

Participant Biographies

Welcome and Opening

JORDAN DIAMOND

**Executive Director, Center for Law Energy & the Environment,
UC Berkeley School of Law**



Jordan Diamond is the Executive Director of the Center for Law, Energy, and the Environment (CLEE) and the Law of the Sea Institute (LOSI) at the UC Berkeley School of Law. Jordan's work focuses on ensuring environmental laws and policies are based on the best information available, developed through inclusive and transparent processes, and implemented through adaptive and accountable systems. Prior to joining CLEE, Jordan spent six years with the Environmental Law Institute, where she was the Co-Director of the Ocean Program and concentrated on strengthening ocean and coastal governance at local and regional levels, including improving and integrating Gulf of Mexico coastal conservation and restoration, supporting the role of Alaska Natives and other indigenous peoples in Arctic marine governance, and identifying ways to strengthen offshore energy management and enforcement systems.

RICHARD FRANK

**Executive Director, California Environmental Law & Policy Center,
UC Davis School of Law**



Richard Frank is Professor of Environmental Practice and Director of the California Environmental Law & Policy Center at the University of California, Davis School of Law. There he teaches courses in water law, environmental law, natural resources law, ocean and coastal law, comparative environmental law and related topics.

From 2006-2010, Frank served as Executive Director of the Center for Law, Energy & the Environment and as a Lecturer in Residence at the U.C. Berkeley School of Law. From 1977-2006, he served in various legal capacities with the California Department of Justice, culminating as Chief Deputy Attorney General for Legal Affairs (2003-06). During most of his career with the Department, Frank focused on constitutional, environmental, land use, water and public land management issues.

Since leaving the California Department of Justice in 2006, Frank has served on a number of California state policymaking and advisory bodies. He served on the Board of Directors of the California High Speed Rail Authority from 2013-15.

Panel 1:

LETISE LAFAIR

California Ocean Policy Manager, Monterey Bay Aquarium



Letise LaFeir, PhD works to advance the aquarium's California ocean health goals, including outreach to senior legislative and government officials in Sacramento, support for California's marine protected area network, and cultivation of other ocean and coastal priorities. Letise spent most of her career based in Washington D.C., where she previously worked as a Sea Grant Fellow for Congressman Sam Farr (D-CA). Next she took on dual roles as Director of Government Relations and Education Program Coordinator at the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. Later she served as a Policy Analyst and then National Outreach Coordinator for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. Through her professional experience, Letise has successfully integrated her scientific training with her policy and outreach expertise to address a breadth of marine-related issues, such as national ocean policy, fisheries policy and sustainable seafood, climate change, marine spatial planning, ocean education, and ocean/science funding. Letise graduated from Brown University with a B.S. in Aquatic Biology and a B.A. in English with Honors in Creative Writing. She received her PhD in Marine Biology from the University of Delaware College of Marine Studies. Letise has authored or co-authored five scientific publications, and has self-published a book of poetry.

PEDRO NAVA

Chair, Little Hoover Commission



Pedro Nava is serving his third consecutive term as chair of the Little Hoover Commission. Mr. Nava was first elected chair of the Commission on March 27, 2014. After leaving the legislature, he served as a government relations adviser. Mr. Nava served in the California Assembly from 2004 to 2010 representing the Ventura and Santa Barbara area. In 2011, he was appointed to the California Department of Fish & Game Blue Ribbon Commission to assist in the development of the Wildlife Strategic Vision. Previously, he worked as a civil litigator after serving as a deputy district attorney in Fresno and Santa Barbara Counties. He also served on the California Coastal Commission. While in the Legislature, Mr. Nava chaired the Transportation, Banking and Finance, Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials, the Select Committee on California's

Green Economy and the Joint Committee on Emergency Management. He also served on the Assembly Appropriations, Higher Education, Health, Judiciary, Insurance, Business and Professions, Joint Legislative Audit, Assembly representative to the Little Hoover Commission, Ocean Protection Council and California Transportation Commission.

SENATOR FRAN PAVLEY

California's 27th District



During her 14 years in the Legislature, Senator Fran Pavley, who is termed out at the end of this month, established herself as an effective champion of such environmental issues as climate and clean energy, smart water policy and natural resource conservation.

Among her signature accomplishments have been passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, which established California's first statewide policy to protect over-drafted aquifers; the Clean Car Law, the nation's first law to limit greenhouse gas emissions from automobile tailpipes; the creation and extension of California's comprehensive program to roll back climate pollution (AB 32 and SB 32); and the Integrated Regional Watershed Management Act to protect our rivers and ocean.

Prior to being elected to the Assembly in 2000, Senator Pavley had been mayor and a founding member of the Agoura Hills City Council and served as a local government representative to the California Coastal Commission from 1995-1998. She is a native of the Los Angeles region, and worked 29 years in the classroom, teaching middle school. She holds a bachelor's degree from Fresno State University and master's degree in Environmental Planning from CSU Northridge.

EFFIE TURNBULL SANDERS

California Coastal Commissioner



Effie Turnbull Sanders is an attorney with a land use and transactional real estate background. She has been engaged in civil rights and environmental issues for many years and has served as a member of the California Coastal Commission since she was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown in 2014. Ms. Sanders is an Assistant General Counsel to the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) where she provides legal advice and represents the District in all aspects of litigation. She has served as counsel to other public entities on the local and federal level and has a long history of public service. Ms. Sanders on the board of directors for Social Action Partners and the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters. Her public service also includes advising upcoming and new leaders on effective personal branding and leadership skills.

Panel 2:

MARLENE FINLEY

Director, San Mateo County Parks



Marlene Finley is Director of San Mateo County Parks which encompasses 20 parks spanning over 18,000 acres and includes 190 miles of trail. San Mateo County Parks include icons such as San Bruno Mountain, Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and Devils Slide Trail. Prior to coming to San Mateo County, Marlene led teams working in National Parks and National Forests throughout the country in natural resource stewardship, visitor management and Wilderness protection. Her assignments have ranged from a wilderness island off the coast of Georgia to the temperate rainforests of the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska. Marlene was the recipient of the Federal Executive Committee's "Federal Employee of the Year Award" and Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals' "Distinguished Service Award". She graduated with honors from University of California, Davis with a degree in Environmental Planning and Management and earned a Master's degree in Forest Recreation from Oregon State University. Marlene grew up in the Bay Area and started her career at Muir Woods National Monument. From forests to trails, from tide pools to playgrounds, Marlene is a passionate steward and champion for San Mateo County Parks.

ROBERT GARCIA

Founding Director & Counsel, The City Project



Robert García is a civil rights advocate who engages, educates, and empowers communities for equal access to public resources. He is the Founding Director and Counsel of The City Project, a non-profit legal and policy advocacy team in Los Angeles, California. The City Project works with diverse allies on equal access to (1) healthy green land use through community planning; (2) climate justice; (3) quality education including physical education; (4) health equity; and (5) economic vitality for all, including creating jobs and avoiding displacement. Robert received the President's Award from the American Public Health Association. PODER Magazine named him one of the Top 100 Latino Green Leaders. Hispanic Business Magazine has recognized him as one of the 100 most influential Latinos in the United States. Robert graduated from Stanford University and Stanford Law School, where he served on the Board of Editors of the Stanford Law Review. He is an Assistant Professor at Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science.

DAMIEN SCHIFF

Principal Attorney, Pacific Legal Foundation



Damien Schiff is a principal attorney at Pacific Legal Foundation. He has over a decade of experience litigating cases concerning a variety of federal and state environmental and land-use issues. Damien's practice has included direct litigation and friend-of-the-court briefs in cases arising under the federal Endangered Species and Clean Water Acts, as well as the California Coastal Act, among other laws. He has appeared on a variety of television and radio programs, and has been quoted in *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, among other publications. He obtained his law degree the University of San Diego School of Law, and his undergraduate degree from Georgetown University. He is a former law clerk to the Honorable Victor J. Wolski, United States Court of Federal Claims.

JOHN AINSWORTH

Acting Executive Director, California Coastal Commission

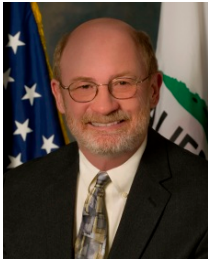


John "Jack" Ainsworth is currently the Acting Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission. He has been with the Coastal Commission for 29 years and has been involved in land use planning and regulation for over 30 years. He graduated from California State University San Bernardino with a BA in Environmental Studies and Geography and received an MS in Geography from the University of California, Riverside.

Keynote Remarks:

SECRETARY JOHN LAIRD

California Natural Resources Agency



John Laird was appointed California Secretary for Natural Resources by Governor Jerry Brown on Jan. 5, 2011. He has spent nearly 40 years in public service, including 23 years as an elected official.

The son of teachers and raised in Vallejo, Laird graduated with honors in politics from the University of California Santa Cruz in 1972. He then served on the district staff of U.S. Representative Jerome Waldie, and as a budget analyst for the Santa Cruz County Administrator.

In 1981, Laird was elected to the Santa Cruz City Council, and served nine years until term limits ended his council service in 1990. He was a two-term mayor from 1983 to 1984 and from 1987 to 1988. During his local government service, he served as a board member for local transit, transportation, water planning, and regional government agencies. Laird was the executive director of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project from 1991 to 1994 and an elected member of the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees from 1994 to 2002.

In 2002, Laird was elected to represent the 27th Assembly District in the California Assembly, which includes portions of Santa Cruz, Monterey and Santa Clara Counties. He was re-elected in 2004 and again in 2006, when he received more than 70 percent of the vote. At the beginning of his second term, Laird joined the Assembly leadership team when Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez named him chair of the Budget Committee, a position to which he was reappointed by Assembly Speaker Karen Bass in 2008.

While serving the maximum three terms in the Assembly, Laird authored 82 bills that were signed into law. These bills established the landmark Sierra Nevada Conservancy, restored community college health services, expanded and clarified state civil rights protections, reformed the state mandates system, and significantly expanded water conservation. From 2008 to 2008, Laird was a member of the State Integrated Waste Management Board and taught state environmental policy at UC Santa Cruz.

Continuing his public service as California's Secretary of Natural Resources, Laird has made climate change adaptation, water conservation and supply reliability, enhanced relationships with tribal governments, State Parks access, farmland conservation, and oceans sustainability among other issues top priorities. As Secretary, he provides administrative oversight to thirty departments, commissions, councils, museum, boards and conservancies – and is a sitting member of sixteen conservancies, councils, boards and commissions within the purview of the Agency.

Laird has been a long-time resident of Santa Cruz with his spouse John Flores. He has traveled extensively, is fluent in Spanish, enjoys conducting family history research, and is a life-long Chicago Cubs fan.

Panel 3:

DEBORAH HALBERSTADT

Executive Director, Ocean Protection Council



Deborah Halberstadt has extensive experience in environmental law and policy and has devoted her career to advocating for and protecting the environment. Deborah is committed to implementing California's innovative, ecosystem driven approach to ocean and coastal management and its emphasis on science-based policies and collaborative partnerships. Before joining the OPC, Deborah spent ten years in the Office of the California Attorney General litigating civil and criminal cases to enforce environmental laws. During that time she worked on several multi-jurisdictional teams with local and federal agencies and was cross-designated as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney. Upon graduating from law school, Deborah clerked for the Honorable Walter L. Carpeneti at the Alaska Supreme Court in Juneau. Prior to law school, Deborah served as a federal legislative liaison in the Office of Governor Gray Davis, handling natural resources and environmental protection issues. She also served as director of constituent affairs. She was a legislative and policy coordinator in the Office of Lieutenant Governor Gray Davis. Deborah earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Stanford University.

CARMEN RAMIREZ

Mayor Pro Tem, Oxnard City Council



Carmen Ramírez, Esq. was elected to the Oxnard City Council in 2010 and is currently serving her second term in office, starting in 2014. Ms. Ramírez was named Mayor Pro Tem December 2012.

Her city duties include service on the Oxnard's Transportation Policy Committee, the Financial Policy Task Force, the Homeless Task Force, Transportation Policy Committee, and the Oxnard Performing Arts and Convention Center Board. She also serves on the Ventura County Animal Regulation Commission and the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District.

She also represents the cities of Oxnard, Camarillo and Port Hueneme on the Southern California Association of Governments, where she is currently the chair of the Energy and Environment Committee for the 197-member planning organization of cities and counties. In June 2005, she was elected to the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California for a three-year term, representing the attorneys of five counties, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

Ms. Ramirez graduated from Loyola School of Law in 1974. For 16 years she was the Executive Director of Channel Counties Legal Services Association, which served the legal needs of the poor in Ventura and Santa Barbara County. Later she was the coordinator of the Ventura Superior Court's Self Help Legal Center in Oxnard. Currently, she has a private practice focusing on consumer, housing and Social Security Disability cases.

Ms. Ramírez' awards and honors include the Ben E. Nordman Public Service Award of the Ventura County Bar Association, the Paul Harris Award of the Ventura Chapter of Rotary International, and the El Concilio Community Service Award. She was named Woman of the Year for the 35th Assembly District in 2003 by Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson and Senator Fran Pavley's Woman of the Year for California Senate District 23 in 2009.

MARY SMALL

Deputy Executive Officer, California Coastal Conservancy



Mary Small is the Chief Deputy Executive Officer of the State Coastal Conservancy. Her responsibilities include overseeing the agency budget, leading the Conservancy's work on climate change and implementing the Conservancy's Proposition 1 (Water Bond) grant program. She has spent the last 20 years working on land conservation and environmental planning projects around the state. Mary has worked at the Coastal Conservancy since 2001, managing dozens of wetland restoration, land conservation and public recreation projects around San Francisco Bay and throughout Southern California. She was hired by the Coastal Conservancy as a project manager and later promoted to be the Conservancy's southern California regional manager. Prior to working at the Coastal Conservancy, Mary worked for the California Tahoe Conservancy where she designed restoration projects, managed grants to local partners, and helped develop the agency's Geographic Information System. She has a BA from Cornell University and a Master's in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning from UC Berkeley.

REBECCA SMYTH

West Coast Director, NOAA Office of Coastal Management

Rebecca “Becky” Smyth is the West Coast Regional Director for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management, working to build state and local capacity for managing the west coast’s ocean and coastal resources. She provides leadership in planning for and adapting to coastal hazards and risks associated with climate change and for improving coastal and ocean data and tools partnering with the three west coast states and tribes. She is a contributing author for the coastal chapter of the 3rd National Climate Assessment: Assessment of Climate Change in the Southwest United States. Previous to arriving in California, Becky spent seven years in DC as a senior program analyst at NOAA’s Ocean Service, responsible for legislative issues, strategic planning, and policy, after starting as a Knauss Fellow. Becky has an M.S. in coastal science from the University of Massachusetts Boston and B.S. from Boston College.

Panel 4:

SEAN HECHT

**Co-Executive Director, Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment,
UCLA School of Law**



Sean B. Hecht is the Co-Executive Director of the Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at UCLA School of Law. He teaches *Public Natural Resources Law and Policy*, *Environmental Law*, the *Environmental Law Clinic*, and a *Climate Change Seminar* at the School of Law. Sean builds collaborations on environmental issues involving academia, practicing environmental lawyers, advocacy organizations, policymakers, and the business community. His current research projects include evaluating the way courts review environmental impact analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), analyzing the insurance and finance sectors’ roles in helping society adapt to climate change impacts, and studying the adaptation of decision-making in the governmental and private sectors to changing climatic conditions. As Co-Director of the Frank G. Wells Environmental Law Clinic, he plans and supervises the provision of student legal services to nonprofit and government partners and clients. He also serves as Chair of the Harbor Community Benefit Foundation, a nonprofit whose mission is to carry out mitigation and other public benefit projects that assess, protect, and improve health, quality of life, and the natural environment, with a focus on the near-port communities of San Pedro and Wilmington, California.

SARAH NEWKIRK

Coastal Program Director, The Nature Conservancy



Sarah Newkirk leads TNC-CA's coastal conservation team, protecting and restoring coastal ecosystems, promoting coastal resilience to sea level rise and abating land-based threats to ocean ecosystems. She pioneered TNC's Coastal Resilience approach to multi-objective planning for sea level rise and coastal hazards

(<http://coastalresilience.org>) and served as a member of New York State's Sea Level Rise Task Force. Sarah earned a M.S. in Marine Environmental Science from the State University of New York at

Stony Brook and a J.D. (*Magna cum laude*) from Pace University School of Law. She served as law clerk to the Hon. Thomas P. Griesa, U.S.D.J., in the Southern District of New York. Sarah has worked as a staff member or consultant for environmental NGOs on water quality and land use issues in California and New York for fifteen years.

SANDI POTTER

Manager, Comprehensive Planning Division, Sonoma County



Sandi Potter currently oversees natural resource management, climate adaptation, and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act programs for Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department. She has over 25 years of experience in the environmental planning field, focusing on land use regulation, water resource management, climate adaptation and hazard mitigation. Prior to joining the County she developed and implemented water quality plans for impaired water bodies for the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. Ms. Potter is a

California Professional Geologist and Certified Engineering Geologist with a BA in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Barbara and an MS in Geology from Humboldt State University. She has served local government in many capacities over the last two decades, including as a member of the El Cerrito City Council.

MADELINE CAVALIERI

Coastal Program Manager, California Coastal Commission



Madeline Cavalieri has worked at the Coastal Commission for over 10 years. Beginning in the Commission's Statewide Planning Unit administering the Open Space Easement Program, she then transferred into the Commission's North Central and Central Coast District Offices as a Coastal Planner. Madeline was appointed District Manager of both of those offices in 2012. Two years later, she was assigned to lead the Commission's program on Lower Cost Overnight Accommodations and other statewide planning efforts, including the Commission's LCP Grant Program. Most recently, Madeline has been assigned to manage the Commission's Sea Level Rise Program. Madeline holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and studied Urban Planning at San Jose State University.

Discussion Roundtable:

HOLLY DOREMUS

James H. House & Hiram H. Hurd Professor of Environmental Regulation; Co-Faculty Director, Center for Law, Energy & the Environment; Faculty Director, Law of the Sea Institute, UC Berkeley School of Law



Holly Doremus is a leading scholar and teacher in the areas of environmental law, natural resources law, and law and science. She brings a strong background in life sciences and a commitment to interdisciplinary teaching and scholarship to her work at Berkeley Law. Holly earned her PhD in Plant Physiology from Cornell University and was a post-doctoral associate at the University of Missouri before making the transition to law. In addition to her law school teaching experience, she has taught in the graduate ecology program at UC Davis, in the College of Natural Resources at UC Berkeley, and at the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at UC Santa Barbara.

After receiving her JD and Environmental Law Certificate from Berkeley Law, Holly clerked for Judge Diarmuid O'Scannlain of the Ninth Circuit, practiced municipal and land use law with the firm of Eickelberg & Fewel, and taught at the University of Oregon and Oregon State University before beginning her law teaching career at UC Davis in 1995. She is a Member-Scholar of the Center for Progressive Reform, an elected member of the American Law Institute, and was honored as a UC Davis Chancellor's Fellow for 2001-06.

DEBORAH A. SIVAS

Luke W. Cole Professor of Environmental Law; Director, Environmental and Natural Resources Law and Policy Program; Director, Environmental Law Clinic, Stanford Law School



A leading environmental litigator, Professor Sivas is the director of the highly regarded Environmental Law Clinic, in which students provide legal counsel to dozens of national, regional and grassroots nonprofit organizations on a variety of environmental issues. Her litigation successes include challenging the Bush administration's gas mileage standards for SUVs and light trucks and holding the EPA accountable for regulating the discharge of invasive species in ship ballast water. Her current research is focused on the interaction of law and science in the arena of climate change and coastal/marine policy and the ability of the public to hold policymakers accountable. She is a frequent speaker on these topics.

Prior to assuming the clinic directorship in 1997, Professor Sivas was a partner at Gunther, Sivas & Walthall, an attorney with Earthjustice, an associate in the environmental practice group at Heller Ehrman and a law clerk to Judge Judith Keep of the Southern District of California. She currently serves as chair for the board of directors for the Turtle Island Restoration Network. In recognition of her work on behalf of the environment, California Lawyer magazine named Professor Sivas one of its 2008 Attorneys of the Year.