



SEI schedule and links for August 2022 – November 2022

[October 20: “Aridity and Water”](#) Participants TBA

[November 10: “Mental Health Challenges and Climate Anxiety”](#),
Dr. Bhutia, LA Harbor College. 1100AM-2PM

On October 20, the SEI will once again look at the pressing and critical issue of water in Southern California. We titled this workshop “Aridity and Water” because our last workshop on water ([July 15, 2021](#)) focused on the “drought” in western states and water imports. We also looked at local measures to save water and find new sources. In that workshop we looked at where Los Angeles gets its drinking water and at various programs to increase local supplies (stormwater capture, wastewater treatment, and groundwater remediation, re-charged aquifers and greater efficiency in buildings and home use). We have learned since then that increased aridity (long term change in precipitation) is more likely than even a “long drought”. What does that mean for us here in the second largest city in the US?.

This coming workshop looks at aridity in the context of local adaptation. We will pay closer attention to what our most prestigious environmental non-profits are doing to educate the public, participate in public policy, and advocate for “tried and true” as well as innovative new ways to conserve.

[Friends of the Los Angeles River](#) (FoLAR) was founded in 1986 by Lewis MacAdams and has been connecting communities to the LA River for 36 years. They envision a verdant LA River that supports vulnerable communities in climate adaptation, through their mission of building capacity for communities, students, and future leaders to advocate for nature, climate, and equity on the River. Jessica Rodriguez from FoLAR is one of our guests.

[TreePeople](#), founded by Andy Lipkis in 1973, is a major Los Angeles environmental organization, now headed by Cindy Montañez. It has a wide range of projects to build up the urban forest canopy, reduce the urban heat dome (discussed in the Sept 22 SEI workshop this year) increase shade trees in low-income neighborhoods, [educate the public on tree care and water use](#), and increase conservation and the essential link between plants and water. TP has now planted over 3 million trees locally, but equally important, led the way to shift our choice of plants and trees to those most acclimated to increased aridity. Amanda Begley will be our guest from TreePeople.