

**2017 NAPA COUNTY WATERSHED SYMPOSIUM**

***WATERSHED MOMENTS: NATURE’S VALUE***

*What Is, What Was & What Can Be...*

**Wednesday, May 24, 2017**

**Napa, CA**

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Slides and materials presented during symposium will soon be available at:

**NapaWatersheds.org**

***A Zero-to-the-Landfill Event – With Your Help***

### **Event Hosts**

Watershed Information and Conservation Council of Napa County  
Napa County Resource Conservation District

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City of Napa Water Division  
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Stillwater Sciences

### **Exhibitors**

Hedgerow Farms  
North Bay Watershed Association

# Agenda

## **8:30 Welcome**

Jeri Hansen-Gill, Master of Ceremonies  
Honorable Belia Ramos, Supervisor, Napa County  
Honorable Jill Techel, Mayor, City of Napa  
Honorable Bill Dodd, State Senator, California Assembly  
Honorable Mike Thompson, Representative, US Congress (Video)

## **9:00 Historical Ecology: Learning from Landscapes of the Past**

Robin Grossinger, Senior Scientist, San Francisco Estuary Institute

## **9:30 The Health of Local Streams: Our Current Understanding**

*Panel moderated by Jonathan Koehler, Napa County Resource Conservation District*

9:30 Rainfall, Runoff and Sediment Transport in the Napa River Watershed - Now and a Possible Future

Lester McKee, Senior Environmental Scientist, San Francisco Estuary Institute

9:50 Water Quality – What Do We Know? What Should We Be Tracking?

Richard Connon, Associate Adjunct Professor, UC Davis

10:10 How Healthy are our Fish Populations?

Dan Logan, Fisheries Biologist, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service

10:30 Audience Questions

## **10:50 Break – View Exhibits from our Sponsors**

*Video: Highlights from 10 years of Napa County Watershed Education Calendars*

## **11:05 Groundwater: Pathways to Sustainability**

Thomas Harter, Professor and Cooperative Extension Specialist, UC Davis

## **11:25 Tracking Watershed Health: Inspiring Performance and Motivating Effective Action**

Chad Praul, Partner and Water Practice Lead, Environmental Incentives

## **12:00 Lunch – Downstairs, in Blue Note**

*Dessert served upstairs, in Main Ballroom at 12:30*

**1:00 Climate Change: Vulnerability, Change, and Resilience – Looking to the Future**  
*Panel moderated by Jeri Gill*

1:00 Vulnerability, Change, and Resilience in the North Bay

Lisa Micheli, Executive Director, Pepperwood Preserve

1:20 Resilient Water Resources in a Changing Climate

Michelle Selmon, Senior Environmental Scientist, California Department of Water Resources

1:40 Climate Change Policy Tools for Agricultural Resilience

Renata Brillinger, Executive Director, California Climate and Agriculture Network

2:00 Audience Questions

**2:20 Healthy Watersheds & Healthy Economies: The Multiple Benefits of Natural and Working Lands**

*Introduction by John Woodbury, General Manager, Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District*

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Manager, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager, Open Space Authority in the Santa Clara Valley

**2:50 Closing Remarks**

**3:00 No-Host Reception – Blue Note Napa**

## **Speaker Biographies (in order of appearance)**

### **Jeri Hansen-Gill**

Jeri Hansen-Gill is CEO of Sustainable Napa County (SNC). SNC is a nonprofit that engages the community in issues related to energy - exploring opportunities and finding practical solutions to our challenges. Before taking the reins of Sustainable Napa County, she was Public Affairs Manager for the Napa Valley Vintners. Her other professional and management experience includes serving as founding Executive Director of the Lodi Conference and Visitors Bureau; Program Director for the San Joaquin Farm Bureau; and coordinating competitive exhibits and agriculture education programs for the Solano County Fair Association. She was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the Napa Valley Exposition (25<sup>th</sup> District Agricultural Association) Board of Directors in 2014 and is currently Vice-President of that Board. She was appointed to the Napa County Planning Commission in September 2015 and is currently the Chair of the Commission. She is the current Chair of the North Bay Workforce Alliance (formerly the Napa Workforce Investment Board), a Joint Powers Authority of Napa, Lake and Marin Counties focusing on workforce and economic development efforts and programs.

### **Belia Ramos**

Belia, who lives in American Canyon, was born in Napa and raised in St. Helena and Pope Valley. She calls all of Napa County home. Belia is a business owner, professor of law and a community advocate. Belia attended St. Helena public schools from kindergarten through high school. She graduated from Saint Mary's College of California in 1999 and UC Hastings College of the Law in 2004. Upon her admission to the State Bar of California, Belia worked as a civil litigator and employment counselor, advising Fortune 500 companies on labor and employment policies and procedures. In 2008, Belia founded Raise The Bar, LLC, a writing company that prepares applicants for the California Bar Exam. She has been a Bar tutor since 2006. Prior to that, she served as a grader for the California Bar Exam. Belia also teaches writing at UC Davis School of Law. In 2012, Governor Brown appointed Belia to the 25th District Agricultural Association, known as the Napa Valley Expo/Town & Country Fair. From 2010-2016, Belia served as a member of the American Canyon City Council, where she focused on transportation, economic development, public art, public safety and community engagement. Her community involvement includes the incorporation and governance of nonprofit organizations, such as Napa Valley Crime Stoppers and others.

### **Jill Techel**

Jill Techel is the Mayor of Napa, a position she has held since April 2005. She served on the Napa City Council for eight years and before that the Napa Valley Unified School Board for six years. She is Chairperson for the Sanitation District Board of Directors, a member of Napa County Transportation and Planning Authority, and a member of The Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. She is the program coordinator for Leadership Napa Valley – a community leadership development program. Jill was one of 5 community leadership professionals who was recognized in 2004 for exceptional work in the profession.

### **Bill Dodd**

During his public service Bill has built a reputation for delivering solutions on issues affecting real people. He has led the way on legislation to deal with gender pay equity, worked to designate the Berryessa Snow Mountain area as a national monument, co-wrote the law creating

an Earned Income Tax Credit in California, and helped secure \$400 million dollars for career technical education throughout the state. Prior to serving in the Assembly, Bill served on the Napa County Board of Supervisors for 14 years. He also represented the cities and county of Napa on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission including a two-year term as chairman of this powerful regional body. In addition, Bill served as an Honorary Commander for the 60th Air Mobility Wing at Travis Air Force Base. Other boards and commission service included the Chair of the Local Agency Formation Commission of Napa County, Chair of the Napa County League of Governments, Chair of the Napa County Transportation Planning Agency, and Chair of the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. Bill graduated from Justin-Siena High School and California State University, Chico. He went on to own and operate one of the largest full-service Culligan Water operations in California. During this time, Bill served as President of the national and state trade associations: the Water Quality Association and the Pacific Water Quality Association.

### **Mike Thompson**

Mike Thompson represents California's 5th Congressional District. The district includes all of Napa and parts of Contra Costa, Lake, Solano and Sonoma Counties. He was first elected in 1998. Prior to serving in Congress, Rep. Thompson represented California's 2nd District in the California State Senate where he chaired the Budget Committee. He is a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means. Thompson is the co-founder and co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Wine Caucus. He is also a member and former co-chair of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus. He is also a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, which is composed of moderate Democrats committed to bipartisan problem solving. Thompson was the first Vietnam veteran elected to the California State Senate. He served in combat with the U.S. Army as a staff sergeant/platoon leader with the 173rd Airborne Brigade where he was wounded and received a Purple Heart. Thompson is a small vineyard owner and was maintenance supervisor for Beringer Winery. He has taught Public Administration and State Government at San Francisco State University and California State University, Chico.

### **Robin Grossinger**

Robin Grossinger is a Senior Scientist at the San Francisco Estuary Institute, where he co-directs SFEI's Resilient Landscapes program. For over twenty years, Robin has analyzed how California landscapes have changed since European contact, using these data to guide landscape-scale restoration strategies. Robin leads efforts throughout the state to reintegrate natural processes within our highly modified landscapes, creating healthier and more adaptive neighborhoods, cities, and surrounding landscapes. He has advised restoration strategies for San Francisco Bay, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, urban landscapes, and rivers throughout California. Robin's innovative work to synthesize history and science has been acclaimed for helping scientists, managers, and the public appreciate both the dramatic transformation and the impressive resilience of the state's ecosystems. Robin's publications include the *Napa Valley Historical Ecology Atlas* and his work has been featured by NPR, KQED's QUEST, *Saving the Bay*, and The New York Times. Recently he has led the development of SFEI's Landscape Resilience Framework, which is guiding regional adaptation efforts.

**Jonathan Koehler**

Jonathan has been with the Napa County Resource Conservation District since 2001. During that time, he has monitored native fish populations, conducted stream habitat assessments, conducted bird monitoring efforts, and assessed amphibian habitat. Jonathan also teaches biology part-time at Napa Valley College. Jonathan holds a Master of Science degree in biology with an emphasis in aquatic ecology from California State University Hayward. Prior to coming to the District, he worked as a permitted biologist studying red-legged frog populations in San Mateo County for several years.

**Lester McKee**

Dr. Lester McKee, a Senior Scientist within the Clean Water program, San Francisco Estuary Institute, has spent 24 years designing and implementing research on water quality, geomorphology, and mass loads to support management and policy. He is seen as a leader in the areas of Bay Area hydrology, sediment and pollutant sources and loadings, performance of management practices and green infrastructure for improving water quality and quantity, and decision support for optimal management effectiveness. The author of 100s of presentations and publications, he has helped to bring about paradigm shifts in the science and management of pollutants in Bay Area watersheds.

**Richard Connon**

Dr. Richard Connon's primary interest is in the mechanisms behind organisms' tolerance and adaptations to changing environments. His research focus is on the assessment of molecular responses to chemical exposures, and links to responses observed at higher levels of biological organization. Dr. Connon utilizes fish models towards understanding the mechanism(s) of action of agricultural and urban contaminants. Of particular interest are pesticides and pharmaceuticals and their impact on development, behavior and reproduction; relevant to both human and environmental health.

**Dan Logan**

Daniel Logan is a fishery biologist with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service in Santa Rosa. He consults on various projects affecting anadromous fish species protected under the Endangered Species Act. His projects are found primarily in the tributaries to San Francisco Bay. He attended graduate school at Oregon State University.

**Thomas Harter**

Thomas Harter is the Robert M. Hagan Endowed Chair for Water Resources Management and Policy at the University of California, Davis. He holds a joint appointment as Professor and Cooperative Extension Specialist in the Department of Land, Air, and Water Resources and is currently chair of the Hydrologic Sciences Graduate Group. Dr. Harter received his BS and MS in Hydrology from the Universities of Freiburg and Stuttgart, Germany; and his PhD in Hydrology from the University of Arizona. He spent the first six years of his career with UC Davis at the Kearney Agricultural Research Center in Fresno County, where he became familiar with San Joaquin Valley groundwater management and protection issues and established his research program in agricultural groundwater hydrology - a program he has continued to pioneer over the past 15 years at UC Davis. He is a member of the American Geophysical Union and is

serving on the Board of Directors of the Groundwater Resources Association and of the Water Education Foundation. Dr. Harter's research and extension emphasizes the nexus between groundwater and agriculture. His research group focuses on nonpoint-source pollution of groundwater, sustainable groundwater management, groundwater and vadose zone modeling, groundwater resources evaluation under uncertainty, groundwater-surface water interaction, and on contaminant transport.

### **Chad Praul**

Chad helps watershed managers develop Performance-Driven Conservation™ programs that attract funding and increase environmental return on investment. If we can agree on the essential core of a water quality issue, we can create a functional program to address it. If we can rationally tune the program, we can streamline unnecessary elements and maintain relevance over time. If we can shed the complexity of competing standards and monitoring requirements, we can accelerate water quality improvement. Chad is a civil engineer in California and has earned degrees in Mechanical Engineering from UC Berkeley and Environmental Economics from UC Santa Cruz.

### **Lisa Micheli**

Lisa Micheli, Ph.D. has over 20 years' experience leading river and watershed ecological restoration projects, in partnership with the EPA, the Nature Conservancy, and with the Sonoma Ecology Center in its comprehensive approach to the restoration of the Sonoma Valley watershed. Micheli has been distinguished by the Switzer Foundation as a California Environmental Leader. In 2009 she was appointed the premiere Executive Director of the Pepperwood Foundation, dedicated to research, education, and conservation of Northern California's regional ecosystems. Presently she serves as co-chair of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Climate Change Collaborative (TBC3), co-chair of the science working group of the North Bay Climate Adaptation Initiative.

### **Michelle Selmon**

Michelle has been a Senior Environmental Scientist and Regional Climate Change Specialist with the California Department of Water Resources since 2009. She also has over 15 years of experience working as a wildlife biologist in the Southern San Joaquin Valley. In her current position, Michelle works with water managers, land managers, and the public to understand the current and future impacts of climate change on water resources and ecosystems, and ways to both mitigate and adapt to those changes.

### **Renata Brillinger**

Renata Brillinger is the co-founder and Executive Director of the California Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN). She has two decades of experience in sustainable agriculture policy and food systems projects and has held numerous non-profit administrative positions since 1992. Prior to CalCAN, she was Program Director at the Center for Climate Protection in Sonoma County, focused on renewable energy and on agriculture. For seven years she served as the Director of Californians for GE-Free Agriculture, a coalition of sustainable agriculture and environmental organizations that provided education on genetic engineering in agriculture. She serves on the steering committee of the Center for Sustainability at CalPoly University in San Luis Obispo and the advisory board of UC Davis Agricultural Sustainability Institute.



**John Woodbury**

John Woodbury, like many of his generation, was a professional student in the 1960's through the early 1980's, earning a BA in Comparative Culture from UC Irvine, a MA in Asian Studies from UC Santa Barbara and a Masters in City and Regional Planning from UC Berkeley. He has worked for various cities in the Bay Area on affordable housing, community development, historic preservation, design review, and general land use planning. John was an elected Director for the Alameda-Contra Transit District for ten years, and Executive Director of the Bay Area Open Space Council from its inception in 1993 until 2005. He was hired by Napa County in 2005 to help the County establish a park and open space district. After the voters approved formation of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District in 2006, John became the District's General Manager.

**Karen Gaffney**

Karen Gaffney is the Conservation Planning Manager at the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, where she works with a diverse cross section of the community on innovative conservation programs. Karen leads landscape scale initiatives related to climate change, ecosystem services, and conservation prioritization. A graduate of U.C Berkeley, she has a Master's degree in biology from Sonoma State University and is a Switzer Environmental Leadership Fellow. She spent her early years on a sheep ranch in Philo, CA.

**Andrea Mackenzie**

Andrea Mackenzie is General Manager of the Open Space Authority in the Santa Clara Valley which is working to protect and steward the region's natural capital – our open spaces, water resources, natural areas, and working lands to support healthy land, communities and economies. For more than 25 years, Ms. Mackenzie has worked in the fields of land use planning, conservation planning, policy and finance, and open space protection for county, regional, state, and national agencies. She has successfully passed open space funding measures in Sonoma and Santa Clara Counties generating over \$600 million for land conservation. She is a past fellow of the National Conservation Leadership Institute and serves on the Advisory Council of the Bay Area Open Space Council, SPUR San Jose Policy Board, and Executive Strategic Council for Valley Transportation Authority. In 2016, Andrea was named Bay Nature Magazine's Local Conservation Hero in the San Francisco Bay Region. Ms. Mackenzie earned her bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from U.C. Santa Barbara and a master's degree in Urban Planning and Natural Resources from U.C.L.A.

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