



Planning Division
Delta Stewardship Council

Delta Stewardship Council Sea Grant State Fellow Opportunity Planning Division

Host Location

Planning Division - Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA

Fellowship supervisor

Kevan Samsam, Supervising Engineer

Point of contact for prospective fellows and finalists

Marina Brand, Program Manager
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA
(916) 445-5838
marina.brand@deltacouncil.ca.gov

Overview

California's Delta is the largest estuary on the West Coast and is the hub of the state's major water supply systems. The Delta Stewardship Council, a state agency established by the 2009 Delta Reform Act, is charged with achieving the coequal goals of water supply reliability for California and ecosystem restoration in the Delta in a manner that protects the unique values of the Delta as an evolving place. The Council's Planning Division provides integration of environmental, engineering, and land use planning expertise to support and coordinate implementation of the Delta Plan, a comprehensive, long-term management plan for the Delta based on the best available science. The Delta Plan is implemented through cooperation among affected agencies and is also enforceable through the Council's regulatory authority, which requires state and local actions that significantly affect the coequal goals to be consistent with the Delta Plan. A Sea Grant fellow with the Council's Planning Division 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.

Position Description

Initially, the Sea Grant fellow will meet with the Supervisor and other Planning Division staff as appropriate to develop a mentoring plan for the year. This plan will be based on the interests and background of the Sea Grant fellow and is intended to maximize the Sea Grant fellow's opportunities.

Working closely with Planning Division staff, the Sea Grant fellow will have the opportunity to interact with California policy makers, national and international scientific experts and gain exposure to how policies and plans are developed and implemented in the Bay-Delta and Suisun Marsh. The Planning Division is working on several efforts focused on, 1) developing policy principles to guide the Council's evaluation of water conveyance, storage and operations, 2) developing a new Delta Levee Investment Strategy, 3) supporting efforts to integrate flood management and habitat restoration into multi-benefit projects, 4) evaluating efforts to enhance recreation and tourism that are compatible with the cultural heritage of the Delta, and 5)

promoting land use decisions that enhance economic vitality while reducing flood risk and preserving agriculture and open space.

Potential tasks and responsibilities related to the Planning Division's efforts include: evaluating public benefits of proposed water storage and conveyance projects; developing priorities for flood risk reduction; accelerating permitting of habitat restoration projects; engaging and coordinating with multiple agencies and stakeholders; assisting with regulatory coordination workshops; producing communication materials for policymakers, managers, and the public.

Potential Projects

Specific projects will be identified with the fellow based on their expertise and interests. The fellow's work will support functions of the Planning Division. Potential projects include:

- ◆ Researching statewide water conservation and groundwater management efforts
- ◆ Evaluating major water supply, ecosystem restoration and flood protection projects
- ◆ Developing and implementing performance measures for the Delta Plan
- ◆ Developing GIS visualization tools to facilitate stakeholder participation in habitat restoration and flood management planning