***Race to Restore Nature: Cutting the Green Tape for California’s Environment***

December 4, 2024, 12-1pm

**Panelist Links and Bios**

Secretary Speaker Series: <https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Secretary-Speaker-Series>

**Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency**

<https://resources.ca.gov/>

<https://resources.ca.gov/About-Us/Who-We-Are/Secretary-for-Natural-Resources>

**Panelists:**

- Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director of San Mateo Resource Conservation District, CLSN Steering Committee

- Meghan Hertel, Deputy Secretary for Biodiversity and Habitat, California Natural Resources Agency

- Charlton “Chuck” Bonham, Director of California Department of Fish & Wildlife

- Phil Crader, Deputy Director of Division of Water Quality, State Water Resources Control Board

- Don Hankins, Co-Lead, Indigenous Stewardship Network

- April Zohn, Manager Environmental Compliance, Ducks Unlimited

- Erika Lovejoy, Senior Program Director, Sustainable Conservation

CalMatters By Ashley Boren: **How ‘Cutting Green Tape’ can make California more resilient**

<https://calmatters.org/environment/2021/03/how-cutting-green-tape-can-make-california-more-resilient/>

Cutting Green Tape: <https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Cutting-Green-Tape>

Cutting Green Tape is focused on improving interagency coordination, partnerships and agency processes and policies to allow ecological restoration and stewardship to occur more quickly, simply, and cost-effectively. Numerous state and federal agencies and non-government partners have been working to break down barriers within the permitting and regulatory fields to increase the pace and scale of restoration work across the state. CNRA has made a number of additional advances to the Cutting Green Tape initiative by prioritizing efficient funding processes and engaging stakeholders in creating streamlined and strategic investments that achieve the State’s restoration and biodiversity goals.

Transforming Environmental Restoration:

<https://resources.ca.gov/-/media/CNRA-Website/Files/Initiatives/Green-Tape/update-20220317/CNRA-Report--Transforming-Environmental-Restoration--Progress-on-the-Cutting-Green-Tape-Initiative.pdf>

**Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director, San Mateo RCD / Steering Committee, CLSN**

[**Home | California Landscape Stewardship Network**](https://calandscapestewardshipnetwork.org/)

[**San Mateo RCD | Helping People Help the Land.**](https://www.sanmateorcd.org/)

**Kellyx Nelson** is passionate about public service and building strong alliances to tackle thorny challenges. She has spent over 30 years in non-profits, government, and the private sector developing, implementing, and assessing programs and partnerships for environmental benefit and other public good. She has served as the Executive Director of the Resource Conservation District since 2006 and was a founding member of the California Landscape Stewardship Network.  She led the Network’s *Cutting Green Tape* efforts and was the lead author of [*Cutting Green Tape: Regulatory Efficiencies for A Resilient Environment*](https://calandscapestewardshipnetwork.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/CGT_FINAL_hires.pdf).

Regulatory Efficiencies for a Resilient Environment: <https://calandscapestewardshipnetwork.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/CGT_FINAL_hires.pdf>

Find more reports and resources on CGT at the CLSN website: <https://calandscapestewardshipnetwork.org/cutting-green-tape>

**Meghan Hertel, Deputy Secretary for Biodiversity and Habitat, California Natural Resources Agency**

[Deputy Secretary for Biodiversity and Habitat](https://water.ca.gov/CNRAHome/About-Us/Who-We-Are/Deputy-Secretary-for-Biodiversity-and-Habitat)

Starting in January there are upcoming CGT technical webinars. Learn more here ...

[https://parksconservancy.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/clsn/ES3r\_VOKe35EjEkN9lSq\_\_sBCX9BgDY8L\_RXh12gsCWJMw?rtime=bl-tF6YU3Ug](https://parksconservancy.sharepoint.com/%3Aw%3A/s/clsn/ES3r_VOKe35EjEkN9lSq__sBCX9BgDY8L_RXh12gsCWJMw?rtime=bl-tF6YU3Ug)

**Chuck Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

**Chuck Bonham:** [**https://wildlife.ca.gov/Director**](https://wildlife.ca.gov/Director)

Bio: Charlton “Chuck” Bonham was appointed as Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, effective September 6, 2011. Prior to his appointment as Director of Fish and Wildlife, Mr. Bonham served in a number of roles for Trout Unlimited over ten years, including since 2004 as the organization’s California director.

**What is Cutting Green Tape:** CDFW’s Cutting the Green Tape program is a statewide effort, representing environmental permitting and grant funding programs with added support from general counsel and executive leadership. This program is leading efforts to develop and implement improvements to how CDFW issues permits and administers its grant programs, to accelerate the pace and scale of restoration throughout the state.

**Cutting Green Tape Projects (MAP):**

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Cutting-Green-Tape/Projects>

**Cutting Green Tape Summer 2024 Update:** <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/bulletins/3b06eb6>

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Cutting-Green-Tape>

**Phil Crader, State Water Resources Control Board**

[**waterboards.ca.gov**](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/)

Bio: Phil Crader is the Deputy Director for the State Water Board’s Division of Water Quality and is responsible for statewide water quality planning, policy development and implementation, statewide permitting, and establishing consistency among the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards. Phil served as the Assistant Deputy Director of the Division of Water Quality’s Surface Water Branch for 10 years. Prior to that, he managed the permitting and licensing section in the Division of Water Rights. Phil also spent his early Water Board career managing water quality monitoring in the San Joaquin Valley at the Central Valley Regional Water Board. Phil brings a wealth of experience in managing water quality and water rights programs working with a wide range of stakeholders, CalEPA and the board members.

**California Water Quality Monitoring Council Members**

[**https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring\_council/members/**](https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/members/)

**Water Issues:** [**https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\_issues/programs/bay\_delta/deltaflow/docs/comments072910/index.shtml**](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/deltaflow/docs/comments072910/index.shtml)

**Ducks Unlimited Conservation**

[**https://www.ducks.org/conservation**](https://www.ducks.org/conservation)

**April Zohn, April Zohn, Manager Environmental Compliance, Ducks Unlimited**

**Bio:** April Zohn is the Manager of the Environmental Compliance Team for Ducks Unlimited (DU) Western Region, which provides permitting support to DU-affiliated restoration projects in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, and Nevada. She has over 24 years of experience in the private and non-profit sectors managing multi-disciplinary teams and developing permit strategies for compliance with wetland, endangered species, and coastal zone protection laws, and is a passionate advocate for national and state-wide policies that make permitting voluntary, net beneficial restoration projects efficient, transparent, and predictable. In her free time, April loves to garden, cook, and spend time outside with her husband and two rescue dogs, preferably deep in the woods or at the beach.

**More on the importance of Wetlands:** <https://www.ducks.org/conservation/wetlands>

**Ducks Unlimited Mitigation Programs: San Francisco Bay In Lieu Fee Program:** <https://www.ducks.org/conservation/land-protection/san-francisco-in-lieu-fee-program>

**Don Hankins, Indigenous Stewardship Network/CSU Chico**

**Indigenous Stewardship Network** <https://www.indigenousstewardship.org>

Professor of Geography and Planning at California State University, Chico**:** <https://www.csuchico.edu/geop/department/dhankins.shtml>

**Executive Committee Member of the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force** - <https://wildfiretaskforce.org/>

Don Hankins is a Professor of Geography and Planning at California State University, Chico. He has a B.S. in Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology and a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of California, Davis. His interests and expertise is in the following areas: pyrogeography, ecohydrology, landscape ecology, intervention ecology, conservation, environmental policy and Indigenous stewardship. This expertise is applied to his courses in pyrogeography, water resources policy and planning, and nature and restoration. Don has been involved in various aspects of environmental planning, stewardship, conservation, and regulation for a variety of organizations and agencies including federal and tribal governments. Drawing from his academic and cultural knowledge he is particularly interested in Indigenous traditional knowledge and policy and their application as a keystone process to aid in conservation and stewardship.

**Realignment of federal environmental policies to recognize fire’s role:**

<https://fireecology.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s42408-024-00301-y>

**Erika Lovejoy, Sustainable Conservation**

**Erika Lovejoy** is with Sustainable Conservation, a statewide nonprofit. She is the Director of Sustainable Conservation's Accelerating Restoration Program. Her team has been involved in helping agencies and project implementors develop efficient restoration permitting tools, like programmatic permits, and they have a lot of great resources to share with you.

Accelerating Restoration Website: <https://acceleratingrestoration.org/>

Sustainable Conservation website: [www.Suscon.org](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.suscon.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7CGita.Chandra%40resources.ca.gov%7Ca734b199758845da62f108dd13c4f7de%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638688458904779087%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Kyr%2BMH%2BizxpwSNaNHfYbPj0libjZe825FGjmJuTBm5U%3D&reserved=0)

Sustainable Conservation’s dedicated restoration permitting technical assistance website: [acceleratingrestoration.org](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Facceleratingrestoration.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7CGita.Chandra%40resources.ca.gov%7Ca734b199758845da62f108dd13c4f7de%7Cb71d56524b834257afcd7fd177884564%7C0%7C0%7C638688458904799315%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HP4sKi%2B7wKInLHfhHITDieT3oX%2FSpMvhuSyHH4EtQSE%3D&reserved=0)

Sustainable Conservation white paper on the status of restoration permitting and recommended future actions: [Accelerating-Restoration-in-the-Sacramento-Valley.pdf](https://suscon.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Accelerating-Restoration-in-the-Sacramento-Valley.pdf)

Link to Secretary Crowfoot and Ashley Boren op-ed on 30x30 and habitat restoration: <https://suscon.org/blog/2024/11/ashley-wade-30x30-sac-bee/>