Join us for a panel discussion on the increasingly pressing issue of insuring against the rising frequency of climate-related disasters in California. This talk will focus on the insurance landscape in the state with an emphasis on the growing threats of wildfires and flooding. Our panelists, Dr. Michael Peterson and the Honorable Dave Jones, will discuss how intensified climate threats have limited housing insurance availability and affordability in recent years and what steps the state can take in collaboration with the insurance industry to mitigate risks to California residents and homeowners.

**Dr. Michael Peterson** is the inaugural Deputy Commissioner of the Climate and Sustainability Branch at the California Department of Insurance. In this role, he develops and oversees policy initiatives focused on reducing climate risk and promoting a sustainable insurance market in California. With a PhD in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management from UC Berkeley, Dr. Peterson’s expertise contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing insurance coverage, and advancing climate resilience in California.

**The Honorable Dave Jones** is the Director of UC Berkeley’s Climate Risk Initiative and a Senior Fellow at The ClimateWorks Foundation. As California’s Insurance Commissioner from 2011 to 2018, Jones managed the Department of Insurance’s response to devastating wildfires in California. Prior to his role as Insurance Commissioner, Jones served in the California State Assembly (2004-2010), contributing to his comprehensive understanding of climate-related policy and insurance regulation.