

Baltimore in the Future Tense
Appendix B: California Drought
By Tom Riley

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Draft

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Author

General Description:

This is the text for one of a series short videos on designing new solutions to the problems of the 21st Century by applying new science. This series is called “Baltimore in the Future Tense”. It is in the form of TED style presentations with a few graphics supported by talk. The presentations appear in six short video chapters and appendixes.

This text and videos are available on “The Big Moon Dig” Web site:

The Big Moon Dig / What & Why / Divide Baltimore
<http://bigmoondig.com/Essays/BMDWhyWhat.html#DivBalt>

Starting point essay: “Baltimore”
<http://bigmoondig.com/Essays/Baltimore.pdf>

This series was written especially for a University of Baltimore course:

“Divided Baltimore”
<http://blogs.ubalt.edu/dividedbaltimore/>

The text is in Adobe pdf. Graphics were assembled using PowerPoint and SketchUp 2015. The voice and voice times were generated with Natural Reader. The videos were made with Movie Maker. The graphic credits appear at the end of each text, as does a list of references.

This is the second appendix which looks specifically at California solutions.

Appendix B, Dry California

- Hollywood tells the story
 - Silicon Valley builds a field
 - California as the new Mediterranean
 - Process
-

Slide 01: Text intro
Graphics: Text
Time: 00:54

**Baltimore in the Future Tense
Appendix B, Dry California**

Tom Riley
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The Big Moon Dig
<http://bigmoondig.com/Essays/BMDWhyWhat.html>
October 4, 2015

Comment:

Hello, I'm Tom Riley of "The Big Moon Dig".

Let's talk for a just few minutes about using new science to address our big problems in the 21st Century. The new stuff is absolutely breathtaking, but communicating complex and novel ideas is a real challenge. We now have the raw information we need to solve our problems, but we need to turn it into practical solutions.

In our first six chapters we built a general approach to world problems in the first half of the 21st Century. Here we will look specifically at addressing California's problems, particularly the drought.

Since we are talking about the same big-picture, the Blue Marble Earth, and the same time period, the first half of the 21st Century, we can still use all our general concepts, like the Field of our Future. We need only add specific problem solutions.

_____ -

Slide 02: Field of California's Future

Image: Hollywood sign

Time: 01:06



Comment:

In the general discussion we introduced the concept of a Field of the Future that provides a vision of success. This Field of the Future will look the great problems of the 21st century strait in the eye. This vision of success will then provide the people of California the buy-in and direction they need for effective action.

Efforts from a great many of California's communities will be needed to build this field and then to tell our stories. Each community must have clear tasks and be in action on them. This requires both leadership and participation.

Hollywood is certainly one of California's great communities. Our current movie visions of the future are pure rubbish. A movie franchise about a sustainable Earth may not be a blockbuster but we don't need one blockbuster. What we need is a whole genre of small movies about believable people in sustainable societies on a sustainable Earth, who are bravely taking on historic challenges.

This is clearly a doable task. The talent and skills needed are all available in California.

_____ -

Slide 03: Technology and Field

Image: Silicon Valley postcard

Time: 01:16



Comment:

The Field of Our Future must be based on sound technical analysis of what is likely to happen, what is unlikely to happen, what can be done, and what will happen anyway.

We must task both our technology community, Silicon Valley, and our academic communities to refine the Field of Our Future. What exactly can we say is likely happen? What exactly can we say will not happen? What can happen only if we take effective action?

This will take a lot of math, science, and I T. This task will require looking much farther out than the predictions needed for business, even the entrepreneurial business. We will need vision, as clear as humanly possible, out 50 years, not just two or three.

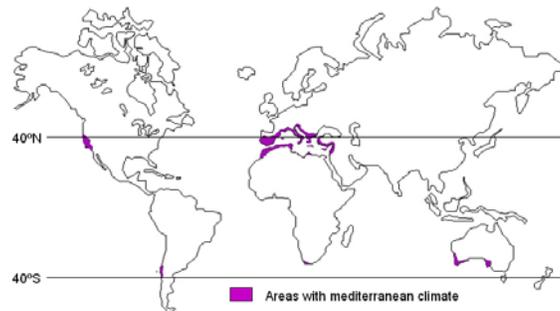
Within this process, we need to define the new human/machine symbiosis. We need to develop workable and programmable rules. We need to define how the rules can be evolved, and most critically now, how these rules can be both enforced and our future thereby secured.

Through an iterative process, we need to then give our new vision to the mass communication community, Hollywood. This gift must be in language and media that the receiving community can understand.

Slide 04: New Image

Image: Drought, Med map

Time: 00:48



Comment:

A few elements of Our Field of the Future are now becoming clear. Some very important ones are water driven.

Our Field of California's Future can have no green lawns. Lawns are for England, ("a green and pleasant land"). California has a Mediterranean climate which is now drying to a desert in many areas. The homes in our Field will have very different landscaping.

Agriculture makes up about 2% of the economy of California. In our Field, the choice of crop and location will be very carefully defined by available water. If that means date palms and olive trees then it means date palms and olive trees. What is critical is that we develop a strong image of what California can be on a sustainable Earth.

_____ -

Slide 05: Field of California's Future

Image: Text

Time: 00:47

- Build a Field of the Future
 - Technical foundation
 - World class media

- The New Mediterranean
 - New lifestyles
- Iterate the process

- Thanks,
 - Tom Riley
 - The Big Moon Dig

Comment:

Where do our problems fit into all this?

Exactly what the final answer for California will be is not yet clear. What is clear is that we can define the big vision of success, a Sustainable Earth, and then build and communicate a Field of California’s Future that can provide direction. All the elements of our society can then walk forward along many threads to new hill tops, despite being chaotically driven by great historical forces.

We are not looking for silver-bullet answers. We are looking for a repeating process to walk our society to a new sustainable Earth. We now have the knowledge needed to build that process. We need only get in action and stay in action.

Thank you for your attention,

Tom Riley
“The Big Moon Dig”

Total Time: 04:53

Target: 05:00 – 08:00

Allowing 00:00.5 times four for slide changes = 00:02.

Graphics Credits:

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1. **Introduction** -- Text by Tom Riley
2. **Hollywood Sign** – Discover Los Angeles, <http://www.discoverlosangeles.com/>

3. **Silicon Valley** – Silicon Valley Postcard, <http://www.md5summer.org/>
4. Mediterranean – Komar Mediterranean Coast, <http://www.berlinwallpaper.com/> ;
Mediterranean Climate Map, "Medclim". Licensed under Public Domain via Commons -
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Medclim.png#/media/File:Medclim.png>
5. **Conclusion** – Text by Tom Riley

Sound credit:

1. **Rocket blast** – Titan Rocket sound clip is by NASA

References:

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4. Richard Dobbs, James Manyika, Jonathan Woetzel, *No Ordinary Disruption, The Four Global Forces Bearing All the Trends* (PublicAffairs, 2015)
5. Kentoro Toyama, *Geek Heresy, Rescuing Social Change from the Cult of Technology* (Public Affairs, 2015)
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9. Singularity University, "Tackle California's Drought" (Internet, 2015) Combating Scarcity With Abundance" (Internet, 2015) <http://singularityhub.com/2015/07/24/combating-scarcity-with-abundance-new-impact-challenge-to-tackle-californias-drought/>
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12. Naomi Klein, *This Changes Everything, Capitalism vs The Climate* (Simon & Schuster, 2014)
13. Cesar Hidalgo, *Why Information Grows, The Evolution of Order, from Atoms to Economics* (Basic Books 2015)