



2015 State of the Estuary Conference

Draft Ideas for Plenary Topics, Speakers, and Session Tracks

Conference Theme: Simply “The State of the Bay & Delta Estuary”. The intent is to have a long-term (50-100 yrs.), forward-thinking focus.

Plenary Speaker Ideas

Futurists, with a focus on environment (climate change, sea level rise), technology, urban planning, green infrastructure, policy, engineering, culture. Options include:

- **Bob Perciasepe** -30 years at EPA now head of the Pew “spinoff” Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) - availability confirmed
- **David Sedlak** (Water 4.0.& ReNUWIt) - availability confirmed – “*Re-Inventing the Nation’s Urban Water Infrastructure*”
- Other “ReNUWit” Berkeley or Stanford Urban Water Policy visionaries
- **Michael Boots** – Acting Chair – White House Council on Environmental Quality
- **Susan Tatayon**, Managing Director of the California Water Program at The Nature Conservancy, & Delta Stewardship Council Member [suggestion from Delta Stewardship Council]
- **New Delta Science lead** [taking Dr. Peter Goodwin’s place] TBD [suggestion from Delta Science Program]
- **Barry Lopez**, writer [suggestion by SFEP]
- **Steward Brand** – Futurist, Founder of “The Long Now Foundation, The Well, The Global Business Network, Advisor to Gov. Brown, Creator of the “Whole Earth Catalogue” - “A Vision for a Hopeful and Sustainable Future.”
- **Letitia Grenier** - “State of the Estuary 2015”
- **Robin Grossinger** - “Historical Ecology: 200 years ago and 200 years into the future”
- **Warner Chabot** – “How the Bay Area Will Lead the Nation (world?) on Climate Change”
- **Robert Glennon** - “Living with Drought” (author of Unquenchable: America’s Water Crisis and What to Do About It. University of Arizona)
- **Carl Guardino** &/or Silicon Valley Business Leaders (Google, Apple, Yahoo, Facebook, Linked-IN,
- **Lisa Jackson** – Apple Chief Sustainability Officer
- **Foundation Community Leaders** (e.g. Pisces, Hewlett, Moore, Packard, San Francisco) leaders - e.g. Kai Lee (recently retired science director at Packard)

Political Leaders:

- Governor Brown, Attorney General K. Harris, Lt. Gov. G. Newsom, Senate Leader K. DeLeon, Assembly Speaker T. Atkins
- (Local/State/National Legislators) re: Sea Level Rise- e.g. S.M. County Supervisor Pine, Assem. Gordon, Sen. Leno, Assem. Chu, Congressperson’s Speier, Congressman Huffman, CA Resources Secretary Laird

Plenary and Follow-up Workshop Option –

- 1) **Plenary Speakers:** Invite 6-10 Plenary speakers to provide brief (e.g. 15 minute) but bold, challenging plenary talks. They should present visionary concepts or ideas on how the Bay & Delta’s urban and rural communities could transform over the next 50-100 years to support an ecologically sustainable region that will face the dual challenge of:
 - A population 3-4 times the current 7M people
 - A natural water supply of 1/4th to 1/3rd the current supply due to global climate change.
- 2) **Follow-up Panels:** Then have these plenary speakers either lead or co-chair panels in subsequent 2 hr. workshops. These workshops could have panels comprised of 2-5 “thought leaders” representing diverse backgrounds from science, government, business, policy, engineering etc.

The morning sessions would provide the media (and possible on-line audience?), with rich material for news stories, blogs etc. The afternoon sessions could simply be dialogues that focus on the long-term science, economic or policy challenges facing decision makers and institutions.

Or the afternoon sessions could be given an added charge to “report back” to the full conference at the end of the day or next day.

Water Quality Plenary Speaker Ideas (with a focus on envisioning future Bay water quality)

Subtheme: Visions for Bay-Delta Water Quality in 2065/2115

- Water Board - Terry Young? Tom Mumley?
- USEPA?
- Municipalities
- SFEI
- Baykeeper?
- Sedlak could possibly fit here too
- Other ideas?

Ideas for Concurrent Sessions

<u>Species/Restoration</u> -Living Ecosystems -Historical Ecology & Future Ecology	<u>Management Challenges</u> -Water Supply -Drought
<u>Water Quality</u> -SOTER summary -Priority Bay RMP topics (core of Day 2) -Delta RMP update -Other priority WQ topics	<u>Sustainable Communities</u> -Engineering & Technology -Green Infrastructure -Land Use Planning & Governance

Ideas for RMP Session Talks

- Success story talk or talks - Pulse tie-in
- Nutrient talk
- Tributary loading talk
- Pesticide talk - Kelly Moran?
- CEC overview talk - Becky Sutton
- Selenium talk
- Ocean acidification - Weisberg?
- Mercury monitoring by marsh restoration projects

Ideas for Other Priority WQ Topics

- Exotic species update - progress on ballast water RMP Staff Activities for the SOTE Conference
 1. Recruit RMP stakeholders and others (e.g., municipal officials, business leaders)
 2. Develop and distribute recruitment material (e.g., Save the Date notices)
 3. Cultivate press coverage
 4. Plan and implement a social media campaign
 5. Organize a poster session highlighting the RMP (to increase connection time for RMP attendees)
 6. Develop standardized templates and branding elements for RMP slides and posters
 7. Participate in Steering Committee meetings to plan the conference
 8. Organize speakers for RMP sessions according to a common theme
 9. RMP staff to attend and present at conference

Optional tasks with additional funding

10. Process and share videos of presentations on YouTube
11. Broadcast presentations live