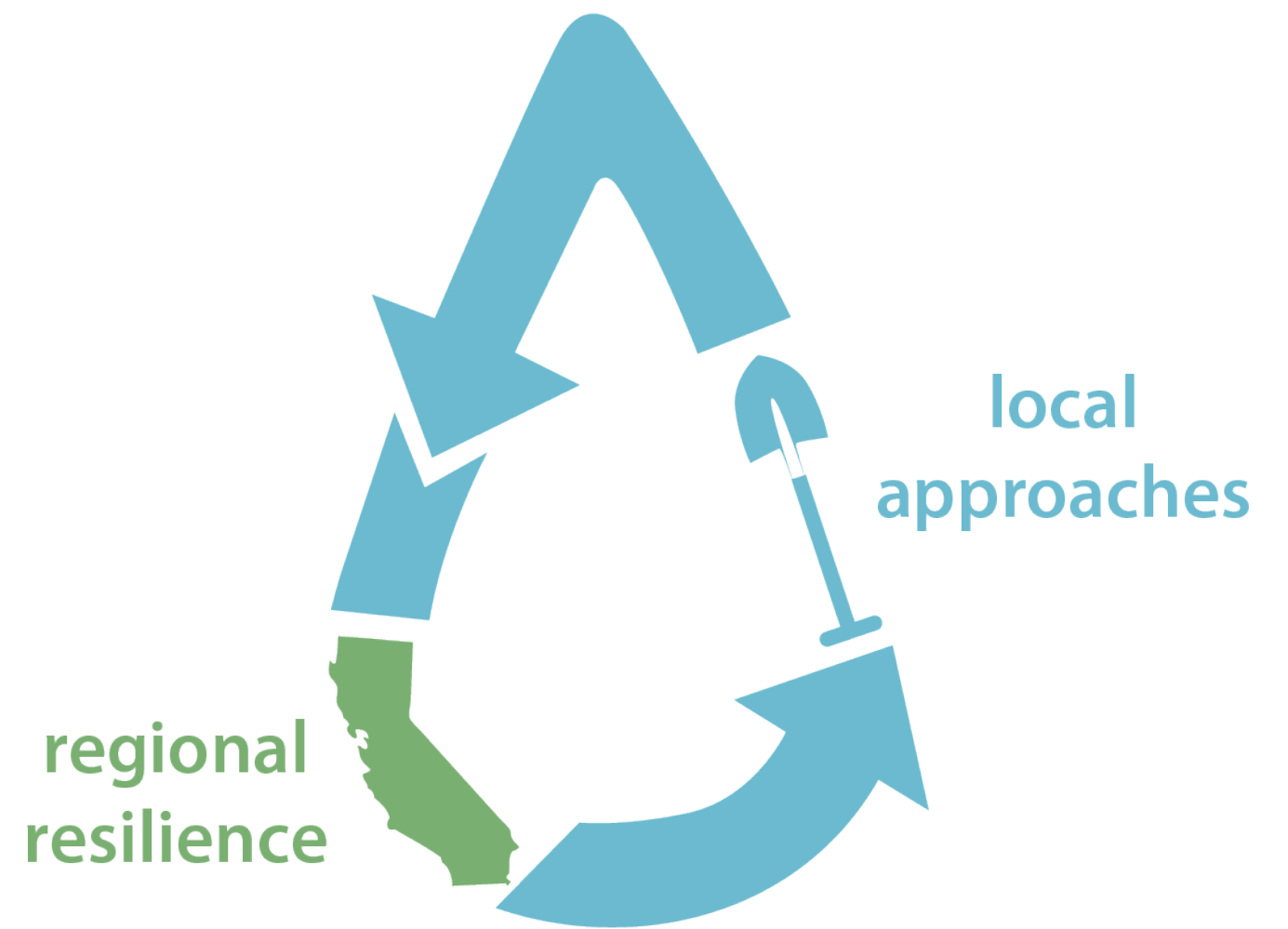


Advancing Place-Based Resilience & The Art of Possible

Rush Creek Lodge
Yosemite, CA

November 7-10, 2023



LOCALIZING CALIFORNIA WATERS

building water resilient communities



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

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Concurrent Hands-on Tours & Activities

- 8:30-12:30pm **TOUR: Ten Years After: Paired Rimfire Treatment/Tuolumne-Stanislaus-Ackerson Meadow Tour**
 Come see the restoration work that has taken place during the last 10 years of the Rim Fire to revive and restore the fire footprint. From fuel breaks to reforestation, thinning to meadow resotation, to volunteers and partners, hear and see the stories of the community striving to restore a portion of the once devastating Rim Fire. We will discuss two perspectives of forest health, fire, and water: 1) how do large fires impact the watershed, water quality and water supply? and 2) how do we use local preventative fuel treatments at a landscape proportion. We will visit the Stanislaus Landscape Project (SLP) which proposes to change the way fire behaves on the landscape, and be able to see firsthand the 2023 implementation of the SERAL (Social and Ecological Restoration Across the Landscape) project as it happens. From fuel breaks to prescribed fire, witness the post treatment impacts of being proactive! Spending money up front to impact high intensity fires rather than spending millions in putting out mega fires with no return on investment. Join us for how local forest health management can connect our water and fire resilience efforts to our rural and urban communities.
Note: Space is limited. You must pre-register for this activity. Meet 8:30am at Rush Creek Event Center. Ends at Ackerson Meadow at 12:30pm, optional extended tour of Ackerson 12:30pm-1:30pm. Bring water & snacks. If weather, meet at Rush Creek Lodge for slideshow and discussion of the tour elements with local USFS representatives.
- 10:30-12:00pm **ACTIVITY: City of Berkeley Tuolumne Camp Restoration (Tour & Hands-on)**
 Berkeley Tuolumne Camp was created in 1922 from the legacy of John Muir, as he got the US Forest Service to incentivize municipalities to build camps with \$1/yr leases for 99 years! "Let's get people out of the city and into the mountains!" he said. Since then the camp has served families from all over the Bay Area and beyond. In 2013 Camp Tuolumne was one of the worst physical losses, as it was burned to the ground in the Rim Fire. The City of Berkeley, US Forest Service, Watershed Progressive, Rush Creek Lodge and Friends of the Berkeley Tuolumne Camp (FOBTC) all rallied together to rebuild the camp, with other wonderful stakeholders. It took 9 years and \$57 million. FOBTC has planted over 16,000 trees in the Rim Fire Recovery Zone, and continues to do so. Come tour the site with Executive Director of the Friends of Berkeley Tuolumne Camp, Scott Gelfand, who will show you how special this family camp is, and how important and wonderful collaboration can be. The site is a 6 minute drive from Rush Creek. There will be an opportunity to plant a tree and add to the rebuilding of the healthy Stanislaus National Forest at camp.
Meet 10:30am at Berkeley Tuolumne Camp. Tour ends around noon, optional time to help plant trees in the afternoon. Bring water & snacks, or a bag lunch if staying longer.
- 1:00-2:00pm **ACTIVITY: Where Is The Water Going? Exploring an Invisible World: Localizing Water In Real Time Hands-on Healthy Soils Workshop with Soil Scientist Michael Hogan**
 The ability to localize water begins with the soil. This workshop will explore the marriage of water and soil with an emphasis on soil optimization and restoration as the foundation of watershed function. While the function of soil is mostly invisible and often overlooked in landscape restoration, we will demonstrate techniques and materials used to restore and optimize soil function, minimize erosion, maximize infiltration, sink carbon and enhance conditions for native plant communities. Coincidentally, many of the materials used also reduce landfill 'waste', converting what was once considered waste into useful enhancement materials. In this workshop, we will demonstrate the use equipment and hand tools to transform a compacted soil into a high infiltration medium. We will use a runoff simulator to show and measure the increased capacity of that soil to capture water and minimize runoff.
Meet 1:00pm at Rush Creek Event Center. Activity is one hour.

Space is limited for tours, workshops & activities. Please pre-register. Visit [TOURS & WORKSHOPS](#) for more information.

Concurrent Hands-on Workshops & Activities

- 1:00-3:00pm **Regional Facilitator's Workshop - Approaches to Engage our Diverse Communities in the State's Research & Policy Development**
 Join the Governor's Office of Planning and Research for a discussion about the [California Fifth Climate Change Assessment's](#) model for innovative community-led research on the state's most pressing climate impacts and resilience pathways. The workshops will include a presentation on the Strategic Growth Council's Participatory Research to Policy Model and the [Climate Assessment's Tribal Research Program](#) followed by an open discussion about uplifting community participation throughout the State's research and policy development processes.
*Elea Becker Lowe, Office of Planning & Research
 (from 1-3pm with opportunity for extended time for those who want to workshop the Climate Change Assessment)*
- 3:00-5:00pm **WATER BUDGET WORKSHOP: HOW WATER BUDGETS CAN BE USED TO ENHANCE WATER & CLIMATE RESILIENCE**
 This workshop features a discussion of emerging state-of-the-art water budget tools and related applications that support local actions to increase stream flows, manage groundwater, improve urban water efficiency, and enhance water and climate resilience. Water budgets are an essential tool for identifying integrated land and water management strategies, calibrating co-benefits, and tracking water improvements at different scales, from individual parcels up to an entire watershed. Come learn about the new water budget handbook developed by the CA Dept. of Water Resources and see examples of water budget applications that are being used by communities today to improve local water and climate resilience.
Moderator: Martha Davis, Mono Lake Committee
- What are Water Budgets & Why They Matter for Watershed Health**
Paul Shipman, California Department of Water Resources
- Panel: Bright Spot "Snapshots" of New Water Budget Tools & Their Uses Surface Groundwater Streamflow Model**
Shahab Araghinejad, State Water Resources Control Board; Brian Epstein, Watershed Progressive
- Groundwater Accounting Platform**
Noa Bruhis, Environmental Defense Fund; Sebastian Bertsch, Sherwood Engineers
- Urban Water Conservation "Making Conservation a California Way of Life"**
Charlotte Ely, State Water Resources Control Board; Brian Epstein, Watershed Progressive
- 3:30-5:30pm **Immersive Evening Forest Walk** *Elena Rios, Santa Ynez Chumash*
Slow down Honor Relax Restore Reset Reconnect Re-awaken Re-member
 Honoring ancient human practices of nature connection that are reflected in ancestral Indigenous Knowledge all over the world. In a forest, or other natural environment, you will be given directions, in the form of an invitation, that is meant to assist you in slowing down, relaxing, and observing with all of your senses. Unlike a naturalist walk, it isn't so much about knowing all of the names of the plants, as it is about noticing which plants, that your body, mind, and spirit feel pulled to. It is more about being "here" in the present moment, than it is about being "there". An integrative mindfulness practice that can help us to let all of the miscellaneous fall away.
Space is limited. Please pre-register. Visit [TOURS & WORKSHOPS](#) for more information.
- 5:30-6:45pm **Sierra Wine Social with Interactive Exhibit & Poster Session 'Light'**
Dawn Danby, David McConville, Spherical; Vince Burnard, Ryan Silsbee, Brian Epstein, Joe Madden, Watershed Progressive Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles (tbd)
 -Land Resilience Partnership: A Framework for Multiple Benefit Direct Install Programs of Value
 -Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles (ARLA)'s Living Infrastructure Field Kit
 -Rainfall Simulator, Small Water Cycle Poster
 -Magic of Plants Table, Extreme Heat-Shade Lab
 -Fire Resilience Slide Show and Interactive

LOCALIZING CALIFORNIA WATERS

BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH COLLABORATION



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

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Advancing Local Strategies in a Changing Climate

- 6:30am Hot Tub Yoga
- 8:00am **Welcome**
Bill Leonard, Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation; Dore Bietz, Tuolumne Band of Miwuk Elder
- 8:20am **Why Tending, Mending, Stewardship Stories Matter**
Julie Tumamait-Stenslie, Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians (Chumash)
- 9:00am **Why Local Actions Matter**
Why are small, local actions so critical to the water agencies, and our communities to be equitable, inclusive, and successful? How these small local actions add up to cumulative large-significant effects.
Connor Macgee, Climate Science Alliance; Rebecca Burgess, Fibershed; Trathen Heckman, Daily Acts Organization
- 9:30am **Healthy Watershed Communities Workshop 1: Start the Shift from “Doing To” to “Doing With”**
Facilitated Group Capture: Mary Burke, Cal Trout; Jen Rice, Consulting Catalyst
- 10:00am Break
- 10:15am **RISING VOICES IN LOCAL WATER RESILIENCE: PANEL & AUDIENCE DISCUSSION**
Sharing & mapping diverse perspectives from *across California*. What does it mean to be young & working in water/ climate today? How can we support lifting all perspectives & think past our own generation? How do local based actions support healthy resilient watershed communities? Hear from voices & programmatic elements that connect us to our youth, land & water.
Morning Session Moderator: Julie Tumamait-Stenslie, Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians (Chumash)
- Youth-led & Community Design**
Adam Bulla Zamastil, Headwaters Initiative Partnership & HIP Participants
- Greywater Connect on Network**
Shreya Ramachandran, Stanford Water Project, The Greywater Project
- Mono Lake South: Connecting People, Places & Watershed Solutions through Los Angeles Community Based Organizations’ Participation in the Mono Basin Outdoor Education Program**
Gabriel Gutierrez, California State University, Northridge; Santiago Escruceria, Mono Lake Committee
- Panel & Participant Reflections - Capture*
- 11:45am Lunch
- 12:30pm **Lunch Guest Speaker: Shelton Johnston, Yosemite National Park**
Rush Creek Event Center

Advancing Local Strategies in a Changing Climate

- 1:15-5:00pm **CONNECTING WATER & CLIMATE RESILIENCE: BRIGHT SPOT STORIES OF WHY PLACE & REAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MATTERS**
How is climate change impacting frontline communities? How can water agencies and local governments more effectively work with their communities to address these impacts? How can we overcome systemic injustices and build a more equitable, climate resilient world? Across California, there are inspirational examples of place-based connections and transformational community engagement where water and climate resilience are being built from the ground up.
Afternoon Session Moderator: Martha Davis, Mono Lake Committee
- 1:20pm **In the midst of Climate Change, Ensuring Clean & Affordable Drinking Water is Available for All California Communities, Rural & Urban**
Susana De Anda, Community Water Center
- 1:50pm **Bright Spots in Community Engagement for Climate Resilience: Southern California Stories of Change & Lessons Learned**
Eileen Alduenda & Amanda Zeidner, Council for Watershed Health
-Erica Maceda, River in Action
-Azeneth Martinez, Nature for All
-Itzel Castillo Flores Wang, Promesa Boyle Heights
- 3:05pm Break
- 3:15pm **Advancing Environmental Justice & Climate Resilience Through Land Management: Stories of Reconnection with Indigenous & Local Lands**
Brian Wallace (Washoe/Nisenan), The Sierra Fund; Connor DeVane, North Bay Jobs with Justice
- 4:05pm **Connecting Local Water & Climate Actions Across California & the Colorado River Basin: Opportunities to Build Resilience from the Ground Up**
Liz Crosson, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- 4:40pm **LCW Reflection Panel: Why Place Matters: Are Conservation & Local Approaches an Answer to Supply?**
Moderator: Bob Wilkinson, University of California, Santa Barbara; Dennis O’Connor, CA Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Water (retired); & guests
- 5:30pm **Mountain Cocktails & Mocktail Hour**
On your own.
- 6:00pm **Immersive Colorado River Exhibit & Additional Offerings** (at your own pace)
- Immersive Evening Forest Walk**, *Elena Rios, Santa Ynez Chumash*
Slow down Honor Relax Restore Reset Reconnect Re-awaken Re-member
Honoring ancient human practices of nature connection that are reflected in ancestral Indigenous Knowledge all over the world. In a forest, or other natural environment, you will be given directions, in the form of an invitation, that is meant to assist you in slowing down, relaxing, and observing with all of your senses. Unlike a naturalist walk, it isn’t so much about knowing all of the names of the plants, as it is about noticing which plants, that your body, mind, and spirit feel pulled to. It is more about being “here” in the present moment, than it is about being “there”. An integrative mindfulness practice that can help us to let all of the miscellaneous fall away. You may begin to notice things in a way that you may not have noticed before.

BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH COLLABORATION

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023

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The Art of the Possible

- 6:30am Hot Tub Yoga
- 8:00am **Watershed Restoration Through Local Action**
Candice Meneghin, Friends of the Santa Clara River
- 8:20am **STORIES OF RURAL & URBAN RESILIENCE IN A TIME OF CLIMATE WHIPLASH**
- Stories of Equity & Inclusion: Multiple Benefits Direct Technical Install**
Brianna Schaefer, Daily Acts Organization; Morgan Margulies, Daily Acts Land Resilience Partnership
- Land Management & Community Organizing for Watershed Health**
Monica Matthews & Emily Nye, Ventura Resource Conservation District
- Collaborative Water Management & Building Climate Resiliency For People, Farms & Fish**
Linda MacElewee, Mendocino Resource Conservation District
- Additional Audience Discussion/Capture Mapping*
- 9:45am Break
- 10:00am **Place-Based Transformations: Urban Forests, Food, & Stormwater**
Michael Ableman, Sole Food Street Farms, Author, Fields of Plenty: A farmer's journey in search of real food and the people who grow it
- 10:30am **STORIES OF FIBER, FOOD & HEALTHY SOILS**
Opening: SGMA & Climate-Smart Agriculture: The Overlap, the Blind Spots & the Opportunity in the San Joaquin Valley
Allegra Roth, Rincon Consultants
- Slash, It Ain't Trash, It's Biomass**
Joshua Cox & Sandra De Leon, North Bay Jobs with Justice
- Healthy Soils Innovations from Home to Freeways to Forest**
Michael Hogan, Integrated Environmental Restoration Services, Inc.
- Local Fire & Scaleable Strategies for Regrowing our Native Seedbank**
Craig Dremann, EcoSeeds
- What Else? Additional Audience 'Popcorn' Highlights: Discussion/Capture Mapping*
- 11:30am **Healthy Watershed Communities Workshop 2: The Power of Collective Listening**
Facilitator: Mary Burke, Cal Trout; Jen Rice, Consulting Catalyst
- 11:45am Lunch: Shop Talk Cafe

The Art of the Possible

- 1:00pm **STORIES OF FOREST, FIRE, FISH & WATER**
Opening: Fire & Water: The Essentials of Life
Anecita Augustinez, Dept. of Water Resources
- Panel: Local Collaborative Approaches for Fire & Water Resilience**
Moderator: Jerry Bird, US Forest Service
Jason Kuiken, US Forest Service; Lacey Hankin, US Forest Service; Adam Mazurkiewicz, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission; Anecita Augustinez, Dept. of Water Resources
- 2:15pm **LCW Reflection Panel - Systems Thinking, Next Steps for Place-Based Healthy Forests & Healthy Watershed Communities: Fire, Flood, Fiber, Shade, Habitat**
Moderator: Bob Wilkinson, University of California, Santa Barbara; Dennis O'Connor, CA Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Water (retired); & guests
- 2:45pm Stretch Break
- 3:00pm **Healthy Watershed Communities Workshop 3: From Engagement to Implementation**
Facilitator: Mary Burke, Cal Trout; Jen Rice, Consulting Catalyst
- 5:00pm Break
- 6:30pm **Dinner Banquet/Art of the Possible Cabaret**
No-host bar in lounge. For dinner, **all are welcome**, bring your own dinner or pre-register for the Banquet.
- 9:00pm **Live Music-Funk Groove Session by JellyBread**
in the Tavern

BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH COLLABORATION

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023

Tools to Accelerate

- 6:30am Hot Tub Yoga
- 8:30am **Keynote: Shifting the Paradigm for California Water**
Brent Bucknum, Hyphae Designs Laboratory
- 9:15am **Accelerating & Scaling Funds for Healthy Resilient Watershed Communities**
Moderator: Pacific Institute
Aaron Haiman, Wildlife Conservation Board; Brandon Harrell, Office of Planning & Research; CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (pending); Dept. of Water Resources (pending); Keali'i Bright, Department of Conservation
- 10:00am **LCW Reflection Panel**
Moderator: Bob Wilkinson, University of California, Santa Barbara; Dennis O'Connor, CA Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Water (retired); & guests
- 10:45am **Shifting the Paradigm Listening Session/Closing Circle**
Pacing the Next Steps for 2024
Bill Leonard, Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation
- 12:00pm **Deep Dive & Luncheon**
Collaborative Data/Toolkits Symposium-Luncheon
- 2:00pm Rush Creek Tour, ad hoc
- 2:00pm Optional: Yosemite Park Sunset Outing, ad hoc



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Michael Ableman *Founder & Director, Sole Food Street Farms; Author, 'Fields of Plenty'*

Michael Ableman is a farmer, author, photographer, environmental activist, and urban and local food systems advocate. Michael has been farming organically since the early 1970's and is considered one of the pioneers of the organic farming and urban agriculture movements. He has led numerous projects in the US, Canada, Australia, and the Caribbean focused on hands-on approaches to improving food security. He is a frequent lecturer to audiences all over the world and the author of four books: *From the Good Earth: A celebration of growing food around the world* (Abrams 1993); *On Good Land: The autobiography of an urban farm* (Chronicle Books 1998); *Fields of Plenty: A farmer's journey in search of real food and the people who grow it* (Chronicle Books 2005), and *Street Farm; Growing Food, Jobs, and Hope on the Urban Frontier* (Chelsea Green 2016). Michael's pioneering work with under-served communities and in developing innovative agricultural systems has been profiled by the New York Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, National Geographic, National Public Radio and many others. His photographs have appeared in numerous publications and have been exhibited in solo exhibitions at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, the Field Museum, the Oakland Museum and others. Michael is the subject of the award-winning PBS film *Beyond Organic* narrated by Meryl Streep and his work in Vancouver is featured in the feature length documentary *A New Economy*. He is the founder of the Center for Urban Agriculture at Fairview Gardens in Goleta, California; founder and director of Sole Food Street Farms and the charity Cultivate Canada in Vancouver, British Columbia; and founder and director of the Center for Arts, Ecology and Agriculture based at his family home and farm on Salt Spring Island in British Columbia.



Eileen Alduenda *Executive Director, Council for Watershed Health*

Eileen Alduenda directs the collaborative efforts of CWH to advance the health and sustainability of local watersheds, rivers, and habitats in natural areas and urban neighborhoods. She guides CWH's talented staff in implementing watershed health monitoring and performance monitoring of green infrastructure projects; education and engagement via convenings and publications; and green infrastructure technical assistance resources and capacity building of small municipalities, school districts, and community-based organizations interested in implementing multi-benefit projects. She has over 20 years of experience collaborating with public and nonprofit agencies in research, project design and implementation, and community education and engagement related to green infrastructure systems. Her experiences of growing up in southern California, working on energy utility demand-side management projects on the east coast and sustainable community projects in the southwest, as well as her training as a landscape architect in the pacific northwest guide her efforts to improve the health of our watersheds and communities.



Mike Antos *Steering Committee, California Water Data Consortium*

Mike Antos is a social scientist who focuses on helping people and institutions navigate place, time, and culture to achieve equitable and sustainable outcomes. He currently serves on the Steering Committee of the California Water Data Consortium and is an environmental fellow of the Robert & Patricia Switzer Foundation. Mike is an established thought leader on how water policy and planning can be opened to members of overburdened and marginalized communities yielding empowerment and justice. He supports clients with watershed governance and management, integrated water resources planning and project development, climate adaptation, facilitation, and policy development. Mike has a proven track record of coordinating complex multi-jurisdictional and publicly engaged water resources efforts.



Anecita Agustinez *Tribal Policy Advisor, Department of Water Resources*

Anecita Agustinez is Department of Water Resource's Tribal Policy Advisor. She is an enrolled citizen of the Diné (Navajo) Nation, born to the Tó dich'íinii (Bitter Water Clan People) and born for the Ilocano Clan. She is a Strategic Policy Advisor to the Director and ensures DWR's compliance with AB52 Consultation and with initiatives implemented by the Governor and California Natural Resources Agency. She covers Tribal engagement regarding climate change, Human Right to Water, flood and drought impacts and energy-related issues, regional water planning, ecosystem restoration, and climate resilience. She provides support to DWR's special initiatives and environmental justice policies and negotiates and monitors selected legislation related to Tribal governments, water, flood and energy. Before joining DWR, she served as the Native American Liaison and Manager of the Office of Legislative and External Affairs, at the Department of Health Care Services. She was the Assistant Director of the Office of Native American Affairs at the Department of Justice in the Office of the Attorney General. The Office of Tribal Policy Advisor coordinates communication and outreach with other state agencies and facilitates government-to-government consultation between DWR and California's Native American Tribal Governments. Her office provides policy recommendations to the California Water Commission and Central Valley Flood Protection Board. She is an advocate for self-governance, respect for Tribal sovereignty and incorporating Tribal Science as a best management practice in state management of cultural resources and water infrastructure planning.



Shahab Araghinejad *Division of Water Rights, State Water Resources Control Board*

Dr. Shahab Araghinejad is a water resources engineer with more than 15 years of experience in water resources and environmental management and engineering. He has experience in different work environments including academia, industry, and non-profit organizations. His technical skills include data-driven modeling, climate change impacts and adaptation analysis, and water quality and quantity modeling. Shahab started working on California water in 2018 and has been with the Division of Water Rights of the State Water Resources Control Boards since May 2021. In the Water Board, he has been helping with the development of models in the Ventura River, Scott River, Shasta River, and Mark West Creek watersheds.



Elea Becker Lowe *Senior Planner, CA Governor's Office of Planning & Research*

Elea Becker Lowe is a Senior Planner with the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program. She leads the development of Regional and Topical Synthesis Reports for California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment to study the impacts of climate change and adaptation pathways to build climate resilience at state and regional scales. Prior to her role with OPR, Elea worked as an Environmental Scientist with the California Natural Resources Agency. She holds an MA in International Environmental Policy from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies and a BS in Applied Mathematics from the University of Vermont. Elea grew up in rural Vermont next to a beaver pond.



Jerry Bird *Forest Supervisor, US Forest Service*

Jerry Bird has worked in natural resources issues in the western United States for over 25 years. After finishing college, Jerry joined the USDA Forest Service, worked in six of nine US regions, and has conducted field visits to more than 50 national forests and grasslands. Jerry moved to Yreka, CA in 2011 as Klamath Basin Coordinator, supporting forests in the Pacific Northwest and Pacific Southwest Regions. He relocated to Sacramento and later became regional forester's representative in 2016. Jerry has facilitated numerous working groups, including biomass/bioenergy, state-federal air and land managers, smoke communications, prescribed fire training centers, and water. He works with local, county, state, and federal government agencies, tribal leaders, non-governmental partners, and other stakeholders on issues around forests, carbon, fish, fire, and water. Jerry has worked with partners and stakeholders since 2012 on the scoping and initiation of CA Climate Investments, built on the state's cap-and-trade program that has now funded hundreds of millions of dollars in forestry work sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Significant past acting details include stints as regional chief of staff, forest supervisor on the Plumas National Forest; regional director of public affairs and communications; ecosystem staff officer on the Dixie National Forest (UT); and as an acting district NEPA planner (ID).



Noa Bruhis *Senior Analyst, Environmental Defense Fund*

Following a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from UC Davis and M.S. in Water Resources Engineering from Oregon State University, Noa spent several years in industry developing environmental sensors for water quality, soil moisture, agriculture, and weather stations. In a pursuit to broaden horizons, she decided to supplement her engineering career with a Ph.D. in Human and Social Dimensions of Science and Technology at Arizona State University, focusing on public engagement with environmental issues. She now works for the Environmental Defense Fund as a Senior Analyst in Climate Resilient Water Systems.



Rebecca Burgess *Executive Director, Fibershed*

Rebecca Burgess is the Executive Director of Fibershed. She has two decades of experience working at the intersection of ecology, fiber systems, and regional economic development. She is the author of the best-selling book *Harvesting Color*, a bioregional look into the natural dye traditions of North America, and *Fibershed: Growing a Movement of Farmers, Fashion Activists, and Makers for a New Textile Economy* released in 2019. She has taught at Westminster College, Harvard University, and California College of the Arts. She also holds a new board position at the Livestock Conservancy and is serving on the leadership council of the Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems at Chico State University.

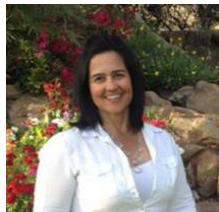
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Mary Burke *North Coast Regional Manager, California Trout*

Mary Burke is currently the North Coast Regional Manager for California Trout, a state-wide nonprofit that works to ensure healthy waters and resilient wild fish persist in California's future. Mary's experience spans three decades of varied program, team, and project development, also as an elected official, and in political action. Her approach is informed by continuous learning and attention to community-building processes. She champions eco-cultural restoration that centers indigenous voices and offers opportunities to learn from the practice of reciprocity. Her leadership has been recognized as an innovator, an advocate, for excellence in her craft, and for leading with her heart. Ms. Burke has a B.A. from U.C. Santa Barbara in the College of Creative Studies with an emphasis in Ecology and Evolution and a M.S. degree from Humboldt State University in Environmental Systems, the program option International Development Technology. Mary enjoys disc sports, and time on the water in both its frozen and fluid forms, and enjoys everything much more when it's shared with her son, husband, family and friends. She is in a constant search for conversation about the commons, cultural evolution, art as ecology, and pro-social behaviors, which is another way to say, she looks forward to meeting you.



Dore Bietz *Northern & Southern Me-Wuk, Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council*

Dore (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.



Liz Crosson *Sustainability, Resilience & Innovation Office, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

Liz Crosson is the chief sustainability, resilience and innovation officer for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). She is responsible for developing a district-wide sustainability and resiliency strategy that includes efforts to reduce MWD's carbon footprint and adapt to immediate climate change impacts. Liz develops and pursues strategies, programs, and policies that address energy use, conservation, pollution, environmental justice, and climate resilience. She also drives initiatives to foster innovation. Prior to joining Metropolitan in March 2022, Liz served as Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's director of infrastructure and was the mayor's chief policy liaison to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the five bureaus under the city's Department of Public Works. She also previously served as the city's deputy chief sustainability officer and the mayor's first appointed water policy advisor. From 2010-2015, Liz was the executive director of Los Angeles Waterkeeper, a nonprofit organization that protects and restores waterways throughout Los Angeles County through Clean Water Act enforcement, advocacy, restoration and community action. Liz earned a bachelor's degree in environmental science, policy and management from the University of California-Berkeley; a master's degree in biology from Southern Oregon University; and a juris doctorate from Lewis & Clark Law School, where she graduated with honors, with a certificate in environmental law.



Joshua Cox *Resilience Force*

Joshua Cox completed his undergraduate studies at Yale University, where he was a four-year letterman on the varsity baseball team and won the coveted William Neely Mallory Award, which is the most prestigious athletic honor given to a senior male. Upon graduation, Josh taught middle school English at New Orleans College Prep Charter School in New Orleans' third ward. After two years in the classroom, Josh realized that poverty- and the problems that accompany it- are the biggest barriers to reducing inequality, and he left to attend the University of Pennsylvania Law School and the Fels Institute of Government to better understand how the law influences politics, finance and government. In 2014, Josh returned to New Orleans after law school and worked for three years as a commercial litigator before serving as the Director of Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Orleans Parish School Board. Soon after, he accepted an offer to serve as Senior Advisor and Director of Strategic Initiatives to the first black female Mayor of New Orleans, LaToya Cantrell. While in the Mayor's Office, Josh led a diverse body of work. He's managed philanthropic relationships on behalf of the City of New Orleans and appointments for the City's 100+ boards and commissions. He also was deeply involved in initiatives related to the City's relief and recovery from COVID-19, including the workforce development program that pivoted out-of-work folks in hospitality into the community health workers we needed to stop the spread in communities of color. Now, Josh runs the for-profit arm of Resilience Force, a national labor brokerage dedicated to building the workforce America needs to adapt and respond to climate change. Resilience Force connects workers to disaster restoration companies after natural disasters in the Gulf South and organizations in Sonoma County preventing wildfires through vegetation management.



Connor David DeVane *Resilience & Just Transition Coordinator, North Bay Jobs with Justice*

Connor was born in the Lake Pontchartrain Watershed of New Orleans, but grew up all over the country, largely insulated from the more-than-human world. He came home to the land through two separate walks across the United States on the Pacific Crest and Continental Divide Trails. Building off these transformative experiences, Connor has spent the past decade organizing for climate justice and working to regenerate watersheds and ecosystems through small and community-scale permaculture practices. He is the director of the 2019 documentary film *Hike the Divide: A Conversation about Climate Action on the Continental Divide Trail*. At NBJWJ, he is focused on transitioning farmworkers out of the wine industry into climate resilience jobs that pay family-sustaining wages. A firm believer that we must hospice the old systems and midwife the new, Connor is honored to be working in service of a worker-led vision for a just and climate resilient North Bay. He lives in the Petaluma River Watershed, and can often be found making music, telling stories, tending to soil and native plants, and marveling at the ingenuity of water.



Martha Davis *Executive Director, Mono Lake Committee (retired)*

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). During her tenure, Ms. Davis led many of the Agency's award-winning planning and green programs including initiatives promoting water efficiency, renewable energy, stormwater capture, recycled water and climate resilience. Ms. Davis serves on several boards including the Mono Lake Committee, the Community Water Center, the Sierra Fund, and the Rose Foundation's California Grassroots Fund. Previously, Ms. Davis served as the Executive Director for the Mono Lake Committee (1984-1996). Under her leadership, the Mono Lake campaign culminated in the 1994 landmark public trust decision by the State Water 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 Environmental Studies.



Susana De Anda *Executive Director, Community Water Center*

Susana De Anda is the Executive Director and Co-founder of the Community Water Center. Susana is a seasoned community organizer and has received numerous awards and recognitions, including: James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award (2018); White House Champion of Change for Climate Equity (2016); Mark Dubois Award from Friends of the River (2014); "150 Fearless Women in the World" by Newsweek Magazine (2012); "Women on Top – Top Activist" by Marie Claire magazine (2012); AOL sponsored PBS three-part series titled, *Makers: Women Who Have Shaped America* (2012); and "Las Fabulosas" and "Inspiring Latinas" by Powerful Latinas (2011); and the 2009 Petra Foundation Fellowship award. In addition, Jill Iscol's book, *Hearts on Fire*, features a chapter on Susana De Anda and CWC (2011). Susana's experience includes planning and organizing positions at the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment; the County of Merced Planning Department; the Santa Barbara County Water Agency; and the Santa Barbara non-profit Community Environmental Council. Susana earned a B.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara while completing a double major in Environmental Studies and Geography. Susana served for the past few years on the Community Funding Board of the Grassroots Fund through the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment, Tulare County Water Commission, and on the Board of Directors of the Tulare County United Way. She currently serves on the Advisory Council for the Water Solutions Network and is a Steering Committee member on the Water Equity and Climate Resilience Caucus. Susana is also a co-founder of Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL).



Charlotte Ely *Climate & Strategy Advisor, State Water Resources Control Board's Office of Research, Planning, & Performance*

Charlotte Ely is the Climate and Strategy Advisor in the State Water Resources Control Board's Office of Research, Planning, and Performance. Until earlier this year, she supervised the agency's conservation team, the group leading the proposed 'Making Conservation a California Way of Life' regulation. From 2006 to 2016, Charlotte worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Sustainable Water Infrastructure program, providing technical and financial support to increase water and energy efficiency in water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure. She lives in Sacramento with her husband and two daughters.



Brian Epstein *Watershed Benefits Director, Watershed Progressive*

Brian Epstein is the Watershed Benefits Director at Watershed Progressive. Over the course of his 20-year career, he has developed deep experience in water rights, water administration, and tracking the beneficial use of water. In addition to managing WP's work on the Petaluma Land Resilience Partnership, Brian helps clients gather and process the data necessary for agreements or petitions to transfer water to streamflow enhancement and creates operation plans, tailoring to on-the-ground conditions so projects are protected legally and can function physically. Brian was in the Stream and Lake Protection Section during his 8 years with the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Brian uses the experience gained from working in a state that required adjudication in 1919 to support water rights transactions in California. Along with his public service experience, Brian started his career as a consultant and spent time as a research hydrologist. He received his Master of Science in Hydrogeology from the University of Nevada, Reno, and his Bachelor of Science in Environmental Natural Resources Policy Studies from Michigan State University.

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Itzel Flores Castillo Wang (*She/Her/Ella*) Senior Coordinator of Community Transformation, Promesa Boyle Heights

Itzel is a queer, indigenous, woman of color. She was born and raised in Puebla, Mexico up until the age of ten years old when her family came to the United States to be reunited with her dad. Her journey as an organizer began with the May Day March in 2006 which sparked her passion for helping others and ensuring their voices are heard. This passion continued to grow as she began and completed her B.A. in Environmental Studies where she became more aware and learned of the impacts that systems of oppression, colonialism and more have had on the communities she is a part of. Being part of Promesa Boyle Heights, Itzel has been able to deepen her understanding of community organizing and building the leadership of community leaders to advocate for what they need and deserve. She is currently leading the Healthy Environments work at Promesa where she works with an amazing group of Promotoras de Salud Ambiental in informing and engaging the community in projects aimed at building a more resilient community by advocating for more green spaces, nature-based solutions, equitable access to resources, and more. In her free time, she loves to spend time with her family, dance, and whenever possible visit Mother Nature to reconnect and reground herself.



Scott Gelfand Executive Director, The Friends of Berkeley Tuolumne Camp

Scott Gelfand started working with Camp Tuolumne in 1986, and currently is the Executive Director of The Friends of Berkeley Tuolumne Camp- a 501 c3 non-profit established in 1984 that successfully stopped a dam from being built on the south fork of the Tuolumne River. Scott also produces major live events in the Bay Area, international online events and conferences, Ted Talks, and is currently producing a movie set in Los Alamos, New Mexico.



Gabriel Gutiérrez Professor of Chicano/a Studies, California State University, Northridge

Gabriel Gutiérrez, Ph.D. is Professor of Chicano/a Studies at California State University, Northridge where he previously served as Department Chair and Director of the Center for the Study of the Peoples of the Americas. Gabriel was born and raised in the Boyle Heights section of East Los Angeles. His parents are Juana B. Gutiérrez and Ricardo J. Gutiérrez, both lifelong activists and founders of social justice organizations. He earned a Ph.D. in American History, an MA in Latin American and Nineteenth-Century US history, and a BA in Chicano/a Studies and Political Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara. His publications include *Latinos and Latinas at Risk: Issues in Education, Health, Community, and Justice* (Greenwood Press, 2015). He has presented, written and published on diverse themes that include, California history, Environmental Justice, Disney and Latinos/as, Critical Media Studies, and Latinos/as and Major League Baseball. He previously executive produced and hosted the weekly show “The Morning Review with Gabriel Gutiérrez” on Pacifica Radio Network’s Los Angeles Affiliate KPFK 90.7 FM. Dr. Gutiérrez’s research currently engages public history projects with attention to a palimpsest, or, layered approach to the establishment, attempted erasures, and affirmations of various successive historical narratives for these historical sites.



Lacey Hankin US Forest Service

Lacey Hankin joins the Forest Service after serving as the fire ecologist at Yosemite National Park, where she supported fire and resource management through fire effects monitoring and cross-disciplinary fire-related research. Lacey holds a PhD in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology and a MS in Systems Ecology, with a focus in forest and fire ecology. She is passionate about stewarding resilient disturbance-impacted ecosystems in the face of climate change through collaborative research and management.



Aaron Haiman Senior Environmental Scientist, Wildlife Conservation Board

Aaron has been passionate about birds and nature since he can remember. He has a Bachelor’s in Environmental Science from the University of California Berkeley and two master’s degrees from the University of California, Davis, in Avian Science and Animal Behavior. He worked for the Department of Water Resources as a Scientific Aide, and for over five years as an Environmental Scientist for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy. Currently, he is a Senior Environmental Scientist for the Wildlife Conservation Board where he manages the Stream Flow Enhancement Program, a statewide program that funds stream and river restoration projects.



Brandon Harrell Senior Planner, Climate Resilience, CA Governor’s Office of Planning & Research

Prior to joining the ICARP team, Brandon was a full-time affordable housing and climate resiliency planner. Though born and raised in California, his expertise in urban innovation and community planning enabled him to work on social and environmental justice projects as far as Cuba, Kenya, Nicaragua, Portugal, Taiwan, and Turkey. Brandon has given lectures about city planning and development in the United States and the Caribbean, as well as taught at UC Berkeley. As a contributing author and facilitator, his work can be seen in the Redwood City’s Anti-Displacement Strategy, San Mateo County’s Climate Ready Collaborative, City of Emeryville’s Housing Element 2015–2023, the Emeryville Berkeley Oakland Transit Study, *Alqueva: Changing Ecologies of the Montado Landscape*, and *Slum Sanitation and the Social Determinant of Women’s Health in Nairobi, Kenya*. Brandon holds a Master’s degree in City Planning from UC Berkeley, a BA from the University of New Mexico and a Permaculture Design Certificate from the Urban Permaculture Institute of San Francisco.



Trathen Heckman Executive Director, Daily Acts

Trathen is a non-profit leader with over twenty years of experience cultivating grassroots groups and community networks. He is the founder and Director of Daily Acts Organization, which specializes in unleashing the power of community to address the climate crisis. He 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 Executive Director, Watershed Progressive

Regina 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 non-point 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.



Michael Hogan Integrated Environmental Restoration Services, Inc.

Michael Hogan specializes in disturbance. His focus has been on restoration of drastically disturbed landscapes, the components of those landscapes, and the integration of those components. Key components include soil, water, plants, humans and the things that connect them. His education is in soil and water (BS Soils and Hydrology, UC Davis, MS Soil Science, UC Davis, with focus on drastically disturbed systems). He has worked as a restoration practitioner for over 30 years and while mostly retired, he is still known to work on a project or two when there is a chance to learn some new things and collaborate with willing partners. His practice has always been involved with trying things, tracking those things and learning from what some call ‘mistakes’. He and his collaborators pioneered the use of pine needles as mulch, wood chips and other high carbon materials as soil amendments and mulches, deep tilling of the soil and a number of other ‘non-standard’ practices. He was president of Integrated Environmental Restoration Services for 25 years, board member and president of California Society for Ecological Restoration, President of the Tahoe Chapter of California Native Plant Society and has authored or coauthored a number of papers, both white and peer reviewed.



Jim Junette Groveland District Ranger, US Forest Service

I have been with the Forest Service for 35 years, with 32 of those years on the Stanislaus National Forest. I have worked on all 4 districts on the forest at one point in my career. I have a BS Degree from Humboldt State University in Forest Resource Management, and received that in 1986 I have worked in Recreation, Fire, Silviculture, Timber, large fire restoration...and now upper management. I started in 1985 as a GS-3, and have worked my way up to the position of District Ranger in 2014 on the Groveland Ranger District. I still love my life, my work, my job and my staff!

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Mark Kenegos *GIS Manager, Watershed Progressive*

“Manifesting requires vision. A paradigm shift requires a shared vision. Mark and his team visualize data to show that abundance is already ours if we want it. By blending the worlds of urban planning, GIS, and water resources engineering, Mark and his team attempt to demonstrate that systemic change is possible and small actions are scalable. Mark’s work experience has included environmental impact assessment, urban planning research, and active transportation safety planning.”



Tim Kuhn *Hydro-ecologist, Yosemite National Park*

Tim is a Hydro-ecologist with Yosemite National Park. He coordinates planning and implementation of meadow and wetland restoration projects and supervises the Park revegetation program. Past work in the Park includes post-fire erosion studies and the development of environmental impact statements for the Merced and the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River management plans. As Utility Analyst for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Tim conducts hydrologic and meteorologic data collection and assessment for reservoir storage and dam safety operations.



Jason Kuiken *Forest Supervisor, Stanislaus National Forest*

Jason Kuiken is the current forest supervisor on the Stanislaus National Forest and has served in that role since 2017. He has been with the Forest Service for 16 years and held several leadership roles during that time. In addition, he has served as the Deputy on the U.S. Forest Service’s Wildfire Risk Reduction Infrastructure Team. He has a bachelor’s degree in natural resource management from the University of Wisconsin and a master’s degree in public administration from Columbia University. On the Stanislaus, they are rapidly implementing the Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape (SERAL) project in support of the Forest Service’s 10-year Wildfire Crisis Strategy and the Stanislaus Landscape Project.



Erica Maceda *Executive Director, River in Action*

Erica Maceda is the Executive Director of River in Action (RIA). She has been a member of RIA since 2018 and has worked closely with communities living near the Lower Los Angeles River for the past five years. Erica leads birding walks and nature-based workshops that help connect K-5 youth to their local biodiversity and water systems. She has always been drawn to the transformative power of water, birds, and native plants. Her work helps inform her role as a WASC steering committee member for the Lower Los Angeles River Safe Clean Water Program and WRD advisory committee member. Erica holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and a minor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Cal State Long Beach.



Linda MacElwee *Project Coordinator, Mendocino Resource Conservation District*

Linda MacElwee joined the Mendocino Resource Conservation District in 2005. Since that time, she has filled roles as education and outreach coordinator, watershed coordinator, native plant/revegetation specialist, and project manager. She has helped develop both the soil and water programs at MCRCD. Linda has worked for over thirty years in the world of organic farming/gardening, from growing out endangered species of crops in the desert Southwest, to advocating for and advising farmers in soil health, conservation carbon farm planning, and water use efficiency practices.



Morgan Margulies *Program Coordinator, Daily Acts Land Resilience Partnership*

Growing up in the Yuba River Watershed, Morgan discovered a passion and awareness for water and the earth that it flows through. Since working for Daily Acts as a program coordinator for the Petaluma River Watershed Land Resilience Partnership, Morgan has found that water conservation projects connect community members to place. Through the Land Resilience Partnership, Morgan has worked on public and residential projects in disadvantaged community zones to harvest the rain in cisterns and earthworks, reuse greywater in the garden, and transform water-intensive lawns into mulched pollinator gardens.



Azeneth Martinez *Coalition Coordinator, Nature for All*

Azeneth Martinez is a local Urban Planner from Pacoima. She understands the healing benefits of connection and access to nature. She enjoys journaling when out in nature “as a way to get in touch with myself and envision my dreams.” “I am excited to work with Nature for All because I envision a more equitable future that includes kindness and compassion for communities that have been disproportionately impacted by environmental injustices. I believe that when our communities have access to the proper tools and mentorship, they can not only survive, but thrive.”



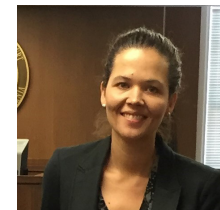
Monica Matthews *Conservation Ecologist, Ventura Resource Conservation District*

Monica Matthews works in the central and south coast of this land as an ecologist, herpetologist, permitting biologist, fire practitioner and community organizer. Some of her current projects include natural and cultural resource management, ecological restoration, beneficial fire, wildfire risk management and cultural art care. These projects build healthy, resilient ecosystems mirrored by healthy, resilient human communities. She is also very fortunate to work alongside numerous Indigenous communities and the worldwide Indigenous movement returning land, resources and the role of land management to these Indigenous communities.



Adam Mazurkiewicz *Operations & Maintenance Manager, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Hetch-Hetchy Power*

Adam Mazurkiewicz is the Operations and Maintenance Manager for SFPUC-Hetch Hetchy Water and Power. Adam has been with HHWP for 15 years and has been involved in reservoir and powerhouse operations throughout his tenure. In his current role he is responsible for all operations and maintenance activities for the power transmission and distribution systems, dams, powerhouses, tunnels, pipelines, facilities and right of way lands.



Candice Meneghin *Board Member, Friends of the Santa Clara River*

Candice Meneghin is a Biodiversity Conservationist, bringing a multidisciplinary and international perspective to environmental management and conservation, with 20 years’ experience managing natural resources including threatened and endangered species, integrated watershed management, environmental law compliance, and protected area management and expansion. Candice was the chair and coordinator of the Santa Clara River Steelhead Coalition between 2012 and 2018, and CalTrout’s Southern California Conservation Program Manager overseeing CalTrout’s regional litigation, policy, restoration, and advocacy work. Candice covered Environmental Issues for Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks between 2019 and 2021. She is on the Board of Coastal Ranches Conservancy in Santa Barbara, and Friends of the Santa Clara River in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties, and represents the interests of the Santa Clara River Environmental Groundwater Committee as a Director of the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Currently, Candice is completing her third year of law school, is interning at the Los Angeles Waterkeeper, and implementing a priority Southern steelhead recovery action on the Santa Clara River watershed.



David McConville & Dawn Danby *Co-Founders, Spherical Studio*

Dawn Danby and David McConville are the co-founders of Spherical, a research and design strategy studio dedicated to regenerating the health and integrity of Earth’s living systems. Since 2020, they have collaborated closely with Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles (ARLA) founded by Andy Lipkis, who is also the founder and former president of TreePeople. ARLA’s aim is to mobilize communities, organizations, and governments to hasten climate resilience in Los Angeles County. Dawn and David reside and work in xučyun (also known as the Lower Bottoms of West Oakland, California), which is the ancestral and unceded territory of the Chochoyeno-speaking Ohlone people.



Emily Nye *Agricultural & Environmental Sustainability Specialist, Ventura Resource Conservation District*

Emily Nye is the Agricultural and Environmental Sustainability Specialist for the Ventura County Resource Conservation District. She is passionate about finding equitable solutions to build resilient communities, as well as empowering and collaborating with the community on farming practices and regenerative agriculture. At VCRCD she coordinates programs and grants featuring climate smart practices and addressing resource concerns including water, soil, energy, and habitat conservation.

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Dennis O'Connor *Chief Consultant, CA Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Water (retired)*

Mr. O'Connor recently retired as Chief Consultant to the California Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water. In that role, he analyzed all proposed water and Delta related legislation, organized oversight and information hearings, prepared briefing papers on issues relating to water and Delta issues, and advised members of the Senate on California water policy issues. He 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 was with the Senate 19 years, beginning in January 2003. Before coming to the Senate, Mr. O'Connor spent 10 years at the California Research Bureau (CRB), serving for six of those years as the Assistant Director for the Environment and Natural Resources. Mr. O'Connor did his undergraduate and masters studies in economics at CSU Sacramento.



Shreya Ramachandran *Executive Director, The Grey Water Project*

Shreya Ramachandran is a scientist, environmentalist and a grey water advocate. She was moved to action after witnessing the devastating effects of droughts, and conducted research to see how grey water could be reused for irrigation. She is the founder and executive director of her nonprofit The Grey Water Project and has influenced tens of thousands of people worldwide. She is Youth Sustainability Commissioner for the city of Fremont, a National Geographic Young Explorer and the recipient of the President's Environmental Youth Award. Her work has been featured by news and media outlets such as Good Morning America, the Weather Channel, ABC News, PBS, the Smithsonian Magazine, People Magazine and more. She is a junior at Stanford studying Human Biology with a concentration in Climate Policy and Health. At Stanford, she is Class President and is an undergraduate researcher at the School of Medicine.



Jen Rice *Consulting Catalyst*

Jen Rice independent consultant, has spent her life in rural California, between the Sierras, the Mojave Desert, and the north coast. For 30 years, she has been helping "the treetops and the grassroots" tackle "wicked" challenges together. Her broad range of experience -- from ground-pounder in wildland fire suppression to leadership in a resource management nonprofit and a regional community foundation -- is complemented by a drive to keep learning and the never-ending pursuit of effective community-led evolution of systems that impact many... often unintentionally doing harm. In the last decade, she helped grassroots, government, tribal, native cultural, nonprofit, and faith leaders create a regional native-led community organizing nonprofit and to begin to tackle structural racism. Jen uses a mix of human-centered design and relational organizing techniques to support groups of dedicated folks to compassionately connect with folks who know the most about any given issue, shift mindsets, set a strong shared purpose and develop a bottom-up plan for experimentation toward change. She has a B.S. from Humboldt State University in Natural Resources Planning and a M.A. from Fielding Graduate University in Organizational Development & Leadership.



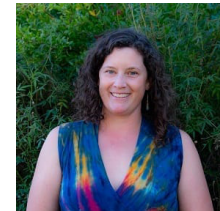
Elena Rios *ANFT Certified Nature & Forest Therapy Guide, Nature Connection Mentor, Inter-disciplinary Artist, & Cultural Practitioner*

Elena Rios is an ever-evolving ANFT Certified Nature & Forest Therapy Guide, Nature Connection Mentor, Inter-disciplinary Artist, and Cultural Practitioner. She draws inspiration from the stories of her late grandmother, a "curandera" and a "huesera", who practiced these traditional healing ways. Her journey toward deepening relationship with the healing power of trees, plants, herbs, and flowers has continued throughout her life. It has taken shape within the context of their use in Indigenous ceremony, dance, and song, including Danza Azteca Mexica. She continues to participate in these circles of learning and ways of being. As a young adult, Elena worked on such specialized wildland fire crews as southern California USFS Interagency Hotshot Crews. There, she experienced the kind of camaraderie found among operators who work on highly trained teams. As an employee of the Chumash Fire Department, Santa Ynez Band, she has received training as a Cultural Specialist. This has enhanced her perspective in relationship to land and place. She also holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the San Francisco Art Institute. Elena was born on the ancestral lands of the Tongva and Acjachemen peoples, in Fullerton, CA. She spent many of her formative years on Tübatulabul/ Yokut territory in the foothills of Sequoia National Forest. As a young girl she played amongst the bedrock mortars along the creek, and later learned about ranch and land stewardship. She is a descendant of Indigenous Xicana/Azteca/Chichimeca/Chumash/ Spanish Gypsy/ Scot-Irish multi-ethnic ancestors. Currently, she makes her home on Chumash territory, in 'Awha'y (Ojai) CA.



Allegra Roth *Water Resources Planner, Rincon Consultants*

Allegra is a Water Resources Planner at Rincon Consultants, a California-based environmental consulting firm. She has helped advance Natural and Working Lands elements in local planning efforts, forwarded implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in the San Joaquin Valley and managed multi-stakeholder agricultural and climate projects. She has a background in connecting land stewards with local and state policy issues, and is interested in helping communities reclaim governance over the ecological systems that sustain them. Allegra worked for the California State Legislature, in both the district and at the Capitol, and was a program manager for a central coast non-profit focusing on regional food systems and climate change adaptation. Allegra has a Masters of Public Policy from UC Berkeley and a BS in Community Development from UC Davis. Allegra enjoys all things food and community, and the web of relationships that connect them. She currently lives in Berkeley, CA with her very large cat, Amazon.



Brianna Schaefer *Program Director, Daily Acts Organization*

Prior to joining Daily Acts, Brianna worked at the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy where she focused on growing native plants for restoration projects, environmental education and volunteer management. As the Program Director at Daily Acts she oversees the design and implementation of innovative education and training programs focused on water conservation, leadership development and equitable community engagement. She has years of experience building cross-sector partnerships with community-based organizations, businesses, schools, and government agencies, and believes in the value of government and grassroots collaboration for creating policy change and meaningful action.



Julie Tumamait-Stenslie *Chairperson, Barbareno /Ventureno Band of Mission Indians*

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.



Albert Brian Wallace *(Washoe/Nisenan), The Sierra Fund*

Albert Brian Wallace served as an elected official of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California from 1979-2006, which included four terms as Tribal Chairman and one four year term as Vice Chairman. Wallace's leadership during this period was instrumental in the growth and strength not only of the Washoe Tribe, but of indigenous people and communities more broadly. During his tenure, Wallace secured federal court protection of sacred sites in Lake Tahoe and throughout Washoe homelands, and negotiated international "Accords of Friendship and Cooperation" between the Republic of Buryatia (Siberia) and the Washoe Tribe to facilitate the bio-cultural restoration of the Lake Baikal and Lake Tahoe by their indigenous peoples. As a founding member of the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee, Wallace's leadership continues to be widely recognized as the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, and following appropriations acts continue to fund current and future, forest health, transportation, stream, wetland water quality and habitat restoration investments on local, state and federal lands in and around the Lake Tahoe basin. Wallace often appeared before the U.S. Congress to advise on matters of federal/tribal relations and policy, and was appointed by U.S. Presidents, Bush, Clinton and Bush to serve on executive office commissions and advisory bodies. Today, Chairman Wallace resides in Auburn, Ca., and as a member of the Lizzie Enos Nisenan Family Foundation, dedicates his efforts to family Nisenan language literacy, and Nisenan mapping projects. In addition Wallace currently works on the assertion of the "Rights of Nature" doctrine to advocate the legal statues of kum mim sew' (Bear River) and its legal guardianship by today's Nisenan decedents to return Nisenan hands to Nisenan lands. Additionally Wallace spends as much time as possible on a tennis court most recently as a 2019 #4 in Nation at the USTA Men's 40 plus League National Championships (Oklahoma City).

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Robert C. Wilkinson *Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara*

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.



Adam Bulla Zamastil *Director, Headwaters Initiative Program*

Adam is the Director of the Headwaters Initiative Program (HIP) which launched in 2021. HIP is a career development and mentoring experience intended to serve young adults from diverse backgrounds and life experiences to promote awareness and create pathways to meaningful careers for individuals seeking to get involved in climate related work and who face barriers and may not otherwise have access to such opportunities. Adam spent the previous 20 years with the California Conservation Corps and the National Park Service committed to conservation work and, youth mentorship, advocacy, and development. Adam hopes that the efforts of the Headwaters Initiative Program will bear fruit in creating career opportunities while continuing to promote advocacy and mentorship and forging lifelong connections with the ecological world for young adults.



Amanda Zeidner *(she/her) Project Manager for Community Planning, Council for Watershed Health*

Amanda serves as the Project Manager for Community Planning at Council for Watershed Health (CWH). She manages ReDesignLA, CWH's capacity building and technical assistance program for Community Based Organizations and Tribes across Los Angeles County. To date, ReDesignLA has leveraged \$68 Million for community-centered green infrastructure projects. Amanda is an urban planner by training and organizer by praxis, having learned from many amazing community leaders and participated in campaigns across Los Angeles for the past decade. She has extensive experience with coalition-based work, strategic partnerships, 'popular education', and communicating complex topics to diverse partners. Amanda works to leverage the field of urban planning to create and spotlight community power for environmental, economic, and racial justice.



Brent Bucknum *Founder, Hyphae Design Lab*

Brent has been a leader in the urban environmental engineering field for nearly two decades, developing iconic, innovative and impactful green infrastructure projects throughout the country. As an urban ecologist, Brent's work aims to improve the health and diversity of all species in the urban environment, but with a particular focus on cities' dominant megafauna; humans. Brent Bucknum is the founder of Hyphae Design Lab, an Oakland based multi-disciplinary engineering and innovation firm started in 2008. Brent also co-founded Urban Biofilter, an environmental justice and health focused research and policy joint venture developed with neighborhood environmental justice groups. Brent brings a systems thinking perspective to environmental health and urban infrastructure challenges, by building diverse teams to create practical solutions to global challenges through academic research, community participation, design innovation, earth systems engineering and public policy. Brent also lectures, researches, and advocates in California and throughout the US for how urban infrastructure planning can provide multi-ecosystem benefits that improves air, soil, water and human health and environmental justice.



Shelton Johnston *Park Ranger, Yosemite National Park*

Shelton Johnson is an advocate for bringing minorities, particularly African-Americans, to the National Parks and connecting them to the natural world. He believes that "one of the great losses to African culture from slavery was the loss of kinship with the earth". He dedicated his work to this issue when he found the history of Buffalo Soldiers, the African-American regiments of the historically segregated U.S. Army. Johnson is now known for his research and publications on the assignments of the 24th Infantry Regiment and the 9th Cavalry Regiment to protect the new National Parks in California's Sierra Nevada. He wrote and performs a living history performance called Yosemite Through the Eyes of a Buffalo Soldier, 1904, which is presented as an interpretive program at the park and at locations around the country. In 2009, Johnson received the National Freeman Tilden Award as the best interpreting ranger in the National Park Service for his work with Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan on their national parks documentary. In 2010, Johnson was the recipient of Clemson University's William C. Everhart Award "for sustained achievements in interpretation that have illuminated, created insights to, and fostered an appreciation of our cultural and historical heritage."



Sebastian Bertsch *Project Strategist, Sherwood Design Engineers*

Sebastian is a Project Strategist for Sherwood Design Engineers supporting projects from Sonoma County to Saudi Arabia. He began his career as a metal fabricator, then as a mechanical designer for radar terrain mapping. He has participated in many local governance agencies, having been a member of the Santa Rosa Plains and Petaluma Valley GSA Advisory Committee, Sonoma Alternate Water Sources Working Group and participated in the development of the county ordinances for OWTS and commercial cannabis water use requirements. His focus has been on how to leverage engineering 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.



Paul Shipman *Senior Water Resources Engineer, Dept. of Water Resources*

Paul Shipman graduated from CSU Sacramento with a B.S. in Civil Engineering in 2012. He works for the Department of Water Resources as a Senior Water Resources Engineer, currently with the Division of Planning. Paul has worked on a variety of water management and planning related tasks including: the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, the California Water Plan, implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, California's Groundwater Report, and Implementation of the Open and Transparent Water Data Act. Most recently, Paul led the Future Scenarios analysis for the Water Plan Update 2023 and was an integral part of the development of the Water Budget Handbook, the Water Budget Dashboards, and associated pilot projects. Paul is passionate about serving the people of California by improving the methodologies and documentation behind our technical analyses to support more productive conversations and solutions to real water management problems.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTERS & SPEAKERS:

Keali'i Bright, Department of Conservation
Sandra De Leon, North Bay Jobs with Justice
Craig Dreman, EcoSeeds
Santiago Escruceria, Mono Lake Committee
Bill Leonard, Southern Sierra MiWuk Nation
Connor Macgee, Climate Science Alliance

Live Music by JellyBread



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