

Luisa Valiela, M.S.
Environmental Protection Specialist
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Luisa Valiela, M.S. began at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9's Water Division in 1993 addressing groundwater and aquifer protection through the Underground Injection Control Program. Presently her focus is on watershed management at a regional scale in the San Francisco Bay Area. Implementing watershed management plans entails collaborating with state authorities, local agencies and interested stakeholders to protect and restore water quality and related habitats, such as wetlands and riparian areas. Specific resource issues in the Bay Area include addressing mercury contamination from the legacy of California gold mining, and more recently tackling the issue of PPCP's (pharmaceuticals and personal care products), given the interest by water purveyors and agencies alike to increase the uses of recycled water. She received a B.A. in International Relations from Boston University in 1990, and a M.S. in Wildland Resource Science from the University of California at Berkeley in 1994.