

NORA WARD

STAFF BIOLOGIST

2309 NORIEGA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94122 | 858-432-9062 | NORA@SUNSETECOLOGICAL.COM

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Nora Ward is a staff biologist with more than two years' experience in fish capture and relocation, nesting bird surveys, special-status species presence/absence surveys and suitable habitat assessments, construction monitoring, and pre-/during construction biological sweeps for sensitive species. From her field experience, Nora communicates recommendations for nesting bird and mammal avoidance buffers as well as construction mitigation for California red-legged frogs, several species of salamander, San Francisco garter snake, central California coast steelhead, Smith's blue butterfly, and nesting birds.

TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE

Compliance Inspections

- Clean Water Act Corps Section 404
- CDFW Section 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreements
- Mitigation Requirements
- Endangered Species Act
- California Coastal Act
- Stormwater and runoff inspections

Biology/Ecology

- Habitat assessments
- Biological and environmental assessments

- Experience in California flora and fauna
- Special-Status Species Evaluations
 - California red-legged frog
 - Western pond turtle
 - California tiger salamander
 - Nesting birds
 - Raptors
 - Smith's blue butterfly
 - Burrowing owl
 - Swift fox

Wetland Delineations

BIOGRAPHY OF EXPERIENCE

Nora Ward is biologist proficient in the environmental aspects of both large and small projects with a variety of challenges based in Northern and Central California. Nora's projects include emergency transportation projects, residential and commercial developments, energy infrastructure and facilities, restoration projects, and stormwater inspections. Nora is experienced in stormwater inspections and construction monitoring.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sunset Ecological Solutions, LLC, San Francisco, CA

07/2026 – Present

As Staff Biologist, Nora provides biological due diligence, biological resources assessments, and stream assessments for various development projects throughout California. Consulting services included biological reports, jurisdictional waters and wetland assessments, rare plant surveys, consultations with regulatory agencies, regulatory permit application preparations, nesting bird and raptor surveys, and construction monitoring and reporting.

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA), Half Moon Bay, CA**06/2024 – 06/2026**

Principal Consultant, Impacts Assessment and Planning, Project Management

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

- B.A. in Environmental Studies. University of San Francisco, CA. Concentration: Environmental Science and GIS. Detailed curriculum available upon request.
- Professional Geospatial Information Science (GIS) Certificate, University of San Francisco
- Caltrans Water Pollution Control Manager Training, California; California Department of Transportation; 2024
- Rare Pond Species Surveying Techniques Workshop (California red-legged frog, western pond turtle, California tiger salamander), Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation; 2025
- Advanced Tiger Salamander Surveying Workshop, Jeff Alvarez and Dave Cook; 2025
- Amphibians of the San Francisco Bay Area, Jeff Alvarez and Dave Cook; 2025

REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS (* DENOTES PROJECT EXPERIENCE PRIOR TO SUNSET ECOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS)

****Cal Water Bear Gulch Access Road and Raw Water Transmission Pipe Emergency Repair Project, San Mateo County, California.***

Nora provided compliance support for two emergency slope stability projects along the Bear Gulch Reach of Bear Creek (1) Bear Gulch Fish Ladder Diversion Access Road Project (access road project); and (2) Raw Water Main Transmission Pipe Project (transmission project). Both projects required slope stabilization along the banks of Bear Creek. Role: Biologist and Assistant Project Manager. *Biological monitor for California red-legged frog, San Francisco garter snake, southwestern pond turtle, Santa Cruz black salamander, California giant salamander, and nesting birds. Nora Supported relocation of 100+ juvenile steelhead trout during 2 sections of creek diversion and several California giant salamanders. Provided workers with environmental training and monitoring reports for the client. Assistant Project Manager duties included tracking permit compliance, submitting weekly reports to the client, and coordinating between contractors and the client to assist compliance in water quality and special status species permit measures during creek diversion system installation and removal.*

****Cal Trans Emergency Repair Projects, Monterey County and Santa Cruz County, California.***

Nora provided biological monitoring support for several emergency slope stability projects along portions of Highway 1 affected by erosion and landslides near the towns of Big Sur and Santa Cruz. Role: Biologist and water quality monitor. *Biological monitor for Smith's blue butterfly, nesting birds, and California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander. Provided workers with environmental training and monitoring reports for the client. Two (2) CRLFs observed.*

****HMB Ditch Maintenance Project; City of Half Moon Bay; City of Half Moon Bay, San Mateo County, California.***

Nora conducted pre-construction surveys and biological monitoring for routine maintenance of 22 drainages within the City's jurisdiction. Routine maintenance activities included vegetation management, sediment removal, and culvert cleanout. Nora also assisted with annual permit reporting requirements. Role: Biologist. *Conducted compliance monitoring and biological monitoring during vegetation removal for California red-legged frog, San Francisco garter snake, dusky-footed woodrat and nesting birds.*