

Speakers & Panelists:



Congressman John Garamendi

California's 3rd District | United States House of Representatives

Representative John Garamendi represents California's 3rd district, comprising the area east of Sacramento, from Solano County to Glenn County. In 1974, he began his career in public service when he was elected to the State Legislature. He was then appointed Deputy Secretary of the Interior under President Bill Clinton in 1995, elected as California's Insurance Commissioner from 1991-1995 and 2003-2006 and Lieutenant Governor in 2007 before going to Congress. Representative Garamendi sits on the Committee on Armed Services and Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Representative Garamendi has a bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.



Warner Chabot

Executive Director | San Francisco Estuary Institute - SFEI

Warner Chabot brings over 30 years of executive experience in the private, public and non-profit sector, focused on science-based, environmental planning and policy issues. Warner has specialized in California coastal, ocean, water, land use and energy issues at the local state and federal level. Between managing his own environmental consulting firm Warner also served as the CEO of the California League of Conservation Voters. Prior to that, Warner was a Vice President of Ocean Conservancy, a national ocean policy organization.



Eric Sapirstein

Founder & President | ENS Resources

Eric Sapirstein is the Founder and President of ENS Resources, a firm focused on legislative and regulatory affairs consulting for local and regional governments as well as private sector interests concerned with the protection of the environment and promotion of sustainable energy and water at the national and state levels of government. Previously, Sapirstein worked at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of the Controller and Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from Boston University and a Master's of Public Administration from the George Washington University.



Mark Northcross

Principal | NHA Advisors

With a public finance career that spans back to 1981, Mark Northcross has structured debt for nearly every kind of issuer and nearly every kind of revenue source legally available in the State. Since the early-1990s, he has negotiated the restructuring and workout of nearly \$250 million in defaulted or highly stressed municipal bond issues. He is also a leader in negotiating joint ventures between different public agencies - with notable success in putting together bond funded risk sharing programs for municipalities across California. Mr. Northcross is a leader in statewide work on climate change adaptation. He managed the delivery of a comprehensive funding guide for Resilience by Design, a Rockefeller Foundation funded program for the Bay Area. He works with the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Bay Area Regional Collaborative, the Southern California Association of Governments and the Resources Legacy Fund on climate change adaptation issues.



Allison Brooks

Executive Director | Bay Area Regional Collaborative - BARC

Allison Brooks is Executive Director of Bay Area Regional Collaborative (barc.ca.gov) a consortium of regional agencies and regionally-oriented state agencies created through California state statute focused on advancing coordinated strategies to address climate change in the San Francisco Bay Area. Prior to joining BARC, Allison led the national organization "Reconnecting America", a research and policy organization focused on advancing equitable transit-oriented development (TOD) in metro areas across the US, and across federal agencies. She also led the Livable Communities Initiative at the East Bay Community Foundation where she founded a national model of non-profit, philanthropic and public sector partnership called the Great Communities Collaborative to support equitable TOD in the Bay Area. Allison has a BA in Political Science from the UCSD and a Masters in Sustainable International Development from the Heller Graduate School of Social Policy & Management at Brandeis University.



Amy Worth

BARC Governing Board Chair | Bay Area Regional Collaborative

Amy's involvement in regional development is extensive, as a member and past Chair of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), previous Mayor of Orinda, and currently the Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC) Chair. Additionally, she is a board member and past chair of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (County Connection) and the Lamorinda School Bus Transportation Authority. For her role in the development of Contra Costa's 25 year Transportation program and the successful passage of Measure J in 2004, she was honored by the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar as the 2005 Woman of the Year. Measure J combined transportation investment in projects and programs, such as the Caldecott tunnel, with innovative cooperative land use planning and open space preservation elements. The measure was the result of a significant cooperative effort spanning two years



Len Materman

Chief Executive Officer | One Shoreline

Len Materman is the Chief Executive Officer for OneShoreline, also known as the San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District, which is the first independent government agency on the West Coast focused on building solutions to the climate change impacts of sea level rise, flooding, and coastal erosion. Previously, Materman was Director of Government Affairs at UC Berkeley, Special Advisor to the Director at FEMA, President of America's River Communities, Inc., and Executive Director of San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority.



Virginia Calkins

Senior Development Manager | DivcoWest

Virginia manages West Coast ground up development projects with DivcoWest, a real estate investment firm headquartered in San Francisco, CA. Virginia began her career in architecture, working at Diller Scofidio + Renfro, the interdisciplinary design firm dedicated to public cultural projects such as the High Line, the Broad Museum, and the redesign of Lincoln Center. More recently, Virginia managed ground up development projects with Sares Regis and Google, where she also led real estate R&D initiatives with focuses on prefabrication, district energy, and public/private infrastructure. Virginia earned an MBA from Stanford and a BA in architecture and economics from Yale.



Roger Leventhal

Senior Engineer | Marin County Public Works

Roger Leventhal, P.E is a Senior Engineer with Marin County Flood Control District. He oversees technical studies for sea level rise and climate change adaptation for Marin County with an emphasis on utilizing nature-based solutions and their integration with more traditional engineering approaches. Previously, Mr. Leventhal was in private consulting specializing in wetlands and creek restoration for approximately 25 years (12 years running his own firm). As a consultant, he was lead engineering designer for the Aramburu Bay beach restoration project in Marin County and is currently developing additional beach restoration projects at several locations in Southern Marin. Mr. Leventhal is an appointed member (now emeritus) of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) Design Review Board since 1997. He has a bachelor's degree in Geology (geomorphology) from UCSB and a Masters in Hydraulic Engineering from UC Berkeley.



Larry Goldzband

Executive Director | San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)

As Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), Larry Goldzband leads planning and policy development efforts, and guides disparate stakeholders to agree on difficult policy choices. BCDC is a permanent state agency dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the San Francisco Bay and to the encouragement of responsible use of the Bay. Prior to his current position, Goldzband worked for members of the U.S. House of Representatives, members of the U.S. Senate, and former Governor Pete Wilson. He has also worked in the private sector, managing PG&E's charitable contributions program for almost 11 years, and in the nonprofit sector as Policy Director for Efficiency First California. Larry has a bachelor's degree in Government from Pomona College and a MBA from Northwestern University.



Dilip Trivedi

Principal, Coastal Engineering | Moffatt & Nichol

Dr. Dilip Trivedi is a Principal with Moffatt & Nichol in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he has been practicing for about 30 years and currently leads the Coastal Engineering practice. His area of expertise is coastal engineering, specifically in the areas of redevelopment of urban waterfronts; flood mitigation and adapting to sea level rise; dredging and sediment management; hydrodynamics and wetlands restoration; and design of coastal structures. He obtained his Graduate degrees from Texas A&M University, and Undergraduate degree from Bangalore University.



Amy Hutzel

Executive Officer | California Coastal Conservancy

Amy Hutzel is Executive Officer at the State Coastal Conservancy, which works to protect and restore habitats, increase public access and recreation, and plan and implement nature-based climate change adaptation along the California Coast and in the San Francisco Bay Area. Prior to being appointed EO in November 2021, she served as the Deputy Executive Officer for six years and as the Bay Area Program Manager for nine years. She has served on the boards or advisory committees of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, the Bay Area Open Space Council, the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, and Resilient by Design. She has a bachelor's degree in urban and environmental planning from the University of Virginia.



Coral Abbott

Community Resilience Centers Program Manager | Strategic Growth Council

Coral manages the forthcoming Community Resilience Centers program at the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC), which will fund community resilience centers to provide support during climate and other emergencies, while also acting as a hub for community services. At SGC, Coral's work has centered around supporting communities to access the funding and other resources needed to address climate change. This includes the development of the Regional Climate Collaboratives program, a capacity building grant program that funds multi-sector partners to drive sustained climate action; working with nonprofits to develop Partners Advancing Climate Equity; and leading outreach efforts for the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program to form key intraregional partnerships in under-invested areas of California. Prior to SGC, she worked as a Research Assistant at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project, conducting archival research on Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement.



Nuin-Tara Key

Deputy Director: Climate | California Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Nuin-Tara Key is Deputy Director for Climate Resilience at OPR and Chair of the Technical Advisory Council for the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program. Prior to joining OPR, Nuin-Tara co-founded an international initiative on community-based climate action and has worked in the public, private, and non-profit sectors on sustainable urban and regional planning and policy, with a focus on social equity and climate change. She has a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from Portland State University and a BA from Lewis and Clark College.



Brad Benson

Waterfront Resilience Program Director | Port of San Francisco

Brad Benson joined the Port of San Francisco in 2005. As the Waterfront Resilience Program Director, he oversees the Waterfront Resilience Program efforts, including the up to \$5 billion Embarcadero Seawall Program and the United States Army Corps of Engineers/Port of San Francisco Flood Study. Before he was named Waterfront Resilience Program Director in early 2019, he was Director of Special Projects and oversaw the Port's local, state, and federal legislative program. During this time, Benson developed the state legislation that guides two of the Port's largest development projects at Pier 70 and Mission Rock. Additionally, he developed the state and local legislation that allows the Port to form infrastructure financing districts on Port property, to leverage private dollars for the benefit of the public. He collaborated in the preparation of the Port's Ten Year Capital Plan to ensure an economically stable Port, and managed the Port's role in the Golden State Warriors Chase Center development project.