# **Panelist Links and Backgrounder**

# **Latino Leadership in Conservation:**

# **Celebrating Heritage and Environmental Stewardship**

# **October 8, 2024**

Secretary Speaker Series: <https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Secretary-Speaker-Series>

Celebrate Latino Heritage Month with Us! <https://resources.ca.gov/latinoheritagemonth>

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency

<https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Who-We-Are/Secretary-for-Natural-Resources>

**Diana Avalos, Senior Program Manager, First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom**

LinkedIn: [https://www.linkedin.com/in/avalosdiana?trk=public\_post\_feed-actor-name](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.linkedin.com%2Fin%2Favalosdiana%3Ftrk%3Dpublic_post_feed-actor-name&data=05%7C02%7CBailey.MkNelly%40resources.ca.gov%7Cab73ba0a185c4dcccfda08dce23936b3%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638633982586376242%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JDn%2Fuket2NZdshiy8vmO8QYeYW34zyXhUpB%2FhkGN7us%3D&reserved=0)

Diana is a dedicated professional with over a decade of experience in championing the needs of diverse youth and disadvantaged communities. Diana's own lived experience of navigating institutions and social systems as a first-generation woman of color, English as a Second Language (ESL) learner, and low-income Latina, informs her understanding of the challenges faced by underserved communities.

She understands the power of valuing lived experiences as an instructional guide to inform systems-change work.

In her current role as Senior Program Manager for the First Partner of California, Diana is at the forefront of strengthening partnerships with diverse stakeholders. She collaborates with community-based organizations, public officials, and state agencies to champion a better California for ALL.

On leadership team for Earth Day 2024 Dedication event:  <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2024/04/22/on-earth-day-governor-newsom-and-first-partner-siebel-newsom-dedicate-first-new-state-park-in-a-decade/>

Help Advance California’s Farm to School Program (which has spillover benefits to California families and environment): [https://www.gov.ca.gov/about/first-partner/ca-for-all-kids/cafarm2school/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.ca.gov%2Fabout%2Ffirst-partner%2Fca-for-all-kids%2Fcafarm2school%2F&data=05%7C02%7CBailey.MkNelly%40resources.ca.gov%7Cab73ba0a185c4dcccfda08dce23936b3%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638633982586419416%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bPL%2Bg3WXhDdPtXtu48QwbF4QI8%2FMvUBUiJ%2FKGm%2FTFSY%3D&reserved=0)

Help champion California’s State Library Parks Pass through the Office of the First Partner: [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\_id=30806](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.parks.ca.gov%2F%3Fpage_id%3D30806&data=05%7C02%7CBailey.MkNelly%40resources.ca.gov%7Cab73ba0a185c4dcccfda08dce23936b3%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638633982586432300%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=IzcfkLghaLNSLowwaf4CC1cAYJ%2BdR58F2pdvOrURqPg%3D&reserved=0)

**Adriana Dominique Guerrero-Nardone, Executive Director, Salted Roots**

Adriana Dominique Guerrero-Nardone bio: <https://saltedrootssurf.org/team-member/adriana-guerrero/>

Adriana comes to Salted Roots with over 13 years of experience in education and youth development. As the Executive Director of Salted Roots, Adriana’s work and passion includes working to build a more inclusive surf culture both locally and nationally through community programming, collaboration with ally organizations, and advocacy for equitable and inclusive coastal policies, all while centering joy as a form of community building and healing.

A common thread that weaves Adriana’s professional aspirations and beliefs together is her pursuit of social justice with a youth development-lens and community-based approach. Over the last decade, Adriana has worked in a variety of capacities in the nonprofit sector across the globe with communities ranging in their socioeconomic, cultural, and language backgrounds. Outside of work, Adriana has served on the leadership team for Women’s March Oakland and currently serves as the Secretary on the Board of Directors at Camp Phoenix, and the Alpha Chi Omega Chapter Advisor at UC Berkeley.

Adriana holds a B.A in Psychology from Arizona State University and a Master’s in Nonprofit Administration from the University of San Francisco.

Salted Roots: <https://saltedrootssurf.org/>

Expanding outdoor access in Pacifica: <https://www.usfca.edu/news/equal-access-waves>

More about Adriana:

<https://www.linkedicom/in/adrianaguerrero-saltedroots/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZXaRIAjRQ4>

**Blanca Ruiz, Central Valley Program Manager, Tuolumne River Trust**

Blanca Ruiz bio: <https://www.tuolumne.org/blanca>

Blanca Ruiz is the Program Manager for the TRT Central Valley Team. Blanca graduated from San Jose State University with a Bachelor of Psychology and discovered her love for the outdoors while living in the Bay Area.

Blanca has served the Community through nonprofit work focusing on underserved communities. Blanca now focuses on Educating the youth and community in responsible outdoor recreation while participating in environmental advocacy.

When not working, Blanca enjoys exploring, spending time outdoors, and practicing mindfulness through yoga and hiking

Tuolumne River Trust Our Work: <https://www.tuolumne.org/our-work>

Sign up to explore the Tuolumne River Oct. 11-Oct. 19: <https://www.tuolumne.org/events/explore-the-tuolumne-fall24>

Sign up for a volunteer river clean up day: <https://www.tuolumne.org/events/north-fork-tuolumne-river-cleanup>

**Dr. Samuel Sandoval, Professor of Cooperative Extension in Water Resources University of California, Davis / University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources / Water Resources Collaborator, California Institute for Water Resources**

Dr. Samuel Sandoval bio: <https://ucanr.edu/?facultyid=20535>

Dr. Samuel Sandoval is an Associate Professor at the University of California Davis (UC Davis) and a Cooperative Extension Specialist in Water Resources Management at the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the University of California (UCANR).

In his dual role as professor and specialist, he is responsible for the California statewide outreach, education and applied research program on water resources management for UCANR; and as a professor he is responsible for fundamental research, teaching, and graduate student mentorship at the Department of Land, Air, and Water Resources in UC Davis. His research interest focuses on integrated water resources management through a holistic approach, mixing different methods, tools and processes to improve water resources management. Dr. Solis is the Policy and Curriculum Advisor for Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL). WELL educates and trains local elected officials about California water policy to promote timely and equitable actions that serve to develop a robust economy, healthy communities, and a resilient environment for all Californians.

Water Management Cooperative Extension UCD: <https://watermanagement.ucdavis.edu/cooperative-extension>

University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources: <https://ucanr.edu/>

CA Institute for Water Resources: <https://ciwr.ucanr.edu/>

Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL): <https://latinosforwater.org/mission-history/>

**Agave in California Agave en California**:

Website: <https://california.agave.ucdavis.edu/>  
Instagram Account: caliagave  
Link: <https://www.instagram.com/caliagave?igsh=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==>

**Water in California Education Materials / Materiales Educativos acerca de Agua en California:**

Water Talk Podcast:  
Website: <https://www.watertalkpodcast.com/>   
Podcast Apple: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/water-talk/id1509295815>   
Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/show/5C4J8eGSIcpsokkIdDUiZO>

Hydrology 101 / Conceptos basicos del Ciclo del agua:  
English: <https://watermanagement.ucdavis.edu/cooperative-extension/hydrology-and-climate-change>  
Español: <https://watermanagement.ucdavis.edu/cooperative-extension/hydrology-and-climate-change/hidrologia-y-cambio-climatico>

California Water Course / Curso de Agua en California:  
Facebook search: californiawatercourse  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/californiawatercourse/>   
Instagram Search: californiawatercourse  
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/californiawatercourse/>   
Tiktok Search: SamuelSandovalSolis  
TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@user7868176383407?_t=8pfQloImBWV&_r=1>  
Youtube Search: Samuel Sandoval Solis  
YouTube Chanel: [www.youtube.com/@samuelsandovalsolis5329](http://www.youtube.com/@samuelsandovalsolis5329)  
Register at/Registrarse en: https://watermanagement.ucdavis.edu/californiawatercourse

Wastewater Needs Assessment /

Description / Descripcion: it is a comprehensive assessment of California’s aging wastewater infrastructure: the Wastewater Needs Assessment (WWNA) / es una evaluación exhaustiva de la infraestructura de recolección de aguas residuales determinar las necesidades de acceso y manejo adecuado de aguas residuales en California.  
Results of first survey in English: <https://watermanagement.ucdavis.edu/application/files/7617/2831/8906/SURVEY_WWNA_2024_FACT_SHEET_UCANR_English.pdf>   
Resultados de la encuesta en español: <https://watermanagement.ucdavis.edu/application/files/4617/2831/8907/SURVEY_WWNA_2024_FACT_SHEET_UCANR_Espanol.pdf>   
Website: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/waste_discharge_requirements/wastewater_needs_assessment.html>  
website: <https://innovation.luskin.ucla.edu/publication/assessing-californians-wastewater-needs/>

**Camila Bautista, Salton Sea and Desert Program Manager for Audubon California**

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/camilabautista018/>

Camila Bautista is an experienced environmental scientist and dedicated conservation advocate currently serving as the Salton Sea and Desert Program Manager with Audubon California. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Biology from UCLA and is in the final stages of obtaining a Master’s degree in Environmental Science from California State University, Los Angeles. Her master's thesis, which won the Farvolden Scholarship at the National Groundwater Association (NGWA) Groundwater Week 2023 conference, focuses on analyzing water sources feeding the Bombay Beach Wetland Project through isotopic analysis.

Camila’s journey with Audubon California began in January 2020 as an intern with the Salton Sea Program. Her exceptional work led to a part-time Program Coordinator position in 2021, a full-time role as Senior Program Coordinator in 2022, and a promotion to Program Manager in April 2024. Throughout her career at Audubon California, Camila has demonstrated leadership in key projects, including the Bombay Beach Wetland Project, and has significantly contributed to community engagement and development. Camila grew up in the city of Coachella, only 30 minutes north of the Salton Sea, so her lifelong connection to the region deeply informs her commitment to driving impactful environmental change in her native area.

Read Camila’s thesis here: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/share/IU7NZCERDMQCRN3MVTYM?target=10.1111/1752-1688.13220>

Audubon California Salton Sea: <https://ca.audubon.org/salton-sea>

Bombay Beach Wetland Project: <https://ca.audubon.org/salton-sea/bombay-beach-wetland>