



2025

# SPRING SUMMIT

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*New Reality: Adapting to Shifting  
Federal, State, & Regional Priorities*

May 9, 2025 | David Brower Center

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# EVENT AGENDA

8:30 AM REGISTRATION & COFFEE

9:15 AM EVENT OPENING

**Anju Wicke**, Senior Principal Scientist | Geosyntec

9:25 AM SEGMENT 1 – Federal Outlook: Adapting to a Shifting National Landscape

PANELISTS:

**Eric Beightel**, Federal Strategy Director | Environmental Science Associates (ESA)

**Sahrye Cohen**, Wetlands and Oceans Section Manager | US EPA Region 9

**Tom Pyke**, District Director | US Rep. Ro Khanna (D-17; Fremont)

**Tommy Williams**, Deputy District Engineer of Programs - Planning & Project Management | USACE San Francisco District

MODERATOR:

**John Bourgeois**, Deputy Operating Officer - Watershed Stewardship & Planning | Valley Water

10:35 AM SEGMENT 2 – State Investments in Resilience: Proposition 4 and Other Funding Streams

PANELISTS:

**Georgia Gann Dohrmann**, Assistant Director of Legislation & Public Affairs | MTC/ABAG

**Amy Hutzel**, Executive Officer | State Coastal Conservancy

MODERATOR:

**Lauren Gularte**, Government & Regulatory Affairs Manager | San Francisco Bay Ferry

11:40 AM LUNCH BREAK

1:00 PM KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Senator Jesse Arreguín**, State Senator - District 07 | California State Senate

1:20 PM SEGMENT 3 – Regional Shoreline Adaptation Planning: Tools, Funding, and Local Leadership

PANELISTS:

**Jessica Fain**, Director of Planning | BCDC

**Ryan Hernandez**, Principal Planner - Department of Conservation & Development | Contra Costa County

**Danielle Mieler**, Sustainability & Resilience Manager | City of Alameda

MODERATOR:

**Jan Novak**, Associate Planner & Scientist | Port of Oakland

2:30 PM EVENT CLOSING

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



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# 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.

## BPC STAFF



**Laura Tam**

*Chief Executive Officer*

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# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



## Senator Jesse Arreguín

*State Senator - District 07*  
California State Senate

Elected to represent the 7th Senate District in November 2024, Senator Jesse Arreguín has spent his entire life fighting for social and economic justice and delivering results. He was previously elected Mayor of Berkeley in 2016 and re-elected in 2020, becoming the first Latino and youngest person elected to the office in a century.

The son and grandson of farm workers, Jesse was born in Fresno and raised in San Francisco. He grew up in a working-class household, where his parents instilled the values of hard work, public service, and giving back to others. When Jesse was young, his family was pushed out of their home in the midst of San Francisco's skyrocketing housing market, due to owner-move-in evictions and rent increases. Jesse knows how disruptive and harmful evictions are to working families, and how essential housing security is for the success of families and children.

Jesse has served the Berkeley community for 16 years. Prior to his election to the City Council, he served on Berkeley's Housing Advisory Commission, where he helped secure funding for hundreds of new affordable units, crafted the Condominium Conversion Ordinance, strengthened inclusionary housing policies, and fought for City funding for student cooperative housing. In 2004, he was elected citywide to serve on the Rent Stabilization Board. As Chair of the Rent Board, he strengthened renter protections to help keep families in their homes. He also served on the Zoning Adjustments Board, Downtown Area Plan Advisory Committee, and Planning Commission. He is a former Sierra Club Boardmember and worked as a Legislative Aide in Berkeley City Hall.

In 2008, Jesse was elected to the Berkeley City Council representing Downtown Berkeley's District 4. On the Council, he created the Affordable Housing Fee, helped raise the city's minimum wage and co-wrote the Downtown Plan to revitalize the heart of the city. While a Councilmember, Jesse authored more than 300 pieces of successful legislation.

Since he began his public service, Jesse has made addressing homelessness, affordable housing, improving infrastructure and educational outcomes his top priorities and will continue to work on these and many other important issues in the California State Senate in the years ahead.



## Eric Beightel

*Federal Strategy Director*  
Environmental Science Associates (ESA)

As Federal Strategy Director, Eric serves as an advisor to ESA's clients on the full range of regulatory challenges, helping navigate the ever-evolving changes to federal policies, processes, and funding requirements.

A seasoned practitioner with a career spanning 25 years in federal, state, and private sector positions, Eric Beightel is a nationally recognized expert on environmental policy, NEPA, and the federal permitting process. Throughout his career, he has continually played a leading role in driving the national effort to streamline the environmental permitting process for major infrastructure projects.

Before joining ESA, Eric was the Presidentially appointed Executive Director of the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (Permitting Council) where he was responsible for overseeing a portfolio of more than \$75 billion in large-scale infrastructure projects, supporting federal agencies and project sponsors through expedited federal environmental review and permitting that advanced dozens of critical projects to completion, realizing their economic and environmental benefits for the nation.

Eric previously served under prior federal administrations as a Senior Environmental Policy Advisor at the Department of Transportation and as a subject matter expert to the Office of Management and Budget. In addition to his public sector positions, he also has held national infrastructure and environmental policy and strategy roles with national and global consulting firms, bringing hands-on experience with project implementation and delivery for complex infrastructure projects.

Eric Beightel holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas and a Master of Public Policy degree from George Mason University.



## John Bourgeois

*Deputy Operating Officer - Watershed Stewardship & Planning*  
Valley Water

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



## Sahrye Cohen

*Wetlands & Oceans Section Manager*  
US EPA Region 9

Sahrye Cohen is a wetland biologist and the manager of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, Wetlands and Oceans Section. Her team does Clean Water Act and Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act science, regulation, and grants. This includes ocean disposal, beneficial use of sediment for wetland restoration and shoreline protection, water quality certification, waters of the U.S. jurisdiction, compensatory mitigation, and the Wetland Program Development Grants. Sahrye is interested in developing active partnerships to advance multi-benefit restoration and nature-based solutions and developing capacity at federal, Tribal, and state agencies to protect water quality and beneficially reuse dredged material. She has over twenty years of experience in aquatic biology research and marine policy and was previously the Regulatory North Branch Chief at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, an environmental planner with state agencies, and a Knauss Sea Grant Fellow at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sahrye received her master's degree from San Francisco State University Earth and Ocean Science Center (formerly the Romberg Tiburon Center) in Marine Biology, where she specialized in restoring wetlands in San Francisco Estuary.



## Georgia Gann Dohrmann

*Assistant Director of Legislation & Public Affairs*  
MTC/ABAG

Georgia Gann Dohrmann is the Assistant Director for Legislation and Public Affairs at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) in the San Francisco, Bay Area.

Before joining MTC and ABAG, Georgia worked for several years as Deputy Director for Federal Affairs for New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio. Her portfolio included transportation, housing, and economic development policy as well as strategic coalition building and campaign execution with the nation's mayors. She was instrumental in securing every New York City priority in the 2015 surface transportation authorization, including a \$500 million increase for transportation projects in New York City.

She previously served on Capitol Hill as a U.S. Senate legislative staffer managing transportation, housing, and appropriations portfolios for U.S. Senator Brian. E. Schatz, the senior senator from Hawaii, and U.S. Senator Frank R. Lautenberg, the senior senator from New Jersey and chair of the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Surface Transportation.

Prior to that she was the Deputy Director of Government Affairs for Transportation for America, an alliance private and public sector leaders dedicated to promoting smart, sustainable, locally-driven transportation solutions. She received a Bachelor's degree in Political Economy of Industrial Societies from the University of California, Berkeley.



## Jessica Fain

*Director of Planning*  
BCDC

Jessica Fain is the Director of Planning at the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). She oversees BCDC's planning and policy program with a core focus on regional sea level rise adaptation. Prior to joining BCDC in 2018, she worked in waterfront planning and coastal resiliency at the New York City Department of City Planning and the Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay. Jessica holds a BA from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



## Lauren Gularte

*Government & Regulatory Affairs Manager*  
San Francisco Bay Ferry

Lauren Gularte is the Government & Regulatory Affairs Manager for the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA), a regional public transit agency responsible for developing, operating and expanding San Francisco Bay Ferry service and coordinating regional water transit emergency response.

Lauren has worked in many positions at WETA and its predecessor agency the Water Transit Authority since 2004. She has worked on an array of projects including the consolidation and takeover of municipal ferry services, overhauling the agency's emergency response plans and programs and helping develop the agency's fleet plan to transition to zero emissions. She currently manages the agency's legislative and advocacy program, emergency response program, and federal civil rights programs. Lauren specializes in building coalitions to support WETA's program of projects.

Lauren is actively involved in several boards and committees keeping a pulse on regional development patterns as well as transit and climate policy, including: Co-chair, Public Ferry Coalition; Board member, Bay Planning Coalition; Co-chair, Bay Planning Coalition's Resilient Transportation Committee; Member, California Transit Association's Federal Legislative Committee; and Member, California Transit Association's Zero Emission Vehicle Task Force.

Lauren is a life-long Bay Area resident, receiving a BA in Sociology and a Master of Public Policy from Mills College in Oakland. She was selected as one of MarineLog Magazine's 2023 Top 20 Women in Maritime.



## Ryan Hernandez

*Principal Planner - Department of Conservation & Development*  
Contra Costa County

Ryan Hernandez serves as an advisor to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors on water and water-related climate policy. Located in both the San Francisco Bay Area and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Contra Costa County is the ninth most populous county in California, with a population exceeding one million residents.

Ryan has over two decades of experience in land use planning. From 2002 to 2012, he served as a land use planner for Contra Costa County. Since 2012, he has managed



the Contra Costa County Water Agency, where he advocates for the protection and enhancement of water quality, flow, and the overall health of the Delta and SF Bay ecosystem at local, state, and federal levels. He also holds the position of Deputy Zoning Administrator, responsible for making key land use decisions on discretionary development applications within the county's unincorporated areas.

Ryan leads the development of the Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline Plan mandated by Senate Bill 272, a subregional plan covering approximately 90 miles of shoreline and involving eight shoreline cities that connect the Delta to the Bay. In addition, he oversees the preparation of the County's Drought Resilience Plan mandated by Senate Bill 552 and is responsible for the implementation of the East Contra Costa Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Ryan earned a Bachelor of Arts in Planning and Environmental Policy from Western Washington University.



**Amy Hutzel**

*Executive Officer*  
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 San Francisco Bay Area Program Manager for nine years. She has a bachelor's degree in urban and environmental planning from the University of Virginia.



**Danielle Mieler**

*Sustainability & Resilience Manager*  
City of Alameda

Danielle Mieler, P.E. is the Sustainability and Resilience Manager for the City of Alameda where she is responsible for equitably implementing the City's Climate Action and Resilience Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. Danielle co-chairs the Oakland Alameda Adaptation Committee (OAAC), a coalition of local, regional, state and federal stakeholders and community-based organizations



working to co-create a coordinated and inclusive future-looking action plan and sub-regional organizational structure to accelerate sea level rise adaptation, protect and restore water quality, recreation and habitat, and promote community resilience.

Danielle brings extensive experience to this work from her past roles in local and regional resilience planning. She previously managed San Francisco's Lifelines Council, Earthquake Safety Implementation Program and Tall Buildings Study, and the Association of Bay Area Government's Resilience Program. She received a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from UC Berkeley and a B.A. in Sociology from UC Santa Cruz.



## Jan Novak

*Associate Planner & Scientist*  
Port of Oakland

Jan Novak is an ecologist and professional wetland scientist, working in the Port of Oakland's Environmental Programs and Planning Department and serves as a Bay Planning Coalition Board Member. He is the Port's Climate Resilience Lead and represents the Port on the Oakland Alameda Adaptation Committee. He is serving as project manager for the Climate Adaptation Project for Oakland's Frontline Communities, which is modelling sea level rise and groundwater intrusion, and developing a vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy for all of Oakland's waterfront communities. Prior to starting at the Port, he worked for 17 years in environmental consulting after studying soil science at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and through-hiking the Pacific Crest Trail.



## Tom Pyke

*District Director*  
Office of US Representative Ro Khanna

Tom Pyke is Congressman Ro Khanna's District Director. The 17th congressional district includes Cupertino, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, Milpitas, Newark and parts of San Jose and Fremont. Tom graduated from UCLA (BA Political Science) and UC Law San Francisco (Hastings) Law School, and has been an attorney for over 35 years. He moved to the South Bay during the dot.com era in the 1990s when he worked with start-up companies as corporate securities counsel with Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati. Tom first worked with Ro Khanna on his political campaigns in 2014 and 2016 and became Director of Constituent Services (managing federal casework) when Khanna was first elected. Tom has been District Director, managing the local congressional office, since January 2019. Tom & his wife Kathy raised two daughters in Cupertino and now lives in the Evergreen neighborhood of San Jose.



## Laura Tam

*Chief Executive Officer*  
Bay Planning Coalition

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.



## Anju Wicke

*Senior Principal Scientist*  
Geosyntec

Anju Wicke is a Senior Principal Scientist based in California with more than 25 years of experience in environmental consulting focused on program management, financial management, and contracting services for federal, state, and municipal clients in the United States and Canada.

Her projects have included upland and sediment multiyear, multidisciplinary contaminated site investigations; monitoring and sampling programs; environmental risk assessments, including human health and ecological risk assessments, and air quality studies. She also supports clients in managing hazardous materials; developing designs; and documenting leasing and transfer of contaminated properties. She has

been the technical lead on many upland, sediment, and coastal projects involving site assessment, risk assessment, remedial assessment, and remedial actions.

Anju manages staff, project teams, liaises with clients and regulators, provides senior technical peer review, and ensures projects are on budget, on schedule, and successfully completed. She has provided senior input to contract negotiations, subcontract management, site investigation strategies, and remedial options and approaches.



## Tommy Williams

*Deputy District Engineer of Programs, Planning & Project Management*  
USACE 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.

2025



# SPRING SUMMIT

 Bay Planning Coalition



# 2025 SUMMIT PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Thank you to our 2025 Spring Summit Planning Committee for  
their support in making this year's event a success!**

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# JOIN OUR COALITION



*Join Bay Planning Coalition (BPC) and become part of a respected, solutions-oriented coalition shaping the future of the San Francisco Bay and its watershed. As our region faces growing challenges – from climate change and sea level rise to infrastructure demands and a complex regulatory landscape – BPC provides a trusted platform for collaboration, advocacy, and action. Our members represent a broad cross-section of industries and public agencies committed to advancing policies that promote sustainable economic growth and environmental stewardship. Through BPC's events, committees, and advocacy initiatives, members gain direct access to decision-makers, stay informed on emerging issues, and play an active role in policies that shape the Bay Area's future.*

## ADVOCACY

BPC represents its members' interests at the local, state, and federal levels, advancing policies that support both economic development and environmental protection. We routinely participate in hearings, policy meetings, and regulatory processes to promote practical, balanced approaches to permitting, infrastructure, and environmental challenges.

## EDUCATION

BPC keeps its members informed and equipped to navigate an evolving policy landscape. Through briefings, workshops, and conferences, we offer insights on regulatory changes, emerging Bay Area issues, permitting updates, and legislative developments – helping our members stay ahead of the curve and respond strategically.

## NETWORKING

Bay Planning Coalition brings together leaders from across business, government, and the environmental community. Through events like our annual Spring Summit, members engage with a wide range of industry experts and peers. BPC fosters meaningful connections among members and facilitates direct dialogue with regulatory agencies to support collaborative problem-solving around Bay and shoreline issues.



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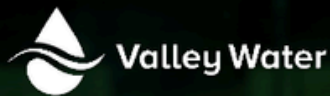
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