

Robin Grossinger

Program Director and Senior Scientist

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Robin Grossinger is a Senior Scientist at the San Francisco Estuary Institute, where he co-directs SFEI's Resilient Landscapes program. For over twenty years, Robin has analyzed how our landscapes have changed since European contact, using these data to guide innovative ecological restoration strategies. Robin and his team lead efforts throughout the state to reintegrate natural processes within our highly modified landscapes, creating healthier and more resilient neighborhoods, cities, and surrounding landscapes. Major areas of focus include the development of nature-based shoreline adaptation strategies, advancing collaborative approaches to urban resilience, and facilitating the incorporation of nature and ecological science in urban design.

The innovative work of Robin and his colleagues has been acclaimed for helping scientists, managers, and the public appreciate both the dramatic transformation and the impressive resilience of our natural systems. Robin's many publications include the *Napa Valley Historical Ecology Atlas*, published by University of California Press, and his work has been featured by NPR, *Fast Company*, KQED's *QUEST*, the *Saving the Bay* documentary, and *The New York Times*. Among his popular science communication efforts, Robin served as guest co-curator for the award-winning multi-disciplinary exhibit on San Francisco Bay *Above and Below* at the Oakland Museum of California. He has been recognized with a Local Hero award from *Bay Nature* magazine and the Carla Bard Bay Education Award from The Bay Institute and Aquarium of the Bay.

Education

M.S. University of California at Santa Cruz	1995
Marine Sciences	
<i>Historical Evidence of Freshwater Effects on the Plan Form of Tidal Marshlands in the Golden Gate Estuary</i>	
Committee: Ken Bruland, Raymond Dasmann, Josh Collins	
B.A. University of California at Santa Cruz	1991
Biology	

Professional Preparation

San Francisco Estuary Institute	1993—present
Center for the Protection and Restoration of Waters	1991—92
University of California at Santa Cruz, Department of Marine Sciences	1991

Honors and Awards

Arnold Soforenko Award for Contributions to Urban Forestry—Canopy (for <i>Re-Oaking Silicon Valley</i>)	2018
Charles Redd Center for Western Studies Award for Exhibition Excellence—Western Museums Association (for <i>Above and Below</i> ; also Best Bay Area Museum Show (<i>Oakland Magazine</i>) and Award of Merit (Metropolitan Transportation Commission)	2014
Carla Bard Bay Education Award—The Bay Institute and Aquarium of the Bay	2014
Local Hero— <i>Bay Nature</i> Magazine	2012
Outstanding Implementation Awards—San Francisco Estuary Project	1999, 2003, 2007
Most Communicative Map—International ESRI GIS Conference	1997

Selected Technical Advisory

Reviewer: *Estuaries, Urban Habitats, Landscape Ecology*

Presidio Tunnel Tops

Prospect Island Restoration Plan

Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project Change Analysis Report

Selected Recent Presentations

International Oak Society Conference (Keynote Address). *Historical ecology of Northern California: learning from the past to prepare for the future.* October 2018

Ecological Society of America. *Designing Cities for Ecology: an urban biodiversity design framework and application in Silicon Valley.* August 2018

State Water Board Science Symposium. Urban Ecology: Designing the Climate-Resilient Cities of the Future. June 2018

Publications

Beller, E., E.N. Spotswood, A. Robinson, M. Anderson, E. Higgs, R. Hobbs, K.N. Suding, E. Zavaleta, L. Grenier, **R. Grossinger**. Building ecological resilience in highly modified landscapes. 2018. *BioScience*, [biy117](#)

Beller, E. , McClenachan, L. , Trant, A. , Sanderson, E. W., Rhemtulla, J. , Guerrini, A. , **Grossinger, R.** and Higgs, E. 2017, Toward principles of historical ecology. *American Journal of Botany*, 104: 645-648.

Beller E.E., Downs, P.W., **Grossinger, R.M.**, Orr, B.K., Salomon, M. 2016. From past patterns to future potential: using historical ecology to inform restoration on an intermittent California river. *Landscape Ecology*:31.

Cloern, JE, A Robinson, A Richey, L Grenier, **R Grossinger**, KE Boyer, J Burau, EA Canuel, JF DeGeorge, JZ Drexler, C Enright, ER Howe, R Kneib, A Mueller-Solger, RJ Naiman, JL Pinckney, D Schoellhamer, C Simenstad. 2016. Primary Production in the Delta, Then and Now. *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science* 14(3).

Cloern, JE, P Barnard, E Beller, J Callaway, JL Grenier, ED Grosholz, **R Grossinger**, K Hieb, JT Hollibaugh, N Knowles, M Sutula, S Veloz, K Wasson, A Whipple. 2016. Estuaries: Life on the Edge. pp 359-388 *In* H Mooney and E Zavaleta, editors. *Ecosystems of California*. University of California Press, Oakland, CA.

Wiens, J, L Grenier, **R Grossinger**, M Healey. 2016. The Delta as Changing Landscapes. *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science* 14(2).

Beagle, J, **Grossinger, R.M.** & Robinson, A. 2015. Historical ecology and landscape change in the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta. *HydroLink*. 2015(1)

Enright, C., Siegel, S., **Grossinger, R.M.** & Winternitz, L. 2015 Landscape scale restoration in the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta: Reconciling properties with projects for better ecological performance, less cost, and stakeholder acceptance. *HydroLink*. 2015(1)

- Gedan, K.B., Breitburg, D.L., **Grossinger, R.M.**, & Rick, T.C. 2014. Historical Information for Ecological Restoration in Estuaries and Coastal Ecosystems in J. N. Kittinger, L. McClenachan, K. B. Gedan, L. K. Blight (Eds) & Daniel Pauly (Foreword) *Marine historical ecology in conservation. Applying the past to manage for the future.* University of California Press
- Herbold, B., Baltz, D.M., Brown, L., **Grossinger, R.M.**, Kimmerer, W., Lehman, P. et al. 2014. The Role of Tidal Marsh Restoration in Fish Management in the San Francisco Estuary. *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*, 12(1).
- Grossinger, R.** 2012. *Napa Valley Historical Ecology Atlas: Exploring a Landscape of Transformation and Resilience.* Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Grossinger, R.M.** & Beller, E.E. 2011. Oak Landscapes in the Recent Past, in L. Costello, B. Hagan & K. Jones (Eds.) *Oaks in Urban Landscapes: Selection, Preservation, and Care*, UC ANR, Davis, CA.
- Whipple, A., **Grossinger, R.M.** and FW Davis. 2011. Shifting Baselines in a California Oak Savanna: Nineteenth Century Data to Inform Restoration Scenarios. *Restoration Ecology* 19: 88-101.
- Stein, E.D, S. Dark, T. Longcore, **R. Grossinger**, N. Hall, and M. Beland. 2010. Historical Ecology as a Tool for Assessing Landscape Change and Informing Wetland Restoration Priorities. *Wetlands* 30:589-601.
- Grossinger, R.M.**, CJ Striplen, RA Askevold, E Brewster, EE Beller, 2007. Historical landscape ecology of an urbanized California valley: wetlands and woodlands in the Santa Clara Valley. *Landscape Ecology* 22:103-120.
- Grossinger, R.** 2001. Documenting Local Landscape Change: The Bay Area Historical Ecology Project. In Egan, D. and E. Howell, Eds., *The Historical Ecology Handbook: A Restorationist's Guide to Reference Ecosystems.* Island Press, Washington, D.C.
- Grossinger, R.** 1995. Historical Evidence of Freshwater Effects on the Plan Form of Tidal Marshlands in the Golden Gate Estuary. Master's Thesis, University of California, Santa Cruz. 130 pp.

Selected Reports and Proceedings

- Spotswood, E.N., **Grossinger, R.M.**, Hagerty, S., Beller, E.E., Grenier, J.L., Askevold, R.A. 2017. Re-oaking Silicon Valley: Building Vibrant Cities with Nature. Pub. # 825. San Francisco Estuary Institute. Richmond, CA.
- San Francisco Estuary Institute-Aquatic Science Center. 2016. A Delta Renewed: A Guide to Science-Based Ecological Restoration in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Publication #799, San Francisco Estuary Institute, Richmond, CA.
- Robinson A, Beller E, **Grossinger R**, Grenier L. 2015. Vision for a resilient Silicon Valley landscape. Prepared for Google Ecology Program. Publication #753, San Francisco Estuary Institute, Richmond, CA.
- Beller E, A Robinson, **R Grossinger**, L Grenier. 2015. Landscape Resilience Framework: Operationalizing ecological resilience at the landscape scale. Prepared for Google Ecology Program. Publication #752, San Francisco Estuary Institute, Richmond, CA.
- San Francisco Estuary Institute-Aquatic Science Center. 2014. A Delta Transformed: Ecological Functions, Spatial Metrics, and Landscape Change in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Publication #729, San Francisco Estuary Institute-Aquatic Science Center, Richmond, CA.

Whipple AA, **Grossinger RM**, Rankin D, Stanford B, Askevold RA. 2012. Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Historical Ecology Investigation: Exploring Pattern and Process. Prepared for the California Department of Fish and Game and Ecosystem Restoration Program. Publication #672, San Francisco Estuary Institute- Aquatic Science Center, Richmond, CA.

Collins, J.N. and **R.M. Grossinger**, 2004. Synthesis of scientific knowledge concerning estuarine landscapes and related habitats of the South Bay Ecosystem. Technical Report of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. San Francisco Estuary Institute, Oakland, CA. 91 pp.

Goals Project 1999. (Contributing Author) Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals. A report of habitat recommendations prepared by the San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands Ecosystem Goals Project. USEPA, San Francisco, Calif./S.F. Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, Oakland, Calif. 295 pp.

Popular Press Articles and Exhibitions

Futures Past: Exploring California landscapes with the San Francisco Estuary Institute. 2014. *BOOM: The Journal of California*, 4(3), 4-27.

Above and Below: Stories from our Changing Bay (Guest Co-Curator), The Oakland Museum, 2013-2014

The Napa River Through Time. 2012. *Bay Nature* magazine.

Once and Future Bay: Lessons from History for Revitalizing the Bay. 2004. *Bay Nature* magazine.

BayBoards: Forgotten Landscapes Reappear on Commercial Billboards. 2004. Public art on billboards/bus shelters and Oakland, El Cerrito, and San Francisco, with exhibits at the Lawrence Hall of Science and SF Public Library. With the artists Elise Brewster and Susan Schwartzberg.