

Moderator: **Monica Gilchrist** – *Deputy Executive Director, ICLEI*

- Cities have shifted from being the problem to being the solution

Councilmember Ed Reyes – *Los Angeles City Council, 1st District*

- LA River Revitalization Master Plan
 - Using updated land-use strategies to deal with different communities who are willing to allow varying degrees of access to the LA river
- Private-public partnerships are vital
- Need governmental, entrepreneurial and philanthropic programs to address LA river challenges

Lisa Sarno – *Executive Director, Office of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, City of Los Angeles*

- How do you communicate with the public? How do you change the conversation from aesthetics to green infrastructure? How do you translate science?
- Can make environment a priority by reaching out to youth (reach them through their peers)
- Use local artists to promote programs and spread awareness
- Not how many trees you plant, but how many you can keep alive
- People need to see it to believe it. If people see it, then they will be more likely to act on their own

Michael McCormick – *AICP, Senior Planner, State of California Governor's Office of Planning and Research*

- Local government is the leader in climate change ideas and discussion
- Need to work between regional efforts
- Climate change provides an opportunity to work across and bring together agencies

Julian Torres Ruiz – *Assistant Director of Environmental Protection, City of Tijuana*

- Currently working across the border with San Diego to work as one air basin
- Vehicle emissions are the top priority in Mexico right now

Discussion/Questions

- Barriers with moving toward adaptation and sustainability
 - **Ed Reyes**
 - Apathy: getting the community to understand urgency
 - Education and spreading the word to overcome apathy
 - **Lisa Sarno**

- Taking a policy and making it work internally and externally
 - Making a current program important/relevant to the future
 - We can't be afraid of change and adaptation
 - **Michael McCormick**
 - Limited time frame
 - Complicated bureaucracy (inter-relationships)
 - General lack of political will (local and regional levels)
 - Requires a new way of thinking
 - Infrastructure, resources and social change needed
 - **Julian Torres Ruiz**
 - First-world vs. developing-world technologies
 - Need to create institutions to solve issue
- How do you pay for sustainability/adaptation/mitigation?
 - **Ed Reyes**
 - Stimulate public-private partnerships
 - Condensing government asset uses and functions to create new environments to generate revenue
 - **Lisa Sarno**
 - Working with the private sector
 - Looking at long-term costs instead of short-term costs
 - **Michael McCormick**
 - Institutionalize climate change
 - Reprioritize criteria
 - Better understand long-term viability
 - Talk about risks and hazards
 - Consistent policy throughout state → consolidate efforts into single grant applications or funding opportunities
 - Reallocate funding
 - **Julian Torres Ruiz**
 - Subsidies and grants
 - Support from the United States
 - The one that pollutes is the one that pays