



**CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION
2017 State Fellowship Opportunity #1
Science Policy and Tribal Liaison Fellow**

1. Host location and contact information

California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South,
Sacramento, CA 95825

2. Fellowship Supervisor & Point of Contact:

Jennifer Deleon
Science Policy Advisor and Tribal Liaison
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3. Agency Background:

The [California State Lands Commission](#) (Commission) is an independent and dynamic state agency that works on the cutting edge of integrating science into policy decisions. The State Lands Commission has jurisdiction over all State-owned filled and unfilled tidelands, submerged lands and beds of navigable waterways. The State acquired ownership of all such lands within its boundaries upon its admission to the United States in 1850. The State holds these lands for the benefit of all its people for the public trust purposes of water related commerce, navigation, fisheries, water oriented recreation, and open space. These "sovereign lands" include the beds of California's natural and navigable rivers, lakes, and streams, as well as the State's tide and submerged lands along the State's 1,100+ miles of coastline and offshore islands, from approximately the mean high tide line to three nautical miles offshore.

Part of the Commission's trust responsibility includes reviewing and approving or denying lease applications for uses or activities on sovereign lands (e.g., marine renewable energy projects, marine oil terminals, shoreline protective structures, commercial marinas, private recreational docks and piers, etc.) and enhancing public access to the ocean and waterways. Valid public trust uses occasionally conflict with each other; the Commission works to manage those conflicts and ensure that the principles of the Public Trust Doctrine are safeguarded. In this way, the Commission, along with its sister state agencies, decides on appropriate uses for California's ocean and proactively plans for future issues and conflicts.

The three-person Commission is comprised of two Constitutional Officers, the State Controller and the Lieutenant Governor, and the Governor-appointed Director of Finance. This Fellow will be supervised by the Science Policy Advisor and Tribal Liaison, within the Commission's Executive Office. The Science Policy Advisor and Tribal Liaison consults with Commission staff on many issues at the science/policy interface, including adaptation to climate change and sea-level rise; management of California's marine protected areas; development of offshore renewable energy; and the preservation of cultural and tribal resources. This work includes extensive coordination with the Commission's other divisions, including Environmental Planning and Management, Legal, External Affairs, Mineral Resources Management, Marine Environmental Protection, and Land Management.

Position Description:

The Science Policy Advisor and Tribal Liaison's Sea Grant Fellow will have the opportunity to work on complex and challenging marine and coastal issues. Accordingly, the Fellow will likely have a variety of short-term and long-term projects throughout the fellowship year. The Fellow will also be welcome to participate in conferences, interagency meetings, and collaborative projects with other Fellows as opportunities arise. Previous Commission Sea Grant Fellows worked on and participated in the following projects and activities:

- Developed and implemented a sea-level rise and climate change education and training program for Commission staff;
- Participated in the State Coastal Leadership Group on Sea-Level Rise and the California Collaborative on Coastal Resilience's Humboldt Pilot Project;
- Assisted with the update of the Commission's lease application to address sea-level rise and developed a webpage to help applicants account for it;
- Attended training to explore and assess the latest coastal and marine spatial planning tools and techniques for potential utility to the Commission;
- Attended Commission meetings, legislative hearings, and relevant coastal and marine conferences;
- Organized, moderated, and presented a sea-level rise panel at the Prevention First Conference, hosted by the Commission; and
- Volunteered for the Thank You Ocean campaign.

Specific project and program duties will be developed collaboratively among the Fellow, Science Policy Advisor and Tribal Liaison, and Executive Office, and will be based on the Commission's needs that arise during the fellowship, as well as the Fellow's interests. The Fellow will likely continue or collaborate on the current (2016) Sea Grant Fellows' projects related to climate change and sea-level rise. This will include developing an ongoing climate change and sea-level rise training program for Commission staff, integrating the best available science into the Commission's decision-making processes, and collaborating with other state, federal, local, and tribal entities. As part of the climate change and sea-level rise program, the Fellow will have the opportunity to develop web- and GIS-based tools to aid Commission staff and the public in analyzing the impacts of sea-level rise on public trust resources and values. In addition to these long-term projects, the Fellow will interact with Commission staff from multiple divisions that encompass a wide variety of coastal and marine resource topics. Examples of topics that our staff works on include:

- Navigable inland waters
- Marine and terrestrial renewable energy
- Aquatic invasive species
- Offshore oil development and terminals
- Marine spatial planning
- Granted lands
- Underwater infrastructure.
- Cultural and tribal resources

Desirable Qualifications:

- Ability to work both independently and with diverse interdisciplinary teams that require clear communication;
- Ability to apply and develop expertise in natural resources and coastal management issues;

- Ability to translate science into layman's terms;
- Familiarity and/or experience with GIS and web-development;
- Ability to work toward consensus positions with governmental, private, and public interest groups;
- An interest or experience in using social media to educate, engage, and communicate with a wide array of audiences; and
- An interest in CEQA and other natural resource laws, rules, and regulations (e.g., National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), California Coastal Act, California Ocean Protection Act, Federal and State Endangered Species Acts, etc.).