



Speakers' Biographies:

Peter Drekmeier has worked for the Tuolumne River Trust since 2007, and currently serves as its Policy Director. He oversees advocacy programs aimed at protecting and restoring the Tuolumne through federal licensing of dams and state water quality and flow proceedings. He holds a political science degree from UC Berkeley, and upon graduation returned to his hometown of Palo Alto to work on the international Earth Day 1990 campaign. He later founded Bay Area Action, which has since become Acterra. Peter also is a whitewater rafting guide and a former Mayor of Palo Alto.

GGSA executive director **John McManus** is a long-time salmon fisherman and salmon advocate. He comes from a varied background that includes ten years of commercial salmon fishing in southeast Alaska, 15 years producing news for CNN and 11 years doing publicity and organizing for the public interest environmental law firm Earthjustice before coming to GGSA. Work at Earthjustice included organizing and publicity supporting restored salmon fisheries in the Columbia, Klamath and Sacramento River basins.

A San Francisco native, Muni Pier and Lake Merced were the places where he first learned to tie a fishing line, bait a hook, and cast. He keeps a boat part of the year in Half Moon Bay and part on the Marin, Sonoma and Mendocino coasts.

From the 1970s on he spent a lot of time in the north coast salmon communities of Bodega Bay, Pt. Arena, Fort Bragg and Eureka. As salmon runs declined in the 1990's, he got a front row seat to the demise of these fishing communities, something that fuels his advocacy for salmon and salmon communities to this day. The Golden Gate Salmon Association (www.goldengatesalmonassociation.com) is a coalition of salmon advocates that includes commercial and recreational salmon fisherman, businesses, restaurants, tribes, environmentalists, elected officials, families and communities that rely on salmon. GGSA's mission is to protect and restore California's largest salmon producing habitat comprised of the Central Valley river's that feed the Bay-Delta ecosystem and the communities that rely on salmon as a long-term, sustainable, commercial, recreational and cultural resource.

Currently, California's salmon industry is valued at \$1.4 billion in economic activity annually in a normal season and about half that much in economic activity and jobs again in Oregon. The industry employs tens of thousands of people from Santa Barbara to northern Oregon. This is a huge economic bloc made up of commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen (fresh and salt water), fish processors, marinas, coastal communities, equipment manufacturers, the hotel and food industry, tribes, and the salmon fishing industry at large.



Greg Reis is a scientist with The Bay Institute's Rivers and Delta Program. His work supports the program's efforts to protect and restore aquatic ecosystems from the Sierra to the sea. He manages hydrology data and models and develops graphics and text for comment letters and public communications. In addition to working 75% of his time with The Bay Institute, he continues to serve as Information and Restoration Specialist with the Mono Lake Committee, where he has coordinated watershed restoration and monitoring and conducted hydrology analyses since 1995. Reis holds a B.S. degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in Forestry and Natural Resources with a concentration in Environmental Management.

Dr. Gerald Meral represents NHI on California water issues and water quality related to transportation projects. He represented NHI on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan steering committee in 2010. From 2011 to 2013 Dr. Meral served as Deputy Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, in charge of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. Previously, he served as Executive Director of the Planning and Conservation League, a California statewide conservation group, from 1983-2003. He developed a variety of statewide conservation and health measures which produced more than \$20 billion in new statewide programs, and directed the League's program of conservation legislation. Prior to that, Dr. Meral served as Deputy Director of the California Department of Water Resources from 1975-1983, where he directed the statewide water planning and energy programs. He also served as Director of Western Water Programs for the Environmental Defense Fund from 1971 to 1975. He holds a Ph.D. in Zoology from UC Berkeley.