

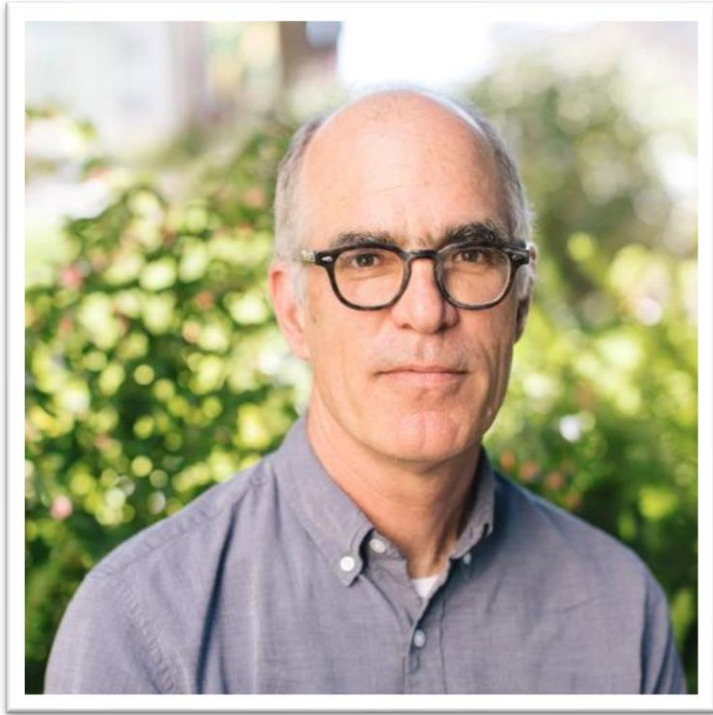
Delta Independent Science Board: Recommendation of the Delta Lead Scientist

*Dr. Elizabeth Canuel
Delta Independent Science Board*

April 30, 2020



Thank You: Dr. John Callaway



- Leadership and stewardship of the Delta Science Program
- Partnerships with stakeholders
- Liaison between the Council, the Delta Science Program, and the Delta ISB

Delta Lead Scientist Position

The Delta Lead Scientist is responsible for providing unbiased science expertise to the Council, the Delta Science Program, and the Delta science community, by upholding the highest possible standards of scientific integrity and credibility, and for providing scientific leadership to achieve the vision of “One Delta, One Science” set forth in the Delta Science Plan.

Mission of the Delta Science Program

- Provide best possible unbiased scientific information to inform water and environmental decision making in the Delta.
- Funding research, synthesizing and communicating scientific information to policymakers and decision makers, promoting independent scientific peer review, and coordinating with Delta agencies to promote science-based adaptive management.
- The Delta Science Program shall assist with development and periodic updates of the Delta Plan's adaptive management program.

CA Water Code Section 85280(b)(4)

Applicants & Interview Process

- Six applicants – four were identified as well-qualified
 - Reference Checks
 - Interviews
- Interview panel:
 - 3 Delta ISB – Elizabeth Canuel, Steve Brandt, Tracy Collier
 - 3 Delta Stewardship Council – Susan Tatayon, Randy Fiorini, Jessica Pearson
 - 1 USGS – Mike Chotkowski
- Interview – Brown bag seminar, discussions with Delta stakeholders, DSP staff, and meetings/discussions with Interview Panel
- 3 in-person; 1 remote (due to COVID-19)

The Nominee

Interview Panel recommended to Delta ISB:

Dr. Laurel Larsen, Associate Professor, UC Berkeley



- Dept. of Geography and Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Ph.D. 2008. University of Colorado
- M.A. 2003. Washington U. in St. Louis
- **Expertise:** hydroecology, landscape dynamics, complex environmental systems, environmental restoration

Dr. Laurel Larsen

- **Honors and Recognitions**

- Fellow, Geological Society of America, 2019
- Fulbright Scholar (Finland), 2019
- Donath Medal (Young Scientist Award), Geological Society of America, 2018
- NSF CAREER Award, 2015

- **48 refereed journal publications (+3 in review)**

- **Restoration science** – FL Everglades, Chesapeake Bay, Gulf Coast

- **California** - worked with fish ecologists and local watershed councils to assess conservation measures addressing surface water-groundwater interactions in intermittent streams and implications for recruitment and over-summer survival of salmonids.

Delta ISB Recommendation



Dr. Laurel Larsen

Associate Professor, UC Berkeley

Dept. of Geography and Civil and Environmental Engineering