

AB 1757 Expert Advisory Committee Members

Christy Brigham



Dr. Christy Brigham received her doctorate in Ecology from UC Davis in 2001. Dr. Brigham has worked for the National Park Service in different parks in California as a scientist and manager for the past nineteen years. Dr. Brigham is currently the Chief of Resources Management and Science for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in the southern Sierra Nevada where she oversees forest management, wildlife management, cultural resources protection, and climate change adaptation and response for the park's many ecosystems.

John Callaway



John Callaway is a Professor in the Department of Environmental Science at the University of San Francisco (USF). He recently served as the Delta Lead Scientist (2017-2020) for the Delta Science Program and Delta Stewardship Council. Prior to USF, he was the Associate Director of the Pacific Estuarine Research Laboratory at San Diego State University. John teaches courses in wetland ecology and restoration ecology at USF and conducts research on wetland restoration, climate change effects on tidal wetlands, and wetland carbon dynamics. He has served on a number of advisory panels on wetland restoration and management, including in Louisiana, southern California, and the San Francisco Bay area. Currently he is an associate editor for *Estuaries and Coasts*, and is the co-chair for the 2023 meeting of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation in Portland, OR. John received his M.S. in Biology from San Francisco State University and a Ph.D. in Oceanography and Coastal Sciences from Louisiana State University.

Nathanael Gonzales-Siemens



Nathanael has an undergrad degree in Plant Genetics and Biology from UCLA as well as a teaching credential from CSU Los Angeles. He grew up on a small farm in California's San Joaquin Valley and after teaching in LA for a decade came home to restart the almond orchard. Now the whole family is involved and they are transitioning to a diversified and regenerative operation that grows crops that are appropriate to not only the local climate conditions but to the local culinary preferences as well. Nathanael has over 20 years of farm management and consulting experience on the West Coast where he currently serves as the Pacific Regional Manager for the Rodale Institute's Organic Crop Advisor Program.

Matt Holmes



Currently a resident of Stockton, Matt attended College of the Siskiyous in Weed (AA), UC Davis (BA, History) and San Francisco State University where he acquired a MA in US History/American West at SF State (emph. Indian/White Relations/Military History). After working his way through graduate school as a public school teacher Matt served as a National Park Ranger in Contra Costa County at: John Muir National Historic Site (Martinez), Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site (Danville), Port Chicago Naval Weapons Magazine National Memorial (Military Ocean Terminal Concord) and Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park (Richmond). As a Ranger Matt developed education & training programs focused on urban conservation, workforce development and citizen science strategies that pulled him into the non-profit sector.

Matt currently works with a Valley Improvement Projects (VIP) to increase collaboration between EJ communities across San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced Counties. Matt also works as a coordinator with the California Environmental Justice Coalition (CEJC) a statewide coalition of grassroots EJ organizations that are committed to reparatory solutions designed by and for the many EJ communities that remain impacted by California's shameful history of white violence and white supremacy.

William Horwath



William R. Horwath is a Distinguished Professor of Soil Biogeochemistry and Chairman of the Department of Land, Air and Water Resources at UC Davis. He is the J. G. Boswell Endowed Chair in Soil Science and Fellow of the Soil Science Society of America. He earned his B.S. degree from So. Ill. University and two PhDs degrees from Michigan St. University in Soil Science and Forest Ecology. Dr. Horwath has authored or co-authored over 300 journal articles and book chapters. He has published in the areas of soil health and sustainability, wetland processes, forest ecology, and climate change impacts on agriculture and forests. Dr. Horwath serves as editor of the Soil Science Society of America Journal the Elsevier Developments in Soil Science Series. Dr. Horwath has many international collaborations on the topic of soil health and productivity, and he is the Lead Faculty Advisor of the undergraduate major in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems.

Lara Kueppers



Lara Kueppers is an Associate Professor in the Energy and Resources Group at UC Berkeley and a Faculty Scientist at Berkeley Lab. She is an interdisciplinary environmental scientist, with expertise in ecological responses and feedbacks to climate change. She uses field experiments and observations, as well as numerical models, to understand climate-ecosystem interactions, with a current focus in Western US and tropical forests. Previously, Dr. Kueppers was a Research Scientist in the Climate and Ecosystem Sciences Division at Berkeley Lab, and Assistant Professor at UC Merced, and she holds a PhD from UC Berkeley, and MS and BS degrees from Stanford University.

Connor Magee



Connor is an experienced Natural and Working Lands Specialist focusing on the critical relationships and responsibilities associated with conserving, restoring, and managing Southern Californian Natural and Working Lands. He integrates his position as Research and Data Applications Lead at the Climate Science Alliance with graduate research at UC Davis's Institute of the Environment-Working Lands Innovation Center and as a National Science Foundation Research Trainee at the Coastal and Marine Sciences Institute-Sustainable Oceans. Connor operates closely with scientists, managers, agricultural partners, Tribal representatives, and other partners to support climate adaptation strategies within ecosystem stewardship. He is a Pala Tribal citizen (Payomkawichum/Cahuilla) and works to integrate his peoples' Traditional Ecological Knowledge with emerging and innovative technologies. Connor serves on the Board of Directors for the San Luis Rey Indian Water Authority as well as a Tribal advisor for California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment and Tribal Research Program. Connor acquired a B.S. in Sustainability Studies with a minor in Geology at the University of California, Riverside. He continues his academic pursuits as a Ph.D. student in Ecology at the University of California, Davis.

Devii Rao



Devii Rao is a University of California Cooperative Extension Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor serving San Benito, Monterey, and Santa Cruz counties. Her research and education program focuses on targeted grazing, prescribed burning, weed management, and more recently issues related to climate change mitigation/adaptation on Central Coast rangelands.

Mark Schwartz



Dr. Mark W Schwartz is a conservation scientist working at the nexus of natural resource management, climate change and decision-making. Dr. Schwartz specializes in conservation policy, natural resource decision-making, and collaborative decision-making. Recent projects include developing risk assessment protocols for assisted migration for US National Parks, developing climate change risk evaluations for USFWS wildlife refuges in California and adapting wildfire management under climate change. Dr. Schwartz is a co-Lead of the Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center. Dr. Schwartz received his MS in Ecology from the University of Minnesota and PhD from The Florida State University. Dr. Schwartz is a professor emeritus at the University of California, Davis.

Kerri Steenwerth



Dr. Kerri Steenwerth (she/her) has served as a Research Soil Scientist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service since 2004. Her research program focuses on development of sustainable viticulture practices and understanding their benefits and tradeoffs for wine grape production systems and the surrounding environment. She also values the nexus among science, policy and practice to support agricultural production. As such, she has served as a former co-Director of the USDA California Climate Hub and has been engaged as a technical advisor for organizations like the North Coast Soil Health Hub, California Climate and Agriculture Network, and the USDA Southwest Climate Hub.

Melissa Ward



Dr. Melissa Ward received her PhD from UC Davis in marine biogeochemistry studying blue carbon ecosystems. Melissa currently works for San Diego State University and Windward Sciences, investigating nature-based solutions and progressing carbon offset codes, with a particular focus on marine and coastal zones. She also works with the U.S. West coast aquaculture sector, investigating strategies for industry adaptation and key research priorities.

Laurie Wayburn



Laurie Wayburn is Co-founder and President of Pacific Forest Trust. Ms. Wayburn is an accomplished forest and conservation innovator who advises policymakers at the state, regional, national, and international levels. She pioneers new approaches to develop sustainable resource economies using her deep experience in the fields of conservation, ecosystem services, and sustainability. A preeminent authority on the climate and ecosystem benefits of forests, she leads efforts enacting climate change and other ecosystem service policies that unite conservation and sustainable management with market-based approaches. Recipient of the Kingsbury Browne Conservation, James Irvine Foundation, and EPA Climate Leadership awards, Ms. Wayburn is a frequent speaker, writer, and media commentator on effective incentives for conservation and sustainable resource management.

Prior to co-founding Pacific Forest Trust with Constance Best in 1993, Ms. Wayburn worked internationally for 10 years in the United Nations Environment Program and Ecological Sciences Division of UNESCO. She later served as Executive Director of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory and was the Founder and first Coordinator of the Central California Coast Biosphere Reserve. Ms. Wayburn is a graduate of Harvard University and currently serves on the Land Trust Alliance Leadership Council.

Marion Wittmann



Marion Wittmann, Ph.D., Environmental Science and Management. Previously the Executive Director of the UC Santa Barbara Natural Reserve System from 2016 to 2023. In this capacity, she represented the UC Natural Reserve System, a California State Trustee Agency, and oversaw the management of over 50,000 acres of land in California ranging from the Santa Barbara Channel Islands to the Eastern Sierra Nevada. Prior to this, Marion served in the 114th Congress in the United States Senate as a American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science & Technology Policy Congressional Fellow, focusing on natural resources, agriculture and human health. As a post-doctoral scientist at the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center and the University of Notre Dame, and as an Assistant Research Professor at the University of Nevada Reno, Wittmann has authored or co-authored over 25 peer-reviewed scientific articles on environmental risk, freshwater ecology, invasive species, and environmental policy and management. She received a B.A. in Integrative Biology from UC Berkeley (2000) and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science & Management from UC Santa Barbara (2008). Marion grew up in Los Angeles and currently lives in Goleta, CA.