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Local Environmental Leaders to be Interviewed Live With Radiolab co-host Robert Krulwich At the Pantages Theater January 22

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Tacoma, Wash. – A panel of four local environmental leaders will discuss Northwest water issues in an interview format live with the co-host of a popular NPR science podcast as part of the show [Inside Radiolab with Robert Krulwich](#) on January 22, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at Tacoma’s Pantages Theater. [Tickets start at \\$19 and are on sale now.](#)

[RadioLab](#) is one of the most popular podcasts – played on more than 450 NPR stations, and downloaded over 4 million times. For the first part of this event, co-host [Robert Krulwich](#) will discuss the inner workings of the smash hit, shedding light on what makes his work examining big questions in science, philosophy, and the human experience so compelling.

In the second portion of the event, Krulwich will lead an interview discussion on the earth’s most precious resource: water. The local panel of environmental leaders will explore current challenges facing the region’s water supply, as well as the concept of One Water. An audience Q & A with Mr. Krulwich and the panelists will follow. Panelists include:

[Joel Baker](#)

Professor, University of Washington and Science Director, Center for Urban Waters in Tacoma

Professor Joel Baker holds the Port of Tacoma Chair in Environmental Science at the University of Washington Tacoma and is the Science Director of the Center for Urban Waters in Tacoma. He earned a B.S. degree in Environmental Chemistry from Syracuse University (1982) and M.S. (1985) and Ph.D. (1988) degrees in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Baker's research interests center around the transport of organic contaminants in the environment, specifically atmospheric transport and deposition, aerosol chemistry, the dynamics of contaminant transport in estuaries, and modeling the exposure and transfer of bioaccumulative chemicals in aquatic food webs. He teaches courses in water quality modeling, environmental chemistry, and quantitative methods.

[Jennifer Chang](#)

Program Associate, Puyallup Watershed Initiative, Russell Family Foundation

Jennifer serves as a Program Associate for The Russell Family Foundation, supporting the Puyallup Watershed Initiative’s Communities of Interest and their coordinators as well as Initiative-wide

planning. She was born and raised in Tacoma, and managed regional projects around urban green space restoration and environmental education prior to joining the Foundation. Jennifer holds a Master of Public Administration and B.S. in Atmospheric Sciences both from the University of Washington.

[Ryan Mello](#)

Executive Director, Pierce Conservation District

Ryan Mello has served as the Executive Director of the Pierce Conservation District since 2012. Ryan's real job is "Chief Relationship Officer" for the Conservation District - ensuring we have the best staff to perform this important work and they have the resources necessary to be successful, our many stakeholders understand our role in the system, and our partners are supported in a meaningful way. Mello is also a member of the Tacoma City Council, having recently been sworn in for an additional four year term. Born in Kailua, Hawaii, Ryan moved to Tacoma in 1997. A graduate of the University of Puget Sound, he earned a degree in Politics and Government. Ryan served as Co-Chair of the City's Green Ribbon Task Force on Climate Change, which produced the City's plan for addressing global climate change.

[Sheida Sahandy](#)

Executive Director, Puget Sound Partnership

As Executive Director of the Puget Sound Partnership, Sheida provides a big-picture policy view of the challenges that face the Puget Sound and its many watersheds, including the Puyallup Watershed in which the PSP offices and downtown Tacoma is located. She was appointed by Washington Gov. Jay Inslee in Jan. 2014 to run this state agency charged with leading the recovery of the Puget Sound. Previously, Sheida spent eight years as Assistant to the City Manager for the City of Bellevue where she led strategic initiatives and was responsible for creating the City's first city-wide environmental stewardship initiative. Prior to joining the public service sector, Sheida spent seven years as a corporate attorney. Sheida earned her Master of Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government where she concentrated her studies on climate, energy, and the environment. She also earned a Juris Doctorate from Columbia University's School of Law, and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California at Berkeley, where she studied environmental design and the biological sciences.

About Robert Krulwich:

[Robert Krulwich](#)

Radiolab Co-host

Robert Krulwich is co-host of Radiolab, WNYC's Peabody Award-winning program about 'big ideas' now one of public radio's most popular shows. It is carried on more than 500 radio stations and its podcasts are downloaded over 5 million times each month. He is also the author of the "Krulwich Ponders" blog, featured on National Geographic, where he illustrates hard-to-fathom concepts in science using drawings, cartoons, videos, and more.

For 22 years, Krulwich was a science, economics, general assignment and foreign correspondent at ABC and CBS News. Krulwich has been called "the most inventive network reporter in television" by TV Guide. His specialty is explaining complex subjects, science, technology, economics, in a style that is

clear, compelling and entertaining. On television he has explored the structure of DNA using a banana; on radio he created an Italian opera, "Ratto Interesse" to explain how the Federal Reserve regulates interest rates; he also pioneered the use of new animation on ABC's Nightline and World News Tonight.

He has won Emmy awards for a cultural history of Barbie, the world famous doll, for a Frontline investigation of computers and privacy, a George Polk and an Emmy for a look at the Savings & Loan bailout, and the 2010 Essay Prize from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Krulwich also won the AAAS Science Journalism Award for a 2001 NOVA Special, Cracking the Code of Life, The Extraordinary Communicator Award from the National Cancer Institute, and an Alfred I. Dupont-Columbia Award.

Krulwich earned a BA in history from Oberlin College, and a law degree from Columbia University in 1974.

[Tickets for Inside Radiolab with Robert Krulwich are \\$19, \\$29, \\$35, \\$49 and are on sale now.](#) To purchase tickets call the Broadway Center Box Office at 253.591.5894 or visit in person at 901 Broadway in Tacoma's Theater District or online at www.BroadwayCenter.org.

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