



WATER RESOURCES WORKSHOP

2025



Bay
Planning
Coalition



WHEN

November 6, 2025

WHERE

EBMUD Offices - Oakland

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Event Agenda



8:45 AM **REGISTRATION & COFFEE**

9:00 AM **EVENT OPENING**

Les Chau | West Yost and BPC Water Resources Committee Co-Chair

9:10 AM **NAVIGATING RISING WATERS: SEA LEVEL AND GROUNDWATER IN THE BAY AREA**

PANELISTS:

Dr. Meredith Williams | Advising Impact

Alyx Karpowicz | San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

Daniel Hamilton | City of Oakland

MODERATOR:

Scott Warner | BBJ Group and BPC Water Resources Committee Co-Chair

10:25 AM **COFFEE BREAK**

10:35 AM **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

E. Joaquin Esquivel | California State Water Resources Control Board

11:05 AM **WATER AGENCY PERSPECTIVES**

PANELISTS:

Kyle Ochendusko | Contra Costa Water District

Brad Sherwood | Sonoma Water

Alice Towey | East Bay Municipal Utility District

MODERATOR:

John Bourgeois | Valley Water and BPC Water Resources Committee Co-Chair

12:00 PM **EVENT CLOSING**

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

Event Speakers



John Bourgeois

Valley Water

Deputy Officer, Division of Water Stewardship and Planning

BPC Board Member; Water Resources Committee Co-Chair

Mr. Bourgeois is a wetland ecologist who specializes in large-scale habitat restoration, with over 25 years of experience working in the San Francisco Bay. As Deputy Operating Officer, his division oversees biology, hydrology, environmental planning, real estate, community project review, and master planning for stewardship and capital flood projects at Valley Water.



Les Chau

West Yost

Engineering Manager II

BPC Board Member; Water Resources Committee Co-Chair

Mr. Chau specializes in One Water consulting, climate adaptation planning, water resource studies, water quality compliance, and water infrastructure asset management. His experience includes watershed analysis with a focus on overall environmental impacts and climate change effects on water supplies and infrastructure.



E. Joaquin Esquivel

California State Water Resources Control Board

Chair

E. Joaquin Esquivel was appointed to the State Water Resources Control Board by Governor Jerry Brown in March 2017, designated by Governor Gavin Newsom as Chair in February 2019, and reappointed to the board by Governor Newsom in 2021. Previously, he served as Assistant Secretary for federal water policy at the California Natural Resources Agency in the Governor's Washington, D.C. office, where he

facilitated the development of policy priorities between the agency, the Governor's Office, the California Congressional delegation, and federal stakeholder agencies.

For more than eight years prior to that, Joaquin worked for U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer of California, most recently as her legislative assistant covering the agriculture, Native American, water, oceans, and nutrition portfolios, in addition to being the director of Information and Technology.

He was born and raised in California's Coachella Valley. He holds a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara in English.



Daniel Hamilton

City of Oakland

Chief Resilience Officer

Daniel Hamilton serves as the Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Oakland, California. Mr. Hamilton has more than 25 years of experience in governmental climate and resilience work, leading multiple award-winning projects and plans across California. He has led multiple delegations of Mayors to UN Climate COPs and is currently focused on enhancing climate resilience via the development of public and private resilience hubs across Oakland.



Alyx Karpowicz

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

Engineering Geologist

Alyx Karpowicz is an Engineering Geologist in the Groundwater Protection Division of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. Alyx joined the Board in 2008, and has been working in the land disposal and aboveground storage tank section overseeing active and closed landfills, refineries, and large, complex cleanup sites. Currently, she is a member of the internal Climate Action team, Sustainable Groundwater Management team, and leads the Sea Level and Groundwater Rise Technical team. She has a bachelor's of science degree in geology from San Jose State University.



Kyle Ochenduszk

Contra Costa Water District

Assistant General Manager for Water Resources, Operations, and Maintenance

Kyle Ochenduszk is the Assistant General Manager responsible for operations, maintenance, and water resources at Contra Costa Water District. He has led approximately 180 CCWD staff to reliably serve water to over 520,000 residents in northern and eastern Contra Costa County since January 2024. Before joining CCWD, Kyle was the Public Works Director for the City of Benicia, a full-service city in Solano County. Kyle began his career almost 20 years ago at the State Water Resources Control Board where he helped communities build water treatment infrastructure, develop water recycling projects, draft water quality standards for the Bay-Delta, led a water rights change petition hearing, and enforced water rights statutes/regulations. Kyle Ochenduszk is also a commissioned officer in the California State Guard, currently assigned to the Work-for-Warriors program helping service members find careers apart from military service. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family outdoors. Kyle is a licensed Professional Engineer, has bachelor's degrees in mechanical and aeronautical engineering from the University of California, Davis, and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California.



Brad Sherwood

Sonoma Water

Assistant General Manager for Business Affairs and External Services

BPC Board Member

Mr. Sherwood is an assistant general manager overseeing the functions of business services and external affairs, including administration, finance, government relations, community affairs, emergency management, security and project management. Since joining Sonoma Water in 2006, he has worked with his colleagues to develop and implement strategic legislative, funding and community affairs programs that support the reliable delivery of drinking water to 600,000 residents in portions of Sonoma and Marin counties, wastewater collection and treatment services to 8 sanitation districts/zones, and support for flood protection projects. Mr. Sherwood is a member of the Leadership Santa Rosa and Sonoma County Higher leadership institutes. He

graduated with his masters in political management from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and received his undergraduate degree in government and journalism from California State University, Sacramento. He is an active member of the Association of California Water Agencies, serving nearly a decade on the Region 1 Board of Directors, and participates on a variety of leadership committees for the North Bay Watershed Association and California Special Districts Association. Mr. Sherwood is an active member of his community and enjoys volunteering for a variety of neighborhood improvement projects since the Tubbs 2017 fire destroyed his and thousands of homes in Sonoma County.



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.



Alice Towey

East Bay Municipal Utility District

Director of Natural Resources

Alice Towey is the Director of Water and Natural Resources for the East Bay Municipal Utility District. A Civil Engineer, Towey has over twenty years of experience in water and natural resources management. In her time at EBMUD, she has served key roles in water recycling, water resources planning, and water conservation. Towey is passionate about sustainability and finding innovative solutions that balance water supply needs, affordability, and environmental stewardship.

Prior to joining EBMUD, Towey worked in consulting and also served as a volunteer with the U.S. Peace Corps in Bolivia. She has a degree in Physics from Bryn Mawr College and a Masters of Engineering from UC Berkeley.



Scott Warner

BBJ Group

Principal Hydrogeologist

BPC Board Member; Water Resources Committee Co-Chair

Scott D. Warner is a Principal Hydrogeologist and Regional Leader for BBJ's California and Western US business. His 30-plus years of experience as a consulting hydrogeologist and subject matter expert in innovative groundwater remediation methods has included multi-discipline projects and clients including industrial manufacturers, mining and energy assets, agriculture and recreation sites, government and legal services. Scott has a particular expertise with passive and sustainable groundwater remedies having been a designer for several "first-in-the world" in situ systems and is a frequent speaker and lecturer to both national and international professional and academic audiences on this topic. He has also provided expert witness services for numerous cases both domestic and international.

For his free time you might find Scott hiking in the Sierra Nevada, playing his 12-string acoustic guitar or embarking on a long-distance bike ride for charity groups such as the San Francisco to Los Angeles AIDS ride (560 miles), or the Eureka to San Francisco Climate Ride (320 miles).



Dr. Meredith Williams

Policy Strategist

[Advising Impact](#)

Meredith Williams is dedicated to pursuing pragmatic solutions to protect people and planet. She works as an environmental protection professional with expertise in water quality and toxic chemicals policy. Her career spans the public, private, and non-profit sectors, where she's built a reputation for tackling even the toughest challenges with a practical, rigorous, solutions-focused mindset. As the former Director of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), Williams implemented science-based policies to safeguard communities and ecosystems at the state level. Prior to joining DTSC, she held several leadership positions at the San Francisco Estuary Institute. She holds a B.A. degree from Yale University and a Ph.D. in physics from North Carolina State University.

UPCOMING BPC EVENTS

NOVEMBER

20

8:30am - 12:15pm

2025 CEQA &
Regulatory Update
Event

In Person

DECEMBER

12

11:30am - 1:30pm

2025 Annual Event
Luncheon

In Person

Learn more and register at: <https://bayplanningcoalition.org/events/>



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

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