



# The SURF Report

## Inside this issue:

*A Message from  
SURF's President* 1

*About SURF* 2

*SURF 2018 Spring  
Membership Meeting* 3

*SURF White Paper: 10  
-Year Anniversary  
Edition* 4

*Going SURFing with LA  
Metro's Sustainability  
Council* 5

*UPDATE: Climate  
Change and Resilience  
TI* 6

*SURVEY SAYS...* 6

*SURF Membership  
Code of Conduct* 3

*In Their Own Words* 8

*Join Us* 9

## A Message from SURF's President

### Greetings SURFers!

My term as SURF president has been flying by...it's hard to believe that the year is already half way through.

The newly elected 2018 SURF Board of Trustees (get to know them on page 8) hit the ground running and have been working on changes to streamline our membership management, communication platform, and event organization. As members, you'll begin to hear about these changes, which are aimed to reduce administrative duties and allow Board members to dedicate more time to strategic planning and technical initiatives.

Speaking of planning, the Meetings and Programs Committee has been planning our next gathering, which will be held in conjunction with the Association for Environmental Health and Sciences Foundation (AEHS) East Coast Conference, October 15-18 in Amherst, Massachusetts. As usual, SURF sessions and a membership meeting are planned.

To register for the meeting, click [here](#).

At the 2017 Fall Membership Meeting, SURFers recognized the need to publish a 10-year anniversary edition of the SURF's groundbreaking Sustainable Remediation White Paper. Members have started to assemble writing teams and plan to publish in the second quarter of 2019. Additional information about the paper and who to contact if you're interested in contributing is provided on page 4. (Please keep in mind that technical initiative contributors must be members of SURF).

At the same Fall Membership Meeting, survey results about the value of sustainable remediation were presented. The objective of the survey was to understand how sustainable remediation principles can be integrated into more projects to improve the remedial decision making process and increase the overall benefits generated from the remediation investment.

Over 65 SURF members, nonmembers, colleagues, and

co-workers responded about the value they receive or perceive to receive from sustainable remediation. Survey results indicate that a stronger push to advertise sustainable remediation, in an effort to better educate all project stakeholders is required. Key takeaways from the survey and the focus of future efforts are provided on page 3.

SURF members also continue to work on other initiatives like increasing regulatory outreach and demonstrating the connection between sustainable remediation and climate change resilience (see page 6 for an update).

If you're interested in any of these efforts or have an idea for a new initiative, email me (see page 2 for email address) so we can start collaborating.

***Contributed by  
Gerlinde Wolf,  
SURF President***

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## About SURF

The Sustainable Remediation Forum (SURF) promotes site assessment and remediation that protects human health and the environment while maximizing environmental, social, and economic benefits throughout the project life cycle by:

- Advancing the science and application of sustainable remediation
- Developing best practices
- Exchanging professional knowledge
- Providing education and outreach

## About The SURF Report

This newsletter is published quarterly by the SURF Communications Committee to provide you with highlights of SURF's activities and opportunities and developments in the field of sustainable remediation.

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of March, June, September, and December for the following quarterly issue.

Contact the Newsletter Editor by email for submittal: Mike Smilley, [newsletter@sustainableremediation.org](mailto:newsletter@sustainableremediation.org)

Submissions are subject to editing for space considerations.

Circulation: The newsletter is circulated to about 1,000 individuals directly and is posted online at [www.sustainableremediation.org](http://www.sustainableremediation.org).

Address Changes: Please submit to the SURF Secretary at [secretary@sustainableremediation.org](mailto:secretary@sustainableremediation.org).

The SURF website, [www.sustainableremediation.org](http://www.sustainableremediation.org), is our primary resource for sharing the latest and greatest news about SURF and sustainable remediation. Our Online Resources page provides a one-stop shop for resources, tools, information, and documents. The Calendar shows remediation, sustainability, and related conferences, as well as deadlines for submitting abstracts. Suggestions for additions and improvements are welcome by using the Contact SURF form on the website or by emailing [administrator@sustainableremediation.org](mailto:administrator@sustainableremediation.org).

# SURF 2018 Spring Membership Meeting

Couldn't make SURF's semi-annual membership meeting in March during the AEHS West Coast Conference in San Diego, California? Here's a summary of our thought-provoking discussions and the progress that has been made.

SURF's 2018 Spring Membership Meeting was held on March 20 and challenged the newly elected SURF Board of Trustees and fellow SURF members to think about the mission of SURF, whether and how it has evolved over the last decade, and what (if anything) needs to be done to maintain the organization's relevancy.

New and long-standing SURF members discussed the value of SURF to them, their organizations and the industry and how they thought this value was best realized.

In addition, Jake Torrens (former SURF Board member and current member of both the Communications and Meeting/Programs Committees) and Matt Ambrusch (current SURF Vice President and Meeting/Programs Committee Chair), facilitated a discussion aimed at identifying ways in which SURF can make a bigger impact. Jake used a strategy development technique used within his own organization to affect change and asked SURF members to anonymously answer the following on sticky notes:

1. Where can SURF improve to meet its mission?
2. Where is SURF adding value; what are we doing well?

The answers varied in nature, but one thing was clear: SURF members want change. SURFers believe that, as an organization, we need to focus on efforts that increase our relevancy — not only to members, but to the industry.

**“...One thing was clear:  
SURF members want change.”**

After the meeting, Jake compiled the results of the discussion and prepared a Strategy Development Summary for Board review. As a result of this exercise, the Board is looking into both short- and long-term strategies to address SURF members' concerns.

With that said, we want to hear from you (see page 2 for email address). Don't ever hesitate to reach out with questions or comments about all-things-SURF. The membership meeting provided a much overdue opportunity to take the temperature of the organization, which, as is true of any successful organization, is imperative to its viability and evolution. As SURF Board members, we are depending on you to help us form the current and future shape of the organization.

*Contributed by Matt Ambrusch,  
SURF Vice President*



SURF Board members Paul Hadley (left) and Matt Ambrusch (right) promoted SURF at our booth at the 2018 AEHS West Coast Conference in March.

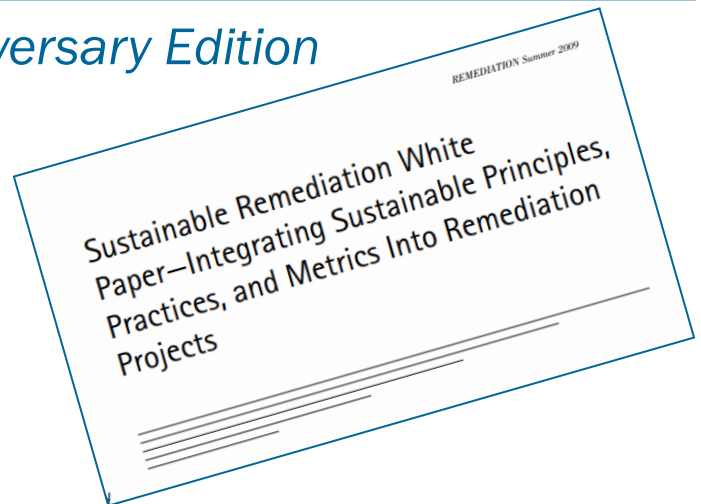


## SURF White Paper: 10-Year Anniversary Edition

In Summer 2009, SURF released the most comprehensive view of the fledgling sustainable remediation movement with the release of the SURF White Paper. *Remediation* dedicated a whole issue to the paper. The Godfathers of sustainable remediation, Dr. David Ellis (DuPont) and Paul Hadley (California Department of Toxic Substance Control), were the lead editors and were supported by over 50 co-authors that contributed to the seven-section, 110-page, document. The paper was thought provoking and ignited debate and conversation around the important topic of sustainable remediation. The paper covered a range of topics, including:

- Description and current status of sustainable remediation
- Sustainability concepts and practices in remediation
- Impediments and barriers integrating sustainable concepts into remediation projects
- A vision for sustainable remediation
- Applications of sustainable principles, practices, and metrics to remediation projects

One of the recommendations from the 2017 SURF Fall Membership Meeting in Amherst, Massachusetts was to publish a 10-year anniversary edition of the paper. This anniversary edition will revisit some of the topics from the initial publication in 2009, assess the progress that's been made and recommend further improvements, and anticipate what the next 10 years of sustainable remediation may have in store for us.



We are starting to assemble writing teams and plan to publish in the second quarter of 2019. Below are the paper topics and lead authors:

- Revisit our 2009 crystal ball (i.e., How well did we predict the future?) (Lead: [Dick Raymond](#))
- Current State of the Practice: 10 Years Later (Lead: [Gerlinde Wolf](#))
- New Frontiers in Sustainable Remediation (Lead: [Maile Smith](#))
- Sustainable Remediation: The Next 10 Years (Lead: [Paul Favara](#))

If you would like to contribute to the publication and help shape the present and future of sustainable remediation, please contact Paul Favara (white paper leader) or one of the individuals listed above.

## Get Social with SURF!

**Do you have sustainable remediation news to share? We have several ways to get your words out!**

**In addition to [SURF's website](#), you can find us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).**

**The SURF Communications Committee also manages a LinkedIn group, which can be used to spread the word about case studies and project successes, ask questions, solicit feedback, and connect with fellow SURF members.**

**To join SURF's group on LinkedIn, search for "Sustainable Remediation Forum" and look for the SURF logo.**

**To make a news post on SURF's website, contact Jake Torrens at [jtorrens@haleyaldrich.com](mailto:jtorrens@haleyaldrich.com).**

## Going SURFing with LA Metro's Sustainability Council

In February 2017, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (LA Metro) created a sustainability council to provide sustainability advice and recommendations across a broad spectrum of topics to senior LA Metro staff and management.

Thirty primary and 30 alternate Council members with diverse backgrounds (e.g., local government, non-governmental organizations, professional associations, public health, academia) advise LA Metro and continually improve sustainability efforts by developing targets, metrics, and strategies to assist LA Metro achieve stated sustainability program goals.

Although Council member positions are currently filled, the following three active subcommittees are open for public participation:

1. Metro '27 – Identify emerging technologies as opportunities for innovation at LA Metro.
2. Sustainability Partnerships – Identify opportunities for synergies and collaboration between relevant stakeholders to maximize project value.
3. Electrification – Focus on rolling out the electrification of the LA Metro fleet and nonrevenue vehicles.

If you'd like to be a SURF sponsor, contact [Jason McNew](#), SURF Treasurer

With the support of SURF and others, I was selected as a nongovernmental organization (NGO) Representative Council Member for Water Resources. Being a part of the Council has provided opportunities to understand and positively influence the sustainability footprint of LA Metro's transportation projects and policies. I hope that other SURFers will participate on the Council's subcommittees as well as other opportunities that periodically present themselves through SURF's participation with LA Metro.

Feel free to email me (click [here](#)) if you have any questions or wish to learn more about how to participate on a subcommittee.

*Contributed by Roy Thun,  
SURF Member*



Roy Thun (right; LA Metro Sustainability Council Member) shakes the hand of LA Metro Executive Officer Cris Liban (left).

## Thank You to SURF's Sponsors

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### Bronze

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## UPDATE: Climate Change and Resilience TI

The SURF Climate Change and Resilience Technical Initiative Team recently completed its draft research report that builds on recent SURF conferences, white papers, and partnerships. In short, our research found:

- Climate change impacts can undermine the effectiveness of the original site remediation design and can also affect the contaminant toxicity, exposure, organism sensitivity, fate and transport, and long-term operations, management, and stewardship of remediation sites.
- Liability for damages caused by the impacts of climate change will likely remain with land owners and other responsible parties.
- Failure to consider social vulnerability to climate change impacts could compromise remediation, adaptation strategies, and public support.

SURF's recommendations to advance climate change resilience within contaminated lands rehabilitation build on resources and drivers from state, national, and international sources and marry the

principles and practices of climate change adaptation and sustainable remediation. Indeed, SURF's sustainable remediation framework aligns well with the recommendations of the 2017 National Climate Assessment draft report by advocating for "a systematic, process-based, iterative, holistic approach beginning with the site end use in mind."

Opportunities for synergy include vulnerability assessments that benefit and build on established hazardous waste management law, policy, and practices. Climate change adaptation can also help expedite cleanup and redevelopment, decreasing climate-change risks and providing value for communities. The team's draft research report outlines site-specific protocols and provides global examples of mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Next, the team plans to partner with the private and public sectors to support pilot studies and conduct national and international capacity-building.

For more information and to join our team, contact [Barbara Maco](#).

### SURVEY SAYS...

Key takeaways from the survey described on page 1 are as follows:

- The majority of survey participants perceived value from sustainable remediation.
- The primary reasons for incorporating sustainable remediation into projects were cost, environmental benefits, and overall improved outcomes.
- A primary obstacle appears to be lack of understanding of what sustainable remediation involves, the benefits it can bring, and cost implications.

SURF will be working on efforts to continue to promote the understanding, implementation and benefits of sustainable remediation.

### About the Initiative...

Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Texas and Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico demonstrated how extreme weather events can impact contaminated land, public health and the environment (causing unsafe dioxin levels and contaminated drinking water). The threats exist whether the contaminated land has been remediated or not and are exacerbated by the growth of environmentally impaired lands globally. SURF's Climate Change and Resilience Technical Initiative (1) addresses the long-term sustainability of site remediation from climate change impacts, including fires, floods, storms, rising sea levels, long-term stress on water availability, and dynamic groundwater levels; and (2) examines the benefits of rehabilitated land in strengthening community and ecosystem



People collect water from a natural spring in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. Photo: Ricardo Ardvengo/ AFP/Getty Images

## NEW! SURF Membership Code of Conduct

SURF has conducted almost forty meetings and countless conference calls associated with technical initiatives, subcommittees and the Board of Trustees. Such collegial gatherings began over twelve years ago when SURF was an ad hoc group of environmental professionals looking for ways to positively influence the remediation industry, and continue to this day now that SURF has become a viable formal 501c (3) organization. In SURF's culture there is a deeply embedded respect for all points of view, and a commitment to vigorous discussion of issues and opportunities. Those characteristics of SURF as an organization and of our members individually are now embodied in the SURF Personal Conduct Code.

In today's world it is unfortunately all too common for the front page news to include reports of inappropriate and even offensive accusations and behavior by one individual against another. None such events have been associated with SURF or its activities, but in light of the way the world can operate it was in our organization's best interest to have a policy regarding matters of inappropriate, offensive and even discriminatory behavior. SURF members are almost universally employees of organizations and agencies that not only have their own personal con-

duct policies but provide frequent training on matters of potential legal consequence concerning personal behavior and interactions. SURF's personal conduct policy reflects our role as a voluntary organization that convenes routinely to work on specific matters of interest. As noted in the policy, SURF members should contact the appropriate SURF leader who will take up the matter further as appropriate, but policies of their own organizations remain in effect.

The SURF Board of Trustees looks forward to another long and productive stretch of SURF meetings and activities that are conducted in the manner embodied by our past and as identified in the Personal Conduct Code. We will be opening our meetings with reference to the Personal Conduct Code, which is presented below. If you have any questions, please contact Gerlinde Wolfe (President), Matt Ambrusch (Vice-President), or Paul Hadley (At-large Board Member).

*Contributed by Paul Hadley,  
SURF At-large Board Member*

When joining SURF you agree to:

- Promote the mission of SURF and uphold its reputation.
- Maintain high standards of integrity and professional conduct.
- Conduct yourself in a manner that is beneficial for team consensus and collaboration.
- Be respectful and courteous to other SURF members and staff.
- Assume nonconfidentiality when presenting or discussing information.
- Not market, endorse, or disparage a company, product, technology, or any other entity while participating in a SURF event.
- Not engage in harassment or discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability.

The full Code of Conduct can be viewed [here](#).





## In Their Own Words...

We asked SURF Board members to introduce themselves to SURF members. Here's what some said:

### Gerlinde Wolf, President

Gerlinde Wolf is an environmental engineer at AECOM who frequently works on remediation, sustainability assessment and environmental compliance projects. She has experience in remedial investigation, site characterization, design of various remediation technologies, sustainability analysis for remedial alternatives and facility inspection and preparation of spill prevention control and countermeasure (SPCC) Plans. Gerlinde has been a SURF member since she was in grad school at Clarkson University, a total of 7 years so far. Gerlinde loves doing anything outside and is rarely home on weekends. Instead, she is usually out in the woods somewhere rock climbing, skiing or canoe camping. Gerlinde also loves dogs and her dog Georgia goes everywhere with her and her husband Nate on their outdoor adventures.



### Matt Ambrusch, Vice President

I am a Senior Staff Environmental Engineer at Langan Engineering, in Parsippany, NJ, with experience in both the investigation and remediation of environmentally contaminated sites. I have spent the last six years working on a team that designs, implements, and operates remedial technologies aimed at effectively, efficiently, as well as sustainably, treating environmental contamination. From regulatory reporting to remedial design and implementation to project management, I have helped provide nationally recognized remedial design services. I specialize in in-situ remediation and, over the last several years, have become heavily involved in the redevelopment of landfills for the purposes of mixed-use developments. I have been a SURF member since 2016 and, in addition to being your Vice President, I am also currently serving as the chair of the SURF Meetings and Programs Committee. I have a B.S. in Bioenvironmental Engineering from Rutgers University and an MBA from Rutgers Business School.



### Cathy Rockwell, Secretary

Cathy Rockwell, PE is a Remediation Technical Manager and Principal at Woodard & Curran with a focus on remedial feasibility evaluations, design, and implementation. She has been the lead engineer managing a number of large, multi-phase projects with combined remedies and provides remediation technical support for several of the complex remediation sites Woodard & Curran manages. As part of her efforts, she collaborates with the client and project team to facilitate sustainable practices in each of the phases of work. Previous presentations on green and sustainable efforts (Value Engineering and Cost Reduction Measures Lead to Greener Cleanup, Strategic Sequencing of Combined Remedies for Sustainable Water Conservation) are summarized in a blog post can be found [here](#).



### Jason McNew, Treasurer

Jason McNew is a Senior Engineer and Project Manager with the Site Characterization and Remediation Group at EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., PBC. Besides his role as an engineer in charge of the development and management of remedial investigations, designs, and implementations, he is also member of the EA Sustainers and is the co-chair of the Sustainability Working Tools Group. Both groups are responsible for promoting sustainability within the company, including carbon footprint evaluations, sustainability tools, and identification and implementation of sustainable best management practices. Jason joined SURF in 2013 as the Treasurer and is looking forward to working with the board in his position. When not SURFing and working, Jason is finishing up his Masters at Johns Hopkins University with one semester to go (hopefully). He is a leader in his son's Boy Scout Troop and enjoys listening to/playing music, playing games with his son, watching baseball and soccer, and visiting antique stores, microbreweries, and family.





## Join us at the Sustainable Remediation Forum

Join SURF or Renew your Membership TODAY!

SURF provides great value to our members, the public, and the practice of remediation. We do this by supporting:

- Alignment with organizational sustainability goals
- Environmental footprint reduction
- Social responsibility and public outreach
- Reduced remediation costs and long-term liabilities
- Innovative thinking, research, and real world application
- Peer benchmarking (domestic and international)
- Access to leading-edge case studies
- Opportunities to collaborate on publications
- Networking and access to subject matter experts
- Academic outreach and mentoring

By joining SURF, you establish partnerships and build relationships with a wide variety of remediation stakeholders: industry and agency peers, customers, clients, academia, technology vendors, and the public. Our website, meetings, and communications provide a clearinghouse and source for the latest information about policy, case studies, best practices, and educational opportunities.

As a member, you have the opportunity to participate in SURF's Technical Initiatives. SURF has published several groundbreaking guidance documents, and recent or current initiatives include examining more sustainable practices for water use and reuse, compiling sustainable remediation case studies, assessing the social aspects of sustainable remediation, and exploring the viability of a sustainable remediation site rating and professional certification system.

SURF has several membership levels based on an individual's qualifications: Regular Member (dues are \$150 annually for new members and \$140 for renewing members), Government Member (Free!!), Student Member (dues are \$25 annually), Retiree Member (\$60 annually), and Academia Member (\$50 annually).

## Sponsorship

Sponsorship is a great way to demonstrate to your communities, clients, employees, or shareholders that you are committed to advancing the science and application of sustainable remediation.

As an appreciation for sponsorship:

- Your company or organization will receive complimentary SURF memberships and meeting registrations
- Your company's or organization's name will be displayed on the SURF website and hyperlinked to your webpage
- Your company's or organization's name will be displayed in the SURF newsletter and announced during SURF events
- Your company or organization may use the SURF Sponsor logo

To inquire about sponsorship options, contact:  
[treasurer@sustainableremediation.org](mailto:treasurer@sustainableremediation.org).

Find us online:

[www.sustainableremediation.org](http://www.sustainableremediation.org)