

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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California Coastal Commission Sea Grant Fellow Opportunity Climate Change Emphasis

Host Location

California Coastal Commission
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San Francisco, CA 94105

Fellowship Supervisors

Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director
Alison Dettmer, Deputy Director, Energy and Ocean Resources
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Point of Contact for Prospective Fellows and Finalists

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Overview

The California Coastal Commission implements the California Coastal Act of 1976 and has regulatory authority to manage development along the coast in balance with the protection of coastal resources, environmentally sensitive habitats, and public access. 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 Commission also has the responsibility to work with local governments to establish Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) which, when certified by the Commission, become the basis for coastal permitting at the local level. Furthermore, the Commission has the purview and planning responsibility to assess and address issues of state-wide importance such as sea level rise and coastal erosion, both of which are likely to be exacerbated by climate change.

The Sea Grant Fellow will have a unique opportunity to assist executive, management and policy level staff in the headquarters and district offices of the California Coastal Commission on a variety of coastal and ocean resource protection issues. Working closely with Coastal Commission's Chief Deputy Director, Deputy Director for Energy and Ocean Resources, Federal Programs Manager, technical staff and other senior staff, the Sea Grant Fellow will have the opportunity to work at the leading edge of natural resources and coastal and ocean management and climate change adaptation. The Fellow will have the opportunity to interface directly with senior government officials and leaders in resource management policy throughout California. Fellow work products, potentially including presentations and collaborative work on reports with the Coastal Commission and with other state agencies, especially the Ocean Protection Council (OPC), will be highly visible. The Sea Grant Fellow may work with the OPC to help coordinate/staff efforts to improve interagency collaboration on California's marine protected areas, climate change and other issues to be determined.

Potential Projects

Specific project and program duties will be developed collaboratively with the Fellow and with Coastal Commission staff members currently working on the wide range of climate change issues. Potential project opportunities at this time address a mix of policy and technical needs with a major focus on a range of climate change issues, as follows:

Participation in working groups in partnership with the OPC, such as the

- Coastal and Ocean Climate Action Team Working Group
- Renewable Energy Working Group
- Marine Protected Area Issues
- California Coastal and Marine Geospatial Working Group
- Marine Debris Steering Committee
- Climate Change Adaptation Work

Involvement in a broad range of coastal and ocean issues involved in the Coastal Commission's regulatory work and Local Coastal Program planning work throughout the coastal zone.

Position Description

A Sea Grant Fellow with the Coastal Commission will support the executive and senior policy and technical staff in specific areas such as participating in multi-agency meetings, serving as a communication conduit between the Commission and various OPC sponsored workgroups, drafting Commission recommendations for OPC-coordinated planning documents, and assisting the Commission in developing or enhancing projects including those that are done in cooperation with partners. Specifically, the role of the Fellow may include support on large-scale team projects and they will also likely have several smaller projects which will be theirs to develop and manage.

Potential tasks associated with managing projects include: setting specific goals and objectives and developing plans to achieve success; working closely with the management team; frequently communicating with Commission executive, management and technical staff, partner agencies, and coordinating with project stakeholders, partners, or grantees; organizing and/or participating in related meetings and workshops; participating in site visits; ensuring that outcomes of projects are communicated to the public, relevant agencies, and institutions; problem solving; and working to maintain broad project or program support.

Given the wide range of projects and initiatives undertaken by the Coastal Commission along the entire California coast, a successful Sea Grant Fellow at the Coastal Commission must be willing to take on and deliver a broad range of projects. There will be an emphasis on climate change related projects. There will be opportunity for the Fellow to dig more deeply into topics of particular interest and assignments will be customized to match the unique skills of the selected Fellow. The Sea Grant Fellow must be able to work well under minimal supervision or guidance. Possessing an entrepreneurial spirit and strong personal initiative and ability to work well in a collaborative style with others would be 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 focusing on climate change issues. This offers an excellent opportunity for team work and peer collaboration for a Sea Grant Fellow.