Building the Climate Movement We Need:
A Discussion with Bill McKibben

Summer Gray (ES faculty)
Bill McKibben (Founder of 350.org)
Amanda Pantoja (ES Class of 2019, Food and Water Watch)
Emily Williams (Es Class of 2013, 350 Santa Barbara)

Summer Gray is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at UCSB, where she teaches courses on infrastructure, adaptation, and the environment. Her work highlights the lived experiences of coastal communities throughout the world facing the threat of sea change and the unintended consequences of coastal development.

Bill McKibben is an author, environmentalist, and founder of 350.org, the first planet-wide, grassroots climate change movement, which has organized twenty thousand rallies around the world in every country save North Korea, spearheaded the resistance to the Keystone Pipeline, and launched the fast-growing fossil fuel divestment movement. In 2014 he was awarded the Right Livelihood Prize, sometimes called the ‘alternative Nobel.’ His 1989 book The End of Nature is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change, and has appeared in 24 languages; he’s gone on to write a dozen more books.

Amanda Pantoja is Los Angeles organizer for Food & Water Watch. Having grown up with a parent involved in the labor movement, Amanda grew up with a proclivity to organizing. Born in Huntington Park, Amanda started her activism when she became a youth member Communities for a Better Environment fighting for environmental justice in Southeast LA. Impassioned to continue her advocacy, she attended UC Santa Barbara and graduated in 2019 with Bachelors in Environmental Studies. During her time there, she built up student power to demand a just transition off fossil fuels for Santa Barbara County. She is now back in her neighborhood organizing for energy democracy and 100% renewable energy for Los Angeles by 2030.

Emily Williams: Emily is on the steering committee of 350 Santa Barbara. She is also a PhD Candidate and NSF fellow in Geography, where she works on climate accountability and climate justice. She received her B.S. in Environmental Studies from UCSB, class of 2013. She has worked in various climate change movement spaces, including involvement with youth civil society at the United Nations climate negotiations, as a staff campaign director for fossil fuel divestment, and as a cofounder of several scholar-advocacy projects on climate justice.