



**CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION  
2017 State Fellowship Opportunity #2  
Executive Office Fellow**

**1. Host location and contact information**

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

**2. Fellowship Supervisor**

Executive Office, in coordination with staff of other Divisions within the Commission

**3. Point of Contact:**

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Assistant Executive Officer  
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916-574-1800

**4. 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 Lieutenant Governor and the State Controller, and the Governor-appointed Director of Finance. This Fellow will be supervised primarily by Executive Office staff and will coordinate closely with staff in other divisions in the Commission that will play a key role in the development of policies and practices relating to offshore renewable energy in state and federal waters off California. These Divisions include the Mineral Resources Management Division, Land Management Division, Division of Environmental Planning and Development, and the Legal Division.

**Position Description:**

This Sea Grant Fellow will have the opportunity to work on investigatory projects throughout the fellowship year involving complex and challenging marine and coastal issues related to:

- Offshore wind energy;
- Coastal engineering;
- Tidal and wave energy;
- Environmental impacts of offshore energy;
- Natural oil and gas seeps;
- Legacy oil wells and other coastal hazards.

The State of California has committed to a goal of 50% renewable energy by 2030. Meeting this goal will likely require the emergence of offshore renewable energy sources, including wind, tidal, and wave energy. The Commission will be instrumental in the development of these resources and technologies as the leasing authority for California's tide and submerged lands. The Commission wants to ensure that the state's energy goals are met, while protecting Public Trust resources and values, and limiting adverse environmental impacts. The Fellow will have the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Commission's renewable energy future, as well as explore how offshore renewable energy relates to other important resource management issues, including climate change and sea-level rise.

Project work is likely to include:

- Developing a comprehensive analysis of offshore renewable energy options, including wind, wave, tidal, and solar;
- Developing a feasibility analysis of using existing oil, gas, and electric infrastructure for offshore renewable energy;
- Contributing to the proposed joint offshore energy task force for California convened by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management;
- Participating in stakeholder outreach efforts related to offshore energy development;
- Researching and reviewing proposed offshore energy projects and leases;
- Reviewing recent offshore oil seep-related and legacy oil well studies and articles;
- Coordinating with staff from other agencies and entities, such as the Ocean Protection Council, Ocean Science Trust, California Energy Commission, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, California Coastal Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, etc.; and
- Developing reports and presentations for Commission management, staff, and Commissioners about offshore renewable energy.

The Fellow will coordinate with his or her Supervisor to select projects that align with the Fellow's interests and skills, and meet the needs of the Commission. The Fellow will be welcome to participate in conferences, as well as interagency meetings, and collaborative projects with other Fellows as opportunities arise. Among other meetings and events, our 2012-16 Sea Grant Fellows drafted and presented reports to State Lands Commissioners; attended Commission meetings, legislative hearings, and relevant coastal and marine conferences; and represented the Commission in collaborative working groups.

**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;
- Ability to work toward consensus positions with governmental, private, and public interest groups;
- Background in Chemistry, Engineering, Energy Policy, or other related disciplines; and
- An interest in natural resource laws, rules, and regulations.