

Panelist & Speaker Profiles

Nature-Based Solutions Panel #1



**Delta
Independent
Science Board**

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Over the coming months, the Delta Independent Science Board will host a series of panels to explore nature-based solutions, including the associated challenges and needs, to help shape a potential review by the Delta ISB that is meaningful and useful for the Delta community. The first panel will occur at on May 22, 2026 ,with a focus on perspectives from State agencies to understand what is occurring in California (see [meeting notice](#)). Later in the year, the Delta ISB will also host panels focused on work at the national level and within the Delta.

Panelists and Speakers



Wade Crowfoot was appointed California Secretary for Natural Resources by Governor Gavin Newsom in January 2019. Secretary Crowfoot oversees an agency of 26,000 employees charged with protecting and managing California's diverse resources. As a member of the Governor's cabinet, he advises the Governor on natural resources and environmental issues. He most recently served as chief executive officer of the Water Foundation.

Prior to joining the foundation, Crowfoot served in Governor Jerry Brown's Administration as deputy cabinet secretary and senior advisor to the Governor. In that role, he led the administration's drought response efforts and spearheaded several of the Governor's priority initiatives to build California's resilience to climate change. Crowfoot received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1996 and earned a master's degree in public policy from the London School of Economics in 2004, where he graduated with honors.



Dr. Tawny Mata has pursued a lifelong goal of contributing to sustainability through science. In 2022, she was promoted to the position of Director of the **Office of Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability (OARS)** at the California Department of Food and Agriculture. OARS leads California's efforts in reducing livestock methane emissions, promoting healthy soils, and reducing agricultural water and energy use. Dr. Mata received her B.A. in Biology from Pomona College and her Ph.D. in Ecology from UC Davis.

Prior to this position, Dr. Mata accepted a position as Director of Strategic Engagement for The Nature Conservancy and the Great Lakes Commission's Blue Accounting Initiative in 2017, where she led an external affairs team to promote collaborative, data-informed management of water resources across the eight states, two provinces, and two countries in the Great Lakes Basin. In 2021, she joined the California Department of Water Resources as an Environmental Program Manager supporting the sound management of native and endangered species impacted by the State Water Project.

Nick Martorano is the Assistant Deputy Director of the Division of Water Quality, overseeing the Surface Water Regulatory Branch at the State Water Resources Control Board. Nick has worked at the State Water Board for over nineteen years and held several roles including leading the development and implementation of California's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) and 305(b) Integrated report, Basin Plan amendments, total maximum daily loads, and water quality control policies.



Prior to accepting his new role, Nick served as the Director of the California Water Quality Monitoring Council for seven years providing overall direction of the Council, coordination with water quality and ecosystem health stakeholders, and building cross sector partnerships. Nick has a B.S. in Aquatic Biology from U.C. Santa Barbara and completed graduate course work for the M.A. Program in Latin American Studies from San Diego State University.



Steve Rotherth brought an academic and professional background in river ecology and management to his position as Manager of the Department of Water Resources' Division of Multi-benefit Initiatives (DMI) in June of 2020 after leading the California Office of the river conservation group American Rivers. DMI integrates nature-based and engineering solutions to collaboratively implement programs to improve flood management, habitat for native fish and wildlife species, recreation and other benefits for California.

Campbell Ingram became the first Executive Officer of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy in March of 2011. The Conservancy is tasked with being a lead agency for ecosystem restoration in the Delta and supporting efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well-being of Delta residents. Previously, Campbell was an Associate Director of The Nature Conservancy's California Water Program where he participated in statewide efforts to balance water needs of ecosystems and human use.



In addition, he previously worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where he was responsible for implementing several CVPIA restoration programs and the CALFED Environmental Water Program; and prior to that was employed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation working directly for the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program.