





NOVEMBER 5-8, 2019 YOSEMITE



MADE POSSIBLE WITH A GRANT FROM THE WATER FOUNDATION







TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2019 TOOLS FOR ACTIVATION RUSH CREEK LODGE

8:00 Registration & Tech Fair (open to public)

Tech Faire: A unique integration of emerging green and natural infrastructure to help activate the Water Portfolio. Applying different tools that are integrated, and place-based tools. Set up all day. *Week-Long Activity Initialize: Water Portfolio Action Graphic Art Capture*

Welcome & Plenary Program

RUSH CREEK LODGE

- 12:00 Tribal Welcome Dore Bietz, Tuolumne Band of Me-wuk Indians
- 12:20 Welcome: Centering on the Through Line Regina Hirsch, Executive Director, Watershed Progressive; Sammy Gensaw and The Ancestral Guard
- 12:30 **LCW: The Power of Local Actions and Place-Based Toolkits: The LCW Progression** Laura Allen, Greywater Action; Nick Wiegel, California Onsite Water Association
- 12:45 Place-Based Narratives and Stories of Regional Collaboration: Moderator: Trathen Heckman, Executive Director, Daily Acts Martha Davis, Project WET; Laura Allen, Greywater Action; Brad Lancaster, Harvesting Rainwater for Drylands; Erik Ekdahl, Deputy Director, Division of Water Rights, SWRCB
- 1:30 **The Tale of Everyday Water, the Edible Landscape, and the Healthy Resilient Community** *Brad Lancaster, Harvesting Rainwater for Drylands*
- 2:10 **The Win of Resilience** Erik Ekdahl, Deputy Director, Division of Water Rights, SWRCB
- 2:45 Break
- 3:00 **Road Map to LCW 2019 Workshop Outcomes: Collaborative Resilience with Shifting Climate Scenarios** Debbie Franco, Senior Advisor, Water and Rural Affairs, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
- 3:15 Facilitated Workshop: California Regional Climate Scenarios
- 4:20 **Regional Needs: Building on Actions of LCW 2018, Ventura to SLO and the Russian River Watershed** *Mari Beltran, Ecological Designer, Watershed Progressive*
- 4:30 Getting to the Ground: Regional Activation Case Studies Regional Showcase: Ventura Instream Flow Enhancement Project & Water Resiliency Regional Framework Aja Bulla-Richards, Associate Creative Director, Watershed Progressive; Regina Hirsch, Executive Director, Watershed Progressive Regional Showcase: Sonoma: Intersecting Local Resilience Water Actions and Climate Trathen Heckman, Executive Director, Daily Acts
- 5:15 Wrap-Up Reflections
- 5:45 Cocktails & Tech Faire
- 7:00 Poster Session/Networking
- 7:30 **Unscene LA: Lessons from the Agency of Forgotten Landscapes** Aja Bulla-Richards, Associate Creative Director, Watershed Progressive; Mari Beltran, Ecological Designer, Watershed Progressive; Josiah Cain, Director of Innovation, Sherwood Design Engineers

Dinner on your own at Rush Creek Lodge.



Robb Hirsch, "Nature of Yosemite"



WEDNESDAY, TOOLS F EVERC		WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019 TOOLS FOR ACTIVATION RUSH CREEK LODGE	
*Please note location: This is Part Two of two tracks tha		*Please note location: This is Part One of two tracks that take place on Wednesday	
Track 2: GROUNDTRUTHING OUR METHODS: Local Ap EVERGREEN LODGE		Track 1: REGION SCALE TOOLS: UNLOCKING REGIONAL RESILIENCE WITH COLLABORATION RUSH CREEK LODGE	
Plenary Discussion: Local Approaches Tony Madrone, W	8:00	Plenary Discussion: Getting to Collaboration Regina Hirsch, Executive Director, Watershed Progressive	8:00
The Role of the Designer: Lessons from the Agency of Aja Bulla-Richards, Watershed Progressive; Mari Beltran, Wate Josiah Cain, Director of Innovation, Sherwood Design Engineer	8:10	Reflection Panel: Where are we? Moderator: Debbie Franco, Governor's Office of Planning and Research Celeste Cantu, PPIC Water Policy Center Advisory Council; Phil Isenberg, Chair and Member, Delta Stewardship Council	8:10
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Sharpening Our Tools: A C Reliable Drinking Water Moderator: Tony Madrone, Water	8:30	Integrated Design: Design for Landscape Scale Change: A Case Study in Practice Letitia Grenier, Senior Scientist, San Francisco Estuary Institute	8:40
Josiah Cain, Sherwood Designs; Sherry Bryan, Ecology Action;		A Water Budget Perspective: Ojai Valley Comparative Analysis for Reduced Consumptive Use and Recharge Regina Hirsch, Watershed Progressive; Tom Ash, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, DWR Volunteer Advisor (retired)	9:00
Carbon Neutral Water Installation/Designer Lightning Track A: Greywater/Blackwater Integration 1. Silicon Valley Greywater Direct Installation Program 2. Advancing Greywater in Southern CA Leigh Jerrard, of 3. The Future Urine Separation and Local Fertilizer Ha 4. The Ecological Landscape Carbon Calculator Rick Tay	9:00	ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Defining Watershed Budgets: Unlocking Regional Climate Response, Safe Drinking Water & Healthy Environments Moderator: Celeste Cantu, PPIC Water Policy Center Advisory Council Tom Ash, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, DWR Volunteer Advisor (retired); Mike Collignon, WERS; Martha Davis, Project WET; Wayne Tate, Eagle Aerial; Rob Steiner, Water Ledger Tuolumne River Conservation Actions for Instream Flow Peter Drekmeier, Policy Director, Tuolumne River Trust	9:10
5. Greywater as a Sample Key Water Budget Indicator			10:25
Ask the Installer Roundtable Leigh Jerrard, Greywater Corps; Joel Hawley, Project Manager Tony Madrone, Watershed Progressive/Indra Designs; Rick Tay	10:00		10:45
Break	10:25	ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: From SGMA to Surface Water: Collaborative Frameworks & Shared Values	11:00
Track B: Stormwater/Rainwater Integration 1. Stormwater Runoff and Remediation Post-Fire in Sa 2. Integrating Stormwater by Direct Conveyance to a E 3. Tribal Plant Palettes for Stormwater Reuse and Fire	10:40	Moderator: Tom Hicks, Hicks Law SWRCB/DWR/WCB/NOAA-NMFS; Kevin Delano, SWRCB; Erin Ragazzi, SWRCB; Nicole Kuenzi, SWRCB; Dennis O'Connor, Senate Committee on Natural Resources; Carmel Brown, Department of Water Resources; Adam Ballard, Instream Flow Program Manager, Wildlife Conservation Board	
Discussion: What Tools Can we Sharpen for a Healthy, Wrap up Outcomes/Recommendations to share with P	11:15	Lunch (Buffet at Rush Creek Lodge Restaurant. After lunch, meet at Rush Creek Lodge for Plenary.)	12:00
	11:45 12:00		



C, NOVEMBER 6, 2019 FOR ACTIVATION GREEN LODGE

at take place on Wednesday

pproaches

Vatershed Progressive/Indra Designs

f Forgotten Landscapes - Part II tershed Progressive; ers

Conversation on Pushing Potable Reuse and the Future of Safe and

ershed Progressive/Indra Designs : Sebastian Bertsche; Art Ludwig, Oasis Designs

Topics Track A and B (10-15 min each)

n Sherry Bryan, Ecology Action
 Greywater Corps
 arold Leverenz, UC Davis
 arylor, Elder Creek Landscapes
 r Aimee Haasteaby, Water Resource Analyst, Watershed Progressive

r & Technical Advisor, Watershed Progressive; ıylor, Elder Creek Landscapes

anta Rosa & Thomas Fire Carol Wallen, NorthStar Engineering Drinking Water Treatment Facility Brian Currier, CSU Sacramento e Recovery Trina Cunningham, Traditional Ecology Land Management Consultant

, Resilient Sense of Place Plenary

at Rush Creek Lodge. nch, meet at Rush Creek Lodge for Plenary.)



	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019 TOOLS FOR ACTIVATION RUSH CREEK LODGE		THURSDAY, NO TOOLS FO EVERGR
8:00	*Wednesday morning is split into two Tracks, followed by lunch. After lunch, both tracks will meet at Rush Creek for the Plenary. Please see the preceding pages for Track details. Track 1: REGION SCALE TOOLS: UNLOCKING REGIONAL RESILIENCE WITH COLLABORATION RUSH CREEK LODGE	6:30 8:00	Yoga in the Cedar Room Led by Heather Sullivan, Balanced Re Basins of Relations: Net Positive Brock Dolman, The Water
	Track 2: GROUNDTRUTHING OUR METHODS: Local Approaches EVERGREEN LODGE	8:20	Plenary Discussion: Opportunity Analysis
12:00	Lunch (Buffet lunch at Rush Creek Lodge Restaurant) RUSH CREEK LODGE PLENARY: Blurring Line of Wilderness: Creating a Healthy, Resilient Sense of Place	8:30	Wholistic Engineering: Applied to Net Positive Water an Mark Buehrer, Director, 2020 Engineering
1:00	The Neighborhood Link to Buzz Trathen Heckman, Executive Director, Daily Acts	9:00	Moving with Water: Innovating Natural Design Brent Buc
1:10	Plenary Discussion: Stories from the Field	9:20	Workshop: Acting Together
1:30	Tools for a Healthy, Resilient Sense of Place Interative Poster Session and Lightning Talks	12:00	Lunch (Action Capture Activity)
	Lightning Talks	1:00	KEYNOTE: Building Community Health from California R
	 Cultural Burning for Habitat Regeneration and Soil, Water Community Health Trina Cunningham, Traditional Ecology Land Management Consultant Carbon Farming for Landscape Scale Implementation in Forests, Ag, and Rural Areas Jessica Chiartas, UC Davis Landowner Resilience Programs and Integrating Climate Resilience Toolkit Lindsay Mattos, Tuolumne Resources Conservation District 	1:30	Reflection Panel: Where are we? Moderator: Debbie Franco, Senior Advisor, Water and Rural Affa. E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair, SWRCB; Celeste Cantu, PPIC Water Pol
	4. Effects of Wilderness-Urban Burning on Surface Water Quality Following the 2018 Camp Fire Jackson Webster, Civil Engineering, CSU Chico	2:15	Break
	5. Camp Fire Rapid BMP Deployment Carol Wallen, NorthStar Engineering & Michael Parker, Central Valley RWQCB 6. Permitting Sustainability Art Ludwig, Oasis Designs	2:30	Bringing it All Together: Regional TEAM ACTION Plans P
2:30	Break	4:00	Facilitated Final Recommendations for Regional Action
2:45	ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Integrating Outcomes to Reach a Resilient Sense of Place Stories of diminishing lines in our interface with the environment, and how to meet our systems' needs holistically and with tools that value multiple outcomes. Moderator: Bob Wilkinson, Professor, UCSB Bren School of Environmental Science and Management Patrick Koepele, Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions; Art Ludwig, Oasis Designs; Pablo Cornejo, Chico State; Michael Parker, Central Valley RWQCB	4:30	Panel of Distinguished Guests: Local and State Represen Give input on Action next steps and barriers to be removed Dennis O'Connor, Senate Committee on Natural Resources; Holly Deputy Director, Division of Water Rights, SWRCB; Martha Davis, (retired); Sammy Gensaw, Ancestral Guard; Galen Weston, Blue
3:30	Facilitated Workshop: Building and Managing for Regional Resilience	5:15	Resolution and Clarification of Next Steps for Regional C
5:15	Break	5:30	Closing Circle Julie Tumamait-Stenslie, Ojai Valley Chumash & I
5:40	Water of Our Wilderness Shelton Johnson, Park Ranger, Yosemite National Park	6:00	Dinner on your own.
6:00	Nature of Yosemite Photo Exhibit and Book Launch Mixer	7:30	Skits, Awards, Reflections
	Wine, Beer, Hardy Appetizers! Sponsored by the Yosemite Conservancy Robb Hirsch, Biologist, and author of "The Nature of Yosemite, A Visual Journey" Adonia Ripple, Activity Development Director, Yosemite Conservancy Brock Dolman, OAEC, The Water Institute	9:00	Live Music and Celebrations! Live music by Tracorum - blues, funk & soul





NOVEMBER 7, 2019 FOR ACTIVATION GREEN LODGE

d Rock

ter Institute

and Urban Agriculture (Closed-Loop Water and Nutrient Systems)

Buckman, Hyphae Designs

a Resilience E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board

Affairs, Governor's Office of Planning and Research Policy Advisory Council; Phil Isenberg, Chair and Member, Delta Stewardship Council

ns Presentations

on Portfolios by Regional Teams

sentative, Technical Experts, Locals

olly Alpert, California Water Rural Agency Association; Erin Ragazzi, Assistant avis, Project WET; Tom Ash, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, DWR Volunteer Advisor lue Oak Farms; Eric Wesselman, Executive Director, Friends of the River

al Collaborations

& Dore Bietz, Tuolumne Band of Me-wuk Indians & friends



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2019 THE GROUNDTRUTHING DEEP DIVE: TOURS YOSEMITE, GROVELAND, SONORA

RUSH CREEK & EVERGREEN LODGES: To sign up for tours & workshops, please add your name to the sign-up sheets at the Registration Table.

The Groundtruthing Deeper Dive: Tours/Hands-on

Guided Walking Tours:

Evergreen Lodge Greywater & Rainwater Walking Tour Evergreen Lodge Join us on a walking tour of Evergreen Lodge to gain a better understanding of their greywater and rainwater systems. Approx. one hour.

Rush Creek Lodge Greywater, Blackwater & Stormwater Walking Tour Rush Creek Lodge Join us for a walking tour of Rush Creek Lodge for an overview of greywater, black water and stormwater reuse systems. Approx. one hour.

Self-Driving Tours:

Waterfall Hike Yosemite. Led by Art Ludwig

Yosemite Park Climate Adaption Tour: Rim Fire Healthy Forest Treatments Yosemite Join us for a tour about the community-based, collaborative efforts led by a partnership between the Tuolumne River Trust and the Stanislaus National Forest to perform landscape-scale wildfire recovery and forest health projects. Approx three hours.

Landower Resilience Program Demonstration Tour (Half day & Full day) Groveland, Sonora Join us on a self-driving tour of the TCRCD Landowner Resilience Program installations. Half-day and full-day options available.

Workshops:

COWA/WERS Onsite Integrated Water Management Design Cedar Room, Evergreen Lodge Onsite Integrated Water Management Design, with a WERS component. Four hours.

Poster Titles: *Note: This is not a comprehensive list. Additional posters will be presented.

Landowner Resilience Program WCB Instream Flow Program Irrigated Buffers: Using Wastewater for WUI Habitat and Fire Protection Interactive Water Efficiency Rating System SWRCB Surface Groundwater Model Section 1707 and Water Transaction Camp Fire Emergency Water Quality Monitoring Post Urban Wildfire Rapid BMP Deployment Enhancing Stormwater Treatment: Laboratory Experiences Amending Bioretention Soils with Biochar Ecological Landscape Carbon Calculator

Thacher School Water Resiliency Plan Ojai Valley Inn Water Resiliency Plan Ojai Valley All Schools Initiative Integrated Water Strategies for SB and Ventura County City of Ojai Reduced Consumptive Use and Recharge Analysis Wastewater Decision Support Tool for Small Communities Permitting Sustainability Using Beavers for Rehydration Water Efficiency Rating Score (WERS)®- The Basics UnScene LA: Recovering Latent Agency in Ephemeral Ecologies Books available by: Brad Lancaster & Art Ludwig

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YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY.







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A Chapter of the Alliance for Water Efficiency







Laura Allen



Laura Allen is a founding member of Greywater Action and has spent the past 15 years exploring low-tech, urban, sustainable water solutions. She is the lead author of the San Francisco Graywater Design Guidelines for Outdoor Irrigation, and authored The Water-Wise Home: How to Conserve and Reuse Water in Your Home and Landscape (Storey Press, 2015) and Greywater, Green Landscape (2017). She has a BA in environmental science, a teaching credential, and a master's degree in education. Laura leads classes and workshops on rainwater harvesting, greywater reuse, and composting toilets. Laura has presented widely on greywater reuse, including at the Water Smart Innovations Conference, Bioneers, California Environmental Health Association conference, and California Landscape Contractors Association conference. She's participated in state greywater code developments in California and Washington State and is on the technical advisory committee for IAPMO's Water Efficiency Standard (We-Stand). Laura was featured in an Ask This Old House episode on greywater and was the 2014 recipient of the Silicon Valley Water Conservation Award of Water Champion.



Tom Ash

Tom Ash has 30 years of experience in the fields of water use efficiency, sustainable water rates, public education and horticulture. Tom was the UC liaison to water agencies in southern California starting in 1987. He was instrumental in the design and implementation of the first water budget rate structure agencies (IRWD, 1991). Tom has advised the American Water Works Association (AWWA), the State of California, regional and local water authorities in California, was a guest lecturer in Australia during the millennial drought (12 years), advised the US Drought Policy Task Force in 2003-04, assisted business, the landscape industry, water agencies and university researchers in North Carolina, Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah, and Texas during droughts. He has assisted 15 agencies on the design, public outreach and implementation of financially successful, publicly popular and sustainable water budget rates. Tom is newly retired from the Inland Empire Utility Agency as a Senior Environmental Planner.

Adam Ballard



Adam Ballard is the Program Manager for the Wildlife Conservation Board's Stream Flow Enhancement Program. This statewide grant program was developed following voter approval of the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), which allocated \$200,000,000 to the Wildlife Conservation Board to fund projects that result in enhanced stream flows. He has a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from California State University, Sacramento.





Mari Beltran

Mari Beltran is a designer with Watershed Progressive. She has a background in fine arts, architecture, and design. Prior to attending graduate school for architecture, she worked as a creative writing instructor, developing curriculum for programs in high schools and juvenile detention facilities. While studying at SCI-Arc, Mari managed the fabrications lab. She has worked with design studios in Los Angeles, and holds a Masters in Architecture from the Southern California Institute of Architecture, and a Masters in Latin American Studies from UCLA.

Carmel Brown

Carmel Brown is the Financial Assistance Branch Chief with the Division of Integrated Regional Water Management at the CA Department of Water Resources (DWR). DWR's Financial Assistance Branch provides millions of dollars in grants for integrated regional water management (IRWM), sustainable groundwater, and water-energy projects implemented by regional stakeholders across California to address myriad water challenges and adapt to climate change. Her team recently opened the Round 1 Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant solicitation process which will provide over \$200 million in grants for projects implemented through the 48 established IRWM groups in the state, including the local program managed by the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County. In addition, Ms. Brown's team is developing the Proposition 68 solicitation process to provide over \$46 million in grants for the development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans and related projects; DWR will begin accepting applications for those grants later this spring. Prior to joining DWR in 2013, Ms. Brown worked for nearly 30 years in the private environmental consulting world, providing watershed and integrated water management services to local government agencies, water purveyors, environmental organizations and watershed groups in California and Oregon. She helped her clients secure State and Federal funding to complete a variety of watershed protection programs built on a strong foundation of public engagement and collaboration.

Aja Bulla-Richards



Aja is an architectural and landscape designer, educator, and Associate Creative Director of Watershed Progressive. She brings her various backgrounds to work at the intersection between vast social, and ecological challenges and everyday experience. Her passion for designing environmentally and culturally sustainable water systems has lead her to work with multiple universities and communities as well as in architecture, landscape and urban design firms in LA, Berkeley, Oakland, and Ojai CA as well as Berlin Germany, and Charlottesville VA. Aja holds a Master of Architecture and a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Virginia, and an MSArch in Dry Lands Design from the Arid Lands Institute. She joined Watershed Progressive to work on regenerative site design, and demonstration projects that perform across scales, catalyzing a paradigm shift that re-imagines our relationship with natural & constructed water cycles helping adapt communities and regions to build a more resilient future.

Sherry Lee Bryan



Sherry Lee Bryan is a Water Efficiency Program Manager at Ecology Action, managing regional grants and contracts in partnership with water utilities and public works agencies. She is a certified landscape irrigation auditor (CLIA) with 18 years of experience helping businesses and institutions plan and implement innovative water conservation, irrigation efficiency programs and green industry workforce development. Sherry is Spanish-bilingual and is the lead instructor and coordinator of the Monterey Bay Green Gardener Certification Program that has graduated more than 500 landscape maintenance workers since 2006. In tandem with the Green Gardener Program. Sherry coordinates the Monterey Bay-Friendly Landscape Recognition & Incentives Program, a collaborative effort of water utilities, stormwater/public works and solid waste agencies, Master Gardeners, NGOs and landscape contractors to create market demand and contracting tools for ecological landscaping services and education on WELO and stormwater postconstruction compliance. Sherry is also co-founder and coordinator of the Central Coast Greywater Alliance. Sherry designs, permits, and installs greywater irrigation systems, rainwater harvesting systems for irrigation and indoor, non-potable uses, and other green infrastructure projects in multiple jurisdictions throughout the Central Coast and South San Francisco Bay Area. She specializes in creating and scaling innovative water efficiency and reuse projects to advance the resiliency of California communities to adapt to a changing climate.

Mark Buehrer



Mark is the founder and director of 2020 ENGINEERING located in Bellingham, Washington. He is a registered professional civil engineer, author, and inventor. Mark is a recognized authority on Sustainable Water Resource Management and Low Impact Development (LID) techniques. Mark conceived and developed the concept of Wholistic Engineering, which provides an integrated "problem solving" approach that considers all issues and possible conditions related to the development of a project, such as: laws & regulations, social concerns, politics, special interests, economic & environmental issues, technology, and resources. 2020's sustainable and low impact designs include porous pavements and raingardens, rainwater harvesting systems, vacuum flush toilet and greywater systems, ecologically based wastewater treatment & water reuse systems (i.e., Living Machines and constructed wetlands), urban agriculture, and material recycling and composting facilities. Since 1995, 2020 ENGINEERING has provided master planning, engineering design, and/or construction management assistance on hundreds of LEED, LID, Net Zero and Living Building Challenge (LBC) projects, in many parts of North America and other countries. Mark is a frequent author for various publications and a speaker at sustainable and LID conferences and workshops.



Josiah Cain

Josiah Cain has been an ecological design professional for over 25 years, securing first permits for graywater and rain harvesting in several California jurisdictions and a devout student of native plants and natural systems. He is currently a Principal and the Director of Innovation at Sherwood Design Engineers. His focus on integrated urban/ecological systems, water infrastructure, and landscape on structure has been applied to projects including residential, institutional and commercial at scales ranging from single family to academic and corporate campus. He has been a consistent force in the natural building, sustainability, and resilience movements including advisory roles with International Living Future Institute, Cradle to Cradle, Sustainable Silicon Valley, One Planet Living, VERGE, and Stanford's ReNUWIt program. Josiah was named a California Water Innovator to Watch by NewsDeeply; he holds an undergraduate degree in Landscape Architecture from UC Davis as well as a Master of Design Studies from the Harvard GSD.

Celeste Cantú

Celeste Cantú is Vice Chair of San Diego Water Quality Control Board. Previously she was CEO of Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL), which informs local leaders about water policies that promote a robust economy, healthy communities, and a resilient environment for all Californians. Before joining WELL in 2017, she served as general manager for the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority. There she worked on an Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan called One Water One Watershed. She previously served as the executive director for the California State Water Resources Control Board and as the USDA rural development state director for California. She was born and raised in Calexico, where she served as planning director and later as executive director for the Imperial Valley Housing Authority. She joined the PPIC Water Policy Center Advisory Council in 2015 and became chair in 2017. She holds a master's in public administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a BA in urban planning and policy from Yale.

Matt Clifford



Matt Clifford is staff attorney for Trout Unlimited's California Water Project. He works on water rights, water policy, and streamflow enhancement projects, primarily in California's coastal watersheds. Matt has over 20 years' experience working on water quality, water rights, and public land-related issues for non-profit organizations in Montana and California. He is a 1995 graduate of the University of Montana School of Law.



Mike Collignon

Mike is the Executive Director of the Green Builder[®] Coalition, an organization he co-founded in 2010. He engages in national and state-level advocacy and publishes regular content for Green Builder[®] Media. Mike is the Chair of the Water Efficiency Rating Score (WERS)[®] Development Group and the Co-Chair of the Next Generation Water Summit. Finally, he has served as the moderator or host for Green Builder[®] Media's webinars from 2012–present.

Jessica Chiartas



Jessica Chiartas is a PhD Candidate in Soils and Biogeochemistry researching the impacts of agricultural management on soil carbon and overall metrics of soil health. After five years in corporate sales, most recently in pharmaceutical sales selling antibiotics, she became fascinated by microbes and their role in everything from human health to agriculture and the environment. Recognizing soils as fertile ground for solutions to global challenges, she returned to graduate school to gain a depth of knowledge with the ultimate goal of translating and communicating soil science to a broad audience. She frequently conducts seminars, trainings, and workshops on science communication and is currently supported by a USDA-NRCS grant to develop a website and a series of short videos and infographics that communicate the value and importance of soil.

Pablo Cornejo



Dr. Pablo K. Cornejo is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at California State University, Chico. Dr. Cornejo received his Ph.D. and Master's degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of South Florida (USF) and B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder. His research focuses on the sustainability of water, wastewater, and integrated resource recovery systems; water and sanitation issues in the developing world; and sustainability-based engineering education.

Trina Cunningham



Trina is Mountain Maidu from the Upper Feather River and is working to integrate traditional indigenous ecology into landscape scale conservation through inter agency and inter tribal partnerships and collaboration to ensure indigenous cultural and language perpetuity. She is working with tribal communities, youth, and elders to retain refined systems of knowledge through meaningful access to ancestral homelands. Her favorite events are bringing together community knowledge holders, boots on the ground, and decision makers in natural environments to further learning about the systems we are working and making decisions in, how to leverage resources and become more efficient, build on strengths, and identify policy issues that need adjustment to enable and empower the work that need to be accomplished.





Brian Currier

Brian is a research engineer with the Office of Water Programs at California State University, Sacramento. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Environmental Engineering from the University of California, Davis, and is a licensed Professional Engineer. Brian has been involved in stormwater research since 1997 and has performed numerous full-scale BMP evaluations. He serves on the Board of Directors for the California Stormwater Quality Association and co-chairs the Training Subcommittee.

Ms. Martha Davis

Martha Davis retired in late 2017 from her position as Assistant General Manager/ Executive Manager for Policy Development at the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA). Since 2000, Ms. Davis led many of the Agency's award-winning planning and green programs including initiatives promoting water efficiency, renewable energy, storm water capture, recycled water and climate resiliency. Ms. Davis continues to serve on the board of directors of the California Section of the WateReuse Association, and on the boards of the Mono Lake Committee. Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, the Community Water Center, the Rose Foundation Northern California Grassroots Fund, and the recently established Water Efficiency Trust. Previously, Ms. Davis served as the Executive Director for Californians and the Land (1998-2000) and for the Mono Lake Committee (1984-1996). Under her leadership, the Mono Lake campaign culminated in a unanimous landmark public trust decision by the State Water Resources Control Board to protect Mono Lake. Ms. Davis graduated from Stanford University cum laude with a degree in human biology and received her master's degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. She is the recipient of an honorary PhD in Public Policy from the Kennedy College in Oakland, California.

Kevin DeLano



Kevin Delano is a geologist in the Instream Flow Unit, Division of Water Rights, State Water Board. Under the California Water Action Plan, the Instream Flow Unit is modeling watersheds and engaging stakeholders to develop instream flow policy while considering the water supply needs of local communities. Kevin is the unit lead for the Ventura River Watershed. He manages the day to day of the State Water Board's Ventura River Watershed groundwater-surface water modeling project. Kevin is committed to sound and transparent science. He leads outreach efforts to the Ventura River Watershed Council and a local Technical Advisory Committee. Kevin has two degrees (in Fahrenheit).

Brock Dolman



Brock Dolman is a wildlife biologist and is nationally recognized as a restoration ecologist and renowned innovator in watershed management and Permaculture design. Brock integrates wildlife biology and watershed ecology with education about regenerative settlement design and ecological literacy to illuminate what it is to live in partnership with a living, emergent Earth and engender societal transformation. Brock co-founded the Sowing Circle, LLC Intentional Community & Occidental Arts and Ecology Center (OAEC) where he continues to reside and act as a co- director of OAEC's Permaculture/Resilient Community Design Program, Wildlands Program and WATER Institute. He has taught Permaculture and consulted on regenerative project design in 15 countries on 5 continents and widely in the U.S. Brock graduated with honors from the University of California Santa Cruz in Agro-Ecology and Conservation Biology.

Peter Drekmeier



Peter Drekmeier serves as Policy Director for the Tuolumne River Trust, where he has worked since 2007. He oversees campaigns aimed at protecting and restoring the Tuolumne through federal licensing of dams and state water quality proceedings. Peter holds a political science degree from UC Berkeley. Upon graduation, he returned to his hometown of Palo Alto to work on the international Earth Day 1990 campaign. He later founded Bay Area Action (now Acterra). Peter also is a whitewater rafting guide and a former mayor of Palo Alto.

Erik Ekdahl



Erik Ekdahl is the Deputy Director for the State Water Board's Division of Water Rights. The Division is responsible for establishing and maintaining a stable system of water rights to develop, conserve, and beneficially use the water resources of the State, while protecting vested rights, water quality, and the environment. Erik joined the State Water Board in 2008, where he focused on nitrate and groundwater contamination. He has worked in the Board's Division of Financial Assistance, Division of Water Quality, and as Director for the Board's Office of Research, Planning and Performance, which is responsible for developing and implementing the Board's requirements under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and implementing water conservation efforts during the drought. Erik is a licensed Engineering Geologist, with a Ph.D in Geology from the University of Michigan.



E. Joaquin Esquivel

E. Joaquin Esquivel was appointed to the State Water Resources Control Board by Governor Jerry Brown in March 2017 and designated by Governor Gavin Newsom as Chair in February 2019. Previously, he served as Assistant Secretary for federal water policy at the California Natural Resources Agency in the Governor's Washington, D.C. office, where he facilitated the development of policy priorities between the agency, the Governor's Office, the California Congressional delegation, and federal stakeholder agencies. For more than eight years prior to that, Joaquin worked for U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer of California, most recently as her legislative assistant covering the agriculture, native american, water, oceans, and nutrition portfolios, in addition to being the director of Information and Technology. He was born and raised in California's Coachella Valley. He holds a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara in English.



Debbie Franco

Debbie Franco is Senior Advisor of Water and Rural Affairs in the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR). She works on a range of issues related to water and to rural communities. Debbie was a member of the Governor's Drought Task Force, part of the team that developed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and co-leads the Wood Utilization/Rural Economic Development Steering Committee. Before joining OPR, Debbie served as the policy director at the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water. She holds a master's degree in social ecology from the University of California, Irvine, and a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Davis

Letitia Grenier

Letitia Grenier is a Senior Scientist at the San Francisco Estuary Institute, where she co-directs the Resilient Landscapes Program. Her focus is working with partners to develop large-scale, nature-based solutions for restoring benefits provided by ecosystems. She was the science lead for the 2015 and 2019 State of the Estuary Reports (a SF Estuary Partnership project) and the 2015 climate change update to the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals (a California Coastal Conservancy project), heading a team of over 200 environmental scientists, managers, and regulators to develop science--based recommendations for restoring and maintaining the health of SF Bay's tidal wetlands in the face of rising sea levels and other stressors. She is a principal investigator for the Delta Landscapes project, which has completed in-depth analyses on the change in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta over time and is now offering science-based guidance on how ecosystem health can be recovered as part of this working landscape. Letitia holds a Ph.D. in Conservation Biology from the University of California at Berkeley.

Aimee Haasteaby



Aimee Haasteaby utilizes her passion for technologies such as geospatial systems, remote sensing and aerial surveys to answer urgent questions about the landscape, ecosystems and watersheds. With a background in biology, hydrological modeling, and geospatial analyses, she employs a systematic and qualitative approach to providing customized water reuse and conservation systems to projects across a range of scales. Her watershed-based designs utilize her experience with a vast array of resilient management techniques with an emphasis on best practices such as low energy, groundwater recharging systems. With her chef & water resource specialist husband, and two young children, she enjoys exploring nature's magic, both in her backyard of Yosemite, and across the country.

Joel Hawley



Joel is originally from Montana, a son and a grandson of both cowboys and Indians. Raised with a strong respect and reverence for the natural world, born with a desire to tinker and build, he has tried through his many projects and adventures to maintain a working balance between the old and the new. With Sierra Watershed Progressive, Joel has been able to take his ideas and traditions and apply them to the company's many thoughtful, environmentally conscious building projects. Working both as a designer and installer, a teacher and forever student, he finds great satisfaction in a job well done. Having studied both environmental engineering and architecture, Joel suspects his colleagues get tired of his devotion to both math and details. Joel has had many different jobs over the years, about 30 at last count, but feels he's finally found his career in water reuse and conservation. In his off time, Joel tries to get his canoe out on the water as much as possible. When not fishing or camping, you can most likely find Joel reading a book out on his back deck under the oaks.

Trathen Heckman

Trathen Heckman is the founder and Director of Daily Acts Organization. He serves on the Board of California Water Efficiency Partnership, co-founded Climate Action Petaluma and is engaged in a range of sustainability and resilience-focused networks and alliances. Trathen helps people and groups reclaim the power of their actions to regenerate self, nature and community. He lives in the Petaluma River Watershed where he grows food, medicine and wonder while working to compost apathy and lack.



Regina Hirsch

Regina Hirsch is dedicated to bringing appropriate best management solutions for healthy, resilient communities, starting with common ground solutions in neighborhoods as well as at a watershed scale. After getting the watershed monitoring bug at the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Board and the Morro Bay National Estuary Program, she moved to the Sierra Nevada for a different approach to reaching people and assessing effectiveness of nonpoint source pollution treatments. Regina founded Watershed Progressive, a consulting/contracting firm which focuses on onsite water best management practices aimed at rehydrating watersheds for healthy, resilient communities. Since 2009, Watershed Progressive has helped incubate, model, design and install projects throughout California and the arid West, restoring habitat and aiming to increase watershed hydrologic recharge functionality through water conservation, infiltration, and reuse. Living up near Yosemite, Regina is an avid kayaker, backpacker, and in her spare time, an executive board member of various organizations, such as The Telele Foundation, California Onsite Water Association and founder of Localizing California Waters. Knowing that what people can do on their own land is what can make the difference, Regina spends most her time getting the good word on creative, easy to implement, collaborative water solutions.

Leigh Jerrard

Leigh is the principal of Greywater Corps, a company that designs, installs, and teaches about greywater irrigation and rainwater harvesting systems. He has installed over 500 greywater systems in the Los Angeles area, ranging from simple gravity-flow systems to 1000 gallon-per-day fully automated systems. Leigh also works with nonprofits, water purveyors and city agencies to facilitate broader implementation of greywater use. He has lectured or taught workshops at numerous institutions, local and statewide. He is both a licensed architect and a contractor in the state of California.

Shelton Johnson

Shelton Johnson, a native of Detroit, Michigan, has worked as a U.S. Park Ranger since 1987. His work assignments have included Yosemite National Park, Great Basin National Park, Yellowstone National Park, and park areas within and around Washington D.C. He served with the Peace Corps in Liberia, West Africa, and attended Graduate School at the University of Michigan, majoring in Poetry. Shelton has won several writing awards, including a Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship, a Scholarship to the Cranbrook Writer's Conference, a Michael Gutterman Award, and a Major Hopwood Award in Poetry, all from the Shelton-NI honoree-from SheltonUniversity of Michigan.



Patrick Koepele



Patrick Koepele is Executive Director of the Tuolumne River Trust and currently serves as Chair of the Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions forest collaborative. Patrick has a long-term commitment to the health of the Tuolumne River, having developed and managed many large-scale land protection and watershed restoration projects throughout the Tuolumne watershed. Patrick is currently leading efforts to accelerate collaborative forest restoration projects in the Stanislaus National Forest.

Phil Isenberg



Phil Isenberg is a former 14-year member of the California State Assembly (1982-1996) and Mayor of Sacramento (1975-1982). During his tenure in the Legislature, he specialized in a variety of governmental activities, including extensive work on the state budget and state/local government financial relations, environmental and water issues and healthcare. In the Legislature, Isenberg served as Chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee (1989-96) and Assistant Speaker pro Tempore (1986-88). After leaving the legislature, Isenberg assisted Governor Gray Davis in preparation of three of his budgets (1998-2003). Isenberg served as Chair of the Transition Committee for Treasurer-Elect Phil Angelides (1998-1999), and Chair of the Transition Committee for Speaker-elect Cruz Bustamante (1996-1997). From 2004 to 2006, Isenberg chaired the Marine Life Protection Act Blue Ribbon Task Force, an effort of the Schwarzenegger Administration to protect the oceans off California. This effort resulted in 17% of the state waters along the Central Coast of California to be placed in protected status, and led the way for the current effort duplicating this work in other areas of the coast. Isenberg was then appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to chair the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force, a seven-member body created to develop an independent vision for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta and to recommend a sustainable management program to achieve that vision. The Task Force adopted its Strategic Plan in October 2008. The water policy/bond package approved in 2009 incorporates most of the recommendations of the Task Force. Isenberg has taught public policy development, and budget and fiscal policy at the McGeorge School of Law, the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley and the Graduate School of Public Policy, California State University, Sacramento. Isenberg is an inactive member of the California State Bar and currently a partner in the government relations firm, Isenberg-O'Haren, based in Sacramento, California.



Nicole Kuenzi

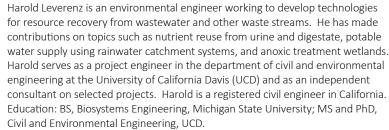
Nicole Kuenzi is senior staff counsel at the Office of Chief Counsel for the State Water Resources Control Board, where she advises the Groundwater Management Unit and the Division of Water Rights. Nicole is a graduate of Yale Law School and clerked on the United States Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. Nicole practiced water law at a private firm in Denver, Colorado, before returning to her home state of California and joining the staff of the State Water Board in 2012.



Brad Lancaster

Brad Lancaster is the author of the award-winning Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond and co-founder of DesertHarvesters.org. Since 1993 Brad has run a successful permaculture education, design, and consultation business focused on integrated regenerative approaches to landscape design, planning, and living. In the Sonoran Desert, with just 11 inches of annual rainfall, he and his brother harvest about 100,000 gallons of rainwater a year on an eighth-acre urban lot and adjoining right-of-way. This harvested water is then turned into living air conditioners of food-bearing shade trees, abundant gardens, and a thriving landscape incorporating wildlife habitat, beauty, medicinal plants, and more. The goal of his book series and overall work is to empower his clients and community to make positive change in their own lives and neighborhoods—by harvesting and enhancing free on-site resources such as water, sun, wind, shade, community, and more. It's catching on, as evidenced by tens of thousands of practitioners and demand for Brad's work around the world.

Harold Leverenz



Art Ludwig



Art Ludwig is a leading developer of innovative best practices, how-to information, and regulations for water efficiency, alternate water supply, and water reuse. In 2012, Art hosted a landmark sustainability policy colloquium that brought together leading innovators with heads of building and health departments. He was invited to give a keynote at the County Building Officials Association of California conference that year, where he introduced a quantitative analysis of top historic and emerging hazards attributable to the built environment. This data spotlights a key challenge for our era: the hazards that current regulations prevent are dwarfed by newer hazards that regulations do not yet address. Art is currently working on permitting for demonstration sites which unite innovators, policy makers, regulators, and researchers in direct collaboration on innovative solutions to meet this challenge.

Tony Madrone



Tony Madrone is a sustainable landscape designer/builder specializing in water intelligent design. With over 20 years of experience in the landscape industry, Tony brings a holistic breadth of knowledge to all of his projects. Tony is a landscape contractor, water sense partner, EPA certified water auditor, and is a board member of ReScape California as well as California Onsite Water Association. Having designed/built/maintained a wide array of ground breaking water management projects throughout the bay area, he carries the skills and understanding to address all water & landscape challenges with impactful solutions. With a passion for water conservation and sustainable business practices, Tony is dedicated to creating a healthier more astute approach to water use.

Lindsay Mattos



Lindsay Mattos is the District Manager for the Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) and the Administrator for the Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (TSIRWMA.) Lindsay joined TCRCD in 2010 after graduating from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a degree in Agriculture Business. TCRCD provides education, technical and financial assistance to residents within Tuolumne County to facilitate conservation and sustainable agriculture and is home to the Landowner Resiliency Program. In 2013, after helping to form the TSIRWMA Joint Powers Authority, Lindsay became the Administrator and continues to support the region in that role.



Dennis O'Connor

Mr. O'Connor is a Principal Consultant to the California Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water. In that role, he analysis all proposed water and Delta related legislation, organizes oversight and information hearings, prepares briefing papers on issues relating to water and Delta issues, and advises members of the Senate on California water policy issues. He has played a significant role in a number of legislative efforts, including the 2007 package of flood legislation, the 2009 water package, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and most recently the Making Conservation a California Way of Life legislation. He has been with the Senate since January 2003. Before coming to the Committee. Mr. O'Connor spent 10 years at the California Research Bureau (CRB), a nonpartisan policy research branch of the California State Library, serving for six of those years as the Assistant Director for the Environment and Natural Resources. Mr. O'Connor is the author of a number of CRB report's, including reports on the governance of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the financing of the State Water Project. Mr. O'Connor did his undergraduate and masters studies in economics at CSU Sacramento.



Michael Parker

Michael Parker is an Engineering Geologist with the Cannabis Enforcement Unit at the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board in Redding. He has worked for the Central Valley Water Board for the past three years. Prior to joining the Central Valley Water Board, Michael spent time working for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and for the US Forest Service. Michael attended California State University, Chico for his Bachelors and Master's in Geology. In the past year Michael has been tasked with assessing post-fire water quality impacts and leading a multiple agency effort to develop and implement post-fire water quality monitoring for the fall 2018 Camp Fire.

Adonia Ripple

Adonia was raised on horseback and grew up seeing hiking as an abhorrent pastime. Why walk when you can ride? Her thinking shifted during her first summer in the High Sierra, when she fell in love with climbing and the Range of Light. She's never looked back. A few attempts to live in other mountain ranges have only confirmed her deep love of the Sierra. At the Conservancy, she channels that passion into overseeing a team dedicated to enriching the visitor experience in Yosemite. She works with the managers from our retail, wilderness, publishing, art, adventure, theater and volunteer programs to ensure they have the support and resources necessary to creatively connect people to the park.

Stacie Smith



Stacie Smith is currently working in the Central Valley within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries) West Coast Region focusing on hydropower projects and reintroductions of salmonids to further recovery goals for endangered fish species. Stacie focuses on utilizing interdisciplinary and network-based management strategies for addressing issues from river headwaters to ocean. Stacie's approach is rooted in a strong academic and scientific foundation, culminating in her doctoral work at University California Los Angeles in the multidisciplinary Environmental Science and Engineering (ESE) program. Stacie previously worked with the NOAA Restoration Center in southern California where she focused on coastal restoration. With the Restoration Center, she developed a guide focused on best management practices (BMP) for restoration of southern California coastal wetlands and a subsequent BMP guide for a watershed wide approach to recovery of endangered southern steelhead in the face of climate change. Stacie has been instrumental in guiding regional strategic planning for watershed restoration in response to recent fires to continue recovery momentum.



Wayne Tate

Wayne Tate is the founder and President of Eagle Aerial Solutions. He has a B.A. Degree in Business from CSUF & a Masters Degree in psychology from USM. Mr. Tate's 25+ years of experience in aerial mapping and geospatial analysis has enabled him to provide creative and practical solutions for a variety of clients, from small engineering firms to the Federal Government. He has experience managing numerous aerial imagery and remote sensing programs, including many land classification analyses projects in support of water district conservation efforts. He is currently overseeing one of the largest remote sensing mapping projects ever undertaken: a state-wide mapping and remote sensing land classification and water conservation project for the California Department of Water Resources, where he has worked with his team and partners to develop new, cutting edge approaches to accurately measure the irrigated landscape for every residential parcel in California.



Rick Taylor



Originally founded as a small landscape design/build/maintain contracting business, his firm, Elder Creek Landscapes inc. has led the SF Bay Area in practical and visionary approaches to sustainability.



Michael Parker

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Julie Tumamait-Stenslie

Commissioner Julie Tumamait-Stenslie is the chairperson of the Barbareno / Ventureno Band of Mission Indians. Commissioner Tumamait-Stenslie is a respected elder, singer, storyteller, and Cultural Resource Consultant/Advisor. She is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Ojai Valley Historical Society and Museum, the Board of Trustees and California Indian Advisory Committee for the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, and the University of California at Santa Barbara's Committee on the "Repatriation" of Native American ceremonial artifacts. Commissioner Tumamait-Stenslie currently serves on the Ojai Valley Museum Board of Trustees as well as the Oakbrook Chumash Interpretative Center Board. She has served as a consultant for Chumash Cultural Services since 1985. Commissioner Tumamait-Stenslie is an artist that uses native materials to create her jewelry, musical instruments, and basketry. She continues to practice and teach her native language.

NORTHSTAR

Carol Wallen

Miss Wallen was raised in Paradise, CA where she took an early interest in civic planning by serving as a youth representative on the Paradise Downtown Revitalization Committee. Carol attended Butte College completing her general education, earning an EMT license, serving as a student athletic trainer, and playing college soccer. Carol transferred to California State University, Chico where she earned a degree in Biological Sciences while working full-time as an EMT and playing for the Chico State Women's Rugby Football Club. After graduation, Carol began work as a staff biologist for the U.S. Department of Defense at Beale Air Force Base transitioning into the Base Environmental Compliance Inspector, Carol is the Senior Biologist for NorthStar's Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Department and has spent the last 6 years continuing her work conducting regulatory permitting and compliance assistance (primarily with CDWF, USACE, and CA RWQCB), preparing the associated technical documents (Delineations of Aquatic Resources, Biological Assessments, Natural Environmental Studies), special-status species surveys, and assisting clients with all aspects of construction stormwater compliance. Most recently, in the effort to protect water quality in the wake of the devastating 2018 Camp Fire, Carol served as the Operations Chief for Butte County's Watershed Emergency Response Team (WERT). While the fire was still expanding its lines. Carol led the Environmental Department along with a group of interagency flood fight specialists (from DWR and CVFPB) and CCC crews in the placement of approximately 36 miles of erosion and sediment controls in 16 working days within the Camp Fire burn scar area; which includes tributary drainages to Butte Creek, home to the largest natural population of Spring-run Chinook Salmon in California.

Jackson Webster



Dr. Jackson Webster received his Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Prior to joining the faculty at California State University, Chico, Dr. Webster was a postdoctoral researcher and Associate Director of the Hydrologic Sciences Graduate Program at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Dr. Webster's research is in the areas of water quality and contaminant fate and transport. Most of his work focuses on natural systems and characterizing fundamental processes that govern contaminant behavior. Specific areas of interest include water quality, contaminant fate and transport, environmental chemistry, watershed perturbation, mercury cycling, natural organic matter, sulfur biogeochemistry, and wildfire. Education: B.S. Environmental Engineering, University of Nevada, Reno, 2008; M.S. Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Nevada, Reno, 2010; Ph.D. Civil Engineering, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2015.



Bob Wilkinson

Dr. Robert C. Wilkinson is Adjunct Professor at the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, and Senior Lecturer Emeritus in the Environmental Studies Program, at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The focus of Dr. Wilkinson's teaching, research, and consulting is on water, energy, and climate policy. Dr. Wilkinson is a Senior Fellow with the California Council for Science and Technology. He co-chairs the U.S. Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable, advises government agencies, NGOs, and businesses in the US and abroad, and he serves on a number of advisory boards. Dr. Wilkinson served as coordinator for the California Region for the US Global Change Research Program and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy for the first US climate assessment. In 1990, Dr. Wilkinson established and directed the Graduate Program in Environmental Science and Policy at the Central European University based in Budapest, Hungary.

Nick Weigel

Nick is a Senior Civil Engineer and NorthStar President, where lead leads a team specializing in the design of decentralized wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems. Nick has taught at the California Wastewater Training and Research Center at California State University. Chico and is a certified National Association of Wastewater Technicians (NAWT) instructor for California for California Onsite Water Association (COWA). Nick was the Chair of the Butte County Wastewater Advisory Committee and has helped numerous counties develop their Local Area Management Plans (LAMPs) for compliance with AB885.



Toby Briggs

Steeped in a decade of leading educational adventures across the United States, Toby Briggs has translated those skills to direct two river-based volunteer programs and led the River Advocacy Training School developing our next wave of advocate for Friends of the River. Last summer, she facilitated multiple efforts to develop recommendations for Newsom's Water Resilience Portfolio including the One Water Network and the Portfolio Resilience Group.

Dore Bietz



Dore (Northern and Southern Me-Wuk) resides on the Tuolumne Rancheria in Central California. After receiving a degree in Landscape Architecture, Ms. Bietz has worked for tribes specializing in realty, land use and environmental and natural resources protection for 25 years. As an enrolled member of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians and a former tribal council secretary, Dore understands the complexities of tribal governments and the need to foster better communication between tribes and outside agencies. Ms. Bietz currently works as the Planner and Emergency Manager for the Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council where she is involved in every aspect of community development, environmental and natural resources protection. Ms. Bietz also serves on the Cal Trans Native American Advisory Council, on the Governor's Tribal Task Force for FirstNet, Cal Fire's Native American Advisory Council, Tribal Team Chair for the CA Landscape Conservation Partnership and tribal rep to California Forest Management Task Force. She is also a recent graduate of the Water Solutions Network Cohort 2 Leadership Program. She participates with local government entities as a member of the Tuolumne County Transportation Advisory Committee, the Tuolumne County Drought Task Force, the Tuolumne County Tree Mortality Task Force, the Tuolumne County Public Health Emergency Coalition and the Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Water Management Authority Watershed Advisory Committee.

Sebastian Bertsche



Sebastian has been designing water systems in the north bay since 2015 with a focus in rainwater harvesting, graywater irrigation and restorative stormwater management. He has designed and project managed the install of many residential and commercial rainwater harvesting projects in Sonoma County, including facilitating novel permits such as residential "rainwater to toilet". Sebastian cut his teeth as a metal fabricator, shop foreman, high school engineering Instructor and development coordinator for start ups. He then worked in radar terrain mapping as a mechanical designer and technician. Recently, Sebastian has been focusing his volunteer time helloing designers and installers better interface with the regulatory frameworks which both encourage and inhibit the expansion of regenerative technologies and activities. He has participated in many local governance agencies, having been a member of the Santa Rosa Plains GSA Advisory Committee, Sonoma Alternate Water Sources Working Group and CAFF and participated in the development of the county ordinances for OWTS and commercial cannabis water use requirements. Since moving to Sonoma County his focus has been on how to leverage the engineering method to push ecological function into all aspects of our built environment, and trying to harness the interdependencies inside the soil-water-air-carbon-nitrogen nexus.



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William Weirick

Currently in the middle of his second term as a member of the Ojai City Council, William Weirick comes to this position after a twenty year academic career as a university administrator and economics professor. He has served for the past thirty years as part of the management team for a third generation family business managing a diversified portfolio of real estate assets in the Southern California region. Born in Long Beach as a third generation Southern Californian, his father's career in the petrochemical business led to relocations from California to New York, Louisiana, New Jersey, and Texas. Most of this time was spent in various locations within Louisiana. This laid the basis for taking an academic position in Louisiana after completing his doctorate in economics at the University of Wyoming. While serving as a professor and university administrator in Louisiana, Dr. Weirick was involved in capital projects programs, business research activities, numerous university/community partnerships, and both local and regional economic development activities. His published work focused on land economics and microeconomic public policy analysis. He also was involved in arts organizations, beautification activities, and downtown renewal efforts. Before assuming the City Council seat, Dr. Weirick served a Chair of the Ojai Building Appeals Board and was involved in supporting Ojai FLOW which led to an historic public buy-out of the local private water utility. He has been involved in efforts to enforce zoning regulations not allowing short term rentals in residential zones, programs and Municipal Code amendments to encourage residential accessory dwelling units (ADU's), asserting the City's vital interests in securing better water security for the entire Ojai Valley, and practicing active Council oversight over the City's efficiency and effectiveness in providing services to its citizens.

Eric Wesselman

As Executive Director since 2014, Eric works to advance FOR's mission to protect, restore, and sustain California's free flowing rivers through government relations, education, and citizen engagement. This increasingly involves promoting innovative, sustainable, and climate resilient water solutions. Prior to FOR Eric served as the Executive Director of the Tuolumne River Trust (TRT) for eight years, managed western water and energy policy at the Sierra Club in San Francisco, promoted clean energy and climate action at the Union of Concerned Scientists in Washington, D.C., and served as the chair of the California Urban Water Conservation Council in 2005. Eric holds a MS degree from Johns Hopkins University in Environmental Science and a BS degree in Conservation and Natural Resource Studies from the University of California at Berkeley

Additional Panelists & Speakers include:

Rob Steiner, President, Water Ledger Erin Ragazzi, Assistant Deputy Director, Division of Water Rights, SWRCB The Ancestral Guard Dan Worth, Senior Environmental Scientist, SWRCB Anne Marie Ori, Division of Water Rights, SWRCB