

Climate Change(d): Weathering Extremes *Together*

Virtual Conference

April 8, 2022 9AM to 3PM

Speaker Bios

Welcome



**U.S. Congressman
Jared Huffman,**
California's 2nd District

Rep. Huffman represents California's 2nd Congressional District which spans from the Golden Gate Bridge north to the Oregon border, and includes Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, and Del Norte Counties. He was first elected to Congress in November of 2012, and currently serves on the Natural Resources Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Huffman Chairs the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife. Recognizing his environmental leadership, Speaker Nancy Pelosi appointed Jared to serve on the Select Committee on Climate Change in February of 2019.

OneWater OneBay: State, Bay Area and local alignment of resources and initiatives to engage new partnerships and strategic priorities.



Kamyar Guivetchi
CA Department of
Waters Resources

Mr. Guivetchi worked on technical studies, project planning, and environmental stewardship with the Division of Planning, Statewide Integrated Water Management, North-Central Region Office, Bay-Delta Office, Environmental Services, and Suisun Marsh Program during his 44 years with the Department of Water Resources.



James Muller
San Francisco
Estuary Partnership

Mr. Muller, Principal Environmental Planner, manages the Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWM), funded by the California Department of Water Resources. The IRWM program at San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) has secured four implementation grants funding 46 projects and one involvement grant working with over 15 Bay Area Disadvantaged Community and Tribal partners to conduct water needs assessments and subsequent project development activities. He also works to promote and implement the SFEP Estuary Blueprint as well as cross-functional work within the Metropolitan Transportation Association.



Eduardo Martinez
UnTapped Graduate
and City of Richmond
Council Member

Mr. Martinez was elected to the Richmond City Council in 2014 and has served as Vice Mayor and director on many committees representing the City of Richmond. He previously was a steering committee member of the Bay Area Parent Leadership Network (PLAN), and served on the Representatives Council of the United Teachers of Richmond (UTR). Mr. Martinez has taught in community schools, juvenile halls and elementary schools since 1989, and recently retired from teaching at the WCCUSD in 2010. He co-founded March 4 Education and has won the University of Arizona, College of Education, Kenneth S. Goodman "In Defense of Good Teaching" Award.

Sea Level Rise and Freshwater Drop: Regionally significant projects that integrate multi-benefit natural and infrastructure solutions on shorelines, Baylands, and inland communities.



Jessica Davenport
State Coastal Conservancy/
San Francisco Bay
Restoration Authority

Ms. Davenport supports the creation of resilient landscapes for people and nature in the San Francisco Bay Area as Deputy Program Manager for both the California State Coastal Conservancy's Bay Area Program and the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority. Her work focuses on funding habitat restoration projects and related flood protection and public access in the San Francisco Bay Area. She leads the State Route 37-Baylands Group, which promotes the integration of planning for highway redesign and landscape-scale habitat restoration in the North Bay.



Kendall Webster
Sonoma Land Trust

Ms. Webster joined Sonoma Land Trust (SLT) in 2016 and co-manages SLT's Baylands Program with Julian Meisler. She oversaw the Sonoma Creek Baylands Strategy and provides input toward the development of the Petaluma River Baylands Strategy. She continues to implement both, as the land trust works towards its goal to protect and restore 20,000 acres in the Sonoma Baylands. Previously, she worked for Caltrans, PG&E, and environmental consulting firms.



Melanie Mow Schumacher
Soquel Creek Water District

One of Ms. Schumacher's primary duties at the District is being the project manager for the Pure Water Soquel Project which will recycle 25% of the treated effluent that is discharged out to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary for beneficial reuse to protect the Santa Cruz Mid-County groundwater basin from further seawater contamination. She is also responsible for the communication, outreach, and education programs for the District.

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WatershedSMART: Development of resiliency tools and programs to understand and address extreme weather, drought, wildfire in our regional landscapes and communities.



Newsha Ajami, PhD
Berkeley Lab Earth and
Environmental Sciences Area

Dr. Ajami is a leading expert in sustainable water resource management, smart cities, and the water-energy-food nexus, she uses data science principles to study the human and policy dimensions of urban water and hydrologic systems. In her role at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, she is focused on developing interdisciplinary and impact-focused research initiatives across various domains within EESA. Dr. Ajami is a mayoral appointee to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, serves as a member of the National Academies Board on Water Science and Technology, a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institute, and sits on several state-level and national advisory boards.



Roger Bales, PhD
UC Merced

Dr. Roger Bales is a Distinguished Professor of Engineering and a founding faculty member at UC Merced, and has been active in water- and climate-related research for over 35 years. Currently, his work focuses on California's efforts to build the knowledge base and implement policies that adapt our water supplies, critical ecosystems and economy to the impacts of climate warming. He works with leaders in state agencies, elected officials, federal land managers, water leaders, non-governmental organizations, and other key decision makers on developing climate solutions for California.



Rebecca Burgess
Fibershed

Ms. Burgess is the Executive Director of Fibershed. She has two decades of experience working at the intersection of ecology, fiber systems, and regional economic development. She is the author of the best-selling book *Harvesting Color, a bioregional look into the natural dye traditions of North America*, and *Fibershed: Growing a Movement of Farmers, Fashion Activists, and Makers for a New Textile Economy* released in 2019.

Resiliency Work Force Development: Engagement of our diverse communities and youth in adaptation projects to create our future generations of leaders and career climate changemakers.



Christina McWhorter
Novato Baylands Stewards

Ms. McWhorter has been propagating, outplanting, and monitoring local native plant species for the Hamilton Bel Marin Keys Wetlands Restoration Project since 2012. Christina has cultivated strong relationships with community members and project partners. She also led staff and volunteer site stewardship. In 2019 she founded NBS, under the fiscal sponsorship of MarinLink, to ensure that community-based wetland restoration efforts in the Novato area can continue. She enjoys working with plants and people in botanical gardens, colleges, and environmental education organizations.



Tara Cornelisse
Natural Resources and
Career Pathways

Ms. Cornelisse joined Natural Resources and Career Pathways (CCNB) in 2021 as the Director of both the Natural Resources and Career Pathways programs, bringing more than 15 years of experience in land conservation as well as in youth education and development. Prior to joining CCNB, she served as an instructor and professor at the University of California Santa Cruz, Brooklyn College, and Canisius College, teaching ecological sciences to high school and college students, as well as providing academic support and career coaching. Specifically, she managed a research lab and mentored students in gaining applied field conservation skills to apply towards their chosen career.



Douglas Mundo
Multicultural Center of Marin

Mr. Mundo has been the recipient of awards such as the 2004 Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award from the Marin County Human Rights Commission, the 2008 Grassroots Organizer Award from the Social Justice Center of Marin, and the 2011 Spirit of Marin Award. His work has also been recognized by local, state and federal officials. Douglas obtained his degree in Public Administration with an emphasis on nonprofit organizations at USF. More recently he completed a program on Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University and leadership training through Harvard.

Event Moderator



Andy Rodgers
North Bay
Watershed Association

Mr. Rodgers is a consulting geologist, environmental scientist, and serial volunteer. He has lived and worked in the North Bay for 30+ years and has focused his career on public agency projects and programs. Prior to becoming the Executive Director of the NBWA, he participated for years in representing local businesses and local NGOs. His North Bay collaboration inspired his involvement with the Russian River Watershed Association, San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, Petaluma Basin Flood Control District and other watershed and basin-defined organizations such as the Petaluma Valley and Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.