



Press Release

New Executive Director

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San Francisco Estuary Institute Welcomes New Executive Director



Oakland - The San Francisco Estuary Institute is welcoming Rainer Hoenicke as its new executive director. Dr. Hoenicke, who started the job June 19, is no stranger to the Bay Area's premier applied science organization. Steeped in collaborative and science-based environmental planning, he first joined the institute in 1994 as an environmental scientist for the Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality. He spent over two years at the California Resources Agency to help develop a strategic conservation investment approach, re-joined the institute in 2004, and became deputy director shortly thereafter.

"We are excited to welcome Rainer as executive director. His interpersonal skills, ability to work across different scientific disciplines, and his deep understanding of government and non-profit sectors made him the ideal candidate," said Jim Fiedler, board president. *"Rainer knows our partners, he knows the region's and the state's needs, and he is passionate about accelerating the pace toward sustainable solutions to our environmental problems. He understands the institute's mission and the immense challenges facing the estuary."*

Dr. Hoenicke is a graduate of the University of Bonn, Germany, where he studied agriculture, and the University of California at Davis, where he received his Ph.D. in ecology. He has dedicated his entire professional career to applying science toward environmental solutions, starting with data collection that informed revisions to the Clean Air Act, contributing to the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Santa Monica Bay, and developing an aquatic biodiversity conservation approach for the state.

Rainer is committed to making new scientific tools available to decision-makers at all levels of government, but especially at the local level, where land use decisions often have the greatest impact on natural resources and water quality. *"The San Francisco Estuary Institute is one of the few places where multiple scientific disciplines come together to inform integrated and regional approaches to land and water use, habitat protection and restoration, water quality protection, and preparing for climate change effects. I look forward to helping make the estuary's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan a reality by working with the best team anyone could have in my new capacity as executive director."*

Rainer lives with his wife Kit and daughter Leila in Napa where he enjoys jogging with his family's two dogs through vineyard alleys, creating some of the best back-yard bird habitat in the neighborhood, and applying "Bay-friendly" landscaping principles.

The San Francisco Estuary Institute is a non-profit organization that for the last 15 years has generated empirical scientific information to define environmental problems, advance public debate about them, and support consensus-based solutions that improve environmental planning and management. www.sfei.org