

SFEP

SAN FRANCISCO



ESTUARY
PARTNERSHIP

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California Sea Grant State Fellowship 2018 HOST DESCRIPTION

Host Background Information

The Partnership was established in 1988 as part of the National Estuary Program (NEP) under the Clean Water Act as a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency program. The Partnership is a collaboration of local, state, and federal agencies, NGOs, academia and business leaders working to protect and restore the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. The Partnership's work is guided by the development and implementation of the *Estuary Blueprint*, a comprehensive, collective vision for the Estuary's future.

The Partnership manages important multi-benefit projects that improve the health of the Estuary. We build partnerships and leverage federal funding with millions of dollars in state and local funds for regional-scale restoration, water quality improvement, and resilience-building projects.

The Partnership's host entity is the Association of Bay Area Governments, which is staffed by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission under a memorandum of understanding and a contract for services. By the end of 2017, the Partnership will be moving from Oakland to join its regional agency partners at the Bay Area Metro Center at 375 Beale Street in San Francisco. The Bay Area Metro Center houses the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and is designed to facilitate communication and collaboration among the agencies.

Fellowship Supervisors

Caitlin Sweeney, Director

Heidi Nutters, Environmental Planner

Position Description

The Partnership recently collaborated with more than 70 partners throughout the region to develop long term goals and a five-year action plan. The resulting 2016 Estuary Blueprint is a comprehensive, collective vision for the Estuary's future. The partnership is seeking assistance from a Sea Grant Fellow with several critical actions identified in the 2016 Estuary Blueprint.

The Fellow's primary responsibility will be to assist with the development of a Bay Area Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP). This grant-funded project responds to a new urgency for faster and more certain tidal marsh restoration in the Bay Area as a result of forecasts of accelerated sea level rise. The WRMP addresses the need to monitor wetland restoration efforts in ways that assess their effectiveness, improve future restoration efforts, support regional coordination of regulatory review and permitting, and adequately account for the large public investment in tidal marsh restoration. The WRMP project includes establishing a steering committee, developing an organizational structure, formalizing institutional arrangements, developing an annual program budget and funding plan, and conducting a series of workshops on four technical monitoring topics: vegetation cover, tidal hydrology, mosquito and vector control, and adaptive marsh management.

The WRMP core team includes the Partnership, the San Francisco Estuary Institute, and the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The Fellow would work directly with the Partnership's project manager, Heidi Nutters, and the core project team to establish and support the WRMP steering committee through direct engagement and technical assistance. In addition, there would be an opportunity for the Fellow to engage with Steering Committee members on various specific projects that support the development of the WRMP, depending on interest and skills. Finally, the Fellow would assist with all aspects of project management, including managing subcontracts, tracking deliverables, and developing quarterly progress reports.

In addition to the WRMP, the Fellow would work to support successful implementation of the Estuary Blueprint in other ways, such as working with partners to track implementation progress and strategizing solutions to implementation challenges, or by assisting with specific Partnership projects focused on restoring habitat, improving water quality, increasing climate resiliency, and championing the Estuary.

Finally, the Fellow would be integrated into the Partnership staff, attending staff meetings, participating in quarterly meetings of the Partnership's Implementation Committee, and attending meetings or workshops with regional partners that pertain to the work of the Partnership.