

Climate Ready Webinar Summary

Overcoming Obstacles: Persistence and Problem-Solving in Conservation Projects

The California State Coastal Conservancy hosted a webinar on June 22nd, 2017 to provide insight into overcoming the challenges inherent in conservation work and to share examples of how the Conservancy has been able to push past those obstacles. This webinar highlighted 3 case studies:

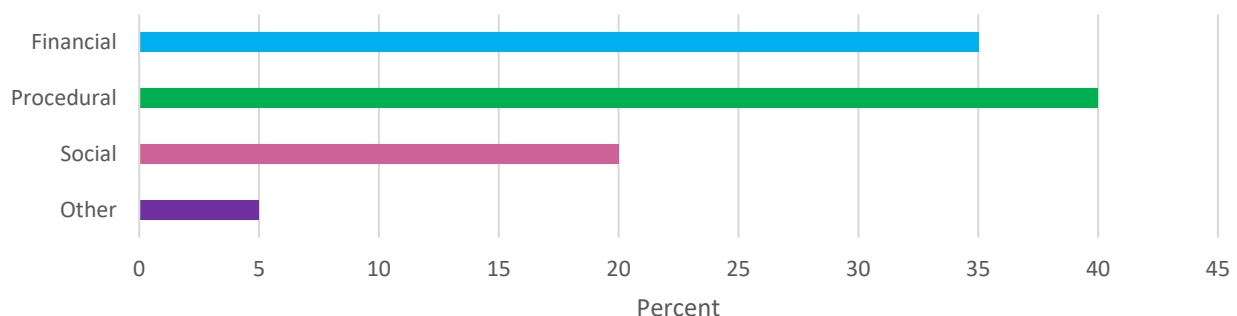
- Goleta Slough Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment (Rachel Couch, Rachel.Couch@scc.ca.gov)
- Matilija Dam Removal Project (Sam Jenniches, Sam.Jenniches@scc.ca.gov)
- Eel River Delta Restoration Project (Michael Bowen, Michael.Bowen@scc.ca.gov)

Key Lessons:

- Good communication, especially listening, can transform perspectives once regarded as disagreements into problems to be solved rather than battles to be won.
- There is value in the collaborative process; it forces the group to face complex issues and use creative problem-solving, teamwork, and patience and often leads to a better outcome.
- Keep the ecosystem-wide view in mind, stay flexible, don't give up.
- Every effort is a marathon, not a 50-yard dash, and staying positive and constructive and maintaining clear communication while keeping your eye on the prize is essential to success.

A poll of our attendees revealed that the majority found **procedural** obstacles the most challenging, followed by financial and then social obstacles.

What is the most challenging type of obstacle you have faced in your work?



The recording of the webinar can be found [here](#). Future questions regarding the webinar and Coastal Conservancy projects can be directed to elizabeth.gagneron@scc.ca.gov.