

California Sea Grant Host Application 2022

District 1 - 1656 Union Street, Eureka CA 95501



Agency Background

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) manages the state's highway system. Our transportation network maintains more than 15,000 miles to promote the regional flow of people and goods to support the economy, tourism, and everyday life in California. Caltrans strives to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment.

Caltrans envisions a brighter future for all through a world-class transportation network that is socially and environmentally responsible. With the leadership of the new director Toks Omishakin, Caltrans is undertaking a major shift in focus and values by prioritizing multimodal transportation, climate action, environmental stewardship and sustainability, and equity and livability in all communities. The organization will build on its existing environmental engineering, biological, and cultural studies branches to uphold protections for watersheds, coasts, and other environmental resources.

Position Description : California Department of Transportation - District 1 (Eureka) Environmental Engineering and Coastal Stewardship (2 Fellowship Opportunities)

A fellowship with Caltrans North Region Environmental will provide an experiential learning opportunity with professionals in diverse areas of expertise, including biologists, engineers, project managers, archaeologists, and more. Working with the Environmental Engineering and Coastal Stewardship units, the Fellow will integrate into a team that provides career support and guidance to the Fellow as they refine their goals. Caltrans Sea Grant Fellows are treated as full staff members and are given responsibility, value, trust, and appreciation.

The Fellow will directly contribute to the future development of California's critical infrastructure by minimizing the impacts and maximizing the environmental sustainability of Caltrans projects. Caltrans is committed to providing a positive fellowship experience and a beneficial career development opportunity, and therefore the specific projects undertaken will depend both upon the Fellow's interests and the department's needs. Past Sea Grant Fellows have contributed to the following Caltrans projects:

- Establishing the Mendocino Coast Mitigation Bank
- Eelgrass restoration in Humboldt Bay
- Wildfire fuel reduction for water quality benefits
- Mitigation and Monitoring Plans and Reports
- CEQA-level watershed assessments for upcoming transportation projects
- Clean Water Act 401 Certifications

The Fellow will be supported by and work directly with the other Caltrans Fellow and previous Sea Grant Fellows. Caltrans emphasizes a healthy work-life balance and the District 1 location in Humboldt County offers a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in nature, nestled between the ocean, mountains, and ancient redwood forests.

Skills Learned

Caltrans offers tangible and transferrable skills that will develop your career, supplementing your education with fast-paced and hands-on work experience. By the end of your fellowship, you will:

- Understand implemented environmental regulations and their application, including:
 - California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Clean Water Act
 - California Coastal Act
- Gain project management and delivery process experience
- Refine technical writing skills into specialized reporting formats
- Experience field work opportunities such as:
 - Biological surveys for salmonids, Northern Spotted Owls, rare plant species, butterflies, & more
 - Wetland delineations
 - Site visits to assess potential impacts of construction on water quality and coastal resources
 - Mitigation creation and site monitoring
- Directly collaborate on projects with other agencies, including:
 - California Coastal Commission
 - California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Regional Water Resources Control Boards
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - California State Parks
 - U.S. National Parks Service
 - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE)
 - U.S. Forest Service

In addition, the Fellow will have access to Caltrans Environmental training and career development courses, and will be directly mentored by policy analysts, biologists, and other environmental experts.

Desired Qualifications

A successful Caltrans Sea Grant Fellow does not require specific experience or expertise, but rather a positive attitude, open mind, and willingness to learn and take on new challenges. Good time management, organization, communication, and interpersonal skills will help fellows succeed in the fast-paced and team-oriented Caltrans work environment. The interdisciplinary and technical nature of Caltrans projects requires creative and analytical thinking, the ability to learn quickly, and a solutions-oriented approach.

Fellowship Supervisors:

- Kevin Church, Branch Chief, Environmental Engineering - North kevin.church@dot.ca.gov
- Lorna McFarlane, Senior Resource Specialist, Coastal & Fish Passage lorna.mcfarlane@dot.ca.gov

Prospective Fellow Contacts:

Amanda Haas, Water Quality Coordinator
(707) 296-5469 amanda.haas@dot.ca.gov

Cari Williams, Associate Environmental Planner
(707) 298-1465 cari.williams@dot.ca.gov



Caltrans District 4 – Sea Grant Fellowship 2022

Caltrans District 4 (Bay Area) Environmental (1 Fellowship Opportunity)

Caltrans District 4 encompasses the nine-county Bay Area in northern California. Prospective Sea Grant Fellows would be able to live in and explore all that the Bay Area has to offer, including hiking, kayaking, beautiful beaches, biking, and numerous cultural activities in San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, and more.

Position Description

A Fellowship with Caltrans District 4 (Bay Area) Environmental will provide an experiential learning opportunity with professionals in diverse areas of expertise, including biologists, engineers, project managers, archaeologists, landscape architects, and more. Working with the Office of Environmental Analysis and Coastal Stewardship, the Fellow will integrate into a team that provides career support and guidance to the Fellow as they refine their goals. Caltrans Sea Grant Fellows are treated as full staff members and are given responsibility, value, trust, and appreciation. The Fellow will be supported by and work directly with the other Caltrans Fellow and previous Sea Grant Fellows.

The Fellow will directly contribute to the future development of California's critical infrastructure by minimizing the impacts and maximizing the environmental sustainability of Caltrans projects. Caltrans is committed to providing a positive Fellowship experience and a beneficial career development opportunity, and specific projects undertaken will depend both upon the Fellow's interests and the District's needs. Caltrans District 4 emphasizes a healthy work-life balance and the District 4 location in Oakland in Alameda County offers a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in nature and a vibrant cultural and urban scene.

Skills Learned

Caltrans offers tangible and transferrable skills that will develop your career, supplementing your education with fast-paced and hands-on work experience. By the end of your Fellowship, you will:

- Understand implemented environmental regulations and their application, including:
 - California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Clean Water Act
 - California Coastal Act
 - Endangered Species Act
 - California Endangered Species Act
- Have incorporated climate change stressors into project development
- Refine technical writing skills into specialized reporting formats
- Conduct public outreach and interagency partnering

- Experience field work opportunities such as:
 - Biological surveys for salmonids, Northern Spotted Owls, rare plant species, butterflies, wetland delineations
- Interface with and understand California Coastal Commission and Bay Conservation and Development Commission regulations and how they apply to Caltrans projects
- Conduct site visits to assess potential impacts of construction on water quality and natural resources
- Conduct ecological monitoring at mitigation sites
- Directly collaborate on projects with other agencies:
 - California Coastal Commission
 - California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Regional Water Resources Control Boards
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - California State Parks
 - U.S. National Parks Service
 - California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE)
 - U.S. Forest Service

In addition, the Fellow will have access to Caltrans Environmental training and career development courses, and will be directly mentored by policy analysts, biologists, and other environmental experts.

Desired Qualifications

A successful Caltrans Sea Grant Fellow does not require specific experience or expertise, but rather a positive attitude, open mind, and willingness to learn and take on new challenges. Good time management, organization, communication, and interpersonal skills will help Fellows succeed in the fast-paced and team-oriented Caltrans work environment. The interdisciplinary and technical nature of Caltrans projects requires creative and analytical thinking, the ability to learn quickly, and a solutions-oriented approach.

Fellowship Location:

Caltrans District 4 Office (teleworking is available)
 111 Grand Avenue
 Oakland, California 94612

Fellowship Supervisor:

Lindsay Vivian, Office Chief, Environmental Analysis – (510) 506-4310
 Arnica MacCarthy, Branch Chief and Coastal Resource Specialist, Coastal & Fish Passage – (510) 506-0481

Fellowship Mentor:

Blake Hihara, Associate Environmental Planner and Permitting Specialist – (510) 407-9735