



Sea Grant Fellowship  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
**2021 Host Application**

**1. Host location and contact information**

Natural Resources Division, California State Parks  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> St, Room 923, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: 916-956-8939 (work mobile phone for Marina Cazorla)  
Email: [Marina.Cazorla@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Marina.Cazorla@parks.ca.gov)

**2. Name of fellowship supervisor**

Marina Cazorla, Coastal Program Manager, Natural Resources Division

**3. Point of contact for California Sea Grant, prospective fellows, and finalists**

Marina Cazorla, Coastal Program Manager, Natural Resources Division

**4. Position Description**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) manages 128 park units within the coastal zone, totaling nearly half of the State Park System and almost one quarter of the California coastline. With these coastal park units, State Parks has the responsibility and opportunity to serve as a leader in coastal land management. State Parks' Natural Resources Division (NRD) provides policy direction and technical assistance for natural resource management in the State Park System, and the within NRD, the Coastal Programs team serves to coordinate coastal policy and management at NRD and for the State Park System. NRD also administers major funding programs for natural resources management and habitat restoration throughout the State Parks System, and coordinates with other State and federal agencies on policy issues of statewide significance. With expected impacts from climate change along the California coast, identifying and addressing management priorities for coastal State Park units is becoming increasingly critical for the protection of coastal resources.

The 2021 Sea Grant Fellow (Fellow) will have a unique opportunity to inform and implement State Parks policy and programs, including application of innovative natural resource management solutions. The Fellow will work closely with NRD headquarters and its Coastal Programs staff, as well as with District staff. The Fellow will also coordinate with the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) and other state agencies. The fellow will have opportunities to interface directly with senior government officials and leaders in natural resource and coastal management policy. Potential work products include presentations, reports and other deliverables that may be shared within State Parks and with external entities.

**Potential Projects and Duties at State Parks**

Specific duties will be identified developed collaboratively with the Fellow at the start of their fellowship. Project and programmatic opportunities that the Fellow could pursue include:

### ***Further State Parks' Estuary Initiative***

The Estuaries Initiative is developing a comprehensive statewide approach for habitat restoration and preservation of coastal lagoons and estuaries within the State Park System. The Fellow may assist with synthesizing emerging science on coastal lagoons and estuaries, engaging with stakeholders and State Parks resource managers, and developing and implementing a collaborative strategy for prioritizing restoration and management for building estuary resilience in State Parks in the face of climate change.

### ***Implementing State Parks' Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy***

State Parks has developed a Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy, which is already being implemented in a phased approach throughout the Department. The Fellow may assist with implementing action items identified in the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy such as developing support tools to assist project managers, and/or tracking the progress of the State Parks System towards implementation.

### ***Coastal Permitting***

In order to conduct habitat restoration and other projects in the coastal zone, State Parks applies for coastal development permits (CDPs) through the California Coastal Commission as well as with local governments. The Fellow may assist and district staff with coastal permitting, while supporting NRD staff review of coastal restoration and adaptation projects.

### ***Coastal Management and Policy***

Depending on the Fellow's background and interest, there are additional coastal management responsibilities within the Coastal Programs group that would allow the Fellow to apply or strengthen their skill set that are technical in nature; require policy analysis; involve strong communications skills; or all of the above. The Fellow could:

- Assist NRD's engineering geologists with issues related to coastal sediment management, including the identification of California shoreline erosion concern areas within the State Park System.
- Track work products of other State and federal agencies and NGOs regarding coastal issues, including State policy guidance documents, coastal adaptation strategies, and science reports. Disseminate applicable information to appropriate audiences, including State Parks HQ and District staff.
- Collaborate with State Parks' Interpretation and Education Division, OPC, and other agencies to develop targeted and effective communication strategies and messaging related to issues impacting coastal units.
- Collaborate with program staff at partner agencies such as the California Natural Resources Agency, California Coastal Conservancy, California Coastal Commission, OPC, and other State and federal agencies.