



**Michelle King, PhD**

**Celebrating 30**

**Years at eki** environment  
& water

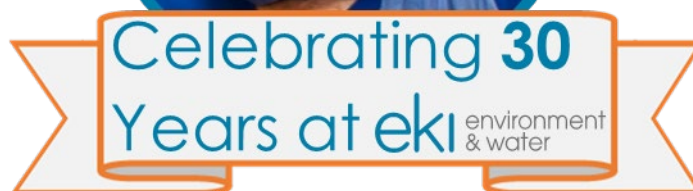
# EKler Spotlight: Michelle King, PhD

## President, EKI Environment & Water, Inc.

**Practice Expertise: Vapor Intrusion and Brownfields Redevelopment**

### 1. Personal Background

In August of 2023, Michelle King celebrates her 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at EKI. She started as an environmental engineer at EKI after completing her doctoral degree at Stanford University. Early on, Michelle focused on human health risk assessments and brownfields property redevelopment projects, where she was able to leverage her technical knowledge of the fate and transport of chemicals in the environment to develop practical remediation strategies consistent with the planned development. She has continued this path throughout her career, with increasing experience and challenging complex projects even while leading EKI as its first female president.



### 2. Niche Area of Specialty

As part of her risk assessment work in the mid-1990's, Michelle was evaluating vapor intrusion (VI) long before VI became a hot-button issue for redevelopment projects. Fast forward to the 2020's, Michelle has worked on numerous projects that have included VI assessment and mitigation, ranging from large tech company developments to smaller residential projects. Michelle works with clients to understand their business risks and pressure points, allowing her to tailor environmental solutions that integrate with their projects.

Through the years, Michelle has developed trusted and long-standing relationships with clients, attorneys, and regulatory agencies. From three decades of work, she has developed and maintained close working contacts with county environmental health departments, Regional Water Boards, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). Michelle works with clients to understand their business risks and pressure points, allowing her to tailor environmental solutions that integrate with their projects. Michelle's work is commended for her technically-sound solutions and her ability to explain complex environmental concepts in an easy-to-understand manner. She is strategic, practical, and solutions-oriented. Many clients and regulators have appreciated her diligence and responsiveness to client needs as well as protectiveness of human health and the environment. Michelle's expertise in the niche area of vapor intrusion is often a key resource for projects that may not necessarily have started with VI as the primary environmental issue.

### 3. Compliance with Regulations over the Years

Staying current on the regulatory issues associated with VI is crucial to Michelle. She understands it is critical to stay attuned as the regulatory landscape for VI has seen significant pendulum swings in the assessment approach. Currently, the regulatory agencies are extremely conservative in their requirements, despite environmental data that would suggest such conservatism may not be required for most buildings. Where allowed, Michelle will apply site-specific data and modeling to justify alternate approaches to the regulatory agencies' default attenuation factor.

Her familiarity with different regulatory agency oversight mechanisms and her decades of trust and integrity developed with the regulatory community provides implementable solutions for developers who may not be the party responsible for the source of contamination. These tools include prospective purchaser agreements, reasonable steps letters, and California Land Reuse and Revitalization Act (CLRRRA) agreements, coupled with environmental insurance policies.

### 4. Select Projects and Clients

Michelle has worked on numerous high-profile confidential projects. Due to the sensitive nature of these projects EKI does not disclose the project name and the client details, keeping our clients' faith in our non-disclosure policy.

For several decades, Michelle has been advising several tech clients, developers, and institutional entities, such as those at the Middlefield-Ellis-Whisman (MEW) Superfund Site and the former Moffett Federal Airfield in Mountain View, California. These properties are all impacted with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in groundwater and have required vapor intrusion assessment and mitigation.

Starting in 1997, Michelle served as project manager and then Principal-in-Charge for EKI's work at the Presidio of San Francisco. Michelle led EKI's team in the landmark deal that helped the Presidio Trust to secure \$100MM in funding to take over environmental remedial activities from the US Army as part of the transition to a national park. Michelle led investigations at the former Army base to evaluate the chemical impacts of former landfills, firing ranges, fuel distribution systems, underground storage tanks, and aircraft hangers. Working with the Presidio Trust, DTSC, and the National Park Service, she was influential in developing Presidio-wide cleanup levels that allowed for consistent remedial goals across the Presidio, streamlining remedial decisions. In 2014, the Presidio Trust completed the majority of the remedial actions at the Presidio and obtained regulatory closure. This long-term project demonstrates Michelle's ability to lead and maintain client and regulatory relationships over time to provide long-lasting results.

