

Adaptive Management Forum Agenda

October 14-15, 2025



**Delta
Science
Program**

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL



Keynote



**Panel
Discussions**



Presentations

#AMForum2025

Day 1: October 14

- 8:30–9:00 **Check-in**
- 9:00–9:05 **Welcome** – Jessica Pearson, Delta Stewardship Council
- 9:05–9:15 **Forum Overview** – Stephen Elser, Delta Stewardship Council
- 9:15–9:40 **Keynote Presentation** – Karrigan Börk, UC Davis

Dr. Börk is a UC Davis Professor of Law and Director of the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences. His publications range from the definitive text on the history and application of California minimum streamflow requirements to a hatchery and genetic management plan for the reintroduction of spring-run Chinook salmon in the San Joaquin River. He works on legal and ethical issues in ecological restoration, especially problems that involve both science and law, with an emphasis on western water law.

- 9:40–10:25 **Panel – Advancing Adaptive Management Under Accelerating Change**

Panelists will share insights into challenges and opportunities for adaptive management under quickly changing conditions, and new techniques and frameworks to support environmental decision-making.

Panelists:

Jacob Zwart, United States Geological Survey
Karrigan Börk, UC Davis
Lisamarie Windham-Myers, Delta Stewardship Council and United States Geological Survey
Shruti Khanna, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife

Moderator: Evan Sawyer, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife

- 10:25–10:40 **Break**
- 10:40–11:45 **Adaptive Management Case Studies (Part 1)**

Presenters will describe adaptive management case studies from the Delta and share their insights on opportunities, challenges, and gaps that could be filled to support adaptive processes.

Speakers:

Stacy Sherman, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jeff Caudill, CA State Parks, Division of Boating and Waterways
Molly Ferrell and Tyler Anthony, CA Department of Water Resources
Spencer Fern, Restore the Delta

11:45–1:00 **Lunch Break**

1:00–2:00 **Adaptive Management Case Studies (Part 2)**

Presenters will share additional case studies of adaptive management in the Delta.

Speakers:

Rosemary Hartman, CA Department of Water Resources
Cassie Pinnell, Montezuma Wetlands LLC/Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting
Gina Darin, CA Department of Water Resources
Stephanie Freed, Ecosystem Investment Partners

2:00–2:45 **Panel – Leadership Perspectives on Adaptive Management**

Leaders from groups implementing adaptive management will share their perspectives on progress and discuss successes and needs across scales.

Panelists:

Campbell Ingram, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
James Peterson, United States Geological Survey and Oregon State University
Louise Conrad, CA Department of Water Resources
Steve Chappell, Suisun Resource Conservation District

Moderator: Henry DeBey, Delta Stewardship Council

2:45–3:25 **Gallery Walk**

In-person participants will work in small groups to summarize lessons learned and discuss barriers to and opportunities for more effective adaptive management.

This is an in-person-only component of the event.

3:25–3:40 **Break**

3:40–4:25 **Panel – Adaptive Management Headlines from the Future**

Panelists will share their visions for large-scale adaptive management success in 2050 and what it would take to get there.

Panelists:

Don Hankins, California State University, Chico

Sydney Chamberlin, The Nature Conservancy

Jay Ziegler, CA State Water Resources Control Board

Moderator: Morgan Chow, Delta Stewardship Council

4:25–4:30 **Closing Remarks from Delta Stewardship Council**

4:30–5:30 **Poster Session**

Attendees will share posters covering a wide range of topics related to adaptive management in the San-Francisco Estuary and its watershed.

This will be an in-person-only component of the event.

Day 2: October 15

9:00-12:00 **Site Visit to Lookout Slough Tidal Restoration and Flood Improvement Project**

Located in the Cache Slough region and led by the CA Department of Water Resources, the Lookout Slough Tidal Restoration and Flood Improvement Project is the largest tidal wetland restoration project in the Delta.

At this site visit, participants will get an on-the-ground look at how adaptive management and related activities are proceeding at the site a year after levees breaches allowed tidal waters to flow into this 3,400-acre property. Scientists and managers from the CA Department of Water Resources, the CA State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways, Ecosystem Investment Partners, and the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife will share insights on planning, design, construction, invasive species management, monitoring methods, and more.

This will be an in-person-only component of the event. Meeting location will be sent to registrants.

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