Rob Burness is truly a front line activist in all major habitat issues in the Sacramento region. He consistently has provided high quality comments on all major EIRs and EISs of concern, been at all meetings to educate local electeds, acted as a crucial strategist in campaigns to stop bad projects, been a key member of negotiating teams, and is an unflagging local leader on regional conservation issues.

Inspired by a book written by Ian McHarg titled ‘Design with Nature’, which sought to more fully and intelligently design human environments in concert with the conditions of setting, climate, and environment, Rob switched majors from biology to urban planning and got a job with the Sacramento County Planning Department. He was there for 30 years to help implement plans that were inspired by McHarg’s philosophy of planning.

After retiring, Rob ended up sitting on the board of the Friends of the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, the Environmental Council of Sacramento as well as many of their subcommittees, and Mother Lode Chapter’s Conservation Committee. He uses his expertise in a complicated and technical field, as well as his clear willingness to get his hands dirty, to protect those habitats that need safeguarding.