

COAST Legislative Briefing: Sea-Level Rise

April 12th, 2021



Dr. Katharyn Boyer is a Professor of Biology at San Francisco State University's Estuary & Ocean Science Center in Tiburon, California. She holds degrees in biology/ecology from University of California Los Angeles (PhD), San Diego State University (MS), and the University of Maryland, College Park (BS). Dr. Boyer is a coastal ecologist specializing in science-informed restoration, with a focus on improving the design and resilience of estuarine habitat restoration. Her recent work focuses on climate change adaptation, evaluating "green infrastructure" enhancements that reduce shoreline erosion, provide refuge for wildlife during flooding, build carbon stores, and locally mitigate acidifying waters. She regularly teaches courses in restoration ecology, wetlands ecology, and marine ecology. She is a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences and serves on numerous technical advisory committees for conservation and management of estuarine and ocean resources.

Dr. Katharyn Boyer
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Dr. Ben Hagedorn is Associate Professor of Environmental Geochemistry at CSU Long Beach and has published widely in the field of carbon cycling, groundwater vulnerability and environmental forensics. He has over 10 years of experience working in the environmental consulting industry and teaching in Southern California. He is currently a principal investigator on an NSF grant to investigate the patterns of submarine groundwater discharge of solutes on volcanic and coral atoll islands. Prior to his time at CSU Long Beach, he was a postdoctoral scholar at the Water Resources Research Center of the University of Hawaii where he collaborated on many projects that integrate GIS, geochemical measurements and groundwater models.



Dr. Ben Hagedorn
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Dr. Philip King received his PhD in Economics from Cornell in 1987 and is an Associate Professor of Economics at San Francisco State. He has worked on the economics of coastal resources in California for over 25 years, including numerous peer-reviewed studies. He conducted the economic analyses for sea-level rise studies for the cities of Oceanside, Pacifica, Imperial Beach, Carpinteria, Goleta, Santa Cruz, Humboldt and Ventura Counties, and the southern Monterey Bay area. He was also co-author of "Access for All", which examined inequities in California's beach access, and he has consulted with Airbnb on access issues. He is currently working with the California State Lands Commission to evaluate reports assessing and proactively planning for sea-level rise impacts and with CSU Channel Islands on beach sustainability.

Dr. Philip King
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Dr. Kiki Patsch is currently an Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Resource Management at CSU Channel Islands in Camarillo, California. Dr. Patsch completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Virginia in Environmental Science and earned her PhD in Earth and Planetary Sciences with a focus on coastal geology, processes, and hazards. Dr. Patsch joined the CSU Channel Island faculty in the fall of 2015. Dr. Patsch's past and current research focuses on coastal geomorphology and processes, shoreline hazard assessment, sediment budgets analysis, sea cliff and beach erosion, reductions in the natural supply of sediment to the coast, coastal armoring, and coastal access along the California coast. Through her work, Dr. Patsch aims to bridge the gap between policy makers, scientists, engineers, and private citizens on issues related to the coastal zone.



Dr. Kiki Patsch
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A fifth generation Californian and native of San Diego, Dr. Dan Reineman studies the human dimensions of ocean and coastal management using interdisciplinary methods, including community-based research. His goal is to engage students and communities in understanding and sustainably managing their coastal resources. In particular, he focuses on coastal access and wave resources. Dr. Reineman’s deep personal and family connections with the ocean inspired his early career in marine biology at University of California Los Angeles and the University of Hawaii: he has conducted field work in Turks and Caicos, Bahamas, Panama, Galápagos, and Antarctica. He served in the US Congress as a NOAA Marine Policy Fellow before returning to California to complete his doctorate in coastal management at Stanford University. He is now an Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Resource Management at CSU Channel Islands.

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Dr. Laurie Richmond is an Associate Professor of Environmental Science & Management at Humboldt State University. Her research focuses on the human dimensions of marine and coastal issues. She and collaborators have conducted research related to governance frameworks, regional coordination, and community knowledge and engagement related to sea-level rise (SLR) planning. She, along with Adam Canter of the Wiyot Tribe Natural Resources Department, is co-chair and a founding member of the HSU Sea-Level Rise Initiative which envisions “a diverse network of collaborators working together across disciplines, sectors, and ways of knowing to develop SLR research and planning that informs equitable and community-centered local climate action.” Her SLR work focuses on the Humboldt Bay region, which is facing among the fastest rates of relative SLR on the entire West Coast. She is a member of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team and the CSU COAST Executive Committee.



Dr. Laurie Richmond
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Dr. Christine Whitcraft is a Professor of Biological Sciences and the Director of Environmental Science and Policy at CSU Long Beach. Her major area of interest is coastal wetland ecology with a focus on the impact of anthropogenic activities on functioning of brackish and salt marshes. Specifically, she investigates restoration strategies, impacts of invasive plants, and climate change-related impacts. Additional research interests include invertebrates in oxygen minimum zone habitats and foraging behavior of California Least Terns. She received her BA in Biology from Williams College and her PhD in Biological Oceanography from University of California, San Diego, Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Her postdoctoral research was a CALFED position at San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve until she started at CSU Long Beach in 2008.

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COAST is the CSU affinity group for marine, coastal, and coastal watershed related activities. COAST integrates systemwide resources and promotes interdisciplinary multi-campus collaborations to advance our knowledge of coastal and marine systems. The scope of COAST includes the ocean, coast, and coastal watersheds.

