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14<sup>th</sup> Biennial

# State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference



## 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 (now Partnership), 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 Auer.



## Dr. Terry F. Young Jean Auer Award 2019

Dr. Young has dedicated her professional life to protecting the environment. For nearly four decades, she has advised Bay Area environmental organizations and selected corporations on environmental science and policy, and is known for having a practical eye for the possible. Her expertise spans water pollution, ecological risk assessment,

ecological indicators, and the use of economic incentives to decrease pollution and protect endangered species.

Dr. Young also served on numerous national science boards and advisory committees in Washington, D.C. and in California. As a member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board, on which she served for twelve years, Dr. Young chaired the standing committee on Ecological Processes and Effects, as well as being a member of the Executive Committee and Board. She served on Panels of the National Research Council evaluating research at

the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Her work on environmental indicators included serving on the steering committees for the H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics and the Environment development of "The State of the Nation's Ecosystems" in 2002 and "The State of the Nation's Ecosystems 2008", as well as being a member of the Washington State Academy of Sciences Committee on Puget Sound Indicators.

Most recently, Dr. Young was a member of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. Appointed by the governor in 2006, she was Vice-Chair from 2008–2013 and Chair from 2014–2019. In this capacity, Dr. Young worked with the agency to not only protect and restore the Bay Area's water resources, but also to partner with the larger Bay Area community to adapt to the current challenges of climate change and new-generation chemical pollution.

Dr. Young holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Environmental Chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, and a B.A. in Chemistry from Yale University, and has lived in the Bay Area with her husband and family for 45 years.