

**2018 CA Sea Grant State Fellowship
State Coastal Conservancy
Host Description
2 POSITIONS**



Host location and contact information

State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay St., 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-1401

Fellowship Supervisor(s)

South Coast Fellowship - Megan Cooper, Joan Cardellino
Climate Ready Fellowship - Mary Small

Point of contact for prospective fellows and finalists:

Mary Small
Deputy Executive Officer
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Position description(s)

General Overview: Established in 1976, the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) is a non-regulatory agency that works to protect and improve natural lands and waterways, help people get to and enjoy the outdoors, and sustain local economies along the length of California's coast and around San Francisco Bay. The SCC works in partnership with local governments, other public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners. Much of the Conservancy's work involves collaborating with scientists and other professionals to deliver on-the-ground coastal resource protection and restoration.

The Conservancy's broad mandate allows it to undertake planning, projects, and initiatives such as the following:

- Protect and improve the quality and resiliency of coastal wetlands, streams, watersheds, and near-shore ocean waters;
- Help people get to and along the coast and bay shores by building trails and stairways and by acquiring land and easements. The Conservancy also assists in the creation of low-cost accommodations along the coast, including campgrounds and hostels;
- Help to solve complex land-use problems;
- Protect coastal lands, including agricultural lands and working landscapes;
- Address the potential impacts of climate change on resources within its jurisdiction, and undertake projects that address extreme weather events, sea level rise, storm surge, beach and bluff erosion, flooding, and other coastal hazards that threaten coastal communities, infrastructure, and natural resources.

Specific Scope of Work: The SCC is applying to host two fellows to help carry out our work. The SCC is committed to fostering and developing the fellow's professional goals as much as possible, and will tailor the suite of tasks accordingly.

South Coast Fellow

One fellow will be placed in the SCC's South Coast Program to help support the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) and other SCC work in Southern California.

The WRP is a broad-based partnership of 18 state and federal agencies working in concert with scientists, local governments, and environmental organizations. In the coming year, the WRP will undertake the following actions, which the fellow will work to support:

- Participate in a multi-year scientific grant from NOAA, in partnership with UC Davis, USGS, San Francisco Estuary Institute and others, to develop model predictions for sea level rise-induced effects on coastal wetlands.
- Coordinate and provide staff support for meetings of the various branches of the WRP including the Board of Governors annual meeting, Science Advisory Panel regional meetings (two to three per year), Wetlands Managers Group monthly meetings, and County Task Force meetings as needed.
- Develop a Work Plan of high priority wetland projects and coordinate with WRP partners to fund and implement these projects.
- Select a suite of small wetland restoration projects to fund through the Community Wetland Restoration Grants Program.
- Increase the WRP's public visibility by managing social media and web outreach.

Through the WRP, the fellow will have the opportunity to work with leading wetland scientists, practitioners, and managers. Tasks may include helping to determine management and science needs, facilitating movement of a very diverse group toward those goals, reviewing and writing technical papers, participating in meetings, conducting site visits, and undertaking GIS work.

Although helping to staff the work of the WRP will be the fellow's primary task, s/he will likely also take on other SCC projects such as climate change adaptation, public access, urban waterfronts, and habitat restoration. Tasks may include project development, writing staff recommendations to the SCC Board, project and contract management, presentations to the SCC Board and others, and leadership in communications (e.g., website, social media).

Climate Ready Fellow

SB 1066 (Lieu, 2013) gave the SCC explicit authority to work with its partners on projects to address the effects of climate change on coastal and to work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Coastal Conservancy created its "Climate Ready Program" in 2013 to focus its work to protect important coastal resources and habitats from the current and future impacts of climate change. The SCC is collaborating with local partners and other agencies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare communities along the coast and within the San Francisco Bay for climate change.

Supervised by the SCC's Deputy Director, the Climate Ready fellow will assist the agency in implementing its Climate Ready program. Specifically, the fellow will:

- Develop and/or manage pilot studies or projects selected from for funding under the SCC's Climate Ready Grant Program. Depending on the fellow's start date, this may involve preparing one or more staff recommendations for SCC board approval, preparing the grant agreement(s), working with grantee(s) to finalize work plans and project budgets, and overseeing completion of work tasks;
- Work collaboratively with agency staff to assist in reviewing completed projects, compiling lessons learned and developing information to share with other partners, through publication, webinars and at conferences.
- Participate and support interagency coordination related to climate adaption work along the coast.
- Support communication about the science and management issues related to climate change via the SCC's website, planning and educational forums, conferences, and other means;
- Provide technical, scientific and administrative support to the work of climate change committees or collaborative that the SCC is involved with, such as the Bay Area Ecosystem Climate Change Consortium, the Climate Action Team, and the Alliance for Regional Collaborative for Climate Adaptation.

Tasks will be varied and may include working with wetland scientists, ecologists and other practitioners to prioritize science and management needs, and to conceptualize projects that will result in lessons learned for the broader community. The fellow may also review technical papers, interact with policy makers and technical practitioners focused on climate change adaptation planning. The fellow will likely support ongoing Climate Ready webinars and other communication and outreach efforts to help share information within the adaptation community of practice.