




16TH BIENNIAL
STATE OF
THE SAN FRANCISCO
ESTUARY
2025 CONFERENCE

SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

October 28 – 29, 2025

OAKLAND SCOTTISH RITE CENTER, 1547 LAKESIDE DR., OAKLAND, CA



STATE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY OCTOBER 28-29, 2025 CONFERENCE

OAKLAND SCOTTISH RITE CENTER, 1547 LAKESIDE DR., OAKLAND, CA 94612

MORNING PLENARY PROGRAM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025 – MAIN THEATER - 4TH FLOOR

The State of the San Francisco Estuary

- 9:00 AM** Acknowledgements and Welcome
Caitlin Sweeney, Director, San Francisco Estuary Partnership
- 9:10 AM** The State of the Estuary: Updated Indicators of the Health of the San Francisco Estuary
SPEAKERS:
Laura Feinstein, San Francisco Estuary Institute
Christina Swanson, Independent Consultant
Jay Davis, San Francisco Estuary Institute
Cate Jaffe, San Francisco Estuary Institute
Levi Lewis, University of California, Davis
Julian Wood, Point Blue Conservation Science
Caitlin Sweeney, San Francisco Estuary Partnership
- 10:05 AM** The Jean Auer Award
- 10:20 AM** Break
- 10:40 AM** Keynote Address:
Diandra Marizet Esparza, Co-Founder & Director of Impact, Intersectional Environmentalist
Role of Intersectionality, Art, & Storytelling in Collective Environmental Action
- 11:20 AM** Dance Performance:
Fog Beast Dance
- 11:55 PM** Lunch - Grand Ballroom - 1st Floor

Workshop:

Sketch to Story: Stewarding Watersheds through Art

Clara Kuo, Chief Artist, Curious by Design

In this workshop, participants will focus on fostering curiosity and observation through a nature journaling lens and leave with inspiration to use creative journaling as a tool in their public engagement arsenal. This session is accessible to people of all backgrounds, and no previous artistic knowledge is required (approximate start time is 12:10 PM in the Banquet room).



AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025


MAIN THEATER - 4TH FLOOR : RESILIENCE

The Adaptation Atlas Toolbox: Resources for Communities

- 1:15 PM** Introduction to the Adaptation Atlas Toolbox: Resources for Communities
Christina Toms, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- 1:20 PM** Mapping Nature-Based Adaptation Opportunities for San Francisco Bay
Ellen Plane, San Francisco Estuary Institute
- 1:45 PM** From Atlas to Action: Updated Guidance and Local Visioning for Nature-Based Adaptation in San Francisco Bay
Katie McKnight, San Francisco Estuary Institute
- 2:10 PM** Nature-Based Solutions for Nutrient Removal: Expanding the Adaptation Atlas Framework to Address Water Quality Challenges
Ian Wren, SFEI Consultant
- 2:35 PM** Advancing Nature-based Solutions in the East Bay Crescent
Heidi Nutters, San Francisco Estuary Partnership
- 3:00 PM** Break

Restoring the Urban Edge – Redeveloping SF Bay’s Urban Shorelines for People and Nature

- 3:15 PM** Introduction
Linda Tong, California State Coastal Conservancy
- 3:20 PM** East Oakland, Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline – Bringing community wellbeing and habitat restoration through Sacred Spaces
Shy Walker, Ninth Root
- 3:37 PM** East Palo Alto - When your yards are the solution: A Community-Led Rain Garden Pilot for Flooding, Water, and Food Resilience
Kae Jensen, CRC
Vera Cordova Mendoza, Fresh Approach
- 3:54 PM** South San Francisco, Colma Creek: How building community know-how leads to collective community action and heals a wounded watershed in the City of South San Francisco
Ariel Cherbowsky Corkidi, San Bruno Mountain Watch
Julio Garcia, Rise South City
- 4:11 PM** Berkeley, North Basin Strip Shoreline Park: Redeveloping a Shoreline and Public Space on Historic Bay Fill for Resilience, Habitat, and Recreation
Scott Stoller, East Bay Regional Parks District
Susan Kuramoto Moffat, Future Histories Consulting
- 4:28 PM** San Francisco, Heron’s Head Park: What Was Learned from Restoring a Wetland on San Francisco’s Industrial Shoreline
Eddie Divita, ESA Consulting
Nina Omomo, LEJ
- 4:45 PM** Audience Q&A



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RED ROOM - 4TH FLOOR : LIVING RESOURCES

The Carquinez Strait Fish and Preservation Project: Fishing Culture, Practices, and Risks in a Frontline Community

- 1:15 PM** Introduction
Jay Davis, San Francisco Estuary Institute
- 1:20 PM** Fishing Lineage to Legacy
LaDonna Williams, All Positives Possible
- 1:45 PM** What's the Catch? Fishing and Fish Consumption Along the Carquinez Strait and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
William Ware, Consultant
- 2:10 PM** Mercury, PCBs, and PFAS in Fish Caught by Community Members
Martin Trinh, San Francisco Estuary Institute
- 2:35 PM** Panel: Community Member Perspectives
Joe Clarke
Carolyn Horne-Wesley
- 3:00 PM** Break

Modeling the Future of Estuarine Systems

- 3:15 PM** Introduction
Natalie Rossi, San Francisco Estuary Partnership
- 3:20 PM** The San Francisco Bay-Delta Community Model: An Application at Eden Landing
Kees Nederhoff, Deltares USA Inc.
Stendert Laan, Deltares USA Inc.
- 3:45 PM** Strategic Sediment Pulse Delivery: A Nature-Based Pilot for Tidal Channel Resilience in Marin County
Roger Leventhal, Marin County Public Works
Tiffany Cheng, US Army Corps of Engineers
- 4:10 PM** From Restoration to Optimization: Adaptive Management for Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Reduction in DWR's Restored Wetland Ecosystems
Tyler Anthony, California Department of Water Resources
- 4:35 PM** Mapping Surface Water Mercury in San Francisco Bay with Remote Sensing Imagery
Niky Taylor, United States Geological Survey



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GOLD ROOM - 4TH FLOOR : WATER

Is Bokashi the Solution for Pollution?

- 1:15 PM** Introduction
Charlie Toledo, Executive Director, Suscol Intertribal Council
- 1:20 PM** Profile of Impaired Clear Lake: Nutrients, Cyanotoxins, Water Quality
Sarah Ryan, Environmental Director, Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- 1:35 PM** How Bokashi Addresses Water Pollution
Cuauhtemoc Villa, Founder, Bokashi4u
- 1:55 PM** Making the Case for Bokashi – Panelist's Q&A
Cuauhtemoc Villa, Founder, Bokashi4u
Sarah Ryan, Environmental Director, Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- 2:20 PM** Audience Q&A
- 3:00 PM** Break

Transitions in the Delta: Exploring Adaptation and Salinity Management Through Participatory Scenario Planning

- 3:15 PM** Introduction and Participant Polling
Brett Milligan, University of California, Davis
- 3:40 PM** Understanding Perceptions and Learning of Salinity Management in the California Delta Utilizing Project Team and Interview Mental Models
Ana Zepeda, University of California, Davis
Ashley DePew, University of California, Davis
- 4:00 PM** Illustrating the Just Transitions Adaptation Scenarios
Brett Milligan, University of California, Davis
- 4:20 PM** Modeling Future Ecologic Change in the Delta in Response to Salinity Management Scenarios
Lynette Williams, University of California, Davis Center for Watershed Sciences
Elsie Platzer, University of California, Davis Center for Watershed Sciences
- 4:35 PM** Polling and Discussion
- 4:55 PM** Invitation to and Description of Participatory Exhibition
Justin Marsh, University of California, Davis

AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025

BANQUET ROOM - 3RD FLOOR : STEWARDSHIP

Creating Capacity, Shaping Shorelines: Coalition Building for the Future

1:15 PM Introduction & Overview of Bay Adapt Currents Community Capacity Building Tool
Katie Fallon, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

1:20 PM **PANEL DISCUSSION**

MODERATOR: Diana Fu, San Francisco Estuary Partnership

Phoenix Armenta, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

Adam Garrett-Clark, Neighborship

Mykela Patton, Rose Foundation, New Voices are Rising

Sadie Wilson, Greenbelt Alliance

Jamia Garcia, Santa Clara University Student

2:15 PM World Café

3:00 PM Break

Science, Management, and Governance in the Era of Extreme Weather Events

3:15 PM Introduction
Denise Colombano, Delta Stewardship Council

3:20 PM Atmospheric Rivers and Floods in California's Hydroclimate
Lisamarie Windham-Myers, US Geological Survey

3:35 PM Recent Findings and Future Prospects for Water Quality Impacts from Catastrophic Wildfires in California
Benjamin Hatchett, Colorado State University

3:50 PM Key Science Needs Identified by the Delta Independent Science Board
Dr. Inge Werner, Chair, Delta Independent Science Board

4:05 PM Are California's Water Sectors Ready?
Letitia Grenier, Public Policy Institute of California, Water Policy Center


4:20 PM Tools to Protect Freshwater Biodiversity in the Bay-Delta
Ted Sommer, Public Policy Institute of California

4:35 PM Five Perspectives to Advance Science, Management, and Governance in the Era of Extreme Weather Events
Denise Colombano, Delta Science Program, Delta Stewardship Council

4:40 PM Audience Q&A

5:00 PM Evening Reception – Grand Ballroom – 1st Floor

The evening reception will include a poster session, community tables, an art exhibition curated by Women's Eco-Artists Dialog, and an interactive installation, "Transitions in the Delta: Exploring Climate Adaptation and Salinity Management Through Participatory Scenario Planning."



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MORNING PLENARY PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025 – MAIN THEATER - 4TH FLOOR

- 9:00 AM** Acknowledgements and Welcome
Liz Juvera, Environmental Planner, San Francisco Estuary Partnership
- 9:05 AM** Keynote Address:
Elise Joshi, Board Member, Former Executive Director, Gen-Z for Change
Generational & Sectoral Cross-Collaboration to Build Resilience
- 9:25 AM** Decision Makers Panel: Elected Officials Championing Nature-based Solutions Along our Shorelines
MODERATOR: Allison Chan, Political Director, Save the Bay
PANELISTS
Sally Lieber, Vice Chair, State Board of Equalization
Damon Connolly, Assemblymember, District 12
Pat Showalter, Mt. View City Councilmember
- 10:25 AM** Friends of the San Francisco Estuary Awards:
Outstanding Environmental Project Awards and Creative Environmental Awards
- 10:45 AM** Break

Celebrating Our Wins - Project Highlight Series

- 11:05 AM** Introduction
Amy Hutzler, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy
- 11:15 AM** **PANELIST PRESENTATIONS**
PANELISTS
Dave Halsing, South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, Project Manager
Dr. Hollis Pierce-Jenkins, LEJ, Executive Director
Paul Detjens, Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Senior Civil Engineer, Emeritus
- 11:40 AM** Panelist Q&A
- 11:55 AM** Lunch – Grand Ballroom – 1st Floor

Walking Tour:

Peralta Park Mitigation Site—Plants, Permits and People

Tour leaders will share the challenges and lessons learned over the last thirteen years at this urban mitigation site adjacent to Lake Merritt channel. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions, share their vision for the space, and bring a nature journal as there are many happy waterfowl and a well-established tidal marsh wetland to observe! (Approx. 15 min walk, Approximate start time is 12:05 at the front steps.)



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AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025

MAIN THEATER - 4TH FLOOR : RESILIENCE

San Francisco Estuary Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program: Collaborative Science for Healthy Wetlands

- 1:15 PM** Welcome and Agenda Setting
Donna Ball, San Francisco Estuary Institute
Christina Toms, SF Regional Water Quality Control Board
- 1:20 PM** About the WRMP
Aviva Rossi and Lisa Beers, San Francisco Estuary Institute
- 1:30 PM** Lightning talk 1 – Baylands Habitat Map and LiDAR
Alex Braud, San Francisco Estuary Institute
- 1:35 PM** Lightning talk 2 – People and Wetlands
Alex Thomsen, San Francisco Estuary Partnership
- 1:40 PM** Lightning talk 3 – Wetland Education and Workforce Development
Cris Criollo, Multicultural Center of Marin
- 1:45 PM** Lightning talk 4 – Vegetation and Photo Monitoring
Lisa Beers, San Francisco Estuary Institute
- 1:50 PM** Lightning talk 5 – Sediment Monitoring
Donna Ball, San Francisco Estuary Institute
- 1:55 PM** Lightning talk 6 – Transition Zone Monitoring
Mike Vasey & Anna Deck, National Estuarine Research Reserve
- 2:00 PM** Lightning talk 7 – Fish Monitoring
Levi Lewis, University of California, Davis
- 2:05 PM** Lightning talk 8 – WRMP EcoAtlas Landscape Profile tool
Aviva Rossi, San Francisco Estuary Institute
- 2:10 PM** Lightning talk 9 – California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM)
Sarah Pearce, San Francisco Estuary Institute
- 2:15 PM** Interactive Exhibit Exploration
- 3:00 AM** Break




Great Egret: Verne Nelson

MAIN THEATER - 4TH FLOOR : RESILIENCE

Filling the Void:
Translating Planning into Action for Increasing Bayland Sediment Supply

- 3:15 PM** Introduction
Scott Dusterhoff, San Francisco Estuary Institute
- 3:20 PM** Investments in Beneficial Reuse
Lyndsey Tu, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- 3:40 PM** A New Plan for Dredged Material Management: Meaningful Increases in Beneficial Reuse Through Collaboration and Action
Julie Beagle, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Arye Janoff, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- 4:00 PM** SWAP Meet: Where Sediment and Soil Come Together to Support Wetland Restoration
- 4:20 PM** More is Always Better: Local Strategies for Increased Reuse of Flood Control Channel Sediment
Sarah Pearce, San Francisco Estuary Institute
- 4:40 PM** Redefining the Regulatory Roadmap: Cutting the Green Tape to Advance Habitat Restoration
Nick Mascarello, Valley Water

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RED ROOM - 4TH FLOOR : LIVING RESOURCES

Greening the Estuary: Infrastructure, Parks, and Public Space

- 1:15 PM** Introduction
Josh Bradt, Bay Area Regional Collaborative
- 1:20 PM** Moving the Needle: Green Street Implementation in the San Francisco Bay Area
Peter Schultze-Allen, EOA Inc.
- 1:45 PM** A Regional Framework for the Next Generation of Urban Greening
Lauren Stoneburner, San Francisco Estuary Institute
- 2:10 PM** Growing Beautifully: Designing GSI Planting Plans that Thrive in the Long-term, Create Habitat, and Attract People
Marla DeKlotz, The Watershed Project
- 2:35 PM** Bay Area Stream-Side Encampments in the Context of Stream Habitats, Natural Hazards, and Environmental Action
Gregory Pasternack, University of California, Davis
- 3:00 PM** Break

Controlling Invasives: Strategies for Species and Habitat Protection

- 3:15 PM** Introduction
Karen McDowell, San Francisco Estuary Partnership
- 3:20 PM** Habitat Quality of Oyster Reefs: Facilitating a Native Predator to Combat a Persistent Invader
Jivan Khakee, San Francisco State University
- 3:45 PM** Community Science Program Monitoring for Harmful Algal Blooms in San Francisco Bay
Cheryl Patel, Baykeeper
- 4:10 PM** Combating Aquatic Invasions: Operationalizing Remote Sensing and Modeling Tools to Improve Estuary Restoration and Water Management
Bailey Morrison, UC Merced
- 4:35 PM** Spotlight on Golden Mussels
Thomas Jensen, California Department of Fish and Wildlife



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GOLD ROOM - 4TH FLOOR : WATER

Community Voices: Engagement and Education

- 1:15 PM** Introduction
Juliana Gonzalez, The Watershed Project
- 1:20 PM** **Cultivating Environmental Leaders:** Engaging Youth in Urban Watershed Education
Elena Stenger, Friends of Sausal Creek
- 1:40 PM** **Partnerships with the CSU System:** Research and Community Engagement Connections
Steve Blumenshine, CSU-WATER
- 2:00 PM** **Breaking Down Silos:** Unhoused Workforce Development and Increasing Eco-literacy on Pinole Creek
Chris Lim, Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
- 2:20 PM** **North Richmond Watershed Connections:** a Model for integrating Multi-benefit, Nature-based Solutions through Public-Nonprofit Partnerships
John Steere, Richmond Greenway
Juliana Gonzalez, The Watershed Project
- 2:40 PM** **Shaping Solutions:** Learning Through Active Stewardship
Stephanie Romano, The Watershed Project
Jennifer Lopez, The Watershed Project
- 3:00 PM** Break

Tribal Water Issues: TBUs, Bay Delta Plan Update, Delta Conveyance Project & The Role of Tribal Voices, Advocacy, and Water Protectors

- 3:15 PM** Introduction
Krystal Moreno, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
- 3:30 PM** **PANEL DISCUSSION**
MODERATOR: Krystal Moreno
PANELISTS
Malissa Tayaba, Vice Chair, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
Max Gomberg, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
Sherri Norris, California Indian Environmental Alliance
Gary Mulcahy, Winnemum Wintu Tribe



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BANQUET ROOM - 3RD FLOOR : STEWARDSHIP

Bringing Resilience Home:

Global & National Adaptation Strategies Envisioned in our Estuary

- 1:15 PM** Introduction
Jack Hogan, Arup
- 1:25 PM** Sustainable Urban Adaptation: Revitalizing Waterfronts with Large-Scale Nature-Based Solutions, Discussing Enablers and Global Best Practices
Edgar Westerhof, Arcadis
- 1:50 PM** Adaptation and Collaboration in Polycentric Governance: A Comparison of Three Regions
Mark Lubell, University of California, Davis
- 2:15 PM** Change in the Bay and Beyond: California Jurisdictions Leading on Adaptation Planning
Janelle Kellman, Center for Sea Level Rise Solutions
- 2:40 PM** Audience Q&A
- 3:00 PM** Break

Aligning Science with Action: Setting Regional Priorities

- 3:15 PM** Introduction
Dana Brechwald, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- 3:20 PM** Ecosystem Services and Benefits of Habitat Restoration in the Bay-Delta
Xoco Shinbrot, Delta Stewardship Council
- 3:45 PM** Applying Natural and Nature-based Adaptation in Subregional Plans: The Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan Guidelines in Practice
Dana Brechwald, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- 4:10 PM** Community Driven and Collaborative Subregional Adaptation Planning
Danielle Mieler, City of Alameda
- 4:35 PM** Advancing Social Science Integration in the Delta: A Five-Year Review
Hollis Jones, Delta Stewardship Council



GRAND BALLROOM - 1ST FLOOR: STEWARDSHIP

Science in Action:
How Local Groundwater Rise Research Sparked Community Action, Cross-Disciplinary Partnerships, and Policy Change

- 3:15 PM** Introduction
Sarah Atkinson, SPUR
- 3:20 PM** Groundwater Rise, Community Health, & Partnership Building for Policy Change
Dr. Kristina Hill, University of California, Berkeley
- 3:35 PM** Community Outreach on Groundwater Rise & Contamination Risk
Skylar Sacoolas, Greenaction
- 3:50 PM** Community Leadership in the Peninsula on Groundwater Rise & Contaminated Sites
Osvaldo Macias, Nuestra Casa
- 4:05 PM** From Local Advocacy to Federal Policy: A Look at the Development of the Groundwater Rise & Infrastructure Preparedness Act
Nathan Dadap, Representative from U.S. Congressman Kevin Mullin's Office
- 4:20 PM** **PANEL DISCUSSION WITH AUDIENCE Q&A**
- 4:45 PM** Small Group Activity
- 5:00 PM** **ADJOURN**

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Marin Audubon Society
San Francisco Bay Joint Venture
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

SUPPORTER

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Citizens Committee
to Complete the Refuge
Contra Costa County
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Conservation District
Contra Costa County
Water District
Ducks Unlimited
East Bay Municipal
Utility District

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Park District
ESA (Environmental
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