

# HOT TIMES, COOLER COMMUNITIES: URBAN HEAT RESILIENCE ON THE FRONTLINES



PANEL DISCUSSION  
PRESENTED BY  
GREENLATINOS



## Paulina López

*Executive Director, Duwamish River Community Coalition (DRCC)*

Paulina has over 25 years of experience in civil rights, social and environmental justice, equity, education, and diversity. She is a respected organizer and strategist focused on shifting power to marginalized communities. Paulina has expertise in stakeholder engagement, collaborative problem-solving, and empowering BIPOC communities. She immigrated from Ecuador, settled in Seattle 18 years ago, and holds a Master's degree in Human Rights Law.



## Dilia Ortega

*Youth Program Coordinator at Communities for a Better Environment*

Dilia organizes young people around environmental justice issues in Southeast LA. She has worked on the successful campaign to prevent the proposed I-710 S Freeway widening and leads CBE's green infrastructure work, currently working on community-led projects to renovate Maywood Riverfront Park and Clara Park in Cudahy. Dilia received her B.A. in History and Comparative Literature from Williams College and is currently pursuing a Master of Urban and Regional Planning at UCLA.



## Rene Jimenez

*Associate Director, San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps*

Rene currently lives in Southern California and is a United States Marine Corps veteran. He has been with the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps, a nonprofit workforce development organization for over 5 years and currently serves as the Associate Director. He has experience in environmental restoration projects, project management, community engagement and program development.



## Enrique Huerta

*Legislative Director, Climate Resolve*

Enrique forms partnerships to address extreme heat in Sacramento. With degrees in Urban and Regional Planning and Regenerative Studies, he emphasizes the need for adapting to extreme heat alongside reducing greenhouse gases. He played a key role in securing \$135M for the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience grant program. In his free time, he enjoys working with aquaponics systems and lives in Southeast Los Angeles with his family and dog, Pepper.

## Resources:

- Blog: [GreenLatinos Summer Blog Series: Extreme Heat in Latino Communities](#) (June 2023)
- Article: [As heatwaves and floods hit cities worldwide, these places are pioneering solutions, The Conversation](#) (Jan. 2023)
- Data Tools: [Tools for Combating Extreme Heat, The White House](#) (April 2023).
- Report: [Latino Climate Justice Framework](#) (Chapter 2 includes information about extreme heat)

## Learn more about the organizations where our panelists work:

- [Climate Resolve](#)
- [Communities for a Better Environment](#)
- [Duwamish River Community Coalition](#)
- [San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps](#)

## Action Items:

- Join the [Sustainable Communities Collective](#)
- Join the [Public Land and Ocean Collective](#)
- Become a [GreenLatinos Member](#)