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Maria has 14 years of management experience in federal and state service in managing environmental issues and natural resources. For the last five years, she has served as Senior Policy Adviser at the U.S Environmental Protection Agency in San Francisco, overseeing a number of complex water quality investigations, cooperative agreements, and regulatory decisions, including EPA's actions in the Klamath River Basin. She has provided leadership on national watershed protection policies, and served as a liaison to the State Water Resources Control Board, testifying on key policy and regulatory actions. Prior to this assignment, from 1999 to 2002, Maria worked for the California Resources Agency as Assistant Secretary for Watershed and Salmon Restoration. In this position, she served in a policy role for interagency programs and initiatives, including coastal salmon recovery, watershed management, and forest land incentives/easements, working with various state agencies including: California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, State Water Resources Control Board, California Coastal Conservancy, California State Parks, and Department of Water Resources. She managed the North Coast Watershed Assessment Program which produced limiting factors analysis for ESA-listed coho salmon on a watershed basis, using peer reviewed interdisciplinary scientific methods. In 1998, Maria completed a detail working for the Regional Administrator of EPA Region 10 in Seattle, the Northwest Regional Administrator of National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Regional Director of Fish and Wildlife Service. At their joint direction, she developed a policy White Paper on opportunities for integrating Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act programs and mandates; several of the recommendations were implemented. Between 1989 and 1998, Maria worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 in a series of technical, policy and management positions, managing various water-related, agriculture, forestry, grant, and estuary programs. Maria holds a Masters in Public Policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy/U.C. Berkeley and a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Brown University. Maria lives with her family in Davis.