

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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**2023 California Sea Grant Host Proposal
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 Coastal Commission also has the responsibility to work with local governments to establish Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) which, when certified by the Coastal Commission, become the land use plan basis for coastal permitting at the local level. Furthermore, the Coastal Commission has the purview and planning responsibility to assess and address issues of state-wide importance such as public access, sea level rise, and coastal erosion and the implications of these on Coastal Act resources.

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. In particular, the fellow will assist executive management, senior level, and technical staff on the agency's public access, environmental justice, sustainability, climate change, and sea level rise adaptation planning work, including addressing coastal hazards (i.e., tsunami, bluff stability/erosion) more broadly. This will include participating in multi-agency meetings, supporting interagency coordination and collaboration between the Coastal Commission and other state agencies, drafting recommendations for state-wide planning documents, and assisting the Coastal Commission in developing or enhancing informational products that serve to educate the Coastal Commission itself, local government partners, stakeholders, and the public. The fellow will also have opportunities to interface directly with senior government officials and leaders in coastal and ocean resource management policy throughout California, including working on projects and/or work products developed in collaboration with other state agencies like the California Natural Resources Agency, the State Lands Commission, the State Coastal Conservancy, and the Ocean Protection Council (OPC). The fellow may work on team projects and smaller independent projects. The Coastal Commission will also provide the fellow an opportunity to learn about and assist with the Coastal Commission's core regulatory and planning work.

Projects/activities that the fellow could work on would include:

- 1) Assist in review of sustainability and climate-related documents such vulnerability assessments, adaptation plans, and other technical reports in support of land use plan development for Local Coastal Programs, agency Guidance documents, and in regulatory work in review of coastal development permits applications;

- 2) Support outreach and education efforts to local governments, other state agencies, stakeholders and the public about the Coastal Commission's planning efforts, policy guidance, and other informational products and tools on a range of issues. This work could include supporting updates to the Coastal Commission's website and with planning outreach events such as webinars and workshops;
- 3) Assist with interagency coordination and collaboration efforts and support coordination efforts with other state agencies to participate in, track and report on the agency's planning efforts on priority issue areas;
- 4) Work on various climate and sustainability-related special projects as outlined in the Coastal Commission's Strategic Plan, including federally funded projects related to sea level rise planning, sustainable development and smart growth, addressing wildfire resilience and response in the coastal zone, public access vulnerability to sea level rise, environmental justice, marine debris, and protecting public trust lands and resources. This work would involve background research, policy analysis, and data synthesis;
- 5) Assist with the agency's planning and regulatory work on offshore wind energy;
- 6) Assist with agency efforts to accelerate planning and permitting of wetland protection or habitat restoration efforts that support using nature-based solutions in response to coastal hazards; and
- 7) Assist in agency efforts to implement its Tribal Consultation and Environmental Justice Policies.

Given the wide range of projects and initiatives undertaken by the Coastal Commission along the entire California coast, a successful Sea Grant Fellow is expected to take on and deliver products for a range of projects. While there will be an emphasis on climate change and sustainability related projects for most assignments, there will be room for the fellow to dig more deeply into a range of topics of interest (such as transportation, environmental justice, Tribal consultation, public education, affordable housing, and offshore wind energy). **Assignments can be customized to match the unique skills or interests of the selected fellow.** The selected Sea Grant Fellow must be able to work well under minimal supervision and be willing to ask questions. In addition, having a strong personal initiative and an ability to work well in a collaborative style with others is 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 focused on climate change and sustainability issues. This fellowship offers an excellent opportunity for teamwork and peer collaboration. The Coastal Commission will cover the proposed cost of hosting one fellow and supply needed operational, travel, and transit subsidy costs.

Host Location - Flexible

The fellow is usually based out of the Coastal Commission headquarters office in downtown San Francisco (455 Market Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94105) but we are willing to consider the fellow's base to be in one of our district offices (e.g., Arcata, Santa Cruz, Ventura, Long Beach or San Diego).

Fellowship Supervisors

Federal Programs Manager
Statewide Planning Program Manager

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