



## Biographies of Advisory Committee Members (Updated April 12, 2018)

**Dr. Ana M. Alvarez** is Deputy General Manager at the East Bay Regional Park District, an agency that owns and operates shoreline parcels in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. She oversees the stewardship and development of 40 miles of bay front.

**Brian Benn** is a Principal with Environmental Risk & Financial Solutions, specializing in the evaluation, transfer and financing of environmental risks and liabilities. Combining technical and financial analyses for environmental risks in restoration or remediation projects, transactions, or dispute resolution, he provides cost-of-risk analyses and expert testimony. He is a resident of a bayside city in San Mateo County.

**Bruce Beyaert** has explored Bay Area restoration sites as a hiker, naturalist and engineer who loves our Bay and values tidal wetlands. He Chairs Trails for Richmond Action Committee, is a Director of the Bay Trail Project, served nine years as a Director of Save The Bay and 16 years on East Bay Regional Park District's Parks Advisory Committee. Honors include Bay Area Open Space Council's Open Space Conservation Award.

**Erika Castillo** is Regulatory & Public Affairs Director for the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District. She would like to contribute to the success of marsh restoration projects in the Bay Area by ensuring that public health and the perception of wetlands are not negatively impacted by an increase in mosquito populations.

**Steve Chappell** is Executive Director of the Suisun Resource Conservation District. He has over 20 years of experience in wetland habitat management, enhancement, restoration, environmental permitting, stakeholder outreach, and regional conservation planning primarily in the Suisun Marsh, but also in the Delta and San Francisco Bay regions.

**John Coleman** is Chief Executive Officer of the Bay Planning Coalition. The Coalition advocates for the maritime industry. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the East Bay Municipal Utility District and the Association of California Water Agencies.

**Francesca Demgen** is a semi-retired consultant for AECOM and Demgen Aquatic Biology, and President of Friends of San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. As a consultant, she has designed scores of habitat restoration projects in the Bay Area since 1978, and has monitored restoration sites for over ten years. As a volunteer, she leads many public wetland and water walks.

**Nahal Ghoghaie** is Bay Area Program Coordinator for the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water. She is a steering committee member for the environmental justice group, the

Resilient Communities Initiative, and is leading the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program for Proposition 1 Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management. Nahal has extensive experience working with tribes and under-represented communities on equitable responses to water-related impacts of climate change.

**Letitia Grenier** is Resilient Landscapes Program Director and Senior Scientist at the San Francisco Estuary Institute. She served as the overall science lead and coordinator for the 2015 Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals update for climate change.

**Beth Huning** is Coordinator of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, the partnership of government agencies, NGO's, business, and landowners protecting, restoring, and enhancing wetlands in the region. The partners assist each other with biological and restoration planning, science, habitat design and delivery, including seeking funding for and tracking project progress, and monitoring and evaluation.

**Judy Kelly** is Executive Director of the North Bay Watershed Association, a group of 18 regional and local agencies focused on pollution reduction and water supply issues throughout the North Bay region. The former director of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership.

**Zahra Kelly** is Director of Public Advocacy for Nature in the City, a San Francisco nonprofit organization working to restore wild habitat on private and public land. Nature in the City is San Francisco's first organization dedicated to eco-literacy, conservation, restoration, and stewardship of the city's wild places.

**Roger Leventhal** is a Senior Engineer at the Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District. He is the official representative for the Bay Area Association of Flood Protection Agencies, representing the interests of flood protection agencies around the Bay edge. He has over 25 years of experience in design and construction of wetland restoration projects and the use of natural shoreline systems for flood risk reduction.

**David Lewis** is Executive Director of Save The Bay. He has 19 years of experience in advocacy for Bay marsh habitat acquisition and restoration and associated state and federal funding, as well as advocacy for regulatory policies and funding to reduce trash and marine debris.

**Sally Lieber** is President of Cardea Center for Women, and was a member of the State Assembly, Mountain View City Council member and Chair of the Santa Clara Valley Water Commission. As Assembly Speaker pro Tem, she authored AB 2954, the 2008 San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act, which created the Authority.

**Greg Martinelli** is Environmental Program Manager for the Wildlife and Lands Programs in the Bay Delta Region of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. His programs are responsible for managing, enhancing, and restoring over 150,000 acres around the edge of the Bay.

**Jessica Martini-Lamb** is an Environmental Resources Manager at the Sonoma County Water Agency. She oversees environmental regulatory permitting and compliance, and

biological and water quality monitoring for her agency's restoration, water supply, flood control, and sanitation projects. She serves on the San Francisco Estuary Partnership Implementation Committee and manages her agency's Russian River Estuary Management Program.

**Shelly Masur**, a Councilmember with the City of Redwood City, has a strong background in community outreach, public health, and regional and local governance.

**Mike Mielke** is Senior Vice President of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, a business trade association for technology firms and associated industries. He engages with the public to forge consensus and develop effective programs and partnerships on water, climate and clean energy.

**Anne Morkill** is the Manager of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex. With 26 years of experience managing federal public lands, she plays a leadership role along with many partners in major wetland restoration projects, climate adaptation planning, and public engagement efforts around the Bay, including in the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, and Bay Area Ecosystem Climate Change Consortium.

**Gaylon Parsons** is the Deputy Director of Audubon California. Having joined Audubon in 2011, she is a strategic operations leader for the management team and sponsors Audubon California's diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. Prior to joining Audubon, she led environmental education, development, and evaluation work for a youth-serving community-based organization in Oakland.

**Erika Powell** is Flood Protection and Resilience Program Manager with the San Mateo County Department of Public Works. She has over 27 years of planning, designing and implementing multi-objective flood protection and habitat restoration projects. A native Spanish speaker, she can communicate with audiences from varying backgrounds and looks forward to helping to lead the development of new partnerships.

**Mita Prakash** is a Program Administrator in the Office of Government Relations at the Santa Clara Valley Water District. She advocates for federal funding for the District's multi-benefit flood protection, water supply, and environmental enhancement projects. Mita has extensive experience with environmental justice issues, and has fought for indigent youth, women, minorities, and other underrepresented groups throughout her career as an attorney.

**Marina Psaros** is the Principal at Coravai LLC. She co-founded the King Tides Project, and is the creator of the Youth Exploring Sea Level Rise Science (YESS) program. She was one of the architects of the 'Our Coast, Our Future' sea level rise planning tool, and has designed and led strategic engagement programs for coastal protection with local, state, and federal government agencies.

**Ameé Raval** is a Policy and Research Associate at Asian Pacific Environmental Network, a grassroots organization that works to secure environmental justice for Asian immigrant and refugee communities across the state through grassroots organizing, voter engagement, and policy advocacy. In her role on the Advisory Committee, she particularly interested in

improving climate resilience for and providing economic benefits to low-income communities.

**Diane Ross Leech** is a retired Environmental Policy and Programs Director from Pacific Gas and Electric Company and current member of the California Audubon Board. She has expertise in developing innovative strategies encompassing corporate sustainability and climate change adaptation. She brings a business perspective and strong relationships with energy industry stakeholders to the Advisory Committee.

**Ana Maria Ruiz** is Assistant General Manager of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, whose mission is to preserve open space lands, restore native habitat and provide ecologically-sensitive public access. She brings a strong technical expertise that is rooted in science and a planner's analytical mind, along with a personal understanding of a wide range of community needs.

**Gary Stern** is San Francisco Bay Branch Supervisor for the National Marine Fisheries Service. He administers NMFS' authorities under the Endangered Species Act and the Essential Fish Habitat provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

**Laura Tam** is Sustainable Development Policy Director for SPUR, a Bay Area think-tank and one of the leading urban planning and policy groups in the United States. Since 2007 she has led SPUR's research, education, and advocacy work on water management, climate change, sea level rise and green infrastructure.

**Laura Thompson** is the San Francisco Bay Trail Project Manager at the Association of Bay Area Governments. She works with dozens of agencies and organizations to complete the 500-mile regional Bay Trail and the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail. She has 17 years of experience advancing shoreline public access along the edge of San Francisco Bay.

**Luisa Valiela** is San Francisco Bay Program Manager for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, where she focuses on improving water quality in partnership with the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board. She also oversees the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund, an EPA grant program that has provided over \$44 million to protect and restore San Francisco Bay wetlands and water quality.

**Bruce Wolfe** is Executive Officer of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. In his nearly 40 years of work with the Water Board, including the last 13 as its Executive Officer, he has been directly involved with all aspects of water quality protection for the Bay Region. His work at the Water Board includes over 20 years of oversight of the Bay Region's habitat restoration projects.

**Jim Wunderman** is President and CEO of the Bay Area Council, representing the regional top business leaders. He brings over 30 years of personal and professional experience in Bay Area public policy, and the institutional knowledge of the Bay Area Council's 72 years of business connectivity and leadership.