

Diablo Lands Conservation Planning Project Work Group Kick-Off Meeting



Work Group Index

Work Group Facilitators

**Tim Duff, California State
Coastal Conservancy (SCC)**

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**Carolyn Berg,
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**Andrea Chung,
Koble Collaborative**

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Work Group Members



Andrea Chmelik

Andrea Chmelik is the District Director for California State Assemblymember Dawn Addis, representing parts of SLO, Monterey and Santa Cruz counties. She brings a diverse background in community engagement, communications, public relations, human resources and non-profit leadership. Andrea previously served as Chair of the SLO County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, was on the advisory board for the Central Coast Writers Conference, and co-founded Women's March SLO. Originally from Slovakia, she holds a Master's in Biotechnology from Comenius University. After living in New York, Colorado, and Utah, she made her home on California's beautiful Central Coast with her husband, two kids, and three cats.

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Robert Hill

Bob Hill grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and moved to SLO to attend Cal Poly, where he earned a Master of City and Regional Planning degree. His graduate project entailed the preparation of a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) model to inform land conservation planning and priority setting for the SLO Greenbelt. Bob has worked on numerous conservation planning projects and land conservation projects through his professional work with the Land Conservancy of SLO County (2001-2012) and with the City of SLO (2012-current). Now a 25-year resident of SLO, Bob lives with his wife, three boys, and two dogs. For fun he enjoys hiking, cycling, skiing, travel, music, and food.

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Celeste Royer

Celeste Royer is a veteran administrator with 40 years of experience in environmental and outdoor education. As Director of Environmental and Outdoor Education at the SLO County Office of Education (SLOCOE), she directed Rancho El Chorro Outdoor School's programs. As statewide Director of the California Regional Environmental Education Community Network (CREEC), she built regional and statewide partnerships to support environmental education programs and initiatives and also provided 30 years of leadership and support to the California Outdoor School Association. After retiring, she joined Ten Strands as the Director of Equity and Inclusion and works to advance environmental literacy in CA schools. She previously served on the UC Berkeley's BEETLES Project Advisory Committee, served as Board President of Justice Outside, a national organization advancing racial justice and equity in the outdoor and environmental movement, and was President of the Central Coast State Parks Association. She currently serves on the board of the Land Conservancy of SLO County and is the Chapter Coordinator for Latino Outdoors Central Coast. Celeste holds degrees from UCLA, SFSU, and Cal Poly SLO.

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David Garth

Dave Garth has spent his entire career developing and refining best-practice communication techniques that motivate others and grow organizations. For 39 years, Dave was the President/CEO of the SLO Chamber of Commerce. Concurrent to working at the Chamber, Dave consulted with dozens of companies and associations, including more than 20 Fortune 500 corporations, on effective communications, especially during crises. He also became a nationally published wildlife and landscape photographer specializing in documenting endangered animals, cultures, and landscapes. Before his Chamber career, Dave was a television newsman, reporter and anchorman. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and Communications studies from Cal State, Northridge, and is a graduate of the Institute for Organization Management at Stanford University.

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Dawn Ortiz-Legg

Drawing on a rich background in both international business and clean energy development, Dawn Ortiz-Legg brings a blend of diverse perspectives and pragmatic experience to the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors. After earning degrees from Pepperdine and Johns Hopkins, she built a successful career in international business for two decades. This was followed by a decade spent on the forefront of clean energy development and as a right-of-way agent for a utility. In 2020, Ortiz-Legg's commitment to public service led to her appointment to the Board of Supervisors by Governor Newsom. She made history by becoming the first Latina/Indigenous person elected to the Board, and is now serving her second term. As County Supervisor, she champions economic stability for working families, affordable housing, and accessible health care. She proudly represents Diablo Canyon, the largest clean energy generation facility in California. Ortiz-Legg currently holds the position of 2025 Chair of the Board and serves on numerous boards and committees, both locally and at the state level, including the California Air Resources Board and the Latino Caucus of California Counties.

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Frazier Haney

Frazier Haney leads The Wildlands Conservancy's mission to protect the natural beauty of the American West and ensure free public access for all. A native of Joshua Tree, Frazier grew up exploring the outdoors, inspiring a lifelong commitment to conservation. He holds degrees from UC Santa Cruz and the University of Redlands. Starting as a ranger, he helped establish Whitewater Preserve, and later as Conservation Director at the Mojave Desert Land Trust, he helped secure the designations of several national monuments. Frazier also served as the environmental representative on the Bureau of Land Management's Desert Advisory Council (DAC) and is currently a volunteer board member with the California Desert Coalition. He lives in Southern California with his wife, Jamie—a Pacific Crest Trail through-hiker—and their two children, Lily and Owen.

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Jennifer Ford

Jennifer serves as the Senior Field Representative for the Office of Assemblymember Dawn Addis, working out of the SLO District office, where she focuses on connecting state resources with the needs of Central Coast communities. Previously, she served as a Morro Bay City Councilmember and Planning Commissioner. After spending summers on the Central Coast throughout her life, she's proudly called it home for the last 15 years.

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Kaila Dettman

Kaila was born and raised in Ben Lomond, California, a small town nestled in the Santa Cruz Mountains. She attended Cal Poly, earning both a bachelor's degree in Animal Science with a concentration in Livestock Production and Rangeland Resources, and a master's degree in Watershed Hydrology and Soil Conservation. Kaila joined The Land Conservancy of SLO County in 2005 to manage the Restoration Program and in November 2012 took the helm of the organization as Executive Director. Under her leadership, The Land Conservancy created the beloved Pismo Preserve and Octagon Barn Center, and protected an additional 54,000 acres of wildlands, farms, and ranches on the central coast. The Land Conservancy has also connected countless people to nature through education programs, volunteer activities, and outdoor experiences. Kaila lives with her husband and two sons in SLO and serves on the California Council of Land Trust's Board and the Land Trust Alliance Leadership Council. Kaila is passionate about conserving our natural and working lands for the benefit of all.

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Kara Woodruff, JD/MA

Kara Woodruff is a 30+ year resident of SLO. She is a business graduate from Cal Poly SLO and received a joint JD/MA degree from Duke. As a project director for national non-profits, Kara negotiated and raised funds to conserve over 100,000 acres in SLO County. She is a member of the Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel and an author of the panel's Strategic Vision. Kara currently serves as the Vice Chair for the El Camino Homeless Organization Board of Directors and previously served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for a minor in the foster care system. Formerly a financial planning principal and representative, Kara now serves as the District Director for Senator John Laird (SD 17). She is a proud mother of two graduates of SLO High School and co-founder of Friends of the Diablo Canyon Lands.

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Keith Miller

A SLO County resident for nearly 30 years, Keith brings extensive experience in environmental planning and resource management, with a focus on infrastructure and habitat restoration across the Central Coast. Keith has worked in the private, public, and non-profit sectors, specializing in projects that involve diverse perspectives. He possesses a deep understanding of local environmental resources and the regulatory landscape. He is currently the Stewardship Manager at The Nature Conservancy's Jack and Laura Dangermond Preserve.

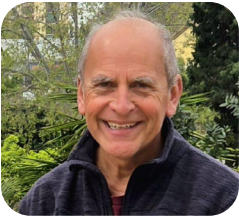
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Matt Ritter, PhD

A native of Northern California, Dr. Matt Ritter is a professor in the Biology Department at Cal Poly, where he studies California's native plants, conservation, and trees in the urban forest. He's the author of seven books of fiction and non-fiction, and many scientific articles. Matt was a commissioner for the City of SLO for eight years and collaborated on numerous projects with the ytt. He is Director of Strategic Initiatives for the Cal Poly President's Office and Director of the Cal Poly Plant Conservatory. Matt is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara and UC San Diego.

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Nick Franco

Nick Franco is a Cal Poly graduate with 40 years of experience operating and managing parks throughout California. He had a 32-year career with California State Parks throughout coastal California where he served as a ranger in the Santa Monica Mountains, Oceano Dunes, and Big Basin Redwoods and managed preservation of historic adobes in San Juan Bautista. Nick was the Superintendent of Angel Island and spent 12 years as the Superintendent of several State Parks in SLO County. He finished his career as the Director of SLO County Parks for 8 years, managing over 14,000 acres of parks, many trail corridors, and three golf courses before retiring in 2023.

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Pam Reading

Pam Reading is a Principal Environmental Planner with LSA Associates, Inc., providing environmental and land-use planning services along California's Central Coast for over 20 years. She has been directly involved in designing and implementing numerous projects on the Diablo Canyon Lands. Before joining LSA, Pam was the Program Director for the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance where she spent over a decade formulating and implementing community-based conservation projects. She started her career on the east coast working for several non-profit environmental organizations and later worked as a Research Associate at the Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative. Pam has designed and taught classes at Cal Poly SLO and guest lectured for environmental planning classes offered by the Natural Resources Management Department. Pam has undergraduate and graduate degrees in environmental science.

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Tim McNulty

A resident of SLO for 34 years, Tim McNulty is a land use and environmental lawyer who has advised and represented a handful of Central Coast government entities. He advised the Planning and Public Works Departments, sat with the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, and defended the County in land use cases at the trial and appellate levels. He directed the legal approach to virtually all land use and environmental matters at the County for about ten years. Tim retired from SLO County following many years of service as the Assistant County Counsel. These days, barring the occasional side hustle, he is most often found outdoors or on the road with his wife Angela. Tim is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara and UC Davis.

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