

Delta Leadership Program – 2016 participants

Amanda Beck (Clarksburg) Senior Project Manager Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Amanda is a fourth-generation Delta resident and very active in the Clarksburg community. She is seeking insight into Delta issues and improved access to entities working on them.

Kathy Bunton (Antioch) Owner Delta Kayak Adventures
Kathy is a Bay Area native and guides kayak tours all over the Delta. She hopes to network ways to increase awareness of the Delta as a tourism destination and foster relationships with classmates.

Ryan Camero (Stockton) Arts Activist/Community Organizer Restore the Delta
Ryan is an artist using visual storytelling for ecological activism. Ryan is hoping to improve his skills to strengthen the Delta.

Lea Castleberry (Discovery Bay) Deputy Chief of Staff
Contra Costa County Supervisor Mary Piepho – Lea works on invasive aquatic weed issues for Supervisor Piepho and is looking to increase her Delta expertise and contacts.

Barbara Daly (Clarksburg) Owner Delta Heartbeat Tours
Barbara is a Delta resident since 1992 and has been very active in the Clarksburg community in the library, as Executive Director of the Mother's Network and with North Delta C.A.R.E.S., which she helped organize in response to BDCP.

Roni Gehlke (Oakley) Executive Director Delta Science Center
Roni grew up around the Delta, and has been active in the Oakley Chamber of Commerce, the East Bay Regional Park District and the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee.

Meghan Hertel (Sacramento) Director of Working Lands Audubon California
Meghan leads bird-friendly management and habitat restoration on farms, ranches and wetlands throughout the Central Valley. She seeks to build relationships within the Delta to increase Audubon's effectiveness and responsiveness in the region.

Lauren Korth (Isleton) Volunteer Restore the Delta
A fourth-generation Delta resident, Lauren is focusing on Environmental Policy at UC Santa Cruz, especially water policy. She seeks specific ideas about protecting and enhancing the Delta through policy.

Nicholas Lavoie (Sacramento) Public Lands Manager for the Bay/Delta Region
California State Lands Commission – Nicholas works on many Delta projects at SLC and hopes to foster relationships and gain knowledge to increase his effectiveness within the Delta.

Jeannie Matthews (Isleton) Office Manager Willow Berm Marina
Jeannie is a Delta resident, and has volunteered on Delta farms and for the Dock Walkers program with State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways. She hopes to learn how to better work with State and local government regarding Delta concerns.

Marian Norris (Stockton) Senior Field Representative State Senator Cathleen Galgiani
Another fourth-generation Delta resident, Marian works on land use policy for Senator Galgiani, as well as invasive species and farm issues.

Emily Pappalardo (Walnut Grove) Civil Engineer DCC Engineering
Emily grew up on a private boating resort in the Delta, worked in a pear packing shed and brought her engineering degree back to the Delta to work on levee engineering and water policy. She hopes to improve her networks and develop strategies to enhance Delta as Place.

Erica Rodriguez-Langley (Tracy) Senior Field Representative

State Assemblyman Jim Frazier - A Stockton native, Erica has spent her career assisting Delta legislators in developing community improvement programs, such as Yolo County VITA Coalition and Yolo Cash for College Coalition.

John Stump (Courtland) Owner/President Flint Builders

Raised in the foothills, John farms in Courtland and is active as Chair of the Courtland Town Association and Treasurer of the Pear Fair.

Anna Swensen (Clarksburg) Co-Director North Delta C.A.R.E.S.

Anna is very active organizing meetings to inform Delta residents about BDCP, Delta Stewardship Council initiatives, Bureau of Reclamation projects, drought barriers and other issues that impact Delta life. She seeks a permanent fix for the water problems in California.

Justin van Loben Sels (Walnut Grove) Owner Amistad Freight

A fifth-generation Delta farmer, Justin's company transports Delta produce nationwide. He is a member of the Delta Protection Commission, a local Fire Department volunteer and Trustee for Reclamation District 554. He seeks to learn new perspectives and improve his network.

John Vasquez (Vacaville) County Supervisor Solano County Board of Supervisors

John has spent his career as a public servant – as a City Councilmember, Board of Supervisors assistant, and Trustee of the Vacaville Cemetery District. He seeks a greater depth of knowledge of Delta and water issues, and connection with others in the field.

Esperanza M. Vielma (Stockton) Executive Director Café Coop

Esperanza represents Restore the Delta in Stockton, and is very active in environmental justice. She founded Café Coop, a cooperative for economic development in Stockton, and is chair of the Environmental Justice Advisory Group.

Tim Waits (Clarksburg) Past President Clarksburg Winegrowers and Vintners Association

Tim manages Lake Winchester Vineyard LLC in Clarksburg, which has partnered with Ducks Unlimited and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop wildlife preservation projects on the site.

Craig Watanabe (Lodi) Manager Mandeville Island

Craig manages the agriculture and habitat operations on Mandeville Island for CCRC Farms, Inc., after 10 years with Victoria Island Farms. He has spent his life hunting, fishing and boating on the Delta.

Jeffrey D. Wingfield (Stockton) Director of Public Affairs Port of Stockton

Jeff directs Environmental, Government and Public Affairs for the Port, after serving as an environmental consultant for large construction and environmental projects in the western US. He is looking to build relationships and find collaborative opportunities.

Chuck Winn (Ripon) County Supervisor San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

Chuck is a retired Highway Patrol officer and has taught Criminal Justice at the college level. He is now active in groundwater management issues and serves on several water management boards and commissions. He seeks to add to his water management expertise.