



CALIFORNIA

Health Policy Forum

Addressing the Health Impacts of Climate Change: What Progress Is California Making?

Speaker Biographies

Mark B. Horton, MD, MSPH

Dr. Mark Horton was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger as State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health, effective July 2007. As Director, Dr. Horton provides leadership for programs responsible for public health, disaster preparedness, and disease prevention for all Californians.

With more than 30 years of experience, Dr. Horton has a strong background in public health programs and clinical practice. From November 2005 through June 2007, he served as State Public Health Officer and Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of Health Services. During that time he advised the Governor, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Director of the Department of Health Services on public health issues. Dr. Horton previously served as the Deputy Agency Director and Health Officer for the County of Orange Health Care Agency. Prior to that, he was Vice President for Community Programs, Director of the Center for Child Protection, and Director of the Center for Healthier Communities for Children at San Diego Children's Hospital and Health Center. Prior to that, Dr. Horton served as Director of Public Health for the State of Nebraska.

Dr. Horton currently serves on the executive committee of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and is a diplomat of the American Board of Pediatrics. He received his Medical Doctorate from St. Louis University and his Master of Science degree in Public Health from the University of North Carolina.

Yvonne Hunter, MA

Yvonne Hunter is Program Director of the California Climate Action Network, a program of the Institute for Local Government. The Institute is the non-profit research affiliate of the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties.

Prior to joining the Institute in 2007 to launch the Institute's Communities for Healthy Kids Program, Ms. Hunter was a Legislative Representative for the League of California Cities, emphasizing environmental issues – a position she held for nearly 20 years. She has over thirty-five years experience in energy policy and environmental issues, beginning with work at the University of California, Davis, where she earned a BA and an MA.

Connie Roser-Renouf, PhD

Connie Roser-Renouf has a long-standing interest in the use of mass media to facilitate social change and has conducted research in varied arenas, including heart disease prevention, Third World development, and environmental risk. She now directs her attention entirely to climate change, believing it to be the largest challenge humans have faced.

As a member of the faculty at George Mason University's Center for Climate Change Communication, Dr. Roser-Renouf has participated over the past year in a large, nationally representative study of Americans' beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors relating to climate change. Data from this survey has been released in a series of reports, which are available at the Center's website.

Dr. Roser-Renouf earned her PhD in Communication Research at Stanford University. Prior to joining the Center at George Mason, she taught and conducted research at the University of California at Santa Barbara, the University of Denver, the University of Pittsburgh, and Humboldt State University.

Miriam Rotkin-Ellman, MPH

Miriam Rotkin-Ellman is a scientist with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) health and environment program. She earned her master's degree in public health in Environmental Health Sciences from UC Berkeley in 2006 and a BS in Environmental Sciences with Honors from Brown University in 2000. Ms. Rotkin-Ellman was an Environmental Scientist with the New Mexico Environment Department from 2001 to 2004. She joined NRDC in December 2006. Her work currently focuses on researching the links between global warming and health, reducing pollution from refineries and the cement industry, and protecting communities from toxics.

Linda Rudolph, MD, MPH

Dr. Linda Rudolph is the Deputy Director, California Department of Public Health, Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, which includes the Chronic Disease and Injury Control Division, and the Division of Occupational and Environmental Disease Control. Previously, Dr. Rudolph was the Health Officer and Public Health Director for the City of Berkeley; in that role, she served on the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) Board and co-chaired the CCLHO Chronic Disease Committee. Dr. Rudolph has also been the Chief Medical Officer for Medi-Cal Managed Care; Medical Director for the California Division of Workers' Compensation; Executive Medical Director for the Industrial Medical Council; staff physician in the CDPH Occupational Health program; and a physician for the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers' International Union. She has an MD from the University of California, San Francisco and an MPH from the University of California, Berkeley.

Robin Salsburg, JD

Robin Salsburg is a senior staff attorney at Public Health Law & Policy (PHLP), a project of the Public Health Institute. She has initiated PHLP's program on climate change and

health which she launched by organizing a one-day convening where more than 150 multi-disciplinary participants gathered to identify practical strategies to effectively engage public health networks in climate change planning and policy. She then synthesized the proposed priorities and strategies in the publication *An Action Plan for Public Health – Initial Recommendations for Involving Public Health in Climate Change Policy*. In addition to her climate change work, Ms. Salsburg also specializes in developing policies to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke. Prior to joining PHLP, she was an environmental law fellow with a San Francisco law firm, where she represented community groups and government agencies in land use and environmental litigation. Ms. Salsburg also served as a Legal Research Attorney in the San Francisco Superior Court.

Before becoming a lawyer, Ms. Salsburg spent ten years utilizing her training in sustainable urban planning to develop waste management systems that furthered zerowaste goals through waste reduction, recycling, and composting. She graduated summa cum laude from Golden Gate University School of Law where she received a Certificates of Distinction in Public Interest Law and Environmental Law. She received her BA from Stanford University in International Relations.