

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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**2018 SEA GRANT STATE FELLOWSHIP****CLIMATE CHANGE EMPHASIS****CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION****Overview**

The California Coastal Commission implements the California Coastal Act of 1976 and has regulatory authority over development along the coast in balance with the protection of coastal resources, environmentally sensitive habitats, and public access. This work is carried out through land use planning and permitting. The Commission is an independent, quasi-judicial state agency whose authority is defined as the coastal zone, a 1.5 million-acre area stretching 1,270 miles along the state's mainland coastline from Oregon to Mexico, and around nine offshore islands (333 miles of island shoreline). The Commission also has the responsibility to work with local governments to establish Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) which, when certified by the Commission, become the land use plan basis for coastal permitting at the local level. Furthermore, the Commission has the purview and planning responsibility to assess and address issues of state-wide importance such as sea level rise and coastal erosion and the implications of these on Coastal Act resources. Both sea level rise and coastal erosion will be exacerbated by climate change.

Position Description

The Sea Grant Fellow will be exposed to and work on a broad range of coastal and ocean issues that are part of the Coastal Commission's regulatory and Local Coastal Program planning work throughout the coastal zone. He/she will have a unique opportunity to assist executive, management and policy level staff in the headquarters and district offices of the California Coastal Commission on a variety of coastal and ocean resource protection issues with a special emphasis on climate change and sea level rise adaptation planning. The Fellow will also have the opportunity to interface directly with senior government officials and leaders in resource management policy throughout California. Fellow work products, potentially including presentations and collaborative work on reports with the Coastal Commission and with other state agencies, especially the Resources Agency and the Ocean Protection Council (OPC), will be highly visible. The Sea Grant Fellow may work with the OPC to help coordinate/staff efforts to improve interagency collaboration on California's marine protected areas, climate change and other issues to be determined.

More specifically, a Sea Grant Fellow with the Coastal Commission will support the executive and senior policy and technical staff in its broad state-wide climate change policy work such as implementation of Safeguarding California, participating in multi-agency meetings, serving as a communication conduit between the Commission and various California Natural Resources Agency/OPC sponsored workgroups, drafting Commission recommendations for state-wide planning documents, and assisting the Commission in developing or enhancing projects including those that are done in cooperation with other state partners. The role of the fellow may include support on large-scale team projects and also likely several smaller independent projects which the fellow will develop and manage.

Projects/activities that the fellow will be expected to work on would include:

- 1) Assisting in review of climate-related documents such vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans and other technical reports in support of land use plan development for Local Coastal Programs and regulatory work on coastal development permits;
- 2) Supporting outreach and education efforts to local governments, other state agencies, stakeholders and the public about climate and sea-level rise planning information, products and tools. This work could include assisting with updates to the Commission's website and with planning outreach events such as webinars and workshops;
- 3) Assisting Interagency Coordination and Collaboration. As described above, the fellow would support Commission staff efforts done in coordination with other state agencies to implement, track and report on climate adaptation and other sea level rise planning efforts,
- 4) Supporting implementation of key climate change related action items of the Commission's 2013-2018 Strategic Plan and the 2018 update of the Strategic Plan; and
- 5) Supporting various climate-related special projects including two distinct sea level rise-related grant projects, one on on planning for critical infrastructure and one on protecting public trust lands and resources. The Fellow would carry out discreet tasks to complete those special projects.

Given the wide range of projects and initiatives undertaken by the Coastal Commission along the entire California coast, a successful Sea Grant Fellow at the Coastal Commission must be willing to take on and deliver products for a broad range of projects. While there will be an expected emphasis on climate change related projects for most assignments, there will be opportunity for the fellow to dig more deeply into topics of particular interest and assignments can be customized to match the unique skills of the selected fellow. The selected Sea Grant Fellow must be able to work well under minimal supervision and guidance. Possessing an entrepreneurial spirit, strong personal initiative and an ability to work well in a collaborative style with others would be a great plus.

The Coastal Commission senior management has broad experience and success in hosting fellows and giving them a wide breadth of experience in coastal management issues. The Coastal Commission has a team of staff members focusing on climate change issues. This fellowship offers an excellent opportunity for team work and peer collaboration for a Sea Grant Fellow. The Commission has two fellow proposals; however, it is likely that only one 2018 proposal will be funded.

Host Location

California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

Fellowship Supervisors

Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director
Michelle Jespersion, Federal Programs Manager

Point of Contact for Prospective Fellows, and Finalists

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