



BAY AREA  
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DISTRICT

# Urban Heat Island (UHI) Impacts on Energy Use, Climate, Air Pollution, Greenhouse Gases, and Health

## 2015 Efforts of Advisory Council

Prepared for the  
Board of Directors  
November 18, 2015



# Advisory Council 2015 Activities

- **Objectives**
  - Study UHI impacts on energy use, climate, air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and health
  - Identify recommendations to mitigate its effects in the Bay Area
- **5 regular meetings** (over 5 months)
- **4 expert speakers**
  - Air District, University, National Laboratory, CalFire
- **1 summary report**





# Advisory Council: Topics and Speakers

## UHI Impacts and Mitigation Strategies

- **Saffet Tankrikulu, PhD, BAAQMD** (overview)
- **Bob Bornstein, PhD, San Jose State University**, on behalf of **Jorge E. Gonzalez, PhD, City College of New York** (UHI science)
- **Ronnen Levinson, PhD, LBNL** (cool roofs)
- **John Melvin, CalFire** (urban forestry)

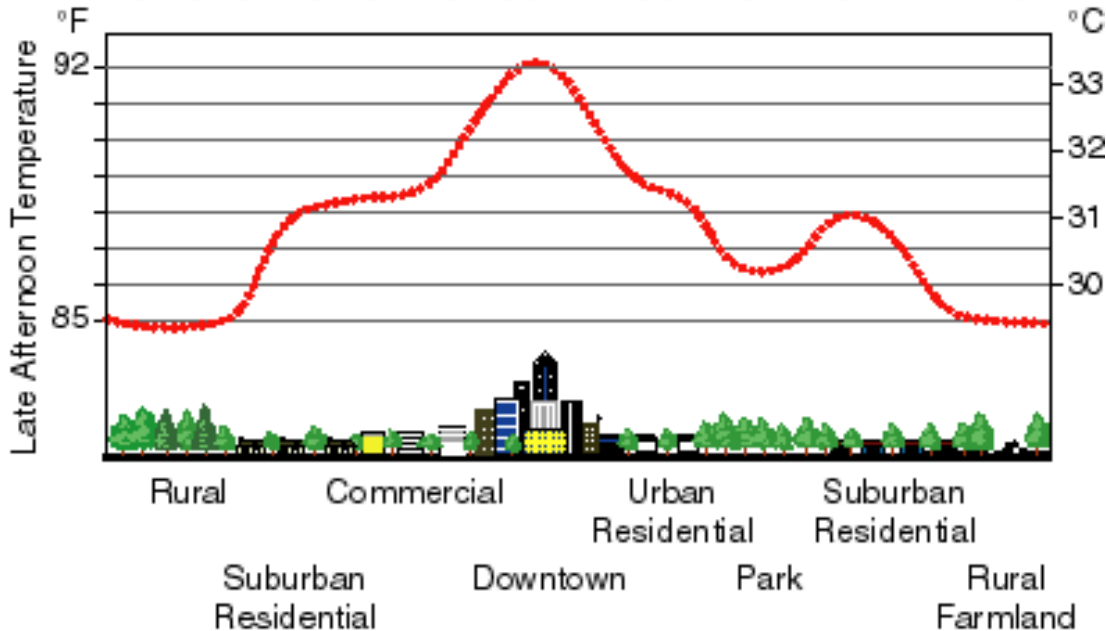




# What is an UHI?

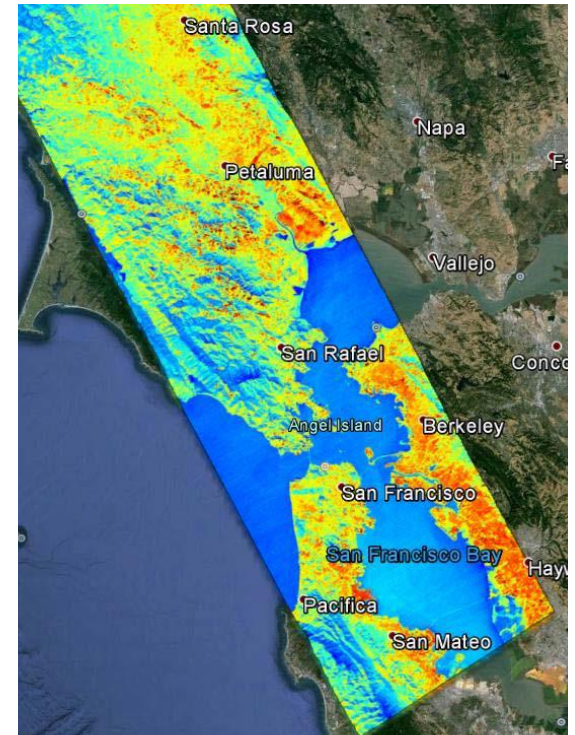
An UHI is a relative term comparing the temperature of an urban area to its surrounding area

## Sketch of an Urban Heat-Island Profile



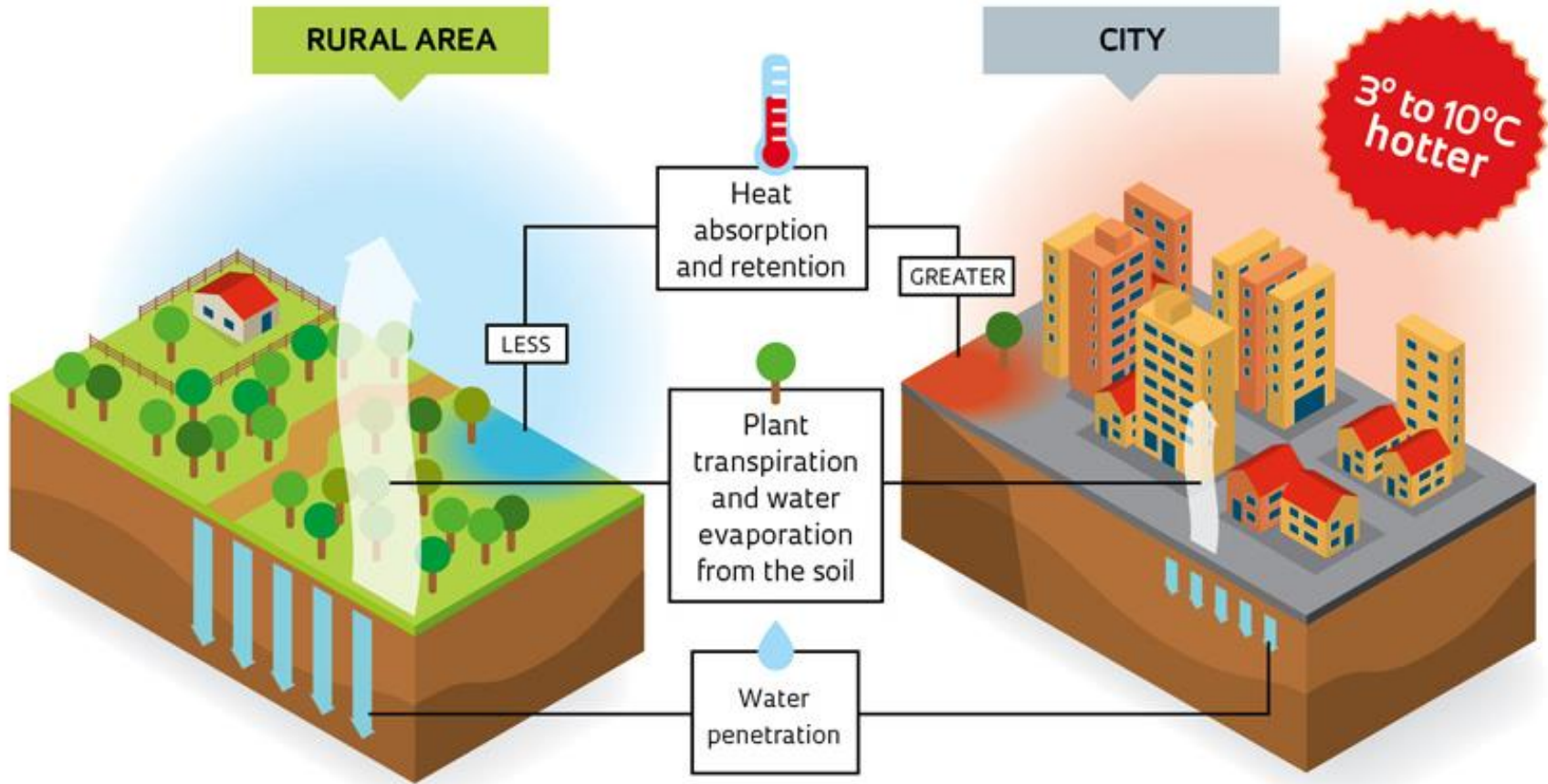
Courtesy of LBNL

## Aerial Temperature Image Taken From Aircraft





# Causes of UHIs

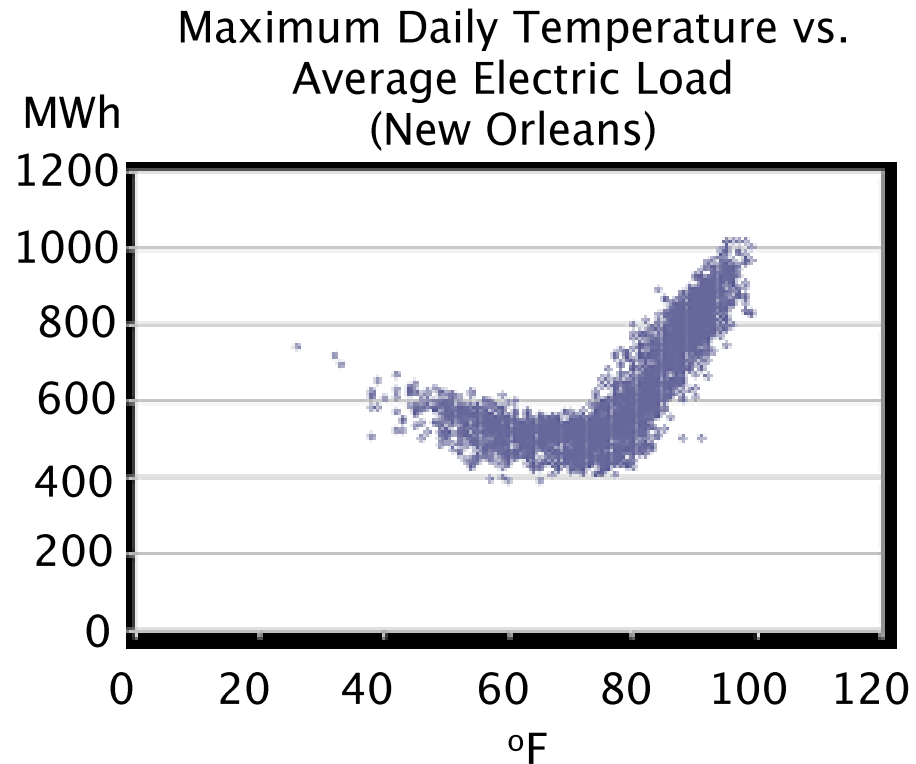


Courtesy Alexandre Affonso



# Impacts of High Urban Temperatures

1. Increased ozone due to accelerated photochemical reactions
2. Increased heat-related illness
3. Increased building cooling loads, driving increased electricity generation, driving increased pollution
4. Contribution to global warming



Courtesy US EPA

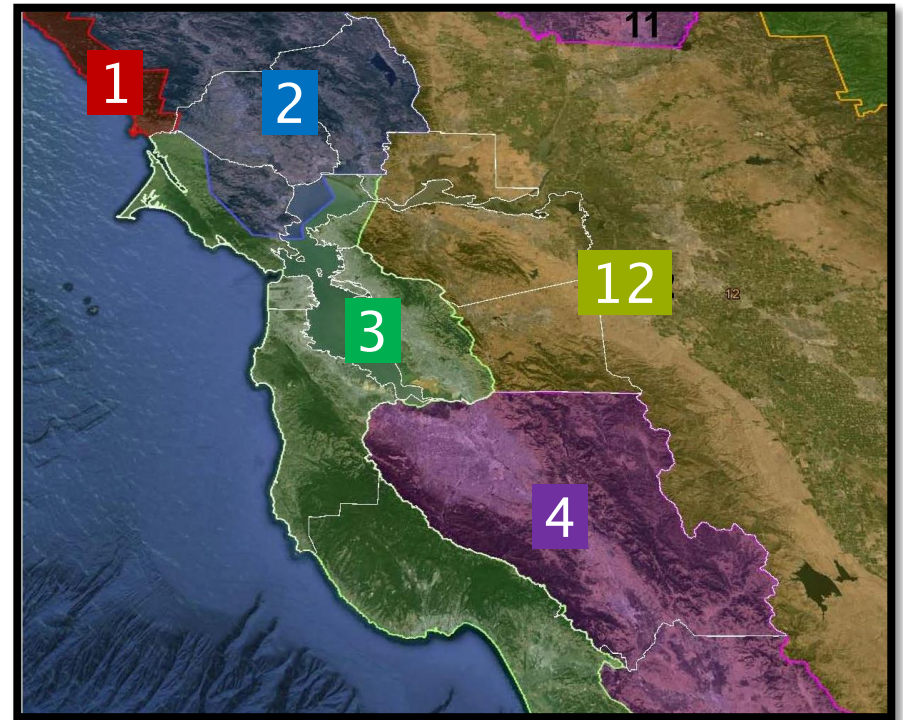




# Bay Area Geography and UHI Variation

- UHIs are a concern in areas with:
  - hot summers (zones 2, 4, & 12)
  - elevated emissions and air pollution levels
- Heat wave vulnerability is elevated in zone 3

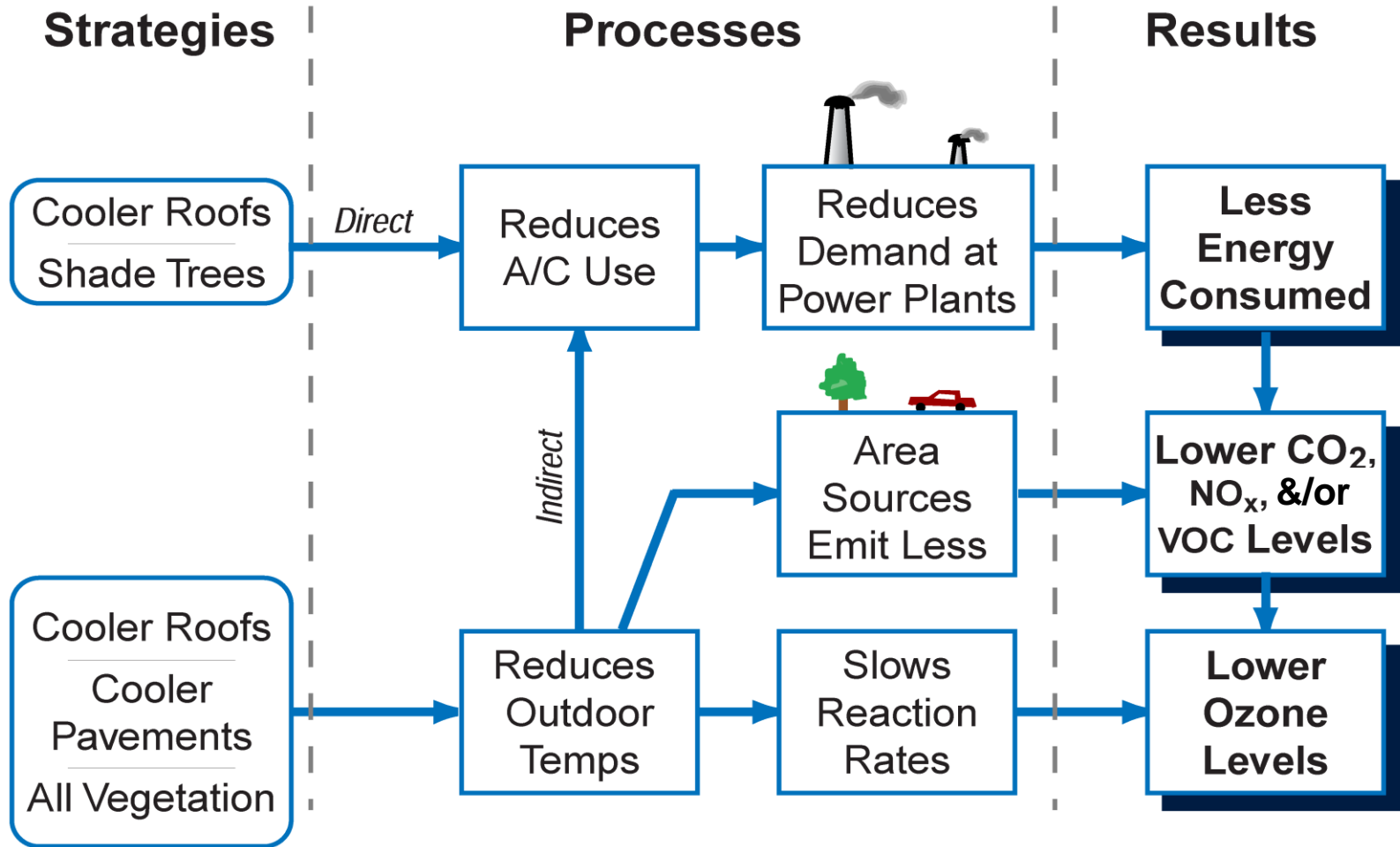
## California Climate Zones



Courtesy CEC



# Mitigation Strategies







# Trees as an Urban Cooling Strategy

- Urban cooling benefits:
  - Evapotranspiration decreases air temperature
  - Canopy provides shade to decrease surface temperature
  - Vegetation reduces period of high daytime temperatures



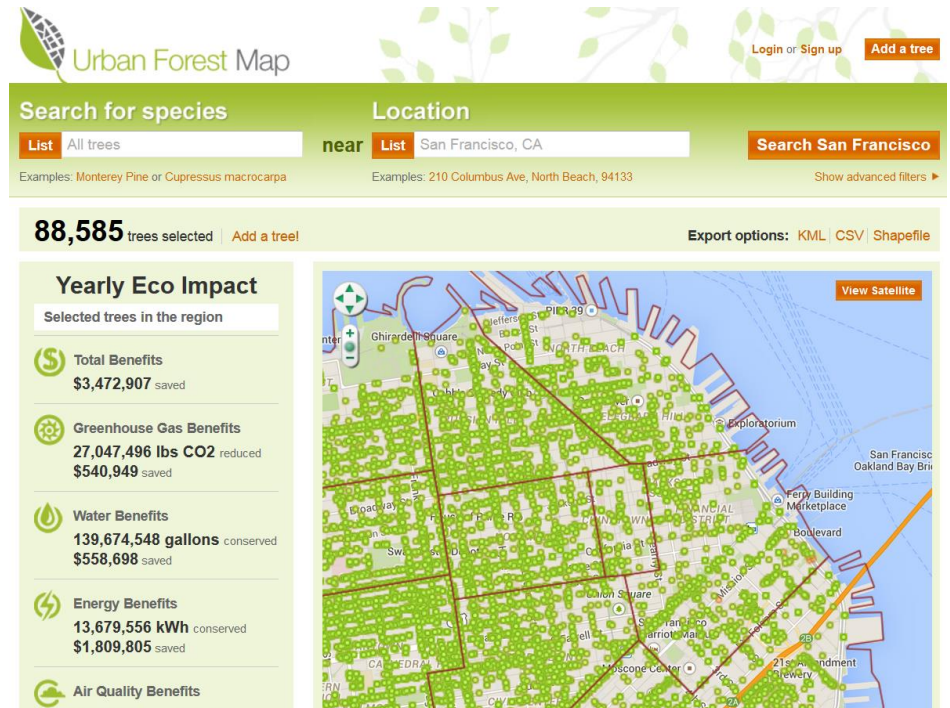
Courtesy John Melvin, CalFire





# Trees Offer Important Co-benefits

- Carbon sequestration
- PM capture
- Storm-water capture
- Water quality improvement
- Increased property values
- Reduced energy use
- **Annual regional benefits ≈ \$5.1B**
- **A one-time 3% increase in regional urban tree canopy ≈ \$475M/yr**

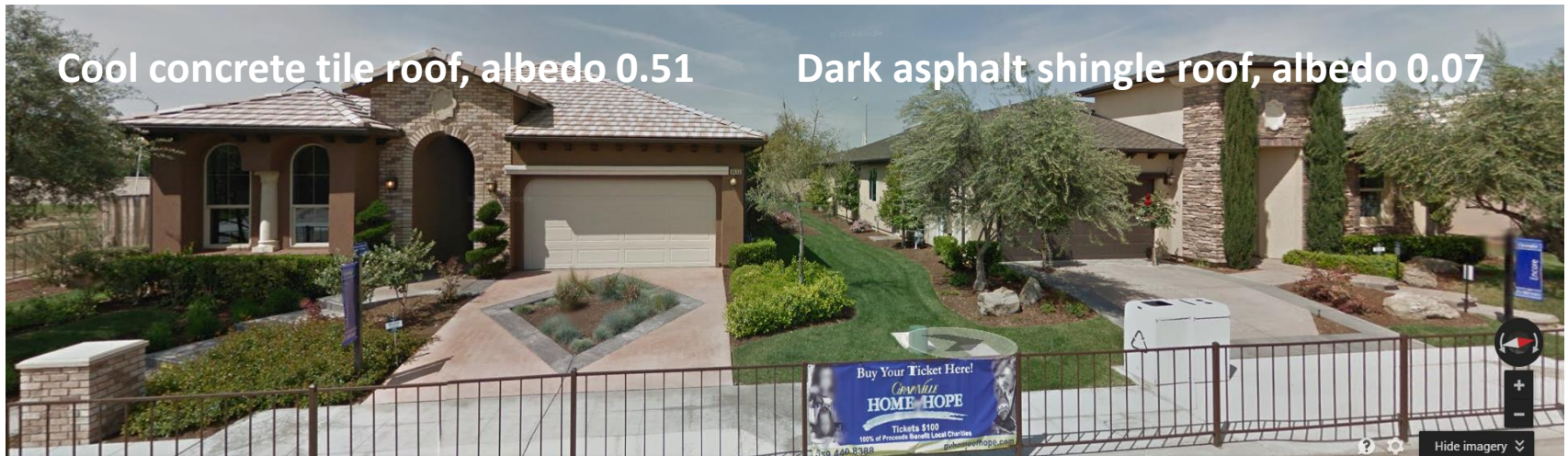


Courtesy urbanforestmap.org



# Cool Roofs

A cool tile roof in Fresno, CA saved 25% of annual cooling energy costs in a single-family home



Courtesy Ronnen Levinson, LBNL



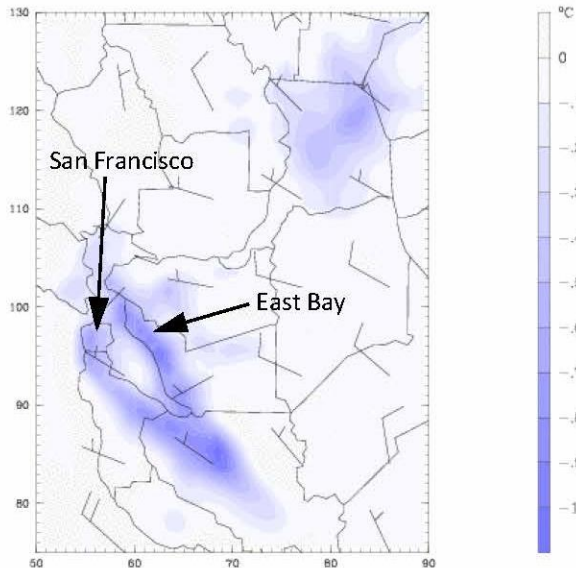




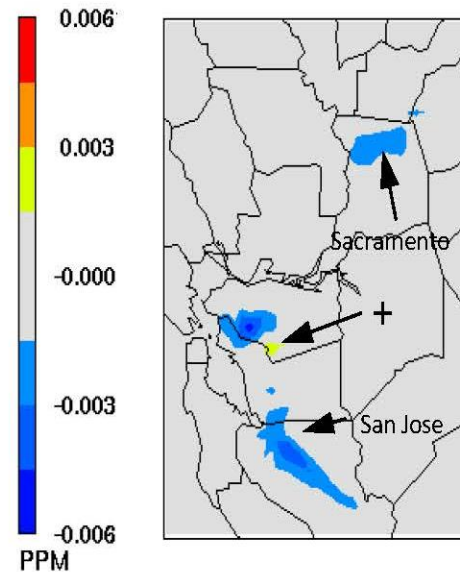
# Cool Roof Impacts on Ozone Formation

A regional climate model simulation predicts that increasing roof and pavement albedos can reduce temperatures up to 1°C and lower ozone by 2–6 ppb.

Change in air temperature at 2 m AGL at 11:00 PDT on 27 July 2000



Corresponding change in ozone with year-2000 emissions

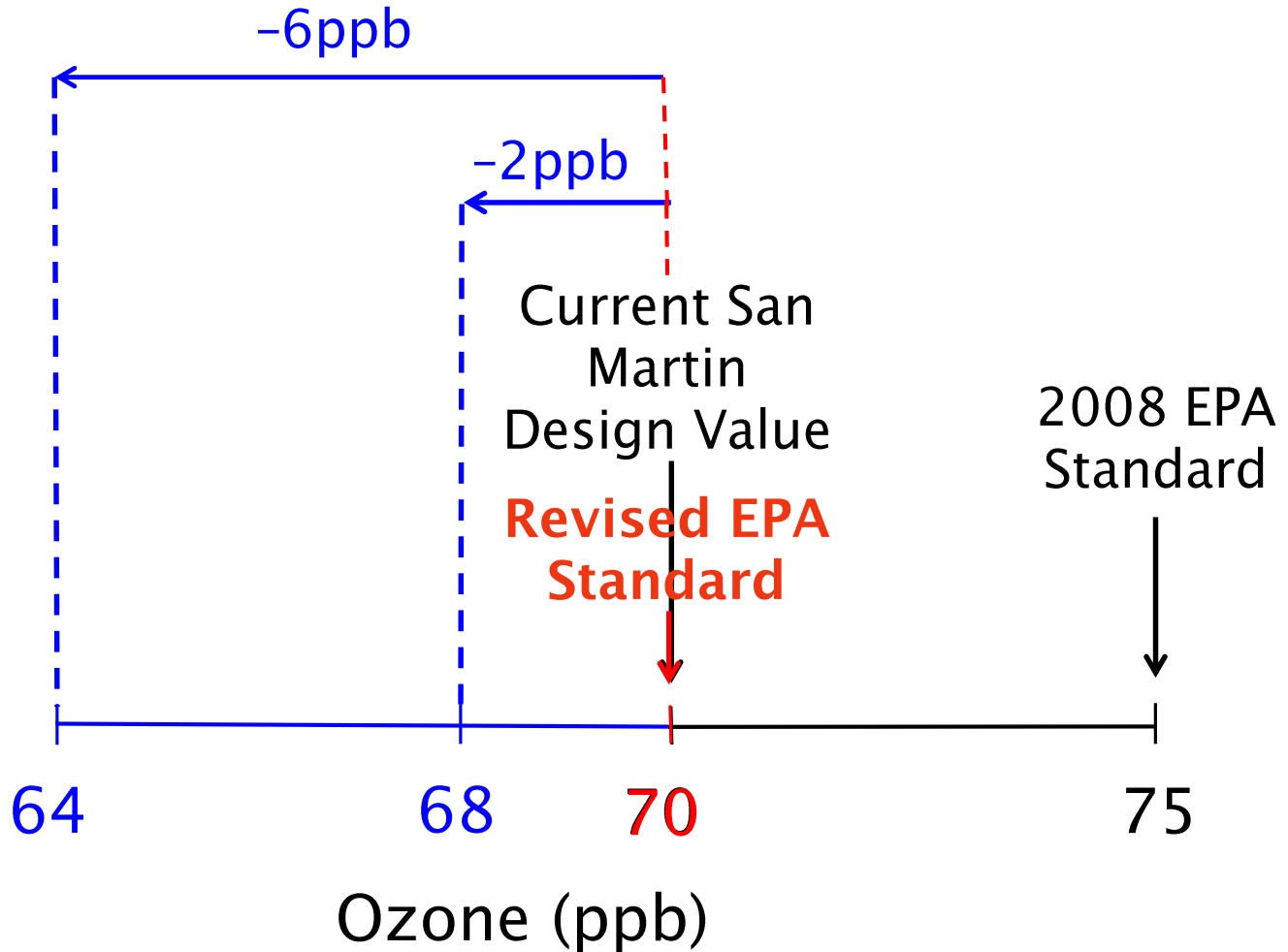


**Study increased**  
roof albedo by 0.25 – 0.55  
pavement albedo by 0.22 – 0.27

Results courtesy of Haider Taha, Altostratus Inc., <http://altostratus.com>.



# Significance of Reducing Ozone by 2–6 ppb: San Martin as an Example





# Recommendation: Study UHI Impacts

- Perform a cost–benefit analysis of urban cooling strategies versus alternative methods of improving air quality
- Prioritize Bay Area communities that would benefit from more aggressive adoption of targeted measures
- Explore options for promoting more aggressive adoption of urban cooling measures in identified high priority communities







# Recommendation: Local Government Engagement

- Provide technical support to local governments on:
  - Incorporating air quality criteria in their street-tree selection processes
  - Incorporating cool roof requirements into local building codes in areas with warmer climates
  - The temperature and air quality benefits of additional urban cooling strategies (e.g., covered parking lots, white roofs on city fleets)





# Recommendation: Public Outreach

- Communicate the benefits of urban cooling measures as part of geographically-targeted public awareness campaigns





# Recommendation: State Standards

- Support adoption of more rigorous energy standards for cool roofs by helping CEC to incorporate quantified air quality benefits in cost-benefit analyses





# Thank You!

- We appreciate your time and interest
- Questions or comments?



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# Advisory Council: A Summary of Past Activities

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# Advisory Council Overview 2009-2015

- Annually: 20 members of varied backgrounds
  - Over 40 have served
  - Many long serving members (>12 years)
  - Wonderful staff liaisons
- World-class, state-of-the-art speakers
  - University researchers, LNBL, LLNL
  - ARB, EPA, CEC, BAAQMD, SCAQMD, BAR, SFDPH, MTC, etc.
- 19 technical reports
- Focus on emerging, rather than current, issues
- Holistic perspective: integration of air quality, health, energy and climate; co-benefits; and potential unintended consequences





# Advisory Council Topics: 2009-2015

- 2009: Air Quality and Public Health
- 2009-2010: AB32 GHG Reduction Goal
- 2011-2012: Ultrafine Particulate Matter
- 2013: Black Carbon – Health Effects and Climate Forcing Potential
- 2014: Bay Area Energy Future (2050) vis-à-vis Regional Climate Protection Strategy
- 2015: Urban Heat Island Effect



# Significant Past Advisory Council Recommendations

- 2003: SMOG Check II changes to reduce gross polluters on road
- 2008: Integrate climate change into air quality management planning process and establish a Climate Protection Officer
- 2009: Integrate PM into CARE program methodology
- 2009: Develop strong community outreach program
- 2009: Implement integrated multi-pollutant planning strategies for criteria pollutants, air toxics, and GHGs



# Significant Past Advisory Council Recommendations

- 2009 (and 2011): Create Health Effects Officer Position
- 2011 and 2012: UFP – develop monitoring strategy; develop emissions inventory; perform modeling; and contribute to research to quantify health metrics
- 2013: Develop climate protection strategies and evaluate their potential for health co-benefits and unintended consequences
- 2014: Work to reduce GHG emissions from small stationary sources i.e., backup generators, furnaces, boilers, and water heaters



Questions?

Thank you for the  
opportunity to serve.



# Summary of Ozone Seasons

Year	National 8-Hour	State 1-Hour	State 8-Hour
2012	4	3	8
2013	3	3	3
2014	5	3	10
2015	5	4	11

**Spare the Air Alerts: 7/28, 7/29, 8/16, 8/17, 9/8, 9/9, 9/10, 9/20, 9/21**

**Days > 0.075 ppm 8-hour NAAQS: 8/16, 8/17, 9/9, 9/19, 9/20**