



GAVIN NEWSOM
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Office of Lt. Governor Newsom Sea Grant Fellow Opportunity

Host Location

Office of Lt. Governor Newsom
California State Capitol, Rm 1114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fellowship Supervisor: Kevin Schmidt, Policy Director

Point of Contact for Prospective Fellows and Finalists

Kevin Schmidt
Policy Director
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Fellowship Overview

The Lieutenant Governor serves on, and rotates with the State Controller, as chair of the three-member State Lands Commission, which oversees the control and leasing of millions of acres of state-owned land, including offshore oil resources, as well as use and permitting for all navigable waterways in California. The Commission also manages state land-use planning and revenues, and related interstate issues. During alternate years, when the Lieutenant Governor serves as Chairperson of the State Lands Commission, he also serves as a member of the California Ocean Protection Council.

During his Mayoral term the Lt. Governor implemented the most aggressive local carbon reduction plan in the nation, created the most stringent green building standards, invested in cutting edge renewable programs, and executed the nations first plastic bag ban.

As Lt. Governor he is using his position on the Ocean Protection Council to address sea level rise, support a statewide ban on plastic bags, and develop a climate adaptation plan for the state. He has also secured federal grants to assess the feasibility of a national wave energy facility through his work with Cal Poly Institute for Advanced Technology.

Position Description

The Sea Grant Fellow will have the opportunity to develop long and short-term policy positions for the office of the Lt. Governor. Working closely with the policy director, the fellow will help staff the various commissions and boards that handle coastal issues, and will assist in current projects under development.

The fellow will also be asked to collaborate with NGOs and other state agencies to create a guiding document for the office of Lt. Governor as the state faces further challenges from sea level rise and climate change. The fellow will have the opportunity to pursue issues they find relevant and develop their own projects.

Potential Projects

- Support in the CalWave Effort- Feasibility of a National Wave Energy Test Facility in California.
- Environmental and statistical modeling of sensitive species based on data collected during PG&E WaveConnect.
- Create a statewide policy that addresses the possible use of drones or other technologies to observe whales or sea mammals.
- Through presentation of various policy proposals to the Lt. Governor, create a policy paper that defines the goals and vision of the office as related to coastal and ocean policy.
- Work with Ocean Protection Council, California State Lands, and California Coastal Commission on sea level rise, climate change, and offshore energy.
- Explore the growth and future of mariculture and aquaculture in the State.
- Other projects may be suggested after consultation with Policy Director.