

## Andrea Schmid, M.S.

Environmental Planner

### Education

M.S., Natural Resource Ecology and Management/Journalism and Communications, Iowa State University

B.S., Horticulture, Iowa State University

### Relevant Experience

Ms. Schmid has eight years of experience in NEPA and CEQA documentation, as well as environmental permitting and regulatory compliance with various local, state, and federal agencies. She is experienced in multi-stakeholder settings and works closely with clients as well as regulatory, agency, and consulting teams to develop workable and cost-effective approaches. Her expertise includes practical and applied solutions to address complex regulatory drivers, regulatory support and negotiation, concise environmental documentation, and water resources planning. She has worked extensively on projects involving water resources and the Endangered Species Act.

### Representative Project Experience

**Fish Passage Improvement Project at Red Bluff Diversion Dam EIS/EIR; Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority; Red Bluff, California.** This project evaluated alternatives to dam operations, which were identified as an impediment to endangered runs of Chinook salmon, Central Valley steelhead, and green sturgeon. Major issues for this controversial project included impacts to endangered species, recreation in Lake Red Bluff, project financing, and separate federal and state court litigation. The selected project included construction of a \$200 million pumping plant near the existing canal headworks. The project also included development of an eight million dollar temporary pumping plant to cover irrigation deliveries until the long-term project was operational. The project was funded with approximately \$120 million by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (“ARRA” or “stimulus bill”), which was the largest award in the Department of Interior. The project recently completed construction and is operational.

Ms. Schmid was the lead for environmental permitting, including state and federal Endangered Species Act compliance, US Army Corps of Engineers, CDFW, RWQCB, and various local permits for both the long-term and interim pumping facilities. All environmental permits were obtained on time. Ms. Schmid also developed articulate public outreach materials, provided technical briefings to staff in Washington, D.C., and facilitated the Technical Advisory Committee. She also managed development of the 32-acre Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan. The mitigation site is currently under construction and on-schedule to be complete in 2013.

**Owens Lake Master Plan; Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Owens Lake Planning Committee; Owens Lake, California.** Ms. Schmid is the lead planner for development of a plan to provide long-range management of the 110 square-mile Owens Lake playa in Inyo County, California. The playa provides diverse resources, but it is also a major source of fugitive dust emissions due to water diversions. The plan provides a framework that can collectively control dust, conserve water, maintain habitat value, and protect or enhance other lake resources. Key issues for this plan include:

diverse stakeholders, water conservation, fugitive dust control, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and public outreach. The Planning Committee Review Draft was completed in 2011. The final document is anticipated in summer 2013.

**Imperial Irrigation District, Water Conservation and Transfer Project; Imperial Valley, California.** Assisted with the air quality component of CEQA and NEPA analyses for the Supplemental EIR/EIS for the Water Conservation and Transfer Project. This project includes the largest agriculture-urban water transfer in U.S. history. Air quality impacts included construction and operation of on-farm and delivery system conservation measures, construction and operation of HCP/NCCP Measures, windblown dust from fallowed farmland, windblown dust from Salton Sea playa, and emissions from engines associated with on-farm water conservation measures. Also assisted in development of the Air Quality Mitigation Program.

**Maxwell Public Utilities District, Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project; Maxwell, California.** Ms. Schmid was the project manager for Army Corps of Engineers jurisdictional evaluation for a 170-acre project site. The project consisted of improvements to an existing treatment plant, in order to improve effluent quality, and reuse of the effluent on non-edible crops. The reuse site was proposed to be converted from rice production and Corps' jurisdiction of the rice fields was a major issue. The Corps concurred with a CWA 404 exemption under the Swampbuster provisions of the 1985 and 1990 Farm Bills. The project is currently securing funding for implementation.

**Solano Multispecies Habitat Conservation Plan EIS/EIR; Solano County Water Agency; Solano County, California.** This HCP was developed with the USFWS, NMFS, and CDFG to enable the Solano County Water Agency, a local agency that wholesales water to its retail customers, to continue to use the Solano Project as its primary water supply source. The federal Solano Project consists of Monticello Dam (Lake Berryessa), Solano Diversion Dam (Lake Solano), and the Putah South Canal. The plan covered 37 species, including winter- and spring-run Chinook salmon, Central Valley steelhead, California tiger salamander, and the California red-legged frog. Ms. Schmid authored sections including Biological Resources, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Cultural Resources. Work on the HCP and EIS/EIR is ongoing.

**Bull Run Water Supply Habitat Conservation Plan EIS; City of Portland; Portland, Oregon.** The HCP was developed with the NMFS to enable the City of Portland to continue operating the Bull Run water supply system on a long term basis, while also complying with the Endangered Species Act. The plan covered five species, including spring- and fall-run Chinook salmon, Columbia River steelhead, coho salmon, chum salmon, and Pacific Eulachon. The HCP also included conservation measures and effects analyses for 18 fish and wildlife species that were not proposed for incidental take permit coverage. Ms. Schmid authored sections including Fish, Vegetation, Birds and Mammals, Amphibians and Reptiles, Hydrology, Water Quality, Air Quality, Recreation, and Land Use. The HCP was approved in 2009.

**Downtown/Natomas/Airport Lightrail Project Program EIR; Sacramento Regional Transit District; Sacramento, California.** This project would expand lightrail transit service to a 12-mile area between downtown Sacramento and the Sacramento International Airport. Major issues for this project included a new bridge crossing of the American River Parkway and the associated biological, visual, and parkland impacts. Ms. Schmid co-authored sections including Water Resources, Wetland Resources, Cultural Resources, Farmlands, Property Acquisitions, Biological Resources, Visual and Aesthetic Resources. Ms. Schmid also prepared the Section 106 Cultural Resources Report.

**Other Experience.** Ms. Schmid has also prepared numerous other types of documents, including the following:

- *Funding Opportunities.* Andrea prepared grant applications on behalf of clients, including applications to the Bechtel Foundation and the California Wildlife Conservation Board. Secured a \$250,000 grant from the Bechtel Foundation for a data management and collaboration project in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.
- *Public Outreach Materials.* Andrea prepared public outreach materials, including press releases, project brochures, and political briefing materials. She has also provided technical briefings to a variety of elected officials in Washington, D.C.
- *Applications for Certification.* Andrea prepared the Water Resources and Water Supply sections for five Application for Certifications (AFCs) required by the California Energy Commission. She also completed the Data Adequacy checks and responses to Data Requests from the CEC for the associated sections. The projects were located throughout Southern California.
- *Various Initial Studies.* Andrea prepared numerous Initial Studies under CEQA, including three for new water supply wells in Southern California; for the Bickford Storage Tank and Pump Station Project in Placer County, CA; Managed Marsh Project for Imperial Irrigation District, and the Bear Valley Trails Apartment Complex in Apple Valley, California.

## **Awards and Extracurricular**

Graduate of Water Education Foundation's Water Leaders Class (2009)

Recipient of the Research Excellence Award from the Graduate College at Iowa State University (2004)

Co-coordinator of the Graduate Seminar Series for the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Iowa State University (2003)

## **Other Relevant Experience**

Soil Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Polk County, Iowa (2004-2005). Provided technical assistance to landowners to develop resource conservation plans; developed and implemented conservation practices and programs; assisted with survey, design, and installation of conservation practices; and prepared stormwater quality management standards for the first Iowa Statewide Urban Design and Specifications manual.

## **Publications and Presentations**

Schmid, Andrea, Janette Thompson and David Bengston. 2007. Land use and water quality: A content analysis of regional newspapers in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. *Journal of Applied Environmental Education and Communication*. 6:187-196.

Frost, Andrea. 2004. Comparing community leaders', developers', and the public's perceptions of urban development and its effects on water quality. *International Symposium on Society and Resource Management*. Denver, Colorado. Presentation, June 2004.

Frost, Andrea Nicole. "Land Use and Water Quality: The Portrayal of Relationships in the Media and the Perception of Water Quality Problems by Urban Stakeholders." Master's Thesis, Iowa State University, 2004.

Frost, Andrea and Henry Taber. 2003. Napropamide Effects on Newly Transplanted Tomato in Plastic Mulch. Proceedings of the 31st National Agricultural Plastics Congress (pp. 113-117). Grand Rapids, MI: American Society of Plasticulture.