

JEAN AUER

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD



Jean Auer was a prominent player in California's water issues for over thirty years. From 1972 to 1977, Jean served as a public member of the State Water Resources Control Board, where she voted on regulations controlling pollution and establishing water rights.

Judge Ron Robie, associate justice of the State Court of Appeal in Sacramento, who served with Jean on the board, called her "a marvelous person of great spirit, enthusiasm and intelligence."

"This was just the beginning of the environmental movement in America," he said. "Then-Gov. Reagan encouraged our water board to do great things in preserving the (Sacramento-San Joaquin River) Delta and providing flows and streams for recreation and fish as well as cleaning up sewage-treatment plants. She was really courageous and not at all timid."

Jean was born in Youngstown, Ohio. She first learned about water issues with the League of Women Voters and was appointed to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Her interest continued after the family moved to San Francisco, and she was appointed to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Auers moved to Hillsborough in 1973, where she was elected to the Town Council and as mayor.

Starting in 1987, Jean worked on the decision-making management committee of the San Francisco Estuary Project, where Marcia Brockbank describes her ability to forge agreements. "She was a phenomenal woman, a consummate Renaissance woman."

In 1991, Jean became the second female president of the Commonwealth Club, after Shirley Temple Black, and for the next decade ran a fellowship program for young professionals at the nonprofit Water Education Foundation.

Jean is survived by her three beloved sons, Lance, Grant and Brad Grant Auer.

2009 AWARDEES



Marcia Brockbank is previous director of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership and a long time advocate for the estuary and its resources. She came to SFEP in 1986 as a public education program organizer after years of producing environmental and political spots for Channel 2 and the League of Women Voters. Marcia was active in the Commonwealth Club of California and served as Chair of the Water Section.

For 20 years, Marcia managed the work of the SFEP, bringing people together to address issues and find common ground. Marcia and her staff are single-handedly responsible for the fact that few people in the California water world now stumble over the word "estuary."

Save The Bay's David Lewis describes her work this way: "Marcia's patient stewardship of the Estuary Project is the number one reason its work enjoys such broad support among an enormous group of diverse partners who care about the Bay."

San Francisco Estuary Institute's Rainer Hoenicke describes Marcia's contributions this way, "Marcia was instrumental in demonstrating how meeting process and content can and should be appropriately balanced to get people with various backgrounds to arrive at tangible outcomes."

Marcia continues to give of her time and talents and currently sits on the board of The Bay Institute.



Will Travis is the Executive Director of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. From 1970 to 1972 he served as BCDC's first Bay Development Design Analyst. He has spent most of his professional career working for state coastal management agencies, but he has also worked in the fields of architecture, local planning, private consulting, advertising, and public relations.

In his role as chairman of the Shell Oil Spill Litigation Settlement Trustee Committee, he spearheaded the public acquisition of 10,000 acres of privately-owned salt ponds along the northern shoreline of San Francisco Bay to be used for one of the largest coastal wetland restoration projects in California's history.

With 240 square miles of low-lying filled land along the Bay shoreline in danger of inundation, he has become a leading advocate for a regional strategy to address climate change and sea level rise in the Bay Area. The Association of Bay Area Governments' Henry Gardner states: "No one has done more than Will Travis to push this region into thinking about, and beginning to plan for, climate change."

He serves on the board of trustees of the Bay Area Council Economic Institute, the board of directors of the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), the management committee of a Joint Policy Committee of four regional agencies, and the community advisory board of KB Home Corporation. He has served on several editorial boards and steering committees and was an advisor for the National Ocean Service's San Francisco Bay Project and a member of the Berkeley Planning Commission.