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NorCal Public Media Receives 2025 Emmy® for *Climate California*

Northern California Public Media (NorCal Public Media) has received a 2025 Emmy® Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for ***Climate California 102: The Songs of Strangers***, in the category of Environment/Science – News or Long Form Content. The 54th Annual Northern California Area Emmy® Awards were presented on Saturday, June 14th, 2025.



L to R: Climate California producers Jeremy Jue and Hannah Lee, music composer Miguel Brierley, director Charles Loi, executive producers Darren LaShelle and Paul Swensen accepting the 2025 Emmy® Award on June 14, 2025.

Accepting the award at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento, Calif. were producers Jeremy Jue, Hannah Lee, executive producers Darren LaShelle, Paul Swensen, director Charles Loi and Miguel Brierley who composed the original music for the series.





Climate California debuted on KRCB-PBS and KPJK public television in the San Francisco Bay Area in October 2024, with an emphasis on narrative storytelling as a fresh way to present information on climate, where we find ourselves now, and solutions to address a climate in crisis through the stories of people who remind us of the beauty of the world and the power we already have. Episode 2, *The Songs of Strangers* was first broadcast in November 2024.

“*Climate California* is an invitation. At a time when public media and our planet are under attack, it’s an invitation to cherish our public commons, in all its forms. A reminder that all of us have a responsibility to protect our commons. It’s an invitation to face our fears, to tell new stories, and to reimagine everything,” said writer, director and series narrator Charles Loi in his acceptance speech. “Also, it’s a lot of fun. Please go watch it on PBS.org!”



Charles Loi, writer, producer, director and series narrator of *Climate California* accepts the 2025 Emmy® Award along with colleagues from NorCal Public Media on June 14, 2025.





“We’ve traveled all over the state for *Climate California* and met with scientists, activists, thought leaders and those fighting to build a new story of climate change — one that is innovative, hopeful and empowering,” producer Hannah Lee explains.

Producer Jeremy Jue admitted the series has been a “big endeavor” for a small production team but went on to add that, “We were lucky to have the support of the entire station, not just the production department, for *Climate California*. From colleagues in radio, engineering, development and administration, nearly everyone at the station contributed some piece to this project.”

Composer Miguel Brierley was an intern at the station while still a student of film and media. Through what he calls “a gift of luck and timing” he reconnected with the *Climate California* producers at an event in early 2024 and by October, was hired to compose original music for all of the episodes. Soon after, Miguel joined the team full-time as a promotions producer at NorCal Public Media. “It’s been the best kind of crazy roller coaster becoming part of this team,” he said. “And I can’t believe I was on stage at the Emmys® at this early stage in my career.”

Climate California is the most recent of numerous projects under the Center for Environmental Reporting at NorCal Public Media— a multi-year, multi-platform ongoing project, offering informative, engaging and educational content across all television, radio, news, podcasts, digital and streaming platforms offered by the organization.

“This series represents not only exceptional work by a talented team of producers, composers and editors,” says executive producer Paul Swensen. “but a CEO and an organization valuing the project from its inception despite the current threats presented to public media funding.”





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“We recognized the importance of this work and the vision of this team,” President & CEO Darren LaShelle affirmed. “And with a PBS climate grant and the support of regional foundations and sponsors, we worked hard to sustain this work and bring it to our community to educate and inspire us all about the possibilities for our climate future. This team is the future of public media, and we are confident that there is a future for public media despite the challenges ahead.”

Climate California team at the state capital in Sacramento on the night of their Emmy® win June 14, 2025.





Climate California airs on Bay Area local broadcast, streaming and on PBS Passport and will have national distribution on PBS Plus in 2026.



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More information and links:

[Climate California website and episodes](#)

National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences [2025 Emmy® Awards web page](#)

[The Center for Environmental Reporting at NorCal Public Media](#)

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