

# 2018 NBWA Conference Speakers

## Conference Introduction

### Jack Gibson, NBWA Chair, Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors



Director Jack Gibson has been a member of the MMWD Board of Directors since 1994.

Director Gibson has been a practicing attorney and legal educator since 1971. He has his own law practice and specializes in business, estate planning, and real estate law.

Director Gibson has a lifelong interest in history and prior to becoming an attorney he was a history teacher in San Francisco and is the author of *Mount Tamalpais and the Marin Municipal Water District*, published by Arcadia Press in 2012 to commemorate the district's centennial.

Director Gibson is the chair of NBWA board and also represents MMWD on the North Bay Water Reuse Authority Board of Directors, the Sonoma County Water Agency Water Advisory Committee, and the executive committee of the recently formed Tamalpais Lands Collaborative. He is a graduate of the University of San Francisco School of Law.

### Damon Connolly, Marin County Supervisor, District 1



Damon Connolly was sworn in January 6, 2015 as the District 1 Supervisor, representing San Rafael and its unincorporated neighborhoods. Prior to that, he served seven years as a member of the City of San Rafael. Damon was a member of the Marin Clean Energy Board of Directors, serving since the agency's inception in December 2008, and chaired the board from June, 2011 to November, 2014. Before opening his own law practice in San Rafael, Damon was a Supervising Deputy California Attorney General. A San Rafael resident, Damon attended college and law school at UC Berkeley.

### Grant Davis, General Manager, Sonoma County Water Agency



As the General Manager of the Sonoma County Water Agency, Mr. Davis is responsible for the Water Agency's core functions of providing drinking water to over 600,000 residents in portions of Sonoma and Marin counties, wastewater management for 60,000 customers, maintaining nearly 100 miles of streams and detention basins for flood protection, and restoring habitat for three federally listed fish species in the Russian River. Mr. Davis and his team are also implementing a renewable energy portfolio that has resulted in a carbon free water supply and distribution system. The Water Agency is a regional leader in the development and implementation of federal, state, and regional initiatives.

Mr. Davis recently returned to the Sonoma County Water Agency after serving Governor Jerry Brown as Director of the California Department of Water Resources.

Prior to joining the Water Agency, Mr. Davis was Executive Director of the Bay Institute, a science-based nonprofit dedicated to protecting the San Francisco Bay-Delta Watershed and improving water management in California.

Mr. Davis currently serves on the University of California President's Advisory Commission, for the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Mr. Davis received a BA in political science from the University of California at Berkeley.



## PANEL 1 – Responding to a Rising Bay

### Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer, California Coastal Conservancy



Sam Schuchat became Executive Officer of the Coastal Conservancy in July 2001 and sits on the boards of the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission. Past Secretary to the California Ocean Protection Council, he served on the California Fish and Game Commission, and was the first Chairman of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority. Mr. Schuchat has an extensive background in fund-raising and management of not-for-profit organizations including the Federation of State Conservation Voter Leagues and the California League of Conservation Voters. He has a BA in Political Science from Williams and a MA in Public Administration at San Francisco State University.

### Allison Brooks, Chair, Resilient by Design Executive Board



Allison Brooks is Executive Director of Bay Area Regional Collaborative, helping to coordinate regional planning efforts of the Bay Area's four regional agencies with a primary focus on aligning climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. The agencies include the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Prior to joining the Collaborative, Allison led the national organization Reconnecting America, working to better integrate transportation and land use to meet broader climate, social equity and economic goals in metro areas across the United States, and across federal agencies. Ms. Brooks has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego and a Masters in Sustainable International Development from Brandeis University.

### Max Korten, Director of Parks and Open Space, Marin County



Max Korten has been the Director and General Manager of Marin County Parks since May of 2016. Marin County Parks is comprised of 34 open space preserves, four regional parks and more than 40 other parks facilities covering approximately 20,000 acres. Mr. Korten joined the County in 2014 as a Parks and Open Space Superintendent. Prior to his work at the County, Mr. Korten was the Director of the Natural Resources Program at Conservation Corps North Bay. Before that he worked as a Wilderness Ranger and Trail Crew Supervisor for the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management. He earned an environmental studies degree from UC Santa Cruz and a master's in natural resource science from Humboldt State University.

## PANEL 2 – Preparing for the New Normal: Floods

### Dr. Fraser Shilling, University of California Davis



Dr. Shilling has worked at UC Davis for the past 22 years where his professional and scientific interests intersect. His experiences are in design of GIS and informatics systems, development of indicator frameworks at a wide range of scales, characterization of ecological and other conditions, interviewing and involvement of marginalized communities in environmental policies, and educational programs/courses for a wide-range of communities and audiences. His projects include developing tools to address transportation sustainability in the context of sea level rise and wildlife movement/driver safety; developing large-scale combined indicator and information exchange systems and informing the process of renovating laws that keep our water, land, food, and air clean.

### Dr. Lisa Micheli, President and CEO, Pepperwood Preserve



Dr. Micheli has over 25 years experience applying her technical, policy, and fundraising expertise to the design and implementation of ecological restoration, research and education programs. She completed her graduate studies at UC Berkeley as a NASA Earth Systems Research Fellow in 2000 and now focuses her research on relationships between watershed health and biodiversity. She is the co-chair of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Climate Change Collaborative, a Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation Bay Area climate adaptation research initiative. She joined Sonoma County's Pepperwood Foundation in October of 2009 as its premiere Executive Director.

### Rick Thomasser, Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District



Rick Thomasser, P.G., is the Watershed and Flood Control Operations Manager for Napa County California. He has over 30 years of experience in environmental consulting, including groundwater, storm water and flood management and river and stream restoration. He manages the operations and maintenance of the award winning Napa River Flood Protection Project and has directed restoration of over 15 miles of the Napa River in a public-private partnership with agricultural landowners in the Napa Valley. Mr. Thomasser is the 2016-2018 Chair of the Bay Area Flood Protection Agencies Association (BAFPAA) and a member of the Implementation Committee for the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP).

## Luncheon Keynote Discussion – Leadership from the North Bay

### Ryan Gregory, Napa County Supervisor, District 2



A lifelong Napa resident, Ryan was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2016. His past work has included civil engineering at RSA+, where he has been a leader in the local engineering and design field. His specialty has been helping both nonprofit and for-profit builders provide new housing opportunities for people across the Napa community. Ryan has extensive community involvement including service on the Napa Chamber of Commerce and Community Action Napa Valley, President of Leadership Napa Valley, the Napa Engineers Society, and on the City of Napa's Civil Service Commission and the Kiwanis Club of Napa. Ryan earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo.

### Brad Sherwood, Community & Government Affairs Manager, Sonoma County Water Agency



Brad Sherwood has worked in the California water industry for 15 years with both the Association of California Water Agencies and the Sonoma County Water Agency. As a community and government affairs manager at the Water Agency, Brad coordinates federal and state legislative programs, and serves as a liaison to the community and media. Brad has a master's in political management from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and a bachelor's in government/journalism from CSU, Sacramento. Brad is a native 5th generation Californian. He currently resides in Santa Rosa with his wife and two small children. In his spare time, Brad serves as a trustee on the Mark West Union School District's Board of Trustees and is a block captain for his neighborhood rebuild efforts.

### Congressman Jared Huffman, California 2<sup>nd</sup> District



Representative Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) has represented California's second district since 2013. The district spans from the Golden Gate Bridge north to the Oregon border, covering six counties including all of Marin, Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, and Del Norte, and much of Sonoma Counties.

Huffman is a member of the Committee on Natural Resources and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Prior to his election to Congress in November of 2012, Huffman served six years in the California State Assembly where he authored more than 60 pieces of successful legislation and received numerous awards for his legislative leadership. Huffman chaired the Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee, served on the Budget Committee and was co-chair of the Legislative Environmental Caucus.

In the Assembly, Huffman distinguished himself as a legislator who tackles complex public policy challenges, works tirelessly, and gets results – often by forging bipartisan consensus on difficult issues. He played a leading role in crafting and passing the historic package of water reforms in 2009. Prior to his election to public office, Huffman was a Senior Attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council. One of his proudest accomplishments there was helping forge an agreement to restore a 153-mile stretch of the San Joaquin River in California's Central Valley.



Before he joined NRDC, Huffman was a successful public interest attorney whose victories included several major jury verdicts in gender discrimination and race discrimination trials. He also served as a Director of Marin County's largest special district, the Marin Municipal Water District from 1994 to 2006.

Huffman graduated magna cum laude from the University of California at Santa Barbara, where he was also a three-time NCAA All-American volleyball player. He went on to play for the USA Volleyball Team in 1987 when the team was ranked #1 in the world, before attending and graduating cum laude from Boston College Law School.

## Afternoon Speaker

Lt. Colonel Travis J. Rayfield, Commander and District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District



Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Travis Rayfield is a native of Sedro-Woolley, Washington and a 1999 West Point graduate (Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering) and commissioned in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a second lieutenant. LTC Rayfield then received a Master of Science in Engineering Management from the Missouri University of Science and Technology and a Master of Engineering in Environmental Engineering Sciences from the University of Florida. His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic Course and the Engineer Captain's Career Course. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Missouri.

His previous operational assignments include: platoon leader and executive officer in the 14th Engineer Battalion, Fort Lewis, WA; battalion logistics officer (S4) and company commander in the 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas (including deployment to Iraq); battalion operations officer (S3) and executive officer (XO) in the 1st Engineer Battalion, 555th Engineer Brigade, Fort Riley, Kansas (including deployment to Afghanistan); brigade operations officer (S3) and executive officer in the 555th Engineer Brigade, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA.

In addition to these operational assignments, LTC Rayfield served as an Instructor and Assistant Professor for Environmental Engineering at the U.S. Military Academy's Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering.

LTC Rayfield's military awards and badges include the Bronze Star Medal; the Army Meritorious Service Medal; the Army Commendation Medal; the Army Achievement Medal; the National Defense Service Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; NATO Medal; Combat Action Badge; Ranger Tab; Sapper Tab; and the Bronze Order of the deFleury Medal.

## Panel 3 – October 2017 Fires: Regional Response and Planning for Future Risks

### Bill Dodd, California Senator, 3<sup>rd</sup> District



Elected in November of 2016 to represent California’s 3rd Senate District, Senator Bill Dodd is a fifth generation Californian and lifelong resident of the district, where he grew up on a small family farm in Napa County. California’s 3rd State Senate District includes all of Napa and Solano Counties, along with portions of Sonoma, Yolo, Contra Costa, and Sacramento Counties.

Prior to his election to the State Senate, Bill represented the 4th Assembly District. In the Assembly, Bill worked to help small businesses, protect the environment, and support seniors and working families. He advanced a balanced, sustainable budget that invests in our education system from preschool through higher education. Bill helped establish the state’s Earned Income Tax Credit, promote career technical education, and create the

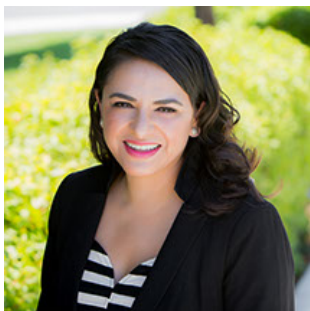
Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument – preserving over 330,000 acres of the California Coast Ranges in Napa, Yolo, Solano, Lake, Colusa, Glenn and Mendocino counties.

Prior to his election to the Assembly, Senator Dodd served on the Napa County Board of Supervisors for 14 years. In that capacity he served on numerous boards and commissions. His accomplishments include the completion of Napa’s flood control project, which protects thousands of properties from flooding, restored 900 acres of environmental wetlands and produced \$1 billion of investment in local businesses.

Prior to his time in elected office, Bill was a successful small business owner and manager for over 25 years. He owned and operated one of the largest full-service Culligan Water operations in California, and served as president of the water quality industry’s state and national trade associations. Senator Dodd is a graduate of California State University, Chico.

The Napa Valley Chamber of Commerce recognized their philanthropic efforts by awarding Bill its 2014 “Citizen of the Year” for raising over \$3 million for local charities.

### Belia Ramos, Napa County Supervisor, 5<sup>th</sup> District



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.

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 and 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.

Belia attended St. Helena and 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.

**Valerie Minton Quinto, Executive Director, Sonoma Resource Conservation District**



Valerie is the Executive Director of the Sonoma Resource Conservation District, a local public agency that empowers and partners with landowners and the community to address Sonoma County's most pressing natural resource concerns. In addition to her work with the RCD, she also serves on the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Valerie is a lifelong resident of Sonoma County, and now lives in Petaluma.

**Conference Summary and Next Steps**

**Steve Moore, Vice Chair, California State Water Resources Control Board**



Steven Moore was appointed to the board by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in 2012, reappointed in 2016, and elected as Vice Chair of the Board in 2017. He previously served on the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board from 2008-2012 and held staff positions at that Regional Water Board at various times between 1992 and 2006.

Mr. Moore worked over 10 years as an engineer and consultant on a wide variety of water infrastructure projects, including sewer reconstruction, recycled water, stormwater, water supply, stream and wetland restoration, and Environmental Impact Reports throughout California. He has experience both obtaining and issuing discharge permit, wetland permits, and clean water grants and loans. Mr. Moore holds a B.S. in biological sciences and an M.S. in civil engineering, both from Stanford University. He is a registered civil engineer and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

