



PORT OF SAN DIEGO, SAN DIEGO, CA
PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT
SEA GRANT STATE FELLOW OPPORTUNITY

Host Location and Contact Information:

Port of San Diego
Planning and Environment
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Supervisor and Point of Contact for Finalists:

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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, 22 public parks, the Harbor Police Department, and the leases of over 200 tenants and over 500 sub tenant businesses around San Diego Bay, while balancing navigation, commerce, fisheries, recreation. Additionally, 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.

The Sea Grant Fellows with the Port of San Diego will support programs and initiatives through the Port's Planning and Environment 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, the Planning and Environment Division includes four distinct teams and departments:

1. **Aquaculture and Blue Technology**
2. **Environmental Conservation**
3. **Environmental Protection**
4. **Planning**

The Port's 2023 Sea Grant Fellows would have the opportunity to assist all of these programs, with an emphasis on aquaculture and blue technology, environmental conservation, and planning, through the three available fellowship opportunities:

- **Aquaculture and Blue Technology Fellowship**
- **Environmental Conservation Fellowship**
- **Coastal Policy and Planning Fellowship**

A successful candidate for these fellowship positions must be able to work independently but also function as part of a multi-disciplinary team within the Planning and Environment Division and other Port departments such as Government & Civic Relations, Marketing & Communications, Maritime, Real Estate, Maritime, and Engineering, as well as counterparts in other agencies and industries. The professional development component of the fellowship has a strong emphasis on communication, inter-personal skills, interaction with policy and regulatory information. While there is limited opportunity in these positions 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.

Aquaculture and Blue Technology Fellowship

The Aquaculture and Blue Technology Team 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.

A general description of the work needed by an Aquaculture and Blue Technology Fellow includes:

- **Aquaculture 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 supporting long-term aquaculture planning initiatives.
- **Blue Economy Incubator pilot project support:** may include pilot project proposal review, researching relevant grant opportunities and drafting grant proposals, planning, coordination with partners, and outreach activities.
- **Stakeholder Coordination:** prepare presentations, speaking points, meeting logistics, or other details as needed to discuss proposed aquaculture and blue technology projects with local, state, and regional stakeholders.

Environmental Conservation Fellowship

The Environmental Conservation Department supports projects and programs that conserve and enhance natural resources by expanding native habitats and ensuring regulatory compliance through sound resource management. Current and ongoing efforts include natural resources surveys, mitigation banking, environmental permitting, natural solutions for resilient shoreline infrastructure, management of environmental and wildlife advisory committees, development project support, and support for the Port of San Diego's Environmental Education Program.

A general description of the work needed by the Environmental Conservation Fellow includes:

- **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.
- **Permitting and grants:** assist with a variety of pilot and other projects conducted by internal programs or external stakeholders. This work may include project proposal review, researching relevant grant opportunities and drafting grant proposals, planning, permitting and entitlements (Army Corps of Engineers and Regional Water Quality Control Board), coordination with partners, assisting with project management, drafting comment letters, and site visits to various locations on Port tidelands.
- **Environmental and wildlife advisory committees:** provide logistical support for Environmental Conservation staff for regularly scheduled environmental committee meetings convened by the Port. This may include coordination with stakeholders and drafting meeting minutes, agendas, and memos regarding these committees.

Coastal Policy and Planning Fellowship

The Planning Department creates and supports a well-planned and integrated waterfront through strategic initiatives, policy formation, and agency coordination. Planning advances a holistically planned waterfront that is welcoming, sustainable, prosperous, and improves the quality of life for present and future generations. Current and ongoing long range planning efforts include: the Port of San Diego's Port Master Plan Update, preparation of a Trust Lands Use Plan pursuant to SB507, sea level rise and adaptation planning, and environmental review of all Planning and Environment projects.

A general description of the work needed by a Coastal Policy and Planning Fellow includes:

- **Policy and Planning Research:** research relevant coastal policies from other state and regional agencies or organizations and assist with policy development to support the Port Master Plan Update, Trust Lands Use Plan, and sea level rise adaptation planning. This may include preparing literature reviews, policy memos, public comment letters, infographics and slide decks, or data analysis.
- **Project Review and Entitlement:** assist the Planning Department to conduct environmental review (CEQA and Coastal Act) for Planning and Environment projects and activities, such as aquaculture and blue technology pilot projects.
- **Community Outreach:** assist Port staff to participate in stakeholder or community meetings and/or correspond with regional, state, and federal stakeholders on adaptation planning, the Port Master Plan Update, Trust Lands Use Plan, and other long range planning efforts.