Running Dry? Quantifying California’s ongoing drought

By: Dr. John Abatzoglou, Associate Professor in Management of Complex Systems at the University of California, Merced

Day/Time: Friday 9/17, 3 - 4 PM

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Meeting ID: 937 2279 6133; Passcode: 92837

Speaker Bio: Dr. Abatzoglou is an Associate Professor in Management of Complex Systems at the University of California, Merced. John received his bachelor's degree in Atmospheric Science from UC Davis, doctorate in Earth Systems Science from UC Irvine. John's academic interests are primarily focused around climate science and impacts in the American West. His Climatology Lab works on a diverse set of research questions spanning climate science and meteorology as well as their impacts on systems including water resources, wildfire, and agriculture. The research group also develops web-based climate services to help scientists and practitioners improve climate readiness.

Abstract: California finds itself once again amid another historical drought. Is this merely a case of history repeating itself or cause for concern on the state of water resources? I will provide a review of the back-to-back hot-dry years in water years 2020 and 2021 and highlight potential contributing factors that facilitated the ongoing drought. I will provide a comparison of the ongoing drought to several of the states historic droughts. Finally, the role of human-caused climate change on droughts will be explored using the most recent generation of climate modeling runs..

Host: Safeeq Khan & Ellen Bruno, CE Specialists UC ANR