



Date: January 12, 2012
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Bay Area Ecosystems Climate Change Consortium

Baylands Goals Technical Update Coordinator Selected

The [Bay Area Ecosystems Climate Change Consortium](#) (BAECCC) Steering Committee is pleased to announce the selection of Letitia Grenier, Ph.D., to serve as BAECCC's Coordinator to guide the development of a technical climate change update to the *San Francisco Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals* (Goals) report.

Focused on the wetlands at the Bay's edge, the *Goals* report, produced in 1999 by a coalition of public agency, private and non-profit partners, has guided and inspired wetlands restoration and enhancement around the Bay for over a decade. The report provided the scientific foundation to support the protection of 40,000 acres of baylands, and attracted significant funding for implementation of acquisition, protection, and restoration projects. With the ongoing and impending significant effects that climate change will have on the Bay's wetland ecosystems, there is an urgent need to incorporate an assessment of the predicted impacts and associated adaptation strategies into a technical update of the Goals report.

Dr. Grenier will coordinate a science-based approach to assessing these impacts. Her assessment will include sea level rise, potential migration of wetlands to adjacent upland habitats, extreme weather events, altered regimes of sedimentation and erosion, watershed and streamflow influences, as well as projection for species and habitat types.

BAECCC brings together resource managers, scientists, and policy makers to develop and apply science-based strategies for ecosystem adaptation to accelerating climate change. BAECCC's goals are to secure nature's ecological and economic benefits to society by reducing the negative impacts of climate change on the region's wildlife, habitats and ecosystem services (such as providing clean water, promoting healthy fisheries, reducing flood damage, slowing sea level rise impacts, filtering out pollution, storing carbon, replenishing ground water and more).

BAECCC Steering Committee members include representatives of the California Coastal Conservancy, NOAA's Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, PRBO Conservation Science, US Fish and Wildlife Service's San Francisco Bay Refuge Complex, and US Geological Survey's Western Ecological Research Center.

Funding for the development of the technical update is being provided by the California Coastal Conservancy. Nadine Peterson, Deputy Executive Officer of the California Coastal Conservancy, and BAECCC Steering Committee member, remarked, "We are delighted to have Letitia Grenier join BAECCC in this role. She brings a deep passion, essential skills, and a wealth of experience in leading collaborative, consensus-oriented scientific efforts. We have every confidence that she will excel at coordinating the work of scientists, managers and other stakeholders to conduct this climate change assessment, and to recommend strategies that, when implemented, will help ensure the baylands continue to provide the many benefits and services envisioned in the *Goals* report".

As the Goals Technical Update Coordinator, Dr. Grenier will work with Dr. Andrew Gunther, BAECCC's Executive Coordinator and the BAECCC Steering Committee to achieve the multiple goals of the technical update, including:

- Identifying management strategies for marshes to be more resilient (e.g., improve sedimentation dynamics and maintain ability to support native species);
- Developing recommendations for "living shorelines", or habitats to manage shoreline erosion;
- Identifying long-term science and management gaps needing resolution to implement recommendations;
- Identifying upland sites that have potential to accommodate wetland transgression upslope; and
- Conducting stakeholder outreach and making the technical update readily assessable for broad use.

Dr. Grenier has over a decade of experience studying and monitoring the wetland and aquatic ecosystems of the San Francisco Estuary and their associated wildlife. She has particular expertise in tidal marsh ecology and food webs, ecological assessment of wetlands and riparian areas, mercury biaccumulation, and in translating scientific results into management decision options. Most recently, she has been the Conservation Biology Program Manager for the San Francisco Estuary Institute, where she conducted research, managed projects, assembled advisory teams to improve scientific outcomes, authored numerous publications, and served on many science advisory committees.

For further information, see www.BAECCC.org or contact Nadine Peterson, Deputy Executive Officer, California Coastal Conservancy, 510-286-4176 or npeterson@scc.ca.gov.

