



**STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
Two 2017 State Fellowship Opportunities  
South Coast Fellow & Climate Ready Fellow**

**1. Host location and contact information**

State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Floor 13  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

**2. Fellowship Supervisor(s)**

South Coast Fellowship - Megan Cooper, Joan Cardellino  
Climate Ready Fellowship - Mary Small

**3. Point of contact for CSG and prospective fellows and finalists:**

Mary Small  
Deputy Executive Officer  
510-286-4182, [mary.small@scc.ca.gov](mailto:mary.small@scc.ca.gov)

**4. Position description(s)**

General Overview: Established in 1976, the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) is a non-regulatory agency that works to protect and improve natural lands and waterways, help people get to and enjoy the outdoors, and sustain local economies along the length of California's coast and around San Francisco Bay. The SCC works in partnership with local governments, other public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners. Much of the Conservancy's work involves collaborating with scientists and other professionals to deliver on-the-ground coastal resource protection and restoration.

The Conservancy's broad mandate allows it to undertake planning, projects, and initiatives such as the following:

- Protect and improve the quality and resiliency of coastal wetlands, streams, watersheds, and near-shore ocean waters;
- Help people get to and along the coast and bay shores by building trails and stairways and by acquiring land and easements. The Conservancy also assists in the creation of low-cost accommodations along the coast, including campgrounds and hostels;
- Help to solve complex land-use problems;
- Protect coastal lands, including agricultural lands and working landscapes;
- Address the potential impacts of climate change on resources within its jurisdiction, and undertake projects that address extreme weather events, sea level rise, storm surge, beach

and bluff erosion, flooding, and other coastal hazards that threaten coastal communities, infrastructure, and natural resources.

Specific Scope of Work: The SCC is applying to host two fellow to help carry out our work.

### **South Coast Fellow**

One fellow will be placed in the SCC's South Coast Program to help support the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP), a broad-based partnership of 18 state and federal agencies working in concert with scientists, local governments, and environmental organizations. In the coming year, the WRP will undertake the following actions, which the fellow will work to support:

- Participate in a large science collaborative process to update the WRP's *Regional Strategy*, a science-based regional plan to identify quantifiable restoration objectives. The Regional Strategy will incorporate historical ecology, contemporary wetland assessments, and climate change into a framework that will guide conservation goals.
- Continue to develop an in-lieu fee program, including preparation of site-specific mitigation plans.
- Coordinate and provide staff support for meetings of the various branches of the WRP including the Board of Governors annual meeting, Science Advisory Panel regional meetings (two to three per year), Wetlands Managers Group monthly meetings, and County Task Force meetings as needed.
- Assist in the development of the Headwaters to Ocean (H2O) Conference, an annual professional conference that draws together scientists, resource managers, public stakeholders and decision-makers around the topic of coastal management.
- Increase the WRP's public visibility by managing social media and web outreach.

The fellow will have the opportunity to work with leading wetland scientists, practitioners, and managers. Tasks may include helping to determine management and science needs, facilitating movement of a very diverse group toward those goals, reviewing and writing technical papers, participating in meetings, conducting site visits, undertaking GIS work, and managing contracts and budgets.

Although helping to staff the work of the WRP will be the fellow's primary task, s/he will likely also take on other SCC projects such as public access (e.g., trail and open space planning and construction), urban waterfronts (e.g., projects that bring together public access, economic, and fisheries elements), habitat restoration, or climate change adaptation (e.g., "living shorelines" projects that use nature-based solutions to address erosion and provide/maintain habitat). Tasks may include project development, project and contract management, presentations to the SCC Board and others, and leadership in communications (e.g., website, social media). The SCC is committed to fostering and developing the fellow's professional goals as much as possible, and will tailor the suite of tasks accordingly.

### **Climate Ready Fellow**

SB 1066 (Lieu, 2013) gave the SCC explicit authority to work with its partners on projects to address the effects of climate change on coastal and to work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Coastal Conservancy created its “Climate Ready Program” in 2013 to focus its work to protect important coastal resources and habitats from the current and future impacts of climate change. The SCC is collaborating with local partners and other agencies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare communities along the coast and within the San Francisco Bay for climate change.

Supervised by the SCC’s Deputy Director, the Climate Ready fellow will assist the agency in implementing its Climate Ready program. Specifically, the fellow will:

- Develop and/or manage pilot studies or projects selected from for funding under the SCC’s Climate Ready Grant Program. Depending on the fellow’s start date, this may involve preparing one or more staff recommendations for SCC board approval, preparing the grant agreement(s), working with grantee(s) to finalize work plans and project budgets, and overseeing completion of work tasks;
- Work collaboratively with agency staff to assist in reviewing completed projects, compiling lessons learned and developing information to share with other partners, through publication, webinars and at conferences.
- Participate and support interagency coordination related to climate adaption work along the coast.
- Support communication about the science and management issues related to climate change via the SCC’s website, planning and educational forums, conferences, and other means;
- Provide technical, scientific and administrative support to the work of climate change committees or collaborative that the SCC is involved with, such as the Bay Area Ecosystem Climate Change Consortium, the Climate Action Team, and the Alliance for Regional Collaborative for Climate Adaptation.

Tasks will be varied and may include working with wetland scientists, ecologists and other practitioners to prioritize science and management needs, and to conceptualize projects that will result in lessons learned for the broader community; reviewing technical papers and plans, and developing skills to provide reviews; convening, participating in, and leading meetings; interacting with policy makers, planning and technical practitioners focused on climate change adaptation; preparing a staff recommendation for SCC Board consideration; managing contracts and budgets; and seeking additional grant funding for pilot projects.