

Climate change myths

By: Charles Wierzbicki – August 15, 2013

Editor,

Just because humans sometimes damage the environment doesn't mean government is competent to fix the problem.

California cooling chilling climate activism. All I know about climate, some say, is what's outside my window.

Across much of California this is one of the coolest summers in memory, with temperatures well below normal.

In San Jose, where the average high in August is 82, so far this month it's at 75. Yet, on a recent day when San Jose's high was 73 and its low 60, California's Environmental Protection Agency released an extensive report about climate change and global warming.

Usually a plea from politicians that we leave a better future for our children and grandchildren is met with nods of approval followed by a chorus of yawns. Perhaps California can take the lead in changing that when it comes to the very real problems of climate change.

It won't be easy. Not when the thermometer outside has readings in the 60s, and the very day in mid-summer that the state issues its findings on global warming, the San Jose Mercury News carries the front-page headline, "Bundle up: Parkas are in order."

Also Global average temperature has been flat for a decade. But frightening myths about global warming continue.

We're told there are more hurricanes now. We're told that hurricanes are stronger. But the National Hurricane Center says it isn't so: Climatologist Patrick Michaels, director of the Center for the Study of Science at the Cato Institute, says humans don't have as much impact on global temperature as the doomsayers feared.

"Forecasts of global warming — particularly in the last two years — have begun to come down," he says.

"We're seeing the so-called 'sensitivity' of temperature being reduced by 40 percent in the new climate models. It means we're going to live."

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