

WaterTalks For Agencies and Electeds



Workshop 2: Community-Engaged Planning

Upper Santa Clara River Watershed Area

Thursday, Jan. 19th | 10AM – 12PM | On Zoom!

Expert Speaker Bios:

Shawn Kelly

Executive Director, Santa Clara River Conservancy

After graduating with a B.S. in Ocean Engineering from Texas A&M University, Shawn worked as a Coastal Engineer for the Gold Coast City Council in Queensland, Australia for a short time. He subsequently moved to Ventura County and began a career as an Ocean Engineer for the Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center's Ocean Engineering Department. After 10 years working as an engineer, he returned to graduate school and obtained a Masters in Environmental Science and Management from the Bren School at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Following graduate school, he worked for a state initiative called the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) in a number of capacities until taking a position with the Santa Clara River Conservancy. Shawn has a broad range of professional interests and experiences, and as a 30-year resident of Ventura County, Shawn is excited to be working in the critically vital and compelling Santa Clara River Watershed. Shawn is a passionate environmentalist and outdoor enthusiast, being a former competitive surfer as well as an avid mountain biker and snowboarder. He is the father of two boys.

Sam Jenniches

Project Specialist, California State Coastal Conservancy

Sam is a Project Specialist in the Conservancy's South Coast region. He has more than a decade of experience managing a range of complex projects, primarily in the Ventura and Tijuana River Watersheds. Sam currently leads the Conservancy's work to remove Matilija Dam and to restore ecological function and improve public access amenities in the Tijuana River Valley and Estuary. He holds a master's degree in landscape architecture from Cal Poly Pomona, where he worked to develop a vision plan for public access on the Santa Clara River. He likes to stay "out of the weeds" and tries to surround himself with people who know the things he doesn't. When not working, Sam is a music enthusiast, an avid cyclist, and a mediocre angler.

Amanda Begley

Watershed Coordinator, TreePeople

Amanda Begley is a watershed coordinator, sustainability educator and landscape transformation advocate for TreePeople. Amanda has taught elementary through graduate students, residential homeowners, and interested citizens alike. Currently, she works as TreePeople's Campus Watershed Project Manager providing water education and supporting water-wise landscape transformations on school campuses around Los Angeles County. Previously, Ms. Begley worked at the Plastic Pollution Coalition raising awareness of the ever-increasing problem of plastics in the ocean. Amanda certified in Permaculture Design in 2011, at the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center. She received her Master of Arts degree in Urban Sustainability and her Bachelor of Arts in Urban Community Environment at Antioch University Los Angeles. Amanda also holds an ARCSA (American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association) certification as an Accredited Professional. When Amanda is not working to restore the watershed, she is exploring the watershed- roaming the mountains and hills of Southern California trying to identify as many native plants as possible.

Peter Massey

Watershed Coordinator, TreePeople

Peter Massey is TreePeople's Contracts Compliance Manager. Peter has more than 15 years of experience in grant and contract design and management, with a total value exceeding \$30 million. Unique projects include funding for TreePeople Center and Urban Watershed Garden, LA County's application to the state for \$9.3m for water projects in low-income neighborhoods, and a landmark study of five Australian cities' response to their 10-year Millennium Drought. His previous experience includes serving as an executive for two arts organizations.