

Will Travis Brief Biography

Will Travis is the executive director of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, commonly called BCDC, which was the nation's first state coastal management agency when it was created in 1965.

Will, who is a native of Allentown, Pennsylvania, earned Bachelor of Architecture and Master of Regional Planning degrees in 1967 and 1970 respectively, both from Penn State University. During 1966, he studied architecture in London.

Will began his professional career as an assistant planner and urban designer at BCDC between 1970 and 1972. He then spent a year as a consultant on the master plan for the East Bay Regional Park District. In 1973, he joined the staff of the newly-established California Coastal Commission where, between 1973 and 1985, he held a number of positions including heading the coastal agency's offshore oil drilling permit staff, directing its public access program, and overseeing its budget and administrative functions. He returned to BCDC in 1985 and spent the next ten years as the Commission's deputy director. He has been BCDC's executive director since 1995.

Will has written many articles on coastal issues and has provided advice on coastal matters to other states and nations. He has also been a lecturer at colleges and universities throughout North America.

He served as the chairman of a trustee committee, which managed a multi-million dollar oil spill settlement fund set up by Shell Oil Company after a 1988 oil spill in San Francisco Bay. In that capacity, he directed the public acquisition of a 10,000-acre property along the northern shoreline of San Francisco Bay, which will become one of the largest coastal wetland restoration projects in California's history.

Will is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Bay Area Council Economic Institute, and Lambda Alpha, the honorary society for the advancement of land economics. He serves on the steering committee of the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities; the project team of *Saving the Bay*, a KQED-TV video documentary; the KB Home Corporation Community Advisory Board; the board of directors of the Forum for the Future of San Francisco Bay; the California Biodiversity Council; and the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture management board. He has served on the San Francisco Bay Harbor Safety Committee; the steering committee of the Bay Area Transportation Choices Forum; the NOAA Coastal Services Center's national review group; the National Ocean Service's advisory group for the San Francisco Bay Project; the board of directors of the Friends of the Estuary; the San Francisco Estuary Institute's committee of policy advisors; and the editorial board of the newsletter *Estuary*. He also served a four-year term as a member of the Berkeley city planning commission and was the chair of a special City of Berkeley committee that worked in partnership with the University of California to develop a new plan for Berkeley's downtown.

With 240 square miles of low-lying filled land along the Bay shoreline, Will has become a strong advocate for a regional strategy to address climate change and sea level rise in the Bay Area.

Will, his wife, Jody Loeffler, their teenage daughter, Kate, and their golden retriever, Daisy, live in Berkeley, California.