribed fire). From 2009 until 2016, John managed the Urban and Community Forestry Program This included program design, budgeting, supervision of program personnel, as well as policy analysis and implementation. Prior to that, he spent 7 years working as a Regional Urban Forester for CAL FIRE (4 years in southern CA, 3 years in northern CA) prior to promoting to manage the program. All CAL FIRE Foresters also participate in the Department's Emergency Response mission.

John graduated from Humboldt State University in 1999 with Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Forestry and a minor in business. He is an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist, a Society of American Foresters Certified Urban Forester, and a State of California Registered Professional Forester. John is also a member of the California Urban Forests Council, the International Society of Arboriculture, and the Society of American Foresters.