

Armando J. Valencia

213-310-3649 | mandovalencia@gmail.com | [linkedin.com/in/mandovalencia](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mandovalencia) | mandoymando.com

PROFILE

An interdisciplinary researcher with a strong commitment to natural history and native wildlife ecology. I've held diverse roles, fostering collaborative solutions and promoting civil responsibility within the realm of the arts & environmental science. Proficient in creative problem-solving, field research, design, and ecological awareness, my work seeks to drive positive change and advance the frontiers of science and conservation. Committed to forging pathways between ecological science, conservation, the humanities, and community knowledge, my work is inspired by a collective and inclusive vision of sustainability and environmental action.

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley <i>Master of Science in Rangeland and Wildlife Management</i>	Berkeley, CA Aug. 2024 – May 2026
California State University, East Bay <i>Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies</i>	Hayward, CA Dec. 2022 – May 2024
Riverside City College <i>Associate of Science in Math and Science</i>	Riverside, CA Feb. 2010 – May 2014

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of California, Berkeley <i>Department of Environmental Science, Policy, & Management</i> Area of Inquiry: <i>Rangeland Science</i> / Advisors: <i>Dr. Peter A. Nelson & Dr. Lynn Huntsinger</i> (2024 - 2026)	Berkeley, CA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Incoming Masters student continuing research on entomology, fire restoration, and oak woodlands with an emphasis on Traditional Ecological Knowledge and community led inquiry. - (Thesis Pending)	
California State University, East Bay <i>Department of Anthropology, Geography, & Environmental Studies</i> Area of Inquiry: <i>Fire Ecology</i> / Advisor: <i>Dr. Tony Marks-Block</i> (2023 - 2024)	Hayward, CA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">This study explores California's oak woodlands, analyzing the impact of fire on acorn viability as Indigenous food resources. Performing methodical field work in Sonoma County, CA (Coast Miwok & Southern Pomo) to collect and analyze data, findings show decreased infestation rates post-fire, highlighting the need for traditional fire management practices in contemporary fire ecologies.	
California State University, East Bay <i>Department of Biological Sciences</i> Area of Inquiry: <i>Molecular Ecology</i> / Advisor: <i>Dr. Thomas Jenkinson</i> (2023 - 2024)	Hayward, CA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">This research project aims to assess the genetic diversity and population structure of <i>Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis</i> (Bd), and a new hybrid variant discovered in Brazil, using interdisciplinary field world and genetic analysis. It has revealed significant genetic variation within Brazilian Bd populations, shedding light on the evolutionary history of Bd and its introduction to environments.	

CERTIFICATIONS

Wildland Firefighter Type 2 (Crewmember) <i>National Wildfire Coordinating Group</i>	In Progress
Religion & Ecology: Restoring the Earth Community <i>Yale School of Divinity</i>	2023
Equine Welfare & Management <i>University of California, Davis</i>	2022
Nanotechnician Training Program <i>University of California, Riverside & Don F. Avril Applied Technology Center</i>	2013

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

- California Invasive Plant Council - John H. Anderson Scholarship Cal-IPC Practitioner Workshop
- California Native Plant Society - 2024 Vernal Pool Plant Taxonomy Workshop Scholarship
- Association for Fire Ecology - 2023 Monterey Conference Scholarship
- NSF Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Scholarship
- California State University, East Bay - Center for Student Research Program Scholarship
- California State University, East Bay - Hansson Adventure, Research, & Travel Fund

ECOLOGICAL FIELD EXPERIENCE

Wildlife Biologist Associate, SF Bay Wildlife Society <i>Vernal Pool Ecology & Field Survey</i>	January 2024 – Current <i>Fremont, CA</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participating in field surveys for endangered vernal pool plant species.• Collecting and recorded data on optimal habitat conditions, plant diversity, and landscape boundaries.• Assisting in seed collection and conservation initiatives.	
Project Biologist, WRA, Inc. <i>Environmental Consulting</i>	June 2023 – July 2024 <i>San Rafael, CA</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overseeing construction development and monitoring for disturbance to protected areas and species.• Collecting and recording data on habitat conditions, species diversity, and behaviors of endangered animals.• Conducting training for worker environmental awareness programs while ensuring compliance with state and federal regulatory measures.	
Docent, Jepson Prairie Preserve <i>Vernal Pool Ecology & Environmental Education</i>	January 2023 – ∞ <i>Dixon, CA</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educating visitors about the unique flora and fauna of Jepson Prairie Preserve.• Leading guided tours, interpretive hikes, and hands-on activities with endangered vernal pool species.• Contributing to research and conservation efforts, plant surveys, and assisting with special field projects.	
Ranch Hand at Morningstar Ranch & Barn Manager at RDLA <i>Equestrian & Landscape Management</i>	December 2021 – March 2024 <i>Half Moon Bay & Castro Valley, CA</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintained the wellbeing of over 60 horses• Managed mornings for private training and boarding facilities• Tended to daily tasks, cared for animals, and provided stewardship of the land.• Conducted general labor for barn builds, maintenance, and activities enhancing the landscape for equestrian use.• Recognized and adjusted to the needs of each horse and their individual owner.• Led a team responsible for equine care, land management, and hospitality for all guests.	
Agricultural Aide, California Department of Food and Agriculture <i>Field Research & Disease Vectors</i>	July 2012 - December 2012 <i>Riverside, California</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collecting plant and entomology samples for the Asian Citrus Psyllid Research Survey.• Directly communicating with citrus growers and landowners to grant property access and identify citrus vectors.• Part of the Travel Team for extended stays in remote locations like San Diego County and Palm Desert regions.	

SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

- **Research and Environmental Leadership:** Led and coordinated diverse teams in equestrian care, land management, and ecological education while conducting hands-on field research on local wildlife and habitats.
- **Technical Proficiency and Innovation:** Demonstrated expertise in digital/print design, VR workflows, and AV production, combined with analytical problem-solving in various operational settings.
- **Communication and Outreach:** Educated audiences on unique ecosystems, led interpretive sessions, and effectively liaised with diverse stakeholders, from citrus growers to investors.
- **Adaptability and Versatility:** Showcased resilience and adaptability by excelling in a wide range of roles, from fieldwork in remote locations to design consultancy and virtual interface.
- **Conservation Initiatives and Impact:** Contributed actively to environmental assessments, habitat restoration, conservation, and seeking efforts to real-world environmental solutions.

PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS

(2023) Ecological Society of America 2023 Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA

*Poster presentation on Analyzing the Influence of Fire on Oak Acorn Food Resources: Effects on Filbert Weevil (*Curculio occidentis*) and Filbert Moth (*Cydia latiferreana*) Infestations*

(2023) California Global Biodiversity Working Group, Los Angeles, CA

Panel presentation on Connecting Prescribed Fire with Global Biodiversity Framework Targets

(2023) AFE 10th Annual Fire Congress - Monterrey, CA

Poster presentation on Revitalizing Prescribed Fire for Acorn Resources in California

(2016) New Design Charter School, Los Angeles

Panel presentation on Careers in Art & Design

(2012) HTCC Honors Conference, UC Irvine

Oral presentation on "How Does the Endangered Species Act Impact Development?"

CAMPUS PARTICIPATION

Title IX Implementation Committee <i>California State University - East Bay</i>	Apr 2023 - 2024
Student Researcher, Center for Student Research <i>California State University - East Bay</i>	Aug 2023 - 2024
ASI Sustainability Committee <i>California State University - East Bay</i>	Feb 2023 - May 2023
Publicity Chair, ASRCC <i>Riverside City College</i>	Feb 2011 - Aug 2012
Publicity and Graphic Design, Active Minds <i>Riverside City College</i>	Aug 2012 - Jan 2013

SOFTWARE PROFICIENCY

- **Design and Editing:** Adobe Cloud (Acrobat, Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop), Avid Protools
- **Office Suites:** Google Docs Editors Suite (Docs, Slides, Sheets), Microsoft Suite (Excel, Powerpoint, Word)
- **Data Analysis:** RStudio (Introductory), GIS (Introductory)
- **Operating Systems:** Mac OS X, Microsoft Windows

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Design Consultant

Freelance crafting for digital & print

AntiPro Design Co., California

March 2022 - Present

Production Artist

Clothing design and web graphics

Oaklandish, Oakland, CA

March 2021 - October 2021

VR Specialist & FOH Manager

VR workflows and event curation

Revery: VR Bar, Atlanta, GA

April 2019 - March 2021

AV Production Assistant

Technical creative services for Google

Optimist Inc., Los Angeles, CA

November 2018 - May 2019

Process Assistant

Process lead & design for Amazon Fulfillment Center

Amazon, San Bernardino, CA

June 2015 - January 2016

Problem Solver

Inbound and Outbound operations, and Advanced Bintool Permissions

Amazon, Redlands, CA

November 2014 - October 2015

Certified Makeup Artist

Cosmetics, personal care, and sales

Sephora, Redlands, CA

November 2013 - January 2015

ORGANIZATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

*SERCAL - Ecological Restoration Conference: **Leadership Team***

2023 - Current

*Entomological Society of America: **Member***

2024 - Current

*The Wild Life Society - Western Chapter: **Member***

2023 - Current

*Association of Environmental Professionals: **Student Member***

2023 - Current

*Association of Fire Ecology: **Student Member***

2023 - Current

*Ecological Society of America: **Student Member***

2023 - Current

*California Native Plant Society: **Perennial Member***

2022 - Current

SPECIES WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

CNPS Vernal Pool Plant Taxonomy Workshop

Apr 22 - 24, 2024 (UC Davis)

- **Provider:** California Native Plant Society
- **Plant Species Covered:** *Vernal Pool Plant Species* (Central Valley, California)
- **Techniques Covered:** Identification, collecting, and surveying methods

Foothill Yellow-legged Frog Ecology & Conservation Workshop

Oct 27 & 28, 2023 (Sonoma County)

- **Provider:** Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation
- **Endangered Species Covered:** *Rana boylei* (Foothill Yellow-legged Frog)
- **Techniques Covered:** Identification, handling, and surveying methods

Rare Shoreline Species Workshop

June 16 & 17, 2023 (Eden Landing Ecological Reserve)

- **Provider:** San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of The Wildlife Society
- **Endangered Species Covered:** *Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus* (Western snowy plover), *Rallus obsoletus obsoletus* (California Ridgway's Rail), *Reithrodontomys raviventris* (Salt-marsh harvest mouse), *Sternula antillarum browni* (California least tern)
- **Techniques Covered:** Identification, surveying methods

Jepson Prairie Docent & Dipper Training

Feb 2023 - May 2023 (UC Davis)

- **Provider:** Solano Land Trust & UC Nature Reserves
- **Permit Date:** May 19, 2023
- **Endangered Species Covered:** *Ambystoma californiense* (California tiger salamander), *Branchinecta conservatio* (Conservancy fairy shrimp), *Lepidurus packardi* (Vernal pool tadpole shrimp)
- **Techniques Covered:** Identification, dipping, record protocol