

# Beth Hotchkiss

bhotchkiss4@gmail.com | 509.570.6501 | linkedin.com/in/hotchkissbeth

## Education

### Professional Degree

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering

magna cum laude | Studied abroad in Stockholm, Sweden

Minors:

- Gender, Race, Culture, Science, and Technology
- Media, Art, Science, and Technology
- Ethnic Studies

### Professional Certifications

Massachusetts Institute of Technology - MITx Online

MicroMasters® Certificates:

- Data, Economics, and Development Studies - Public Policy
- Data, Economics, and Development Studies - International Development

National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying

Fundamentals of Engineering Exam, Passed

### Current Field Certifications

- Remote Pilot: Small Unmanned Aircraft System, FAA
- Firefighter 1C: Wildland Firefighting, CAL FIRE
- California Naturalist, UCANR
- Open Water Diver, PADI

### Software Tools

#### Data Analysis

Excel Visual Basic for Applications (VBA), AutoCAD, R, Python

#### Communications

Adobe Lightroom, Premiere Pro, InDesign, Microsoft Suite, Wix, and WordPress

## **Work Experience**

### **California Conservation Corps (CCC)**

**Public Information Officer 1 | Full Time | May 2023 - Present**

- Amplify the stories of young adults enrolled in CCC's workforce development programs - training for careers in wildland firefighting, forestry, habitat restoration, fisheries, and resource conservation.
- Photograph and film conservation projects, create social media and news posts, draft print-ready articles for publication, update website copy, and respond to public inquiries.

### **California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), renamed to the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI)**

**Senior Wildfire Planner | Full Time | January - May 2023**

- Coordinated with California's Office of Emergency Services, engaging in their Community Planning and Capacity Building Recovery Support Function. Provided expertise on post-wildfire planning activities.

**Program Analyst | Full Time | September 2018 - January 2023**

- Updated California's "General Plan Guidelines" to help 540 cities and counties adapt to climate change. Served as the assistant manager for OPR's Wildfire Planning Technical Advisory and the project manager & primary author for OPR's Evacuation Planning Technical Advisory.
- Managed a 200,000-dollar contract with the Community Wildfire Planning Center for the development of ten case studies highlighting best planning practices within the wildland-urban interface.
- Conducted a feasibility study for the development of a climate "risk-mitigation" project database to inventory shovel-ready projects, which required researching existing project databases/inventories, conducting a user needs assessment, defining operational requirements, and identifying funding opportunities.
- Supported the California Education Learning Lab Grant Program by co-developing requests for proposals, streamlining grant processes, organizing materials for selection committee meetings, and coordinating events for grant awardees.

## **AmeriCorps Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA)**

**Summer Associate | Full Time | June - August 2016**

- Used quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques to identify factors affecting the retention of minority students at Cal Poly, then provided recommendations for improvement.
- Created a “Diversity Map” of Cal Poly’s 2015-2017 curriculum to target improvements for inclusive teaching.
- Produced nametags, programs, slides, and motivational videos for the Cal Poly Scholars Welcome Banquet.

## **Cal Poly Computer Engineering Department**

**Photographer | Part Time | June 2016 - August 2017**

- Photographed computer engineering students using code to tackle real-world challenges for the department’s publication “Hello World”.

## **Professional Development**

### **Girls Who Click**

**Photography Ambassador | October 2020 - September 2025**

- Received monthly mentorship from Cathy Hart, an experienced Alaska-based wildlife photographer, to enhance visual storytelling skills.
- Co-led two single-day photography workshops for young girls from Anchorage, Alaska. Engaged 18 participants and 10 volunteers.
- Developed content for Girls Who Click social media and blog platforms.
- Attended monthly calls with the Ambassador cohort to share experiences and exchange tips, tricks, and advice.

### **Global Shapers, Sacramento Hub**

**Member and Vice-Curator | June 2020 - January 2024**

- Participated in a wide range of member-driven volunteer projects within Sacramento: tending community gardens, raising awareness about water-wise conservation rebates, contributing to clothing drives, and distributing food to those in need.
- As the 2021 Vice-Curator, I co-led biweekly meetings to empower members to shape the community through dialogue and action.

## **ALTO Residency in Alto Paraíso, Brazil**

**Artist in Residence | September - October 2022**

- Participated in a month-long artist residency program located in the heart of Brazil's Cerrado - one of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots. Used the time to reflect, create, and connect to the local environment.

## **California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), renamed to the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI)**

**Policy Intern | May - September 2018**

- Led the development of a "Climate and Health Resource Guide" for California's Global Climate Action Summit. This project required vetting 400+ resources, then organizing and formatting the document.
- Evaluated 400+ nominees for the Global Climate Action Summit delegation and Climate Trailblazers cohort.

## **Nobel Nightcap**

**Photographer | December 2017**

- Selected as one of five photographers charged with documenting the 2017 Nobel NightCap: a student-run afterparty for Nobel Laureates.

## **Engineers Without Borders (EWB), Cal Poly Chapter**

**Vice-President | January 2016 - June 2017**

- Co-led a community of 150 students. Facilitated bi-weekly meetings to help five teams navigate the intricacies of implementing EWB engineering projects spanning the globe.
- Initiated a "Sustainability Task Force" to increase awareness about EWB's environmental, social, economic, and cross-generational impacts. The resulting task force projects created institutional change: a new member orientation program, a food waste reduction program, and an ethical media guide.

## **Sanitation in Sainji Project Manager | December 2013 - January 2016**

- Facilitated weekly planning meetings with 10 team members. Managed project fundraising and the \$16,000 budget. Organized international travel to India for a team of six students and two mentors.
- Closed out the sanitation project prematurely due to a divergence from EWB's philosophy of community involvement and ownership.

## **SolarSPELL in Port Vila, Vanuatu**

### **Media Lead | March - August 2015**

- Curated educational content, constructed 50+ solar-powered educational learning libraries, and deployed the portable learning devices to Peace Corps volunteers in Vanuatu.
- Recorded footage about the impact of climate change in Vanuatu, the aftermath of Cyclone Pam, and the role of technology in the country's recovery and continued development for use in a Cal Poly video-editing course.

## **Washington Aerospace Scholars**

### **Participant | January - July 2012**

- Learned about the history of space travel and completed engineering design exercises through an online course developed by NASA.
- Participated in a week-long summer residency at the Seattle Museum of Flight, where our student team designed a mission to Mars.

## **Outreach and Engagement**

### **External Publications**

#### **Media Articles**

- "California Conservation Corps conducts training at Red Bluff Recreation Area." Article based on print-ready. Action News Now. 2026.
- "A Watershed Moment in Los Angeles: Photographing an Environmental Emergency" Blog Post. Girls Who Click. 2025.
- "Monterey County Youth Protect Los Angeles Waterways from Post-Fire Contamination." Article verbatim to print-ready. King City Rustler. 2025.
- "Northstate Youth Protect Los Angeles Waterways from Post-Fire Contamination." Article based on print-ready. Siskiyou News. 2025.
- "Solano Youth Protect Los Angeles Waterways from Post-Fire Contamination." Article based on print-ready. Daily Republic. 2025.
- "Transformative Moments at the Girls Who Click Workshop in Alaska" Blog Post. Girls Who Click. 2024.
- "U.S. Veterans Serve Country, and Planet." Article based on print-ready. Redheaded Blackbelt. 2024.
- "Young Adults Shape California's Newest State Park." Article verbatim to print-ready. Riverbank News & Oakdale Leader. 2024.

- “Lessons from the Field: The Merits of Community Ownership.” Blog Post. EWB-USA. 2017.

### **Cover Images**

- “FY25 Annual Report.” The Corps Network. Image: CCC Corpsmembers reforesting the Tahoe Basin. National Photo Contest Winner. 2025.
- “World Wildlife.” World Wildlife Foundation. Image: Lion Close-up. 2023. Distributed to ~ 100,000 readers.
- “Together/Apart.” That Art Gallery - Bristol, UK. Image: Empty Plane. 2021.
- “Hello World.” Cal Poly SLO Computer Engineering. Image: VR Scuba Diver, created in partnership with Graphic Designer Jo Mendoza. 2017.
- “Hello World.” Cal Poly SLO Computer Engineering. Image: Bacteria Scanning App. 2016.

### **Short Film Screenings**

- “When Amma Came to Dinner.” A Place Called Sacramento Film Festival: Official Selection, October 2025. Davis Film Festival: Official Selection, November 2025.
- “Al Am Sam.” Sacramento Comedy Spot - Halloween Fest. October 2025.
- “Wheel Get Through This.” Sacramento Comedy Spot - Short Film Festival. March 2021. Awarded best film, best social message, best use of theme, and best script.

### **Conference Presentations**

- “Embedding Equity & Resilience into Wildfire Planning and Programs.” UC Davis Wildfire Resilient Structures (WiReS) Conference and Tradeshow. Los Angeles, CA. 2023.
- “Translating Science into Policy: Planning for Wildfire Resilience in California.” International Association for Wildland Fire: Fire & Climate Conference. Pasadena, CA. 2022.
- United Nations Science, Policy, and Innovation Forum. UN Major Group for Children and Youth Presenter. New York, NY. 2017.
- "Reforming Student Organizations to Embrace Sustainability." California Higher Education Sustainability Conference. Santa Barbara, CA. 2017.
- “Navigating the Complexities of Development Work Abroad." Change the Status Quo Conference. San Luis Obispo, CA. 2016.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

### **Sacramento Comedy Spot | 2019 - Present**

- Helix Improv Performer (on stage weekly) 2023-2025
- Improv, Sketch, and Musical Comedy Classes, 2019-2020

### **Distance Running | 2006 - Present**

- Marathon Finisher: California International Marathon, 2024
- Half-Marathon Finisher: San Luis Obispo Half & City to Sea, 2015-16 & 19
- Public School XC Team 2006-2013, with an XC Coaches' Award in 2013

### **Musical Outlets | 2004 - Present**

- Firehouse 5 Tango Dancer, 2024 - present
- Violinist 2004-2017, with a Cal Poly Symphony European Tour in 2016