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DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
A California State Agency

2018 California Sea Grant State Fellowship Opportunity

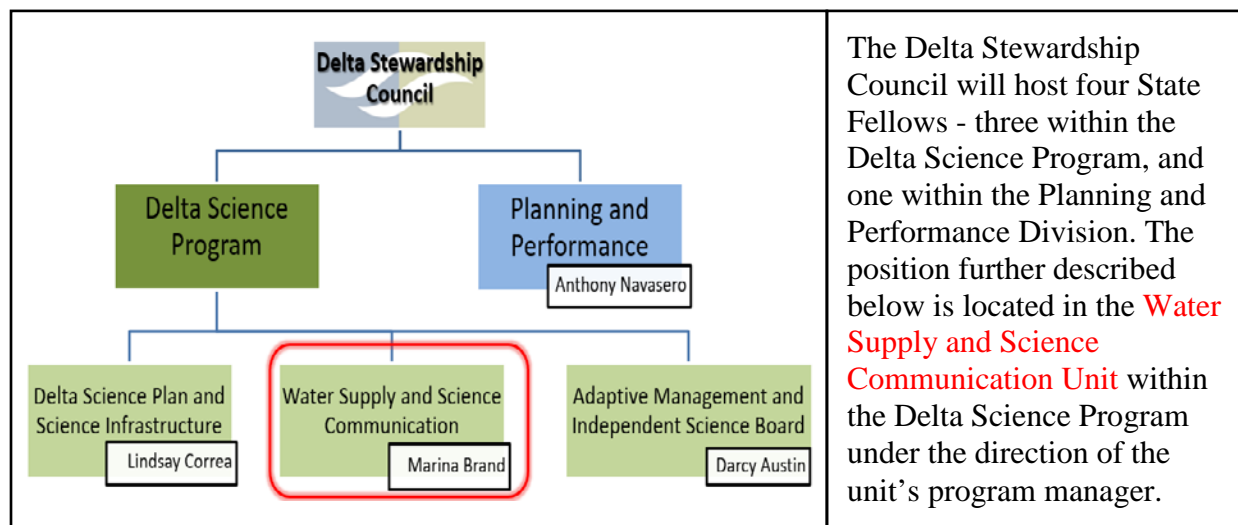
Delta Science Program – Water Supply and Science Communication Unit

Introduction

Located just minutes from major urban areas, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta’s meandering waterways spread over 1,160 square miles before flowing into the San Francisco Bay. The Delta is the largest estuary on the West Coast, supplying two-thirds of California’s water and providing vital habitat for endangered, endemic, and migratory species such as Chinook salmon and Ridgway’s rail. The incumbent for this position has the potential to work at the dynamic interface of land and sea, in a system that is inextricably linked to complex water supply, ecosystem, and policy issues.

Due to the multifaceted nature of this system, the California Legislature enacted the Delta Reform Act, which created the Delta Stewardship Council. The Council’s purpose is to uphold the coequal goals for the Delta – a more reliable statewide water supply and a healthy and protected ecosystem, both achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique characteristics of the Delta as an evolving place.

The **Delta Science Program** (DSP), housed within the Stewardship Council, was established to develop scientific information and syntheses on issues critical for managing the Bay-Delta system. That body of knowledge must be unbiased, relevant, authoritative, integrated across state and federal agencies, and communicated to Bay-Delta decision-makers, agency managers, stakeholders, the scientific community, and the public. The work of the Science Program is guided by the Delta Science Plan, a framework for conducting science that organizes and integrates Delta science activities and builds an open collaborative science community.



The Delta Stewardship Council will host four State Fellows - three within the Delta Science Program, and one within the Planning and Performance Division. The position further described below is located in the **Water Supply and Science Communication Unit** within the Delta Science Program under the direction of the unit’s program manager.

"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."

Unit Description

The **Delta Science Program Water Supply and Science Communication unit** has two primary tasks: 1) develop and implement a Water Supply Adaptive Management Framework to address water management actions, and 2) improve science communications to multiple stakeholders in the Bay-Delta estuary/system. Based on their interests, the Fellow will have the option of working only on implementing the Water Supply Adaptive Management Framework, only on Communication tasks, or a blend of tasks. Typically, a Fellow in this unit will work on one major project, which they take ownership of, and assist with numerous other projects.

Position Description

Water Supply Adaptive Management Framework and Implementation

Currently, the unit is completing a framework that will address how adaptive management could be incorporated into water supply management actions in California (see [Appendix C of the Delta Plan](#) for further discussions on adaptive management). Once completed, the unit will begin developing an Implementation Plan for the Framework.

Potential Assignments

The Fellow will collaborate with staff to develop an implementation plan for the Water Supply Adaptive Management Framework and potentially assist in its implementation. Specific topics would include, but are not limited to:

- How adaptive management can be used to better manage California's water supplies.
- Social, political and economic challenges and opportunities in applying adaptive management to water supply issues.
- How various water management (or supply) actions impact the ecosystem and water quality.
- Water supply challenges facing California, specifically the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.
- Collaboration with other agencies to incorporate adaptive management into specific water management projects/actions.

Science Communications

One goal of the Communications Unit is to translate complex scientific information into a form readily understood by the non-scientists. Currently, one staff scientist is working in Science Communications and would collaborate with the fellow on related projects. These could include various means such as written research summaries, social media, DSP website content, as well as seminars, workshops, and conferences (including the 2018 Bay-Delta Science Conference).

Potential Assignments

- Summarize science funded by the DSP in a format accessible to non-scientists including policy-makers.
- Develop a DSP blog or contribute short videos to the Council's video blog.
- Assist in dissemination of DSP efforts through social media, fact-sheets, and other means.
- Research and write a report determining the science communication needs of the Delta.
- Plan and facilitate 3-5 Brown Bag seminars centered on a specific theme of importance to managing the Bay-Delta system.

Host Location: 980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500, Sacramento, California

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