

May 11, 2009

The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project welcomes Laura Valoppi as its new Lead Scientist. In her position, Laura is responsible for coordinating the Project's science and adaptive management program, and administering the federal and state grants process for science funding.

Laura's position is being jointly funded by the US Geological Survey, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Coastal Conservancy, and her position is housed within the USGS Western Ecological Research Center in Sacramento.

Laura has a diverse background that includes experience related to the bay, biological resources, water quality and grants management that I believe prepares her very well for the challenges she will face as lead scientist. She has worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the last 12 years as a lead biologist for various environmental contaminant and oil spill cases, as well as working on regional conservation plans to protect threatened and endangered species. Her work as lead biologist included field work in oil spill response and environmental contaminant studies, as well as development and review of ecological risk assessments. Laura was lead biologist for the Service during the Montrose Natural Resource Damage Assessment trial, and subsequent to a favorable settlement, was lead for the Service in a multi-agency effort to restore bald eagles to the northern Channel Islands and Catalina Island. She was also lead biologist, and latter supervisor, for a program to conserve ESA-listed species through working with local governments to develop large-scale regional habitat conservation plans throughout northern California. The last four years with the Service she has been a manager of a grant program to the States, which distributes approximately \$86 million to California and Nevada, to support a variety of management, restoration and research activities to benefit a wide variety of game, non-game, and ESA-listed species.

Prior to her work with the Service, she worked for about 10 years for the State of California, primarily as a toxicologist for a variety of human and ecological risk assessments. She has experience in teaching risk assessment and risk communication, presenting papers for scientific meetings, and writing risk assessment guidance and other

technical publications. She has served as President and Vice President of the Northern California Chapter of the Society of Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology. Her B.S. degree in Natural Resources is from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and her M.S. degree is in Water Science from the University of California at Davis.

Laura's office is on the Cal State University Sacramento campus in Placer Hall in the offices of the California Water Science Center