

Participant Biographies



Jennifer Armstrong

Waterways Council, Inc.

As Director of Government Relations at Waterways Council, Inc., Jen Armstrong advocates for a modern national system of inland waterways infrastructure and ports. Prior to joining WCI she was the Director of Navigation Policy and Legislation at the American Association of Port Authorities. Jen is a subject matter expert in Congressional appropriations and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works program. Jen has served as clerk and staff director of the U.S. Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations subcommittee which provided over \$53 billion to the Department of Energy, the Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and other independent agencies. Prior to the Senate, Jen was with the Corps of Engineers as a water resources planner, project manager, and government affairs liaison specializing in coastal storm damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, and navigation. Jen is a graduate of Old Dominion University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in biology.



Julie Beagle

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District

Julie Beagle is the Environmental Planning Section Chief for the US Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District (SPN) and leads the District's Engineering with Nature Proving Ground. She brings a focus on integrating nature-based approaches into USACE studies, projects, and operations. She is the technical lead on several Engineering with Nature pilot projects, including piloting strategic shallow water placement of dredged materials in SF Bay to support marsh and mudflat resilience to sea-level rise. Previously Julie was the Deputy Director of the Resilient Landscapes Program at the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) where she led the Institute's climate resilience and adaptation studies. Prior to her ten years at SFEI, Julie worked with land managers on the North Coast of California to reduce fine sediment runoff into salmonid streams, and on watershed-scale river restoration projects.



Scott Bodensteiner

Haley & Aldrich; BPC Dredging & Beneficial Reuse Committee Chair

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.



Molly Caldwell

World Resources Institute

Molly is an Associate in the Sustainable Finance Center where her work focuses on deploying domestic and international finance for climate action. In this role, she provides research and programmatic support to projects focused on supporting access to climate finance for public institutions in developing countries. Prior to WRI, Molly worked as an Inclusive Finance Analyst at a development consulting firm where her projects focused on financial inclusion. Molly holds a M.A. in International Studies and Diplomacy from SOAS, University of London.



Steve Carroll

Ducks Unlimited

Steve Carroll is the supervising engineer for Ducks Unlimited's projects in the San Francisco Bay Area and coastal California. He was fundamental in the growth of the program and founded and supervises the Bay Area office and engineering services. He has over 20 years of engineering and restoration experience within the environmental field and has been directly responsible for the engineering design and construction of over 40,000 acres of seasonal and tidal wetland restoration and enhancement projects totaling \$60 million in project funding agreements. Complementary to his restoration experience, Steve has designed and implemented fisheries projects including fish screens and ladders, has extensive experience with marine construction and the delivery of tidal restorations in shallow water environments, and with the design and implementation of ADA public use facilities. He has a strong project and construction management background, and has successfully delivered numerous wetland restoration projects of varying scope, size and complexity. Steve has also been the lead on the majority of Ducks Unlimited's dredging and beneficial reuse projects.



Roger Cockrell

ENS Resources

Roger Cockrell serves as a senior advisor to ENS. He joined ENS after retiring from the United States Senate where he completed thirty-five years of federal service.

In February 2000, Mr. Roger Cockrell was selected to serve as a detailee to the Democratic staff of the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations

Subcommittee as the subject matter expert for water resource issues. He served the Committee as a detailee for more than two years. In June 2003, Mr. Cockrell was hired by the Senate Appropriations Committee to retain his expertise on water resource issues. In his new position, he served as the principal point of contact for all water issues related to the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation for the Appropriations Committee. In early 2005, the Republican majority in the Senate selected Mr. Cockrell to serve as their expert on water resource issues. When the majority control of the Senate changed again to the Democrats in 2007, he was retained as majority staff.

Prior to serving as the lead Senate staffer for water resources on the Committee on Appropriations, Mr. Cockrell served for 23 years as a civil engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Mississippi State University. He was awarded the Silver Order of the de Fleury Medal from the Army Engineer Association for his outstanding professional service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Xavier Fernandez

San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (SFRWQCB)

Xavier Fernandez leads the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Water Board) Planning Division. He is responsible for several Board programs, including navigational dredging permits and policies. He is heavily involved in the Water Board's Climate Action Team and provides regulatory guidance to internal and external stakeholders on permitting of climate adaptation projects. He previously led the Water Board's creek and wetland permit program, and administered permits for large wetland restoration projects, such as the Bair Island and Cullinan Ranch Restoration Projects. Prior to the Water Board, he worked as an Environmental Scientist for the consulting firm Tetra Tech EMI, where he evaluated ecological risk, monitored tidal marshes, and assessed habitat quality. He received a B.S. in Environmental Science from Dominican College of San Rafael and an M.S. in Environmental Management from the University of San Francisco.



Brenda Goeden

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)

Brenda is the Sediment Program Manager for the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. She supervises the day-to-day sediment related projects and operations in the Bay, while implementing the Long Term Management Strategy for the Placement of Dredged Material in the San Francisco Bay Region (LTMS) as BCDC's Program Manager and a member of the Dredged Material Management Office (DMMO), oversees the aggregate mining activities. She and the BCDC Sediment Management Team have recently worked in partnership with SFEI, SFEP and the SF Bay Joint Venture on Flood Control 2.0, a multi-benefit approach to flood protection. She is the BCDC manager for large scale wetland restoration projects, including Hamilton, Bair Island, Montezuma, and the South Bay Salt Ponds, and works to maximize beneficial reuse of sediment in these projects whenever feasible, supporting rapid marsh vegetation development. She has twelve years of experience

developing and facilitating California marine conservation programs, as well as teaching marine education. Her degree is a Bachelor of Arts in marine biology from Occidental College. She participates in the Great Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Beach Watch Program and Oil Spill Response Team. She joined BCDC's staff in 2000 as a member of the sediment management team and served as BCDC's Bay-Delta Program Analyst from 2000 until 2006 when she was promoted to her current position as Sediment Program Manager.



Josh Gravenmier

ERM; BPC Dredging & Beneficial Reuse Committee Chair

Mr. Gravenmier is a Partner with ERM (Environmental Resources Management) in the Sacramento, CA office. Josh has more than 32 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.



Amy Hutzel

California State 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. The Conservancy's approximately 80 staff develop and manage multiple state grant programs and have undertaken thousands of projects with state funding. 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.



Jim Levine

Montezuma Wetlands

Jim Levine has a UC Berkeley graduate degree in environmental engineering and started his career as an engineer and emergency response commander with the State of California, working on over 200 emergencies. Among the first to apply emergency decision-making techniques to larger environmental problems, he became a successful San Francisco Bay Area entrepreneur at 27, when he co-founded the Levine*Fricke group of companies. Jim led the company as President, which ultimately worked on over 2,500 projects and was a leader in environmental problem-solving for over 15 years. Jim and Carl Fricke sold the US-wide 500-employee environmental consulting and contracting firm in 1998.

Jim has pioneered the use of innovative partnerships to tackle a range of environmental and land development challenges. Jim initiated a partnership with the Santa Fe Land Company and the Zebra Fund to develop the Montezuma Wetlands project, helping to pioneer the use of dredged sediment to accelerate the restoration of tidal wetlands and other habitats. Montezuma now owns the dominant dredged sediment disposal site in the Bay Area (3,300 acres in Solano County), has since successfully received over 9 million cubic yards of sediment while returning an initial 550 acres of valuable tidal wetlands to the tides (full Plan is 1,800 acres).

Through another of his companies (Encapco), Jim's team partnered with the US Army Corps of Engineers to develop and demonstrate innovative technologies to stabilize nuclear weapons materials on Army, Navy and DOE sites. Encapco was then selected to co-develop (with the US Army) an emergency response system for a "dirty bomb" and Jim co-led the joint Army team for 4 years. The team successfully demonstrated a full-scale response system in Socorro, New Mexico.

Montezuma Water LLC (a 50% partner in MWS LLC) has an existing partnership with a local public agency, the Ironhouse Sanitary District, to redevelop 3,700 acres the agency owns in Contra Costa County. Another of Jim's companies (Community Futures LLC) has a partnership with the Dutra Group to redevelop its two quarry properties into multi-use projects. One of those projects (in Petaluma, California) was approved for housing and is now built out.

For four years, Jim served as the California Legislature's appointed Commissioner to the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and as a regional Commissioner working for the US Congress on the closure of military bases in the 1990s and early 2000s. Jim served as a Trustee for the Oakland Children's Hospital when it merged into the University of California system, and was a long-time board member for UC Berkeley's College of Engineering. Jim helped to fund after-school programs for at-risk kids and helped fund the UC Berkeley women's softball field ("Levine-Fricke Field") in Strawberry Canyon. Jim serves on the Board of the Bay Planning Coalition, and the Executive Committee of Bay Area Council. Jim has also co-chaired the Bay Area Council Water and Climate Resilience Committee for the past 12 years.

Jim has worked as an owner, developer, consultant and mediator on major real estate projects over the past thirty years, specializing in innovative land uses, and difficult and complicated entitlements.



Jim McNally

Manson Construction

Jim McNally is Manson Construction Co.'s Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. He has 35 years of experience as a civil engineer in the dredging and marine construction industry. He oversees the management of all of Manson's dredging and marine construction operations across the nation. Jim's Bay Area dredging experience includes oversight of the completion of the Hamilton Wetland project, including the negotiation of a contract extension with the USACE SF District to provide unloading services for various O&M projects. Jim has been directly responsible for the execution of Manson's dredging work in the Bay since 2009. Prior to joining Manson, Jim spent 4 years with Moffatt & Nichol and 19 years with Great Lakes Dredge & Dock, where he managed major deepening projects such as KVK4A in NY, Pier 400 in Los Angeles, and Phase 3b&c of the Oakland Deepening.



Jan Novak

Port of Oakland; BPC Dredging & Beneficial Reuse Committee Chair

Jan Novak is a professional wetland scientist who works as the Interim Supervisor of Environmental Programs and Planning with the Port of Oakland. He is responsible for permitting water-based projects and dredging. He currently serves as the Port's Climate Resilience Lead, and recently managed the Port's AB 691 Sea-Level Rise analysis. Prior to starting at the Port, he worked for 17 years at several environmental consulting firms. He studied soil science at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.



Eric Sapirstein

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 and 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 George Washington University.



Linda Tong

California State Coastal Conservancy

Linda Tong is a project manager with the California State Coastal Conservancy. She manages state grants and contracts for projects that protect, restore, and increase public access to the California coast and the San Francisco Bay Area shoreline.

Linda took on the Hamilton/Bel Marin Keys Unit V (Novato Baylands) Restoration Project in 2022. Linda also staffs the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority and was previously the lead grant program coordinator for the regional agency.