

PORT OF SAN DIEGO, SAN DIEGO, CA

PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT, AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

SEA GRANT STATE FELLOW OPPORTUNITY

Position Description:

The Port of San Diego was created by the State Legislature to manage San Diego Bay and surrounding waterfront land through a regional governance approach in 1962. The Port of San Diego is the fourth largest of the 11 deep water ports in California, and is bordered by five member cities: Chula Vista, Coronado, Imperial Beach, National City, and San Diego. The Port oversees two marine cargo terminals, two cruise ship terminals, over 20 public parks, the Harbor Police Department, and the leases of over 200 tenants and over 500 sub tenant businesses around San Diego Bay. The Port is an economic engine, and environmental steward of San Diego Bay and the surrounding tidelands, and a provider of community services and public safety.

One Sea Grant Fellow with the Port of San Diego will support programs and initiatives through the Port's Planning, Environment, and Government Relations Division. Through integrated planning, sustainable development of Port of San Diego operations, and protection and enhancement of natural resources that celebrate tidelands and waterfront life, Planning, Environment, and Government Relations Division includes seven distinct teams and departments:

1. **Aquaculture and Blue Technology**
2. **Development Services**
3. **Energy**
4. **Environmental Conservation**
5. **Environmental Protection**
6. **Government and Civic Relations**
7. **Planning**

The Port's 2022 Sea Grant Fellow would have the opportunity to assist all of these programs, but would primarily support the Aquaculture and Blue Technology program:

Aquaculture and Blue Technology provides a launching pad for sustainable aquaculture and emerging blue technology businesses in and around San Diego Bay by offering key assets and support services focused on pilot project facilitation, planning and predevelopment tools, state and federal policy and legislative development, permit ready infrastructure, entitlements, market access, and strategic funding. Current and ongoing efforts with this team include: the Blue Economy Incubator, use of marine spatial planning and other tools to inform future aquaculture siting opportunities, and participation in current Blue Economy Incubator pilot projects.

Over the course of the fellowship, the Port's Sea Grant Fellow would also have opportunities to support and collaborate with other teams and departments within the Planning, Environment, and Government Relations Division, as well as other departments at the Port. In addition, a Sea Grant Fellow at the Port would be able to learn about the application of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Coastal Act, and other state or federal coastal and environmental statutes, to environmental, aquaculture, and blue technology projects in San Diego Bay.

There are a number of initiatives currently underway with Planning, Environment, and Government Relations that a Sea Grant Fellow could contribute to. Some of these initiatives and general descriptions of the work needed by a Sea Grant Fellow could include:

- **Aquaculture pilot project support and research:** assist with a variety of current and upcoming pilot projects to support the growth of shellfish and seaweed aquaculture in San Diego Bay. This work may include research and literature review, data analysis and/or review to identify data gaps, and planning for new data collection to assist with identifying suitable locations for various types of aquaculture operations.
- **Policy, permitting, and grants:** assist with a variety of pilot and other projects conducted by Planning & Green Port programs (like the Blue Economy Incubator) or external stakeholders. This work may include pilot project proposal review, researching relevant grant opportunities and drafting grant proposals, planning, permitting and entitlements (CEQA, Coastal Act, Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board), coordination with partners, and outreach activities.
- **Natural Resources:** potential to be involved in or gain exposure to a variety of projects, including but not limited to: natural resources management, wetlands restoration and monitoring, living shorelines, climate change studies, permit compliance, bioremediation, and mitigation banking.
- **Site Visits:** potential to attend site visits to various locations on Port tidelands, including parks, project sites, terminals, or other sites. These visits may involve meetings with Port staff or external stakeholders, environmental monitoring, tours, or public meetings.
- **Other project management and coordination:** assist with various projects (primarily with Aquaculture & Blue Technology) to achieve milestones, and provide due diligence for deliverables. This work may involve creating work plans and timelines, coordinating meetings with other Port departments or stakeholders (e.g. local or state agencies, nonprofits, academia), taking meeting minutes, drafting presentations and memos, and preparing reports.

A successful candidate for this fellowship position must be able to work independently but also function as part of a multi-disciplinary team within the Planning, Environment, and Government Relations Division and other Port departments such as Marketing & Communications, Maritime, and Engineering, as well as counterparts in other agencies and industries. The professional development component of this fellowship has a strong emphasis on communication, interpersonal skills, interaction with policy and regulatory information. While there is limited opportunity in this particular position for direct scientific research, the ability to conduct detailed literature, legal, and administrative reviews and research will be an important contribution. In addition, previous experience with or an interest in project management to assist with various projects, which may involve creating work plans and timelines, taking meeting minutes, drafting presentations and memos, and preparing reports. Strong organizational, listening, and writing skills and a willingness to work on and interact with a broad variety of projects will greatly enhance the fellowship.



Host Location and Contact Information:

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Supervisor and Point of Contact for Finalists:

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