



November 17, Session 1, Panel 2:

12:30 pm: Local Examples of Implementing Policies & Securing Funding

Presentation title: Fitting Envision in to a State Agency's World

Presenter: Vanessa Velasco

Senior Environmental Scientists

California Department of Water Resources

Bio: Vanessa Velasco is a passionate Environmentalist working as a senior environmental scientist in the Climate Change Program at the California Department of Water Resources. She assists local water managers in the southern region of California with climate change planning and supports the department's climate resiliency efforts. She earned a bachelor's degree in environmental biology from California State University, Northridge, and a master's degree in environmental science from Loyola Marymount.

Presentation Information: Fitting Envision in to a State Agency's World

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has made a commitment to sustainability by utilizing the Envision rating tool. The rating tool was implemented into a DWR grant selection process in which ultimately the Southport Levee Improvements Project was selected. The multi-benefit flood risk reduction and ecosystem restoration project in the West Sacramento levee system recently received the Envision Platinum award. The integration process of Envision into the grant process will be discussed.