

PARTICIPANTS

Heather Dyer is the CEO and general manager of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District. She originally joined the district in 2014 as a senior water resources project manager and fish biologist. She began her career working for the USGS National Wetlands Research Center in Louisiana. She worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service from 2009–13 in both Louisiana and in Southern California as the Santa Ana River biologist. After a brief stint as the fish biologist for the Cleveland National Forest, she returned to the Santa Ana River to lead development of the Upper Santa Ana River HCP at Valley District and implement recovery actions for the Santa Ana sucker. She earned a BS in resource biology from the University of Louisiana, an MS in marine biology from Nicholls State University, and an Executive MBA from Claremont Graduate University.

Xavier Fernandez is the planning manager of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board. He is responsible for several board programs, including the navigational dredging permitting and establishing water quality standards and policies. He is currently leading the water board's climate change and wetland policy update. 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 specialist for the San Francisco Estuary Partnership and an environmental scientist for the consulting firm, Tetra Tech EMI. He received a BS in environmental science from Dominican College of California and an MS in environmental management from the University of San Francisco.

Letitia Grenier was the 2020 PPIC CalTrout Ecosystem Fellow and is currently a [PPIC Water Policy Center](#) adjunct fellow. She directs the Resilient Landscapes Program of the San Francisco Estuary Institute, where she works with partners to conserve California's living resources by developing landscape-scale, collaborative, science-based visions and solutions. The Delta Landscapes projects, developed by her and her team, quantify landscape performance and provide science to support large-scale restoration visions for the region. In 2019 and 2015, she served as the science lead for the State of the Estuary Report, and was also the science lead for the 2015 update to the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals, heading a team of over 200 environmental scientists, managers, and regulators to develop recommendations for restoring and maintaining the health of the Bay's tidal wetlands in the face of rising sea levels and other stressors. She completed her PhD at University of California, Berkeley, where she concentrated on the ecology of the Bay-Delta estuary system.

Erika Lovejoy is the director of Sustainable Conservation's accelerating restoration program, where she works on developing strategic policy and regulatory incentives to increase the pace and scale of implementing habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects in California. She is an established expert in developing regulatory and process efficiencies to advance habitat restoration and other environmental goals and has been an active contributor to California's Cutting the Green Tape Initiative. Prior to joining Sustainable Conservation, she gained substantial policy and technical experience serving as an environmental scientist/planner for California's Water Boards, Coastal Commission, and Department of Water Resources, and for San Francisco County. She has also managed a major watershed planning effort for the South San Francisco Bay, leading environmental programs, mediating stakeholder conflicts, and developing policy. She received her BS in environmental policy analysis and planning from University of California, Davis.