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Speaker series on climate change set

By Ngoc Nguyen - ngnguyen@sacbee.com

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A series of talks on climate change that kicks off Thursday aims to bridge gaps between science and policy.

The speaker series will highlight regional and statewide issues tied to climate change. It is being organized by researchers at the University of California, Davis, and the UC Institute for Research on Climate Change and Its Societal Impacts.

The goal is to "get some communication" between scientists and policymakers, said Phil Duffy, director of UC's multi-campus research program.

The talks are free and intended for state agency employees, legislative staffers and the public.

California has enacted a number of measures to cut climate-warming emissions, including Assembly Bill 32, which requires cuts of greenhouse gases by 25 percent by 2020.

"The state has really expanded the number of people involved in climate change, and some are getting up to speed on understanding the latest science," Duffy said.

Terry Nathan, a climate scientist in the Department of Land, Air and Water Resources at UC Davis, said he hopes the series will promote "better-informed decisions on policy."

Topics will focus on state-specific issues, including the impacts of climate change on water resources, flood risk, agriculture and air quality. The final two talks will focus on solutions.

The series will kick off at noon Thursday and continue every other Thursday until June 19 at the California Environmental Protection Agency building, 1001 I St., Sacramento. The talks also will be recorded on video and available at lawr.ucdavis.edu/climatechange101.

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Phone: (916) 321-1000

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