



California Sea Grant State Fellowship Program 2023

Host Agency: California State Lands Commission
Location: 100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South, Sacramento, CA 95825
Position Name: **Climate Change/Marine Conservation/Environmental Justice**
Fellowship Supervisors: Nicole Dobroski, Chief, Division of Environmental Planning and Management
 Jennifer Mattox, Climate Adaptation and Special Initiatives Program Manager
Points of Contact: Nicole Dobroski, nicole.dobroski@slc.ca.gov; (916) 574-0742
 Jennifer Mattox, jennifer.mattox@slc.ca.gov; (916) 574-0748
 Yessica Ramirez, yessica.ramirez@slc.ca.gov; (916) 574-1888

Agency Background:

The [California State Lands Commission](#) (Commission) is an independent and dynamic state agency that works on the cutting edge of integrating the best available science into policy decisions. One of the Commission's major roles is to act as the landlord for lands within its jurisdiction. This sets the Commission apart from purely regulatory agencies. When California became a state in 1850, it acquired approximately four million acres of land underlying the State's navigable and tidal waterways. These "sovereign lands" include the beds of California's navigable rivers, lakes, and streams, as well as the State's tide and submerged lands along the State's 1,100+ miles of coastline and offshore islands, from approximately the mean high tide line to three nautical miles offshore. The Commission holds these lands in trust for the people of California under the Public Trust Doctrine.

Part of the Commission's trust responsibility includes reviewing applications to lease sovereign lands for uses or activities like major energy projects, piers, marinas, etc. Activities on sovereign lands must be appropriate public trust uses, including commerce, fishing, navigation, environmental preservation, and recreation. The Commission is the main agency tasked with protecting public access and overseeing public trust uses. Valid public trust uses sometimes conflict with each other; the Commission works to manage those conflicts and ensure that the Public Trust Doctrine is upheld on sovereign land. In this way, the Commission, along with its sister state agencies, decides on appropriate uses for California's ocean lands and resources and proactively plans for future issues and conflicts.

The three-person Commission is comprised of the State Controller, Lieutenant Governor, and the Director of Finance. The Fellow will be supervised by the Chief of the Environmental Planning and Management Division and the Climate Adaptation and Special Initiatives Program Manager, and will coordinate closely with the Commission's Environmental Justice Liaison/Tribal Liaison. These host mentors will provide a highly interdisciplinary environment, consulting with other Commission staff on many issues where science and policy interface and helping staff navigate complex and politically sensitive issues, including adaptation to climate change and sea-level rise; management of California's marine protected areas; promotion of equity and environmental justice; and the preservation of cultural and tribal resources. This work includes extensive coordination with other Commission divisions, including Legal, External Affairs, Mineral Resources Management, Marine Environmental Protection, and Land Management.

Position Description:

Under the direction of the Chief of the Division of Environmental Planning and Management and the Climate Adaptation and Special Initiatives Program Manager, the Sea Grant Fellow

will spend 50% of their time working on climate change and coastal resilience issues and initiatives. This will include developing and implementing policy for nature-based adaptation strategies, sea level rise planning, and preparing for climate change impacts for non-coastal state lands connected to inland waterways and lakes. The Fellow will also develop and facilitate climate change and sea level rise education and resources for Commission staff based on recent science and new policy developments. Other projects will include participating in interagency policy groups such as those for implementation of the state climate adaptation strategy, sea level rise work plan, and the public trust coordination project with the California Coastal Commission. The Fellow may also participate in conferences, meetings, and collaborative projects with other Fellows as opportunities arise.

The Sea Grant Fellow will spend the remaining 50% of their time coordinating closely with the Commission's Environmental Justice Liaison/Tribal Liaison. Tasks will include conducting research and supporting efforts related to tribal engagement; incorporating traditional knowledge and practices into activities and decisions; exploring and developing proposals for mutually beneficial partnerships with tribes or other indigenous groups and trusts; and participating on the Commission's environmental justice implementation team to ensure integration of environmental justice and equity into Commission actions. The Fellow will support the Commission's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Team (JEDI) to develop initiatives to embed justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion into the Commission's programs, practices, and culture. The Fellow will also help identify opportunities to organize and facilitate staff training and education related to the Commission's Environmental Justice and JEDI efforts, coordinate the Commission's internal Equity Matters newsletter, and assist with efforts to review and update the Commission's racial equity action plan.

Many of the fellowship projects are ongoing, and the Fellow will have an opportunity to continue the work started by current and former Fellows. The Fellow will interact with Commission staff from multiple divisions that encompass a wide variety of coastal and marine resource topics. Specific project and program duties will be developed collaboratively among the Fellow, Climate Adaptation and Special Initiatives Program Manager, and the Chief of the Division of Environmental Planning and Management, and will be based on the Commission's needs that arise during the fellowship, as well as the Fellow's interests.

Desirable Qualifications:

- Ability to work independently and with diverse interdisciplinary teams
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to meet deadlines
- Interest in GIS and web-development
- Familiarity with natural resources and coastal management issues and regulations (e.g., CEQA and NEPA, California Coastal Act, California Ocean Protection Act, Federal and State Endangered Species Acts, etc.)
- Ability to communicate science to diverse audiences using a broad array of methods, including social media and web-based resources
- Ability to work toward consensus positions with government, private, and public interest groups
- Enthusiasm for public policy and lawmaking, and ability to work in a complex, fast-paced professional environment



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Host Agency: California State Lands Commission
 Location: 100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South, Sacramento, CA 95825
Position Name: **Marine Infrastructure/Offshore Wind/Regional Planning**
 Fellowship Supervisors: Nicole Dobroski, Chief, Division of Environmental Planning and Management
 Jennifer Mattox, Climate Adaptation and Special Initiatives Program Manager
 Points of Contact: Nicole Dobroski, nicole.dobroski@slc.ca.gov; (916) 574-0742
 Jennifer Mattox, jennifer.mattox@slc.ca.gov; (916) 574-0748

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The three-person Commission is comprised of the State Controller, Lieutenant Governor, and the Director of Finance. The Fellow will be supervised by the Chief of the Division of Environmental Planning and Management and the Climate Adaptation and Special Initiatives Program Manager. These host mentors will provide a highly interdisciplinary environment, consulting with other Commission staff on many issues where science and policy interface and helping staff navigate complex and politically sensitive issues, including climate adaptation and renewable energy; oil and gas platform decommissioning; promotion of sustainable aquaculture; prevention of microplastics, ocean litter, and other pollution; and marine spatial planning. This work includes extensive coordination with other Commission divisions, including Legal, External Affairs, Mineral Resources Management, Marine Environmental Protection, and Land Management.

Position Description:

The Sea Grant Fellow will have the opportunity to work on complex and challenging marine and coastal planning and management projects. Under the direction of the Chief of the Division of Environmental Planning and Management and the Climate Adaptation and Special Initiatives Program Manager, the Sea Grant Fellow will work on projects related to

offshore renewable energy and the transition to zero-carbon energy sources, oil and gas infrastructure decommissioning (e.g., Platform Holly, Rincon Island Facilities), aquaculture, artificial reefs, marine spatial planning, and pollution prevention. These projects encompass a number of challenging and high-profile activities, including participating on interagency policy teams and regional ocean planning partnerships; conducting environmental review under CEQA for offshore wind activities; assisting with environmental analyses and participating in outreach related to the Commission's oil and gas decommissioning activities; compiling and evaluating scientific materials to guide negotiations on sensitive projects; integrating the best available science into Commission decision-making processes; and collaborating with local, state, federal, and tribal entities.

The Fellow will have a variety of short-term and long-term projects throughout the fellowship year. The Fellow will be welcome to participate in conferences, interagency meetings, and collaborative projects with other Fellows as opportunities arise. Many of these projects are ongoing and the Fellow will have an opportunity to continue the work started by current and former Fellows. The Fellow will interact with Commission staff from multiple divisions that encompass a wide variety of coastal and marine resource topics. Specific project and program duties will be developed collaboratively among the Fellow, Climate Adaptation and Special Initiatives Program Manager, and Chief of the Division of Environmental Planning and Management, and will be based on the Commission's needs that arise during the fellowship, as well as the Fellow's interests.

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