



Dr. Laura E Garza Díaz

Area Water Quality, Quantity, and Climate Change Advisor Mendocino and Lake County

Laura has been appointed as the Area Water Quality, Quantity, and Climate Change Advisor for Mendocino and Lake County. She holds a doctorate degree in Hydrologic Sciences from the University of California, Davis, specializing in Water Policy and Management, with a focus on assessing the ecological resilience of river basins under climate change.

As she embarks in this position, Laura will be supporting projects that integrate water supply and demand, sustainable groundwater management, water supply under drought and flood climate change scenarios, instream and environmental flows, resilient social-ecological systems, water quality, water storage alternatives, water resources modelling, and sustainable agricultural water management. Emphasizing collaboration between scientists, tribes, communities, and decision-makers, she aligns herself with the mission of Cooperative Extension—dedicated to serving the local community by developing applied science and effectively communicating those results to the public. Laura is committed to both teaching and learning from the community, advocating for greater diversity, equity, and inclusion of underrepresented populations.

Laura's water management research includes:

- Developed hydro-economic tools and methods for sustainable agricultural and groundwater resources management in Pajaro Valley California.
- Supported Potter Valley Irrigation District, in Mendocino County by estimating the natural and regulated flows of the Eel River Basin from 1975 to 2016.
- Quantified the impact of human activities on rivers using resilience theory, if human activities have caused a permanent change in rivers, and determining the carrying capacity of river systems for human development.
- Developed a database of 110 years of daily natural and observed streamflow in the Rio Grande/Bravo Basin to determine environmental flows that support conservation and restoration efforts. This database is being used in the binational setting between the United States and Mexico.
- Identification of regime shifts and anthropogenic causes on a local and regional scale to define adaptation strategies that managers and decision-makers can adopt under climate change.