

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



ANTONELLA GENTILE

Antonella Gentile is a Resource Planner with the Santa Cruz County Department of Community Development and Infrastructure, specializing in flood hazard mitigation and storm monitoring. She leads environmental permitting, interagency coordination, grant management, and project implementation for efforts including stream maintenance, river mouth breaching, and floodplain restoration. Antonella also oversees the County's storm monitoring program, supports emergency management operations, and manages grant-funded resilience initiatives. As Chair of BAFPAA, Antonella provides leadership to member agencies working to advance flood hazard management through practical, science-based solutions and regional collaboration.



JOHN BOURGEOIS

John Bourgeois is the Deputy Operating Officer for Watershed Stewardship and Planning at Valley Water where he oversees over 90 technical staff working on a variety of complex water issues throughout the watershed. Originally from South Louisiana, he has spent over 20 years working in applied restoration in and around San Francisco Bay. Prior to joining Valley Water in 2020, John worked as an Ecological Consultant on a wide array of project types throughout the region. He also served as the Executive Project Manager for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project for 9 years. John holds a B.S. in Ecological Biology from Tulane University, and an M.S. in Coastal Ecology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.



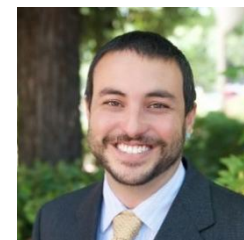
ANDY COLLISON

Andy Collison is a Geomorphologist and Hydrologist with Environmental Science Associates in Oakland. He has been working on river restoration and flood management projects in the San Francisco Bay Area for 24 years. One of his first projects was the feasibility study and conceptual design of the Napa River Rutherford Reach Restoration Project. He is currently supporting Sonoma Water, Marin Water, Zone 7, San Francisco PUC, and Valley Water on multi-objective river and flood management projects across the nine counties.



CHRIS DELANEY

Chris Delaney is a Principal Engineer at Sonoma Water with over two decades of experience in water resources engineering and planning in the Russian River Watershed. He currently leads a talented group of engineers at Sonoma Water to support long-range planning projects and studies for the region and is managing the implementation of the Russian River Watershed Resilience Plan.



CARLOS DIAZ

Carlos Diaz is a registered Civil Engineer in California and Deputy Director of Engineering at Sonoma Water. He oversees the advancement of capital projects related to water, wastewater, and flood management. Carlos previously worked in the private sector on infrastructure and restoration planning and design projects specializing in hydrology, hydraulics, fisheries recovery, and climate change vulnerability and adaptation. In 2017, he received The Bay Institute's Bay Hero Award for serving as Project Manager of the Oro Loma Horizontal Levee Demonstration Project, the San Francisco Bay's first sea-level-rise adaptation pilot. He is a former BAFPAA Chair, Technical Advisor on the Coastal Hazards Adaptation Resiliency Group, and team member for the San Francisco Estuary Project Transforming Shorelines Project.



LESLIE FERGUSON

Leslie Ferguson is a licensed Civil Engineer and a Stream Ecologist with a MS in Aquatic Ecology from UC Davis who has worked for the SFRWQCB for over 30 years. As an expert in environmentally sensitive flood control and stream and watershed restoration, she works to ensure that geomorphic and ecological factors are incorporated into flood control and restoration designs. She has worked on the Napa Flood Project since its inception in 1996, where she co-chaired the Community Coalition Living River Workgroup that created the Living River Guidelines. She then wrote the SFRWQCB Waste Discharge requirements for the Project. Leslie serves on numerous Bay Area Technical Advisory Committees. She received a Salmonid Restoration Federation Lifetime Achievement Award and the Marin Conservation League Water Award.



BRIAN GARCIA

Brian Garcia is the National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the San Francisco and Monterey Bay regions. A professional meteorologist for 16 years, Brian has extensive experience in weather forecasting, hazard communication, and building partnerships that help communities translate weather information into effective preparedness and response actions. He works with emergency managers, public agencies, and other partners to improve preparedness and communication around hazardous weather, including flooding, extreme precipitation, coastal hazards, and other high-impact events. He also works with NOAA on projects such as the Urban Heat Island Campaign. Brian is a graduate of the University of Washington.



GRETCHEN HAYES

Gretchen Hayes is an Environmental Planner and owner of Tessera Sciences Consulting. She has led collaborative watershed and natural resource science, restoration, and natural hazard management solutions for 30 years, specializing in private-public partnerships. Gretchen has served as the Coordinator for the Bay Area Flood Protection Agencies Association since 2025 where she facilitates regular convenings of the membership and its affiliates to deliver on their common flood control and resource management objectives. Gretchen a Masters in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning from UC Berkeley.



MARILYN LATTA

Marilyn Latta is a Project Manager with the State Coastal Conservancy. She manages several regional efforts involving dozens of partners in Living Shorelines and Nature-Based Adaptation, Subtidal Habitat Goals Implementation, Invasive Spartina Eradication, Derelict Creosote Wharf Removal, and other projects. Marilyn studied Marine Biology at Humboldt State University and has worked for multiple organizations since 1995 on projects ranging from community-based restoration to planning and advancing large capital restoration and innovative climate adaptation efforts.



DR. KRIS MAY

Dr. Kris May is a Coastal Engineer and Climate Scientist and the founder of Pathways Climate Institute. She brings her knowledge of flood hazards, the built environment, and coastal restoration together to support communities as they adapt to climate change. She employs a holistic approach that respects nature and integrates science, engineering, and policy to address today's hazards and tomorrow's uncertainties. Kris was a lead author for three National Climate Assessments and an author of the regional San Francisco Bay Area report for California's 5th Climate Change Assessment. Dr. May holds a doctorate from Stanford.



JEREMY SARROW

Jeremy Sarrow serves as the Watershed and Flood Control Operations Manager for the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District where he oversees operation and maintenance of the Napa River Flood Protection Project and the implementation of several large-scale restoration and monitoring projects throughout the Napa River watershed. Jeremy has over 20 years of experience in this capacity. He earned his degree in Environmental Studies, with a concentration in Biogeography, at San Francisco State University.
