

Ocean Day 2025

Building Capacity and Knowledge for Responsible Ocean Energy in California

Photo By: Nicholas Doherty

Assemblymember Chris Rogers **District 2**



Assemblymember Chris Rogers proudly serves California's 2nd Assembly District, which encompasses Eureka, Arcata, and Santa Rosa. Before joining the State Assembly, Chris made a significant impact as a Santa Rosa City Councilmember and Mayor, where he led efforts in wildfire recovery, housing affordability, and environmental sustainability. Known for his collaborative leadership style, Chris has been instrumental in securing resources to support small businesses and protect vulnerable communities during challenging times. Chris holds degrees from UC Santa Barbara and Sonoma State University, where he developed a passion for policymaking and community engagement. He brings this passion to the State Assembly, focusing on creating a modern and equitable rural economy, healthcare access, and driving climate action. A lifelong resident of Santa Rosa, Chris is dedicated to preserving Northern California's natural beauty while ensuring its residents a prosperous future.

Sam Cohen **Government Affairs Officer and Legal Officer** **Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians**



Since 2005, Sam Cohen has brought his legal talents to the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians as the Government Affairs Officer and Legal Officer. During his tenure in this role, Cohen has led the tribe in their nine-year Fee to Trust application to successfully establish 6.9 acres of land in federal trust for a Chumash Museum and Cultural Center. Cohen earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Minnesota. He also studied law at University College London and has an LL.M. degree from the Tax Program at New York University. Cohen is well regarded in the legal community and has served as the managing editor of the Minnesota Law Review.

Jana Ganion
Senior Advisor, Offshore Wind
Office of Governor Gavin Newsom



Jana Ganion is Senior Advisor for Offshore Wind in California Governor Gavin Newsom's Administration, where she helps develop policies, planning, and responsible deployment for offshore wind energy and related sectors. Prior to this role, Ganion served as Director of Government Affairs and Sustainability at the Blue Lake Rancheria, a federally recognized Native American Tribal government. She is past co-chair of the national U.S. Department of Energy, Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group (ICEIWG), past vice chair of the California Senate Bill 350 Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG), served on the Redwood Coast Energy Authority Board of Directors, Pacific Gas and Electric Company Sustainability Advisory Council, and the California Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) Technical Advisory Council.

Dr. Ben Ruttenberg
Professor, Biological Sciences
California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo



Dr. Benjamin Ruttenberg is a marine ecologist, Professor in the Biological Sciences Department at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and the Director for the Cal Poly Center for Coastal Marine Sciences. Ben's work is strongly applied and collaborative, seeking to improve our understanding and management of marine ecosystems. His current projects are focused on the 'Blue Economy,' such as how marine renewable energy and aquaculture can help solve the climate crisis, and sustainable management of commercial and recreational finfish and shellfish fisheries. Ben involves undergraduate and graduate students in all aspects of his research. Ben received his PhD in Marine Biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara in ecology and conservation biology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Prior to joining Cal Poly in 2013, he spent five years working for NOAA and National Park Service in Miami (NOAA and National Park Service).

Hosted by the CSU Council on Ocean Affairs, Science & Technology
and the California Ocean Science Trust



COAST is the CSU's systemwide consortium for ocean and coastal research, education and workforce development. Established in 2008, COAST integrates systemwide expertise and resources and promotes research that advances our knowledge of ocean and coastal systems.

California Ocean Science Trust is dedicated to accelerating progress towards a healthy and productive ocean future for California. Created by state legislation, OST bridges the gap between cutting-edge scientific research and sound ocean management.

