

WaterTalks For Agencies and Electeds



Workshop 3: Tour of Santa Clara River Projects

Wednesday, March 15th | 9:30AM – 3PM | In-Person

Site 1 – Tour Leader Bios:



Heather Merenda

Board Member, Santa Clara Conservancy

Heather Lea Merenda has worked in the environmental field since 1992, in both the public and private sector. Currently, she works for the City of Santa Clarita Environmental Services Division in environmental compliance, grants, capital project management of environmental projects, watershed restoration/invasive weed management, and green building. Recent projects include development, funding and construction of a large scale regional stormwater infiltration site for the Upper Santa Clara River EWMP, managing the WaterTalks program for needs assessments of disadvantaged and underserved communities, invasive plant removal from the Santa Clara River, construction and operation of public electric vehicle charging stations, and achieving Platinum energy efficiency level for her City through the Local Government Partnership energy efficiency program. She is a LEED Professional, Qualified SWPPP Developer and a CPSWQ. She has a MPA degree from CSU Northridge and a Bachelor's degree in Geography/Environmental Science from CSU Long Beach. She is a member of the CASQA Water Policy Task Force, Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Program Task Force Co – Chair, and Measure W Watershed Area Steering Committee member.



Sandra Cattell, M.A., M. Ed.

Retired Teacher, Sierra Club

Experience:

Sierra Club

- Santa Clarita Group Chair
- Angeles Chapter Water Committee
- Calif. State Wilderness Committee
- National Wildlands and Wilderness Team
- National Western Waters Subteam/Water Sentinels

Vice Chair, WASC, Santa Clara River Watershed

Chiquita Canyon Landfill CAC

City of Santa Clarita Open Space Accountability and Audit Panel

Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docent-Naturalist

Sandra lives in Newhall with her cat and two horses. She loves to hike, cook, and engage others in the wonders of nature and the necessity to protect our environment.

Site 2 – Tour Leader Bios:



Shawn Kelly
Director, Santa Clara 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.



Evan Hobson
Staff Research Associate II, UC Santa Barbara

Learn about Evan Hobson on LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/evanhobson/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/evanhobson/)

Additional Guest Leaders:



Lynn Rodriguez

Lynn Rodriguez has been a water resource professional since 1981. Since 2005 she has managed the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program. Her focus is on collaboration and stakeholder engagement, IRWM planning, program development and implementation. Other programs she's managed include regional water use efficiency, drought response, long-range water planning and water policy development. She currently co-chairs the statewide IRWM Roundtable of Regions and the LA-Ventura Area Disadvantaged Community Involvement Task Force (WaterTalks).