

# 2025 DREDGING & BENEFICIAL REUSE WORKSHOP



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Thursday, October 9th  
9:00am - 12:30pm



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PG&E Headquarters  
Downtown Oakland, CA



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# Event Agenda



**8:45 AM**      **REGISTRATION & COFFEE**

**9:00 AM**      **EVENT OPENING: COMMITTEE UPDATES & PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW**

**Josh Gravenmier** | ERM and BPC Dredging Committee Co-Chair

**9:10 AM**      **REGULATORY PRIORITIES & POLICY DEVELOPMENTS**

PANELISTS:

**Harriet Lai Ross** | San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission (BCDC)

MODERATOR:

**Scott Bodensteiner** | Haley & Aldrich and BPC Dredging Committee Co-Chair

**9:40 AM**      **SEDIMENT IN ACTION: RESTORATION SITES & INNOVATIVE APPROACHES**

PANELISTS:

**Jessica Davenport** | California State Coastal Conservancy

**Russ Barnes** | Wilshire Consulting

**David O'Connell** | EnviroMend Group

**Roger Leventhal** | Marin County Flood Control District

MODERATOR:

**Brenda McConathy** | PG&E and BPC Dredging Committee Co-Chair

**10:35 AM**      **COFFEE BREAK**

**10:50 AM**      **FROM PLANNING TO PLACEMENT: REGIONAL PROJECT INSIGHTS**

PANELISTS:

**Rod Sherry** | Cullen-Sherry & Associates, Inc.

**Kathryn Purcell** | Port of San Francisco

**Rob Saur** | PG&E

**Justin Taschek** | Port of Oakland

MODERATOR:

**Dr. Todd Bridges** | University of Georgia, College of Engineering and Environmental Science Associates (ESA)

**11:45 AM**      **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**Dr. Todd Bridges** | University of Georgia, College of Engineering and Environmental Science Associates (ESA)

**12:15 PM**      **EVENT CLOSING**

**Laura Tam**, Chief Executive Officer | Bay Planning Coalition (BPC)

# Event Speakers



## **Russ Barnes**

**Wilshire Consulting**

*Founder / Principal*

***BPC Board Member***

Russ Barnes attended Pomona College and the California Institute of Technology before earning his Masters of Science in Civil Engineering from Stanford University. He spent the following 30+ years with heavy construction contractors specializing in dredging and deep foundation, marine, waterfront, and coastal construction acquiring a deep knowledge of the industry. In 2012, Russ founded Wilshire Consulting Services (Wilshire) as a construction management services firm located in the San Francisco North Bay Area. Wilshire, a California Certified Small Business Enterprise, is focused on making Russ' project delivery expertise available to the waterfront community and its many stakeholders, public and private. Wilshire's goal is to facilitate project success from conception all the way through to construction completion and project close-out.



## **Scott Bodensteiner**

**Haley & Aldrich**

*Program Manager – Ports, Harbors & Coastal Infrastructure*

***BPC Dredging Committee Co-Chair; BPC Board Member***

Scott Bodensteiner is a Sediment and Water Resources Specialist with 25 years of experience using applied environmental sciences to manage projects involving regulatory compliance and investigation for navigation and remediation dredging, wastewater discharges and habitat restoration and construction projects of varying size and complexity. Scott has expertise in designing and implementing water and sediment quality investigations, dredged material management planning, and dredge permitting with an emphasis on environmental toxicology, ecological risk assessment, biostatistics, sediment contaminants, TMDL support, and habitat restoration planning and monitoring. Scott received a B.S. in Environmental Toxicology from U.C. Davis, and an M.S. from San Diego State in Environmental Health Sciences.



## **Dr. Todd Bridges**

**University of Georgia – College of Engineering**

*Professor of Practice in Resilient & Sustainable Systems*

**Environmental Science Associates (ESA)**

*Senior Scientist*

Dr. Todd Bridges is a Professor of Practice in Resilient and Sustainable Systems in the College of Engineering at the University of Georgia and Senior Scientist with Environmental Science Associates (ESA). Prior to joining UGA in 2023, Dr. Bridges was a research scientist for 30 years with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), where for 17 years he served as the Army's Senior Research Scientist (ST) for Environmental Science. Over his career, he led >\$250 million in research projects and programs in environmental science and engineering and sustainable infrastructure. In 2010, Bridges founded and then led the Corps' [Engineering With Nature® program](#), which includes a broad range of research, field-scale applications, multi-sector collaborations, and communication efforts to advance the delivery of Nature-based Solutions. Among his 100 publications, Bridges led a 5-year collaboration across the public and private sectors to develop and publish [International Guidelines on Natural and Nature-Based Features for Flood Risk Management](#). He currently serves as a lead author for the [United by Nature](#) assessment—a first-of-its-kind national assessment of U.S. lands, waters, and wildlife—and its chapter on nature and risk, resilience, and security. Dr. Bridges received a Distinguished Presidential Rank Award from President Biden in 2021 for exceptional leadership, accomplishments, and service.



## **Jessica Davenport**

**California State Coastal Conservancy**

*San Francisco Bay Area Regional Manager*

Jessica Davenport supports the creation of resilient landscapes for people and nature as the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Manager for the California State Coastal Conservancy. Relying on over 30 years of experience in the environmental field, she manages grant programs that support protecting and restoring habitat, planning and building parks and trails, and enhancing climate resilience, with a strong focus on engaging and benefiting historically excluded communities and tribes. Prior to joining the Conservancy in 2016, she served as a Program Manager at the Delta Stewardship Council, as a Planner and Permit Analyst at the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and as a Watershed Coordinator at the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District. She earned a BA in Chinese language and culture



from Columbia College and a master's degree in environmental science from the Yale School of the Environment, where she was awarded a Switzer Fellowship. She enjoys birdwatching, hiking, and native plant gardening.



## **Josh Gravenmier**

### **Environmental Resources Management (ERM)**

*Partner*

*BPC Dredging Committee Co-Chair*

Mr. Gravenmier is a Partner with ERM (Environmental Resources Management) in the Sacramento, CA office. Josh has more than 34 years of sediment/dredging experience in the San Francisco Bay Area. Some of his dredging credentials include chairing the Dredging and Beneficial Reuse committee for the Bay Planning Coalition, being an active participant in the RMP Sediment Working Group as well as the RMP Exposures and Effects Working Group in support of stakeholder engagement and scientific advancement for promoting resilient shorelines, restored habitats, and navigable waterways. He specializes in working with interdisciplinary teams in large, complex, multi-stakeholder sediment, benthos, and water quality investigations, dredging programs (new, maintenance, and remediation), dredged material management planning and construction management to the least cost alternative, wildlife and natural resource management programs, dredge/environmental permitting and compliance, ecological risk assessments, bioassay and toxicity studies, and emergency response. Josh received his undergraduate degree in Soil & Water Science from U.C. Davis and his masters in Environmental Management from the University of San Francisco.



## **Harriet Lai Ross**

### **SF Bay Conservation & Development Commission (BCDC)**

*Director of Regulatory*

Harriet Lai Ross currently serves as the Director of Regulatory at the SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission, where she leads the sediment management, permitting, and technical teams. She has over 25 years of experience in the private and public sectors working at the intersection of environmental policy, land use planning and climate resilience. Harriet enjoys collaborating with diverse stakeholders, including various levels of government.



## **Roger Leventhal**

**Marin County Flood Control District**

*Senior Engineer*

Roger Leventhal, P.E is a Senior Engineer with Marin County Flood Control District. He leads County efforts related to the beneficial reuse of sediments from flood control channels with an emphasis on dredging and natural dredge design approaches. He is also involved with hydrology and hydraulics (H&H) technical studies of urban drainage and flood control design and engineering planning for the impacts of climate change for Marin County. He has designed and managed several large Bay Area tidal marsh restoration projects, especially those involving the beneficial reuse of dredged sediments to create wetlands including the Novato thin-lift dredge placement projects, the Montezuma Wetlands Project, advisor to the Corps on the design of dredge reuse at the Hamilton Restoration Project and the Bair Island Project. Also interested in the design of natural bay beaches as an alternative to rip-rap building upon the success of the Aramburu Beach project completed in 2012. He has a BA in Geology from UCSB and an MS from UC Berkeley in Hydraulics and Coastal engineering. He was a consulting engineer for 25 years before coming to Marin County in 2012.



## **Brenda McConathy**

**PG&E**

*Manager – Environmental Remediation*

***BPC Dredging Committee Co-Chair***

In her role as Manager for PG&E's Remediation Department, Brenda oversees the cleanup of former Manufactured Gas Plant sites in San Francisco including two large dredging and capping projects along the Northern waterfront. She has 30 years of experience with a focus on sediment remediation and ecological risk assessment projects throughout California.



## **David O'Connell**

**EnviroMend Group**

*Project Manager*

Since January 2017, David has built a strong foundation in heavy civil construction, beginning with a range of residential and commercial projects before transitioning into specialized environmental and earthwork operations. Throughout his career, he has focused on managing and executing complex sitework involving wetlands, hazardous materials, and soil management, with a strong emphasis on regulatory compliance, environmental protection, and safety.

At EMG, David works closely with project teams to ensure all aspects of soil and earthwork management are handled effectively and responsibly. His responsibilities include supervising excavation, grading, and soil remediation activities; managing subcontractors and field crews; and collaborating with environmental consultants to meet all permitting and remediation requirements. He oversees soil import and export operations across the Bay Area, ensuring that all materials are managed and tracked properly from origin to final placement.

David brings extensive experience with native, contaminated, and sensitive materials, including beneficial reuse materials, wetland soils, and hazardous waste streams. His approach emphasizes a balance between production efficiency and environmental stewardship, consistently achieving both operational performance and protection standards.



## **Kathryn Purcell**

**Port of San Francisco**

*Project Manager & Senior Environmental Planner*

In Kathryn Purcell has over 25 years providing environmental and engineering consulting services to Bay Area Ports and Airports in support of waterfront dredging, remediation, and redevelopment projects.

Since joining the Port of San Francisco in 2017, Ms. Purcell's Project Management responsibilities include collaborating with PG&E and the Regional Water Board to complete site investigations, remedial design, permitting, stakeholder outreach, and implementation of the PG&E Former Beach Street Offshore Remediation project within the Port's Pier 39 to 43.5 sites.





## **Rob Saur**

**PG&E**

*Senior Remediation Project Manager*

Rob Saur is a Senior Remediation Project Manager for PG&E's Environmental Remediation Department, with over 20 years of experience in remediation work.



## **Rod Sherry**

**Cullen-Sherry & Associates, Inc.**

*Partner*

Rod Sherry has more than 28 years of engineering, surveying, project management and construction inspection experience. Rod performs as project manager / project engineer/surveyor and supervisor over staff performing research, mapping, field survey, design and drafting, specifications, and bid packages. He has worked for a wide range of public and private clients on roadway, utility, dredging, residential, commercial, and industrial projects. Rod's project experience includes large grading and earthmoving projects, permitting and engineering for dredging projects, water, sewer and storm drainage design, roadway design, and site layout for residential and industrial/commercial projects.

Rod holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from California State University, Sacramento. He is a registered Professional Engineer and Professional Land Surveyor in California. His community involvement includes serving as Vice Chair of the ACEC California Napa-Solano Chapter, President of the Benicia Industrial Park Association Board of Trustees (2013-present), and Planning Commissioner for the City of Benicia (2008-2016), where he served as Chair in 2012 and 2013. Rod also served on the Benicia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors from 2008 to 2013, including as Chair in 2010.



**Laura Tam**  
**Bay Planning Coalition**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Laura Tam is the Chief Executive Officer of Bay Planning Coalition, a network of over 100 organizations that advocate for effective policy, funding, and regulation for San Francisco Bay. Laura has over 25 years of experience building partnerships to advance natural resources policy, climate resilience, and healthy communities. Prior to joining BPC in November 2024, Laura was a Senior Program Officer at Resources Legacy Fund, where she led philanthropic programs, cross-sector coalitions, and strategic communications to advance wildfire, climate, and community resilience in California.

Earlier in her career, Laura spent over a decade as Sustainable Development Policy Director at the San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), a leading urban public policy think-tank. She has served on numerous advisory groups to local governments and on nonprofit boards, including those of Smart Growth California; the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority; Resilient by Design; Friends of the Urban Forest; the Business Council on Climate Change; and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

Laura has an BA in Geography from Dartmouth College and a Master of Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. She has lived in the Bay Area for over 20 years and currently resides in Berkeley with her family.



**Justin Taschek**  
**Port of Oakland**  
*Senior Project Administrator*

Justin is the Port of Oakland's Senior Project Administrator and is working on his 14th year with the Port. Justin is currently the Port's PM for the Turning Basins Widening Project and is building upon the great work of his successors at the Port of Oakland as innovators and environmental stewards. Prior to the Port, Justin worked as merchant officer and cargo surveyor. Justin is an all-around water enthusiast and holds degrees and licenses from the University of Denver, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and California Maritime Academy.

# About BPC

Founded in 1983, the Bay Planning Coalition is a non-profit, membership-based organization representing a broad spectrum of public and private entities collectively advocating for strong economic growth and environmental sustainability of the region. We work to navigate through the overlapping regulatory jurisdictions that touch the Bay to support sustainable growth, and we influence the development of sound regional policy and planning to build a more vibrant Bay Area.

Learn more about our Coalition: <http://bayplanningcoalition.org/>

## BPC STAFF



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# Bay Planning Coalition **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

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