



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

October 26, 2023

Pleasant Hill, CA


**Intergenerational
Watershed
Stewardship**





INTERGENERATIONAL WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

Intergenerational Watershed Stewardship encompasses various topics related to creek and watershed work, and the environmental field as a whole. Centering the 2023 Symposium on this theme is intended to open a practical and inclusive dialogue about

- how we can establish and maintain connections between long-time watershed/environmental advocates and the emerging generation of watershed/environmental stewards,
 - the organizing principles and lessons that organizations and individuals have learned that can help strengthen our collective impact moving forward,
 - how we can ensure that projects come to fruition when funding, staff members, and volunteers come and go,
 - how we can bolster our commitment to collaboration and knowledge sharing among diverse participants in and around Contra Costa, and
 - how watershed/environmental work can be accomplished in tandem with initiatives for social and ecological justice in Contra Costa.
- 

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Registration, Light Breakfast, and Tabling

10:00 AM – 10:20 AM

Land Acknowledgement • **Welcoming Remarks**
Derek Emmons • Supervisor Ken Carlson

10:20 AM – 11:30 AM MORNING PLENARY

Home2Headwaters: A 240-mile Journey to Trace My Drinking Water
Nina Gordon-Kirsch (in conversation with Rohan Tyagi & Zachary Drummond)

Test Plot: An Ongoing Experiment in Community Landcare
Jen Toy

11:30 AM – 12:20 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout Session 1 – Empowering the Next Generation: Youth Employment for Environmental Impact
Itzel Gomez, Anne Bremirez, Mary Cherry, Solwazi Allah, and Vencel Alfred

Breakout Session 2 – Following the Oodles of Money for Nature in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act
Kate Golden

12:20 PM – 1:15 PM

Lunch and Poster Session

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM AFTERNOON PLENARY 1

Why 30x30 Gives Me Hope
Annie Burke

Relationship is the Most Powerful Resilience
Doria Robinson

2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Watershed Roundtable

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Cafe Ohlone Refreshments, Tabling, and Poster Session

3:45 PM – 4:20 PM AFTERNOON PLENARY 2

Envisioning a Healthier Walnut Creek Watershed
Claudia Gemberling and Bob Simmons

Watershed Restoration Projects: Partnerships in Action
Juliana Gonzalez, John Steere, Laura Cremin, John Cain, and Sarah Puckett

4:20 PM – 4:35 PM

Awards Presentation

4:35 PM – 5:30 PM

Networking Reception and Tabling



Congratulations to the Contra Costa Watershed Forum on another successful quadrennial Symposium!

The Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District works to reduce flood risk, promote stormwater quality, and restore and enhance natural resources in an environmentally sensitive manner for the communities throughout Contra Costa.

Flood Control District highlights from the last four years include completing facility condition assessments for all District structures, construction of the Three Creeks Restoration and Lower Walnut Creek Restoration projects, co-installing a radar on Rocky Ridge for improved rainfall modeling, and a return to hosting community and volunteer events that were paused during the COVID-19 pandemic.



THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE IS PROUD TO BE A SPONSOR OF THE 2023 CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CREEK AND WATERSHED SYMPOSIUM.



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
FISH & WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

The Committee is an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors and runs an annual grant program. The Committee considers grant awards for prospective expenditures from non-profit organizations, schools, and government agencies. Projects awarded funding must benefit the fish and wildlife resources of the County and meet the requirements of the Section 13103 of the Fish and Game Code.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL STAFF AT 925-655-2909 OR SEND AN EMAIL TO MAUREEN.PARKES@DCD.CCCOUNTY.US

SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

Keynote Speakers



Nina Gordon-Kirsch

Water Educator
Home2Headwaters

Nina grew up in Berkeley and graduated from Berkeley High School. She earned her B.Sc. in Environmental Science at USC. She was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study plastic and hormone residues in wastewater systems in Israel and Palestine. She stayed on with her research team to earn her M.Sc. in Palestinian wastewater treatment and recycling. For the past 7 years, she worked for the Urban School in S.F. teaching an experiential education class for high school seniors about CA water systems.



Doria Robinson

Executive Director, Urban Tilth
Richmond City Councilmember

Doria is a 3rd generation resident of Richmond, CA and the Executive Director of Urban Tilth. Urban Tilth's 10-acre urban farm serves hyper-local and sustainably grown produce to over 500 West County families each week and supports 10 additional small family and BIPOC farms. In 2022, she became the first Urban Agriculture practitioner to be appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to the California Board of Food and Agriculture. In 2023, she was elected to the Richmond City Council representing the fenceline community of District 3 where she grew up, raised her kids, and continues to live today.

Presenters, Moderators, and Panelists

More information about the Symposium speakers can be found at ccwatershedforum.org.

Vencel Alfred, YES Nature to Neighborhoods

Solwazi Allah, Urban Tilth

Anne Bremirez, The Watershed Project

Annie Burke, TOGETHER Bay Area

John Cain, River Partners

Mary Cherry, Family Harvest Farm

Laura Cremin, Contra Costa County Public Works Department, Environmental Services Division

Zachary Drummond, The Watershed Project

Claudia Gemberling, Contra Costa County Public Works Department, Environmental Services Division

Kate Golden, Bay Nature

Itzel Gomez, City of San Pablo

Juliana Gonzalez, The Watershed Project

Sarah Puckett, American Rivers

Bob Simmons, Walnut Creek Watershed Council

John Steere, Contra Costa County Watershed Program

Jen Toy, Test Plot

Rohan Tyagi, Sustainable Leaders in Action (Sustainable Contra Costa)



PRESERVE • DEFEND • RESTORE • EDUCATE • ENJOY



RESTORATION DESIGN GROUP
SINCE 2003



Expert Biological Field Science, Ecological Research and Monitoring, Restoration, Regulatory Compliance, and CEQA/NEPA Support

Nomad Ecology, LLC is a full service ecological consulting firm that prides itself on its innovative and science-based approach to biological resources consulting.

PRIMARY SERVICE SECTORS

- Utility Infrastructure
- Public Works
- Regional Conservation Plans
- Parks, Open Space, Conservation Lands
- Biological Studies and Inventories for Natural Resource Management

www.nomadecology.com

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS 2023 SYMPOSIUM SPONSORS!



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
FISH & WILDLIFE COMMITTEE



Contra
Costa
County
**Flood Control
& Water Conservation District**



CENTRAL SAN
CENTRALSAN.ORG



NOMAD
E C O L O G Y



Save Mount Diablo
PRESERVE • DEFEND • RESTORE • EDUCATE • ENJOY



RESTORATION DESIGN GROUP
SINCE 2003



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES



**EAST BAY
MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT**



GEI Consultants



East Bay
Regional Park District



East Contra Costa County
Habitat Conservancy



THE
**WATERSHED
NURSERY**



**Balance
Hydrologics**



Friends of Pleasant Hill Creeks



Mt. Diablo Audubon



Coastal
Conservancy



CONTRA COSTA
CLEAN WATER
PROGRAM



MONTROSE
ENVIRONMENTAL

CALIFORNIA
STATE
UNIVERSITY,
EAST BAY



Sustainable
CONTRA COSTA



Protecting
SPAWNERS
San Pablo Creek
Since 2000

AgLantis
CoCo San Sustainable Farm



Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed



**AMERICAN
RIVERS**



**ALHAMBRA
WATERSHED
COUNCIL**



Friends of
Alhambra Creek



**MARSH CREEK
WATERSHED COUNCIL**
&
**FRIENDS OF MARSH CREEK
WATERSHED**



WALNUT CREEK
**WATERSHED
COUNCIL**



The 2023 Contra Costa County Creek and Watershed Symposium was organized by the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District and the Contra Costa Watershed Forum.