



## The Delta Stewardship Council will host one Sea Grant Fellow in the Planning and Performance Division

### Background

The Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta (Delta), along with the San Francisco Bay, is part of the largest estuary on the West Coast of the Americas. The Delta provides vital habitat for endangered and endemic species and is the portal through which important fish species, including anadromous Chinook salmon, pass on their way to and from their spawning grounds. The Delta is a major stop on the Pacific Flyway as well as the hub of the State’s water supply system, supplying two-thirds of California’s water supply. Thus, the Delta is inextricably linked to statewide water supply issues that affect its ability to function as a natural ecosystem.



Location Map: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

### Delta Stewardship Council

In 2009, seeking an end to decades of conflict over water, the Legislature established the **Delta Stewardship Council** (Council) to resolve long-standing issues and achieve the state-mandated coequal goals for the Delta. Coequal goals mean the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place. To advance the state’s coequal goals for the Delta, the Council was required to develop the Delta Plan, an enforceable long-term sustainable management plan for the region to ensure coordinated action at the federal, state, and local levels. To better facilitate collaboration and coordination with agencies working in and around the Delta, the Council is located in Sacramento, a hub for many federal (e.g., NOAA, USFWS, USBR, USGS), state (e.g. CDFW, DWR, SWRCB), and local agencies as well as consulting firms, academia, and NGOs.

### Planning and Performance Division

As one of the divisions in the Council’s organization, the **Planning and Performance Division** (Division) provides integration of environmental, engineering, and land use planning expertise to support and coordinate the implementation of the **Delta Plan**, which is enforced through the regulatory authority of the Council. The Division implements the plan through the Council’s roles to coordinate with federal, state, and local agencies to achieve the coequal goals; ensure consistency with the Delta Plan; inform stakeholders how to achieve the coequal goals;



comment on projects, plans, and programs with significant impacts to the Delta; and ensure accountability for consistency of projects, plans, and programs with Delta Plan policies.

The Division has three primary tasks; 1) reviewing, revising, and implementing the Delta Plan by collaborating with federal, state, and local agencies to follow the Delta Plan’s recommendations; 2) measuring progress in achieving the coequal goals of a reliable water supply for California and healthy ecosystem through [Delta Plan Performance Measures](#); and 3) review of governmental agency projects or programs that take place within the Delta for potential environmental impacts and consistency with policies in the Delta Plan.

The Planning and Performance Division is currently working on such topics and policies as:

- Delta habitat restoration to support endangered species
- Delta adaptation strategy on a response to climate change and sea level rise
- Risk reduction from flooding in the Delta
- Social science in the Delta
- Environmental justice and the human right to water
- Fisheries management and protection from non-native/invasive species
- A reliable water supply for the majority of the state’s population
- Water quality for people and species
- Delta as an evolving place

### **Planning and Performance Division Sea Grant Fellow Position**

The Division’s Sea Grant fellow will have the unique opportunity to work at the interface of policy, planning, and science on some of California’s most challenging and important natural resource management issues - an opportunity that may be different from a fellow’s past experiences, but one that would be enriching and experience-broadening. The Sea Grant fellow will meet with the supervisor/mentor and other Division staff to identify specific projects and work groups for assignment considering the Sea Grant fellow’s expertise and interests. Working closely with staff across the entire agency, the fellow will have the opportunity to interact with national and international scientific experts; California policy makers and implementers; and water operators and managers. The fellow will gain exposure to how policies, programs, plans, and projects are developed and implemented in the Delta, the Suisun Marsh, and statewide.

Below are examples of potential assignments on which the Division’s fellow could engage and collaborate in the upcoming year.

### **Potential Assignments**

- Participate in developing Delta Adapts, the Council’s climate change initiative for the Delta and Suisun Marsh, by working with stakeholders to develop adaptation strategies.
- Assist with outreach to community-based organizations and underserved communities to provide and gain information on the Council’s projects, such as its climate change initiative.



- Assist on the preparation of the Council’s Environmental Justice Paper.
- Evaluate land use, water supply, water storage, ecosystem restoration, and flood protection projects, plans, and programs for consistency with Delta Plan regulations.
- Assist in early consultation with state and local agencies on their proposed projects, plans, and programs considered covered actions to provide guidance regarding consistency with Delta Plan regulations.
- Develop GIS maps and analyze data using tools such as R and Python to support Division activities, such as analysis of performance measures, implementation of Delta Plan regulations, and development of visualization tools to facilitate stakeholder participation.

### Potential Activities

- Attend agency, division, and working group meetings
- Participate in training opportunities and skill set development
- Attend seminars and conferences
- Visit sites and projects in the Delta
- Enroll in professional development courses
- Participate in social and networking opportunities

**Host Headquarters Location:** 715 P Street, Sacramento, CA

**Fellowship Mentor and Point of Contact:** Anthony Navasero, Senior Engineer, Water Resources, [Anthony.Navasero@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:Anthony.Navasero@deltacouncil.ca.gov), (916) 445-5471

### Summary of Delta Stewardship Council Fellowship Opportunities

Skillset opportunities emphasized in each fellowship position

Division/position	Management plan development & implementation	Meeting facilitation & coordination	Science Communication	Data analysis & synthesis	Working at the science-policy interface	Build networks with agency scientists & managers
Planning & Performance Division	Strong emphasis	Moderate emphasis	Moderate emphasis	Moderate emphasis	Strong emphasis	Strong emphasis
Delta Science Program						
Science Communication & Synthesis	Moderate emphasis	Moderate emphasis	Strong emphasis	Strong emphasis	Strong emphasis	Strong emphasis
Collaborative Science & Peer Review	Strong emphasis	Strong emphasis	Moderate emphasis	Moderate emphasis	Strong emphasis	Strong emphasis
Adaptive Management	Moderate emphasis	Strong emphasis	Strong emphasis	Moderate emphasis	Strong emphasis	Strong emphasis
Interagency Ecological Program	Moderate emphasis	Moderate emphasis	Strong emphasis	Strong emphasis	Moderate emphasis	Strong emphasis

 Strong emphasis  
 Moderate emphasis