



**In order of appearance:**

**Dane Lazarus, Policy Specialist, Sea Grant Program at University of Southern California**



Dane Lazarus, M.S., is a Science, Research, and Policy Specialist with USC Sea Grant serving to bridge current coastal research and community stakeholders. He applies his training in coastal science and engineering to support coastal community members, planners, and managers in Southern California through the facilitation, dissemination, and interpretation of Sea Grant research findings. Prior to joining Sea Grant, Dane worked on coastal dune and wetland restoration and monitoring projects at The Bay Foundation and developed and implemented unmanned vehicle survey techniques for environmental consultants. Dane received a

B.S. in Ecology and Evolution from the University of California Santa Barbara, and a M.S.E. in Civil-Environmental Engineering from Loyola Marymount University.

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**Ben Freeston, SCI co-founder**



Entrepreneur, product builder, and AI/ML innovator focused on predictive modeling and real-time environmental intelligence. I founded Magicseaweed, transforming it from a side project into the world's most popular surf forecasting platform. Over 15 years, I scaled the business to a global audience, built and led a high-performing team and drove its successful acquisition by Surfline/Wavetrak. Today, I lead innovation at Surfline, focusing on AI-driven predictive modeling and leveraging our proprietary data, camera networks, and machine learning techniques to push the boundaries of surf forecasting. Beyond building products, I'm deeply invested in

hiring, mentoring, and motivating teams, ensuring we create a culture where innovation thrives and people do their best work. I also founded Surfzone.ai—a Surfline-owned venture applying computer vision and machine learning to coastal monitoring. This platform delivers real-time intelligence on wave conditions, surfer tracking, beach attendance, and shoreline changes, enhancing public safety, environmental management, and resource planning in coastal areas. At the core of my work is a passion for building high-impact, AI-powered forecasting solutions—and the teams that make them possible. And when I'm not building, I'm in the water—using the tools I helped create to chase waves every day.



**In order of appearance:**

**Paul Ganev, Surfline Coastal Intelligence co-founder and General Manager**



With over ten years of experience in finance and strategy, I am a passionate and data-driven leader who drives growth and innovation in the streaming and mobile subscription industries. As the VP of Strategy, Business Development and analytics, I oversee the strategic direction, business development, and data analytics of the world's leading surf forecasting and media platform. I leverage my finance expertise, digital strategy skills, and deep understanding of the surf industry and community to identify and execute opportunities for expansion, partnerships, and monetization.

In my previous roles, I have led and supported strategy and insights for various digital media brands, such as MotorTrend Group and Discovery Inc, delivering actionable and impactful recommendations based on data and market trends.

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**Jayne Timberlake, Coastal Zone Administrator, City of Oceanside**



Jayne Timberlake is the Coastal Zone Administrator for the City of Oceanside, where she administers programs related to coastal habitat restoration, resiliency planning, and coastal infrastructure protection. As the first Coastal Zone Administrator for the City, Ms. Timberlake developed and manages the City's Opportunistic Beach Fill Program, works collaboratively with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the San Diego County Shoreline Study and Harbor Navigation Program, synchronizes with SANDAG on regional efforts lead by the regional Shoreline Preservation Working Group, as well

as develops and manages supportive studies that showcase changes along the Oceanside coastline. Additionally, she is the project manager of the RE:BEACH Oceanside Project, which initiated as an international design competition to pilot a new coastal management tool for the City and region to responsibly retain sandy beaches. She is an environmental professional with over 20 years of experience in both the public and private sector, and holds a Bachelor's in Environmental Science and Geography from UCSB and a Master's in Marine Affairs and Policy from the University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences.



**In order of appearance:**

**Leslea Meyerhoff, AICP, Coastal Administrator for the City of San Clemente (Summit Environmental Group)**



Leslea is a certified coastal planner and CEQA practitioner with 20+ years of professional experience and the Founder of the Summit Environmental Group. Summit was established in 2006 to provide premier coastal policy, resiliency planning and environmental compliance services to public agencies throughout California. Leslea's areas of expertise include coastal resiliency building, policy development, impact assessment, permitting, project management and adjunct staff services. Leslea is committed to consistently providing the highest level of client service and functioning as adjunct public agency staff. Leslea has represented a wide variety of public agencies throughout Southern California and successfully managed public beach restoration projects in the City of San Clemente and City of Solana Beach. Leslea is

also assisting LA County in building coastal resilience on some of the beaches where she grew up. Leslea was born in Los Angeles and has spent the majority of her professional career as a coastal consultant assisting public agencies restore their shorelines. Leslea has also worked as a legislative aide in the California State Assembly and Los Angeles City Council. When not at her desk, Leslea enjoys yoga, gardening, hiking (trekked to Mount Everest Base Camp & Kilimanjaro), and is a CMS-A Sommelier and partner in the La Jolla Winery.

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**Andy Hall, City Manager, City of San Clemente**



Andy Hall is the City Manager and has served as a City Manager for more than 23 years. Prior to his appointment in San Clemente, he served as the City Manager of Imperial Beach, CA, Cathedral City, CA, and Payson, Utah. He was also the Planning Manager for Henderson, Nevada and an Assistant City Manager Draper, Utah. Prior to his career in management, Andy was a land use planner in Summit County, Utah and a Community Development Director in both Payson, Utah and Cathedral City, CA. Andy attended Arizona State University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Geography-Urban Studies. He also holds a Master of Public Administration, with high honors, from the University of Utah. Hall has been married to his wife, Stephanie, for 38 years. Together, they have two children and three grandchildren.



**In order of appearance:**

**Rachel, Darling, M.S., Sea Grant Program at University of Southern California**



Rachel Darling is a Science, Research, and Policy Specialist with USC Sea Grant. Her work focuses on connecting applicable science to decision-making for coastal resilience. Throughout her education and professional career, Rachel has contributed to interdisciplinary projects spanning the topics of climate change, marine and freshwater biology, and public health. These projects emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary thinking and skills in addressing

contemporary environmental and community challenges. Rachel brings her passion for interdisciplinary solutions and rigorous science to her role at USC Sea Grant. Prior to joining USC Sea Grant, Rachel worked at the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) as a Research Technician where she aided the Biology Department in conducting bioassessments of various watersheds in California. The experience in both the freshwater and saltwater realms allows Rachel to truly appreciate ecosystem-wide connections.

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**Ella McDougall, Climate Change Program Manager, California Ocean Protection Council**



Ella McDougall is a Climate Change Program Manager at the California Ocean Protection Council, where she implements strategic initiatives to prepare California's coast for sea-level rise, including the SB 1 SLR Adaptation Grant Program (including the recent launch of the SB 1 Tribal Cultural Resources Funding Program), the California Beach Resiliency Plan, and the facilitation of the State and Regional SLR Collaborative. Her work focuses on supporting communities as they address coastal resiliency, advancing nature-based solutions, and ensuring equitable access to climate resilience

funding. Ella holds an M.A. in International Environmental Policy from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies and a B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Delaware. She previously served as a Sea Grant Fellow at the State Coastal Conservancy, Climate Analyst with the City of Santa Cruz, and a Peace Corps Volunteer in Peru.



**In order of appearance:**

**Dr. Charles Lester - Director, Ocean & Coastal Policy Center Marine Science Institute, University of California, Santa Barbara**



Dr. Charles Lester is the director of the Ocean and Coastal Policy Center in the Marine Science Institute at UC Santa Barbara, where he researches, writes, and consults about sea level rise, coastal resilience, and other aspects of coastal law, policy and management. Charles previously worked for the California Coastal Commission for twenty years, including serving as the agency's fourth executive director from 2011 to 2016. In 2015, he led the agency's completion of California's first comprehensive land use guidance for addressing sea level rise and coastal protection on the outer coast. Previously, Charles was an assistant professor of political science at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where he taught environmental law and policy, with a focus on public lands governance and coastal zone management. He received his Ph.D. and J.D. from UC Berkeley, and a B.A. in Geochemistry from Columbia University.

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**Dr. Philip King**



Dr. Philip King served as an Economics Professor and Department Chair at San Francisco State during his 35-year career. He has worked on the economics of coastal resources in California for 30 years including numerous peer reviewed studies. He was the lead economist on numerous local coastal programs (LCPs) for local governments and the California Coastal Commission. His recent focus has been on how local governments can finance adaptation.



**In order of appearance:**

**Cristin Kenyon, Development Services Manager, City of Eureka**



Cristin Kenyon is the Development Services Director for the City of Eureka, overseeing Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement. She has been a resident of coastal Humboldt County since 2014, previously working as a Coastal Program Analyst for the California Coastal Commission for seven years, supervising Local Coastal Program work for their North Coast Office. She earned a bachelor's degree in environmental systems from UC San Diego and a master's in urban and regional planning from UCLA.

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**Dr. Laurie Richmond, Cal Poly Humboldt Environmental Planning Professor, Cal Poly Humboldt Sea Level Rise Institute Co-chair, California Sea Grant**



Dr. Laurie Richmond is a Professor of Environmental Planning at Cal Poly Humboldt. Dr. Richmond's research focused on human dimensions of natural resources with an emphasis on marine and coastal systems. She has done research related to the health and sustainability of fishing communities, the social and cultural dimensions of fisheries management and policy, socioeconomic outcomes from marine protected areas, social considerations for the development of offshore renewable energy projects, and planning and community engagement related to sea level rise. Dr. Richmond is part of the [Humboldt Sea Level Rise Initiative](#) which brings together an interdisciplinary team of scholars and practitioners from local governments and agencies, Tribes, NGOs, planning firms, and academia to help develop coordinate research and planning related to SLR in the region. In 2019, Dr. Richmond completed a collaborative project with the commercial fishing communities of Shelter Cove and Eureka on the California North Coast. She collaborated with a variety of partners to engage the communities in a bottom-up planning process that led to the development of Fishing Community Sustainability Plans for each community that included community-driven recommendations to improve each community's overall well-being. The communities have already begun implementing priority recommendations.



**In order of appearance:**

**Alexandra Toyofuku, Climate Specialist, Blue Lake Rancheria**



Alexandra is the Climate Specialist at Blue Lake Rancheria, where she leads implementation of the EPA-funded Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program. This program focuses on land acquisition, habitat restoration, and long-term carbon sequestration. In her role, she advances the Tribe's climate resilience efforts through GIS mapping, climate action planning, and grant writing. She holds a degree in Environmental Science & Management, Policy & Planning from Cal Poly Humboldt.

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**Kristen Orth-Gordinier, Cal Poly Humboldt Sea Level Rise Institute Secretary and consultant with GHD**



I am a big picture thinker with a strong attention to detail and organization that supports and leads the multi-disciplinary teams I work with in completing projects and tasks. I apply my training and education in the sciences to produce clearly and concisely written research reports and provide critical analysis and observation. Work in restoration, planning, sustainability, and education is what really inspires me. I am also passionate about working with communities on sea level rise (SLR)-related planning projects. I attended HSU to pursue my Master's degree and to conduct research on regional SLR adaptation planning on Humboldt Bay. The social science research project that I developed aimed to directly inform local planning efforts by understanding social, economic, and environmental challenges faced by individuals and entities that will be affected by SLR on Humboldt Bay. While SLR poses a complex challenge for our community, I hope to be a part of the solution by conducting relevant and locally-applicable research, building positive and constructive social networks, and effectively communicating science to decision makers and the public.



**In order of appearance:**

**Dr. Kate Huckelbridge, PhD. Executive Director, California Coastal Commission**



Dr. Kate Huckelbridge began serving as the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission in February of 2023. Before this appointment, Dr. Huckelbridge served as the Commission's Senior Deputy Director and has worked for the agency since 2009 in a number of different roles, including as a senior environmental scientist and as the Deputy Director over the Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency Unit, Transportation Unit, and the North Coast District. She also served as the Tribal Liaison for the Commission. Born in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Kate completed her undergraduate studies at Northwestern University with an environmental engineering degree. After working briefly as a consultant, she went on to earn a masters and a PhD in environmental engineering at the University of

California, Berkeley. Her research focused on water quality dynamics and modeling in managed wetland systems.

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**Kelsey Ducklow, Statewide Coastal Resilience Coordinator, California Coastal Commission**



Kelsey Ducklow is the Statewide Coastal Resilience Coordinator at the California Coastal Commission and works primarily on sea level rise adaptation planning. This includes continuing efforts to provide guidance on integrating sea level rise planning with Coastal Commission policies and processes and coordinating the Commission's LCP Local Assistance Grant Program which provides funding and technical support for local governments undertaking adaptation planning work.



**In order of appearance:**

**Brittney Cozzolino, Coastal Resilience Manager, California Coastal Commission**



Brittney is the Coastal Resilience Manager at the California Coastal Commission and works primarily on overseeing the Commission’s coastal resilience program. This includes supporting and advancing the Commission’s efforts to provide policy guidance, funding, and technical assistance to local governments for climate change and sea level rise adaptation planning. Brittney started her coastal planning journey as an analyst for the Commission’s San Diego office in 2013, then spent four years in local government as a planner for the City of Half Moon Bay, then returned to the Commission’s Statewide Planning Unit in 2022 where she has enjoyed driving policy direction on major Coastal Act topics such as sea level rise, housing, and lower cost overnight accommodations ever since. She holds an undergraduate degree from UCLA in Environmental Science and a master’s degree from Oregon

State University in Natural Resources.

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**Madeline Cavalieri, Deputy Executive Director, California Coastal Commission**



Madeline Cavalieri is the Coastal Commission's Deputy Executive Director. She has worked at the Coastal Commission for over 17 years, first as a Coastal Planner and District Manager in the North Central and Central Coast District Offices, and later as the Statewide Planning Manager, overseeing several programs, including the Commission’s Sea Level Rise Program, as well as the Local Coastal Program (LCP) Grant Program. Ms. Cavalieri has been working with the Commission's Local Government Working Group since it was started in 2019, and was appointed Deputy Executive Director in 2022.



**In order of appearance:**

**Erin Prahler, Statewide Planning Manager**



Erin Prahler is the Statewide Planning Manager at the California Coastal Commission, overseeing planning and policy work related to sea level rise, wildfire resilience, and sustainability. Prior to joining the Statewide Planning Unit, Erin served as a Coastal Planner in the Commission's South Coast and San Diego Coast District Offices working with local governments in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties.



**In order of appearance:**

**Kate Orff, RLA, FASLA, Founding Principal, SCAPE, Professor at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation**



Kate Orff, RLA, FASLA, is the Founder of SCAPE. She focuses on retooling the practice of landscape architecture relative to the uncertainty of climate change and creating spaces to foster social life, which she has explored through publications, activism, research, and projects. Widely recognized as a leading voice in landscape architecture, urban design, and climate adaptation in a global context, she is known for advancing complex, creative, and collaborative work that advances broad environmental and social prerogatives. Among her many accolades, Kate

became the first landscape architect to receive the MacArthur Foundation's prestigious "genius" grant in 2017. In 2019, she was elevated to the ASLA Council of Fellows, accepted a National Design Award in Landscape Architecture from the Cooper Hewitt, and was named a "Hero of the Harbor" by the Waterfront Alliance. In 2020, she was named Urbanist of the Year by *The Architect's Newspaper*. In 2023, she was named to the *TIME* 100, the magazine's annual list of the most influential people in the world. Kate is the author of several books including *Toward an Urban Ecology* (Monacelli, 2016), co-author, with photographer Richard Misrach, of *Petrochemical America* (Aperture, 2012), and a contributor to *All We Can Save* (Penguin Random House, 2020), a bestselling anthology of women climate leaders. She has been profiled extensively for publications including *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Economist*, *National Geographic*, and many more. Kate graduated with a Bachelor's in Political and Social Thought from the University of Virginia with Distinction and earned a Master's in Landscape Architecture from the Graduate School of Design (GSD) at Harvard University. She is currently the Director of the Urban Design Program, Co-Director of the Center for Resilient Cities and Landscapes (CRCL), and Professor at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP). She also sits on the Commission on Accelerating Climate Action for the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, as well as the Advisory Board for Urban Ocean Lab, a policy think tank.



**In order of appearance:**

**Beth A. Collins, Shareholder, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck**



Beth Collins is a problem solver who handles high-profile, large and controversial land use matters along the Central Coast and throughout California. She formulates strategies that help her clients—landowners, public agencies and institutions, energy companies and battery storage developers—navigate all stages of the development process from application through construction. Whether considering a property acquisition, developing property or in litigation defending a permit, Beth brings a rare blend of significant entitlement, transactional and litigation experience. Beth understands the critical issues impacting development in California. She has extensive California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Coastal Act, Subdivision Map Act, Endangered Species Act and easement, title and public law expertise. Her experience spans from Coastal Commission permitting and enforcement, the Housing Accountability Act and other new state housing laws, to climate change, adaptation and sea level rise. She frequently advocates before numerous courts and local and state agencies including the California Coastal Commission and Public Utilities Commission. Beth works to proactively mitigate issues before they end up in court. Beth also chairs the firm’s California Real Estate and Land Use Group.



**In order of appearance:**

**Tegan Hoffmann, PhD. Executive Director, Coastal Quest**



Tegan Hoffmann has over 25 years of experience in coastal and ocean conservation and resource management and is one of Coastal Quest’s founding members and the Executive Director of Coastal Quest. After 15 amazing years founding and leading Blue Earth Consultants, both independently and under the ERG umbrella, she left to focus on fulfilling the Coastal Quest vision and mission. Tegan has deep experience working on domestic and international projects, focusing on building climate resilience, and achieving sustainable resource management and conservation goals. Tegan has extensive know-how designing, developing, and launching projects, programs, and institutions for private foundations, public agencies, and nonprofit organizations. She has authored several publications and received numerous awards and research grants for her work on conservation, resource management, and building local conservation capacity in the Wider Caribbean, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific, from such organizations as National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s STAR Fellowship, the University of California’s Pacific Rim Research Program, and the U.S. Indonesia Society. She has developed and conducted several trainings in the Wider Caribbean and Indo-Pacific regions for hundreds of community stakeholders on conservation and resource management issues, and has taught several courses at the University of California. Tegan graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, and holds Ph.D. and master’s degrees in geography and a B.S. degree in conservation resource studies.

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**Emma Koeze, Director, Coastal Quest**



Emma Koeze is a Director at Coastal Quest, whose mission is to accelerate solutions, building resilient coastal communities for people, nature, and the climate. At Coastal Quest, Emma spearheads the Ocean Protection Council’s Technical Assistance Program for the Senate Bill (SB) 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program, offering grant application support to local, regional, and tribal governments along the California Coast and San Francisco Bay Shoreline. Additionally, Emma works with local and regional governments to develop climate resilience financing mechanisms and supports community-based organizations through fiscal sponsorship. Emma earned an M.S. in Global Business and Sustainability and a B.S. in International Business Administration from the Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University.



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**In order of appearance:**

**Emiko Innes, Coastal Planner, Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors**



Emiko Innes is a coastal planner at the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors and a Lead Project Manager for the County's Coastal Resilience Initiative. Currently, she manages the Living Shoreline Demonstration Project at Zuma Beach, Dockweiler Beach and Redondo Beach. She is developing a Sand Compatibility and Opportunistic Use Program (SCOUP) for the County. She also leads an effort to build a regional coastal coalition to prepare a long-term sediment management and adaptation plan for the LA County coastline. When she is not working, she enjoys surfing.

Her past work experience includes municipal stormwater NPDES permit compliance, field investigation for groundwater remediation projects, and working as a chemist at an environmental lab. She earned a BS in Environmental Geosciences from Michigan State University, and an MA in Geography from California State University Long Beach.

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**Doug Krauss, Environmental Programs Manager for the City of Hermosa Beach**



Doug Krauss has worked in the field of sustainability and resource efficiency in Southern California for nearly 25 years. Currently the Environmental Programs Manager for the City of Hermosa Beach, Doug specializes in solid waste management but is also well-versed in storm water pollution prevention, energy efficiency and overall sustainability. The City of Hermosa Beach has been a pioneer in sustainability, including being one of the first cities in the South Bay to adopt a comprehensive ban on single-use plastics. Hermosa Beach is also renown for its large sandy beach and the City is eager to develop a Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan that creatively engages the

community and positions the City well to both preserve and enhance its beach.



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**In order of appearance:**

**Dr. Laura Engeman, Coastal Resilience Specialist, GHD**



Through my work at the Center for Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation, I focus on applying scientific modeling, observations, and tools to guide climate change adaptation policies and investments, especially in coastal landscapes. I am interested in methods for tracking climate change trends at a local scale, developing and testing experimental adaptation strategies, and the intersection of these new science frontiers with advancements in policy and financing approaches. As a California Sea Grant Extension Specialist, I also specialize in developing science translation products and identifying research needs voiced by coastal managers,

state and local decision-makers, and stakeholders. Much of this work is multi-disciplinary and involves multi-sector partnerships to meet important knowledge gaps and broaden shared understanding of climate science.

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**Lynette Cervantes, AICP**

*Principal Land Use Consultant, Cervantes Conservation Consulting*



Lynette leads Cervantes Conservation Consulting, offering expertise in land use, environmental and coastal planning with a focus on advancing climate-adaptive land stewardship. Her clients are primarily non-profit organizations dedicated to sustainability, conservation and education. She is skilled in technical and policy analysis, guiding multidisciplinary teams, fostering meaningful stakeholder engagement and building collaborative partnerships. With decades of experience in land use planning and permitting across California, Lynette is known for providing strategic leadership and developing actionable strategies that inform planning and

decision-making to achieve successful outcomes. A graduate of the School of Social Ecology at the University of California, Irvine, Lynette lives in a small Sierra Nevada foothill town, where she enjoys hiking and winter sports in the Lake Tahoe region.