

SPEAKERS

Shelkie Tao

Shelkie is the owner and landscape designer of Water Efficient Gardens. After working in high tech for 10 years, she transitioned to landscape design. Her gardens are distinct for their native and pollinator-friendly plants, vibrant colors, and expertly crafted rain gardens.

Richard Santos

Vice Chair Santos is a native of Alviso, California and represents District 3. One could sum up his life and career through his service to both country and community. He served our country in Korea and served his community with the San Jose Fire Department and Valley Water. He was recently elected Vice Chair for 2025 for the Valley Water Board of Directors and has been the Board's liaison to the Landscape Committee since 2001.

Kirsten Struve

Kirsten Struve has over 30 years' experience leading water resource management programs. As Assistant Officer for the Water Supply Division, she leads water conservation, purified and recycled water program, drought response, and water supply planning. Prior to joining Valley Water, she worked for the Cities of Palo Alto and San Jose on wastewater, stormwater, climate change, wetland restoration, and watershed management programs.

Ashley Shannon

Ashley Shannon joined Water Supply Planning and Conservation Unit over ten years ago and works with the team to provide water conservation rebates, programs, and education to Santa Clara County residents and businesses. She runs Valley Water's Landscape Rebate Program and Agricultural Mobile Irrigation Lab, as well as other programs. She is also an avid gardener and former landscape designer who enjoys sharing her knowledge with others.

Stephanie Morris

Stephanie Morris has been designing California native plant gardens since 1999. Her designs are creative, beautiful landscapes that are ecologically oriented and practical. Areas of focus include pollinator gardens and converting lawns to drought tolerant plants.



Dr. Cynthia Daley
Center for
Regenerative
Agriculture

Dr. Cynthia Daley is a professor within the College of Agriculture at California State University, Chico and currently serves as the Rawlins Endowed Professor for Environmental Literacy, and the Director for the Center for Regenerative Agriculture & Resilient Systems. Cindy is originally from Illinois, where her family has been actively engaged in the farming profession for more than four generations. She completed her doctorate at University of California Davis. She was responsible for the co-creation and evolution of the Center for Regenerative Agriculture & Resilient Systems, a consortium of interdisciplinary faculty and farmers. Their guiding principle is that regenerative agriculture can be the solution to soil degradation and climate change.



Krista Guerrero
Metropolitan
Water District

Krista Guerrero has over 20 years of experience in the drinking water industry. She received a Bachelor's degree from Cornell University and a Master's from the University of Florida. She has experience in source water protection, stormwater management, water efficiency, and water resource management. She specializes in outdoor conservation and water policy and currently manages several outdoor efficiency programs for the Metropolitan Water District while also assisting in the development of state and federal water regulations and legislation.



Story Wiggins
Terremoto, San
Francisco

Story Wiggins is a landscape architect with a background in historic preservation and land stewardship. Her intuitive approach to design aims always to honor the land, exercise restraint, and allow for evolution. Story received a masters in landscape architecture from UC Berkeley and a BA in Historic Preservation and French from the College of Charleston. Living and studying abroad, she was inspired by how cities are brought to life when public space is valued and tended. She joined Terremoto in 2016, where she leads projects of various scales and types. Story is also co-lead of Terremoto's 'Land and Labor' internal working group, which advocates for the building and gardening trades and tradespeople that make our projects possible.