

Participant Biographies



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.



Xavier Fernandez

Planning and TMDL Division, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

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.



Melissa Foley

San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI)

Melissa Foley is Science Director of the Resilient Landscapes Program at SFEI. She has extensive experience working in interdisciplinary teams on a wide range of topics, including ecosystem change and resilience, spatial planning, cross-habitat connectivity, dam removal, cumulative effects, long-term monitoring, and ecosystem-based management. Melissa received her B.S. from Oregon State University and her PhD from the University of California Santa Cruz.



Ryan Fruin

Chevron

Ryan is a Civil Engineer from Oregon State University. He has 12yrs of experience with Chevron in roles ranging from Designs Engineering, Operations & Maintenance and Project Management. In his current role at the Richmond Refinery, he works with a multidisciplined team in managing Dredging Operations as well as improvement projects at Chevron's Richmond Long Wharf.



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 33 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.



Walt Jellison

Pacific Dredge and Construction

Walt Jellison is a highly experienced leader in the marine construction and dredging industry, with over 46 years of expertise. As President and General Manager of Pacific Dredge and Construction, LLC, since 2019, he has driven the company's growth, provided strategic direction and overseen the execution of complex projects. Under his leadership, the company has

successfully completed over 50 major projects, including large-scale dredging efforts for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), with contract values exceeding \$9 million and volumes up to 400,000 cubic yards.

Growing up in San Diego, Walt developed a deep appreciation for the marine environment and a passion for coastal engineering. His career journey, which began at R.E. Staite Engineering, Inc. in 1977, has taken him from the yard floor to executive leadership roles. Over the years, he has demonstrated a commitment to excellence, safety, and environmental stewardship, delivering successful projects on time and within budget.

Walt's extensive experience includes managing complex marine construction and dredging projects, contributing significantly to coastal infrastructure development. His expertise spans project management, hazardous materials handling, and ensuring strict adherence to safety protocols. Walt also holds key certifications, including OSHA, EM 385-1-1 Construction Hazardous Awareness, and Marine Mammal and Endangered Species Monitoring, reinforcing his commitment to both safety and environmental responsibility.



Brenda McConathy

PG&E; BPC Dredging Committee Chair

In her role as Program 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.



Jim McNally

Manson Construction

Jim McNally is Manson Construction Co.'s Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. He has over 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.



Kim Squires

US Fish and Wildlife Service – SF Bay Delta Fish & Wildlife Office

Kim Squires is the Section 7 Division Manager in the US. Fish and Wildlife Service's San Francisco Bay-Delta Office in Sacramento. She has 20 years of Section 7 consultation experience working on projects in the Bay Area, Central Valley, and Sierras.



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.



Tommy Williams

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

Tommy Williams is the Deputy District Engineer for Programs, Planning, and Project Management at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District. Tommy has worked for the Army Corps since 2012, first at the South Pacific Division until 2018, then with the District office ever since. Tommy is a Bay Area native from about an hour south of San Francisco and lives in San Francisco. Tommy's primary goal for the Corps - and for the communities impacted and supported by the Corps - is to foster and maintain a culture of equity and transparency while planning, building, and maintaining sustainable infrastructure for the public.



Brianne Zorn

City of Martinez

Brianne was elected to the Martinez City Council as Councilmember for District 3 in November 2020, and as Mayor in November 2022. She grew up in the Seattle area and earned a BS in Botany, a BA in Anthropology, and a minor in Japanese from the University of Washington. She has worked in the non-profit sector and environmental consulting for 16 years. She is a professional wetland scientist, and her work experience includes botanical garden management, permitting and regulatory support, biological compliance monitoring, evaluation of environmental liability, sediment remediation, and wetland delineation and surveys. She is a mother and stepmother of three kids and is proud to call Martinez her home since 2015.