

Molly Peterson

Los Angeles-based journalist * molly.peterson@me.com

Experience

ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RADIO

LOS ANGELES, CA 2008-2015

Heard on radio and read on web daily: reported quick turnaround stories and long-term features; produced live field reports, interviews. Covered climate change, water politics, energy issues, chemical policy, as well as toxic, air and water pollution. Broke news and enterprised award-winning stories, using records requests and data in reporting. Investigations: post-Katrina Army Corps of Engineers contracting (2008-09) and California oversight of lead-polluting businesses in the Los Angeles Basin (2015). Major project on drought & water supplies (2014-15).

Developed dialogue with audience through social media, web-based live chats and comments, and use of Public Insight Journalism. Collaborated with show producers on guests, story topics, and environment coverage; communicated with health care, political, and science reporters on cross-beat subjects; assisted reporters with radio tools, beat management, and sourcing.

Piloted platform-agnostic reporting at SCPR by producing videos, photos, web-only audio, and daily digital content. Directed contributors to Pacific Swell, a blog I ran for 4 years.

REPORTER & COMMUNITY PRODUCER, I SEE CHANGE

LOS ANGELES, CA 2015-PRESENT

Starting up and nurturing a reporting platform based on crowdsourced climate observations. Reporting regular “deep dives” into observers’ questions. Leveraging social media to grow audience/observers. Public talks and outreach; engagement with climate scientists.

FREELANCE REPORTER, EDITOR AND PRODUCER

WASHINGTON, DC; SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES, CA; NEW ORLEANS, LA SINCE 2001
Covering climate change, California water policy & drought, and environmental issues. Special focus on post-Katrina reconstruction, disaster recovery and response in Louisiana. Stories about energy policy, environmental hazards, criminal justice, schools, rebuilding, insurance and risk, neighborhood reconstruction & Cherokees. Produced ethnomusicologist’s interviews for radio program American Routes, including specials on Sam Cooke, The Meters.

REPORTER & CO-DIRECTOR, FINDING SOLID GROUND

NEW ORLEANS, LA 2006-2008

Created hour-long show about Louisiana’s recovery and sense of security after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Managed grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. Distributed program to most top-10 radio markets, dozens more public radio outlets.

REPORTER, EDITOR & PRODUCER, NPR WEST [DAY TO DAY]

NEW ORLEANS, LA & LOS ANGELES, CA 2005-2007

Pitched timely and original ideas, cut interviews, mixed stories, directed special coverage; edited reporters. Reported for Day to Day from New Orleans, including on first anniversary of Katrina, education, energy policy, and criminal justice.

REPORTER/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR, KQED-FM [THE CALIFORNIA REPORT]

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 2002-2005

Produced nationally-distributed award-winning documentary, *A Need to Belong*, about citizenship and identity in a post 9/11 America. Covered California water policy.

PRODUCER & EDITOR, NPR [MORNING EDITION, ATC, NATIONAL DESK]

WASHINGTON, DC 1998-2002

Began career in public radio as intern for Supreme Court Correspondent Nina Totenberg during Clinton Impeachment. Worked with hosts Bob Edwards, Alex Chadwick, Melissa Block, Madeleine Brand, Steve Inskeep.

Education

University of California, Hastings College of the Law J.D. 1998

- Member of the California Bar (#202404; inactive status)
- Constitutional Law Quarterly, Senior Articles Editor
- Author, *Reexamining Compelling Interests and Radical State Campaign Finance Reforms: So Goes the Nation* (Constitutional Law Quarterly, Vol. 25:3)

Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service, B.S.F.S. 1994

- Concentration: International Relations, Law & Organization, focus on Asia & Africa
- Certificate in African Studies
- Coursework in Geomorphology/Geology, Climatology/Atmosphere & Global Change

Journalism Fellowships

2012 The National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, CO

2009 McCormick Energy Solutions, Kiplinger Program in Public Affairs Journalism, Ohio State, Columbus, OH

2008 Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Woods Hole, MA

2004 Metcalf Institute for Marine and Environmental Reporting, Narragansett, RI

Languages

French (Advanced)

Chinese (Beginner)

Spanish (Basic)

Selected Awards

PRNDI [Public Radio News Directors Incorporated] (national)

2011 Division A, Best Use of Sound, "[Pot Raid](#)"
2009 Division A, Best Enterprise/Investigative, [Pumps Under Pressure](#)
2003 Division A, Best Series, "California Water" [reporter, "San Joaquin River"]
2002 Division A, Best Series, "Mega-Series: Citizenship in a Post 9/11 America"
[series producer; reporter]

Investigative Reporters & Editors (national)

2010 Finalist, Radio investigative reporting, "Pumps Under Pressure"

RTDNA [Radio Television Directors News Association] Edward R. Murrow Award

2012 Region 2, Best Use of Sound, "Pot Raid"

APTRA [Associated Press Television & Radio Association] (multi-state)

2012, Best Enterprise Reporting [[Proposition 37](#)]
2009, Best Radio Investigative Reporting [Pumps Under Pressure]

RTNA [Radio Television News Association], Golden Mikes (California)

2013 Best Radio Feature News Series Reporting, Proposition 37
2011 Best Radio Feature News Series Reporting, [Owens River](#)
2009 Best Radio Individual Writing, [SB Oil Spill](#)
2009 Best Radio Investigative Reporting, Pumps Under Pressure

Los Angeles Press Club

2012 Best Use of Sound, "Pot Raid"
2012 Best News or Feature, Short Form "[Barbie Protest](#)"

2009 Journalist of the Year, Radio

2009 Best Investigative Story/Series, Radio, Pumps Under Pressure
2009 Best Online Story/Series, Pumps Under Pressure

American Women in Radio and Television

2005 Gracie Award, Justice Talking, "Working Women"
2002 NPR, Collaboration between Broadcast and New Media for Present at the Creation
[web contributor/reporter for [Animal House](#)]

Society of Environmental Journalists

2006, Outstanding Large Market Reporting, "Borderlands"

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Selected Digital & Broadcast Work

[SCPR](#), City of Industry battery recycler ordered to test for lead pollution (November 19, 2015)

[SCPR](#), Exide: State to begin immediate cleanup after new report of lead contamination. (August 20, 2015)

[SCPR](#), “Lead-based Pollution From Exide May Have Reached Thousands of Homes” (August 14, 2015)

[SCPR](#), Vernon-based Exide Technologies to shut down permanently under deal with US Attorney. (March 12, 2015)

[SCPR](#), Cash for Grass: How well is it working? (July 14, 2014) ([Map/Data](#))

[SCPR](#), Should names, addresses of lawn rebate recipients in LA be disclosed for accountability? (August 10, 2015)

[SCPR](#), Pumps under pressure: An Investigation of New Orleans Outfall Canals after Katrina. (2009)

[PRI's The World](#), “Stay or Go? Two US towns face the awful choice as #sealevels rise around them” (August 5, 2016)

[PRI's The World](#), “Are Californians awesome on climate change – or just stuck up?” (December 1, 2015)

[NPR](#), Californians Consider New Ways To Share Water (October 16, 2015)

[NPR](#), “Forecasters Predict Powerful El Nino To Bring Rain To The Dry West” (August 20, 2015)

[On The Media](#), “California’s #DroughtShaming” (April 10, 2015)

[NPR](#), “In Fourth Year of Drought, New Regulations and \$1 Billion of Relief” (March 22, 2015)

[BBC Newshour](#), “California’s Drought” (February 19, 2015)

[NPR](#), “Despite California's Drought, Taps Still Flowing In LA County” (July 20, 2014)

[Science Progress](#), “BP In Deep Water With Scientific Integrity Advocates” (June 6, 2012)

[SCPR](#), “Scientists Study Seeps to Learn More About Climate” (January 2009)

[Living on Earth](#), The Engineering of Coastal Protection (June 2, 2006)