

JEAN AUER AWARD

Trish Mulvey has been selected to be the first recipient of the Jean Auer Award given by the San Francisco Estuary Project to an individual whose environmental activism, particularly in the area of water, has significantly contributed to the enhancement of the San Francisco Estuary. The scope and significance of her accomplishments make Trish an excellent candidate for this special award. The award is given in memory of Jean Auer, a prominent leader in California water issues for the past 30 years and a founding member of the San Francisco Estuary Project.

Trish first launched into environmental work in the early 80s as a volunteer in the Audubon Society's efforts to save wetlands. Soon, she was offering her services and vision to help the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge reach its goal of doubling the size of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. At the same time, she was establishing CLEAN South Bay, a coalition of some 40 environmental organizations, and galvanizing interest in reducing pollutant loads to South San Francisco Bay. Under her leadership, CLEAN South Bay became a voice in the early 90s for negotiating permitting requirements for wastewater treatment operations.

Trish is a very involved and highly respected public participant in the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP), a county-wide stormwater management program. She has secured many agreements for pollutant reduction and outreach programs. She is a past president of Save the Bay, and currently serves on the Boards of the San Francisco Estuary Institute and Friends of the San Francisco Estuary.

She is committed to educating the community about the importance of the Bay's watersheds and ecosystems. In all that she does, she emphasizes the role of education in improving environmental quality and recently helped conceive of and develop the new Oakland Museum/SFEI map of Baylands and Creeks of South San Francisco Bay. Among her talents is the ability to build cooperation and consensus among public agencies and environmental groups. She has a unique ability to connect like-minded people and forge working relationships in the campaign to improve the region's watersheds for "critters" and people.

Trish lives in Palo Alto with her husband, Jim, where, in spite of some recent health problems, she continues to serve the community with her vast knowledge and tireless efforts. Her advice to us: "Move beyond planning for planning's sake. It's time to just do it!"

Jean Auer was a vigorous proponent of balanced water policy. She was a dynamic leader, and in her early 30s became the first woman to sit on the California State Water Resources Control Board. She later served as Chair of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. While on the Board of the Water Education Foundation, she helped found the Water Leaders program, an effort to inform and engage up-and-coming young men and women in California water issues. She worked tirelessly for many years as Facilitator of the Environmental Water Caucus, a coalition of environmental organizations advocating for water protection and standards to restore the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. She also served on the City Council and as Mayor of the City of Hillsborough. She was the Water Chair and later President of the Commonwealth Club of California.