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Bay Area Ecosystems Climate Change Consortium

Executive Coordinator Selected!

The Bay Area Ecosystems Climate Change Consortium (BAECCC) Steering Committee is pleased to announce the selection of Andrew Gunther, Ph.D., as BAECCC's first Executive Coordinator. Dr. Gunther will coordinate a regional, multi-agency approach to addressing and adapting to climate change impacts on nature, from the Gulf of the Farallones to the SF Bay Estuary and uplands.

BAECCC brings together resource managers, scientists, and policy makers to develop and apply science-based strategies for ecosystem adaptation to accelerating climate change. BAECCC's goals are to secure nature's ecological and economic benefits to society by reducing the negative impacts of climate change on the region's wildlife, habitats and ecosystem services (such as providing clean water, promoting healthy fisheries, reducing flood damage, slowing sea level rise impacts, filtering out pollution, storing carbon, replenishing ground water and more).

BAECCC Steering Committee members include representatives of the California Coastal Conservancy, NOAA's Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, PRBO Conservation Science, US Fish and Wildlife Service's San Francisco Bay Refuge Complex, and US Geological Survey's Western Ecological Research Center.

As Nadine Hitchcock, Deputy Executive Office of the California Coastal Conservancy, and BAECCC Steering Committee member, remarked, "We are delighted to have Andy Gunther join BAECCC in this role. He brings a deep passion for addressing climate change along with decades of experience in applied science, unifying diverse partners, and achieving significant, cross-agency outcomes."

As the Executive Coordinator, Dr. Gunther will work with the Steering Committee to achieve multiple goals toward BAECCC's long term vision: that the San Francisco region's ecological systems have an enhanced ability to respond to rapid climate change, thereby sustaining nature's benefits upon which our regional communities rely. Dr. Gunther's priorities will include supporting several BAECCC projects and pilots

including to:

1. Complete a technical update of the San Francisco Baylands Goals to address climate change impacts on estuarine habitats and guide investments. (Lead partner: CA Coastal Conservancy)
2. Project future sea-level rise and storm impacts on the Bay Area outer coast and assist managers in preparing adaptation plans (Lead partners: NOAA Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, US Geological Survey and PRBO Conservation Science);
3. Project sea-level rise impacts on SF Bay wetlands and prioritize conservation and restoration actions (Lead partner: PRBO Conservation Science);
4. Monitor changes in ocean ecosystems and inform ocean management (Lead partner: ACCESS)
5. Complete the Ocean Adaptation Plan for the Greater Gulf of the Farallones (NOAA Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary);
6. Incorporate climate change impacts on upland habitats into Upland Habitat Goals Project and proposed Conservation Lands Network (Lead partner: Bay Area Open Space Council).

Dr. Gunther has extensive experience in organizing, facilitating and managing multi-jurisdictional technical programs that require close cooperation between scientists and managers, many with a San Francisco Bay regional focus. These include serving as the first manager for the [Regional Monitoring Program](#), Program Coordinator for the Clean Estuary Partnership, technical facilitator for the [Alameda Creek Fisheries Restoration Working Group](#), and Assistant Chief Scientist for the [Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration Program](#). He founded the non-profit [Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration](#), which focuses on application of science to public policy.

Dr. Gunther has followed developments in climate science for many years, and has given over 50 presentations on climate change in the Bay Area since 2007. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the [Union of Concerned Scientists](#), and a scientific advisor to the [Alliance for Climate Education](#) and [The Regeneration Project](#).

For further information, see www.BAECCC.org or contact Matt Gerhart, Deputy Bay Area Program Manager, California Coastal Conservancy, 510-286-0317 or mgerhart@scc.ca.gov .