



2016 State Coastal Conservancy Sea Grant Fellow Opportunity Climate Ready Program

Host location and contact information:

State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Floor 13
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Fellowship Supervisor: Mary Small

Point of contact for prospective fellows and finalists:

Mary Small
Deputy Executive Officer
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Position description(s)

General Overview: Established in 1976, the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) is the non-regulatory coastal management agency for California. The SCC uses collaborative approaches and works in partnership with local and other public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners to protect and restore coastal lands, waterways, and watersheds, to improve public access and recreational opportunities, and to sustain local economies. The SCC works along the entire coast, within coastal watersheds, and throughout the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. In 2012, the legislature and governor empowered the SCC with a new authority to prepare for and mitigate the effects of climate change. This broad mandate allows the Conservancy to support others or directly undertake planning and implementation of on-the-ground projects, and to undertake initiatives such as the following:

- Protect (through acquisition) and improve (through restoration and management) the quality and resiliency of coastal wetlands, streams, watersheds, and near-shore ocean waters;
- Reduce potential impacts of climate change on natural and human communities by supporting development of science-based local and regional planning, and implementation of projects that address extreme weather events, sea level rise, storm surge, beach and bluff erosion, flooding, and other threats to coastal communities, infrastructure, and natural resources;
- Improve public access and recreational opportunities to and along the coast and bay shores by building trails and stairways, acquiring land and easements, and supporting development of campgrounds and hostels;
- Work with local communities to revitalize urban waterfronts; and
- Protect agricultural lands and working landscapes.

The SCC's "climate" fellow will support and help lead its "Climate Ready" program which directly targets the critical work of protecting important coastal resources and habitats from the current and future impacts of climate change and of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This work is either initiated by Conservancy or through competitive grant rounds and its scope scans all phases of adaptation planning and project construction. In the last three years, the Conservancy conducted three grant rounds awarding a total of \$7.3 mill for 42 projects, 23 of which support planning or implementing actions that address resiliency to sea level rise. Much of the Conservancy's work involves collaborating with scientists and other professionals to apply the latest science to on-the-ground coastal resource protection and restoration.

Specific Scope of Work

Supervised by the SCC's Deputy Director, the "climate" CSG fellow's tasks will be varied and may include any or all of the following:

- Provide technical, scientific and administrative support to the work of the SCC's climate change committee and as needed, to any multi-agency collaborative that the SCC participates in such as the Bay Area Ecosystem Climate Change Consortium, the Climate Action Team, and the Alliance for Regional Collaborative for Climate Adaptation;
- Support development and maintenance of a dynamic science-informed Climate Ready program by updating and improving the inventory and tracking the progress of the SCC's climate projects, refining programmatic priorities to reflect emerging issues and new science; and supporting communication about the SCC's climate work and science and management issues related to climate change by contributing to emails, the SCC's website, planning and educational forums, conferences, and other means;
- Develop and/or manage pilot climate studies or adaptation projects. This may involve preparing one or more staff recommendations for SCC board approval, preparing the grant agreement(s), working with grantee(s) to finalize work plans and project budgets, and overseeing completion of work tasks;
- Co-lead or help manage a Climate Ready or Proposition 1 grant round;
- Review and rank grant applications submitted for funding on a rolling basis;
- Support and lead work for the California Collaborative on Coastal Resilience (CCCR) in cooperation with the California Coastal Commission, State Lands Commission, and the Ocean Protection Council. Currently, this involves co-leading the Humboldt County Resiliency Plan, but may involve initiating an additional regional resiliency planning process;
- Develop one or more white papers associated with SCC climate work, such as finding and information associated with a planned sand dunes conference; and
- Work collaboratively with other Sea Grant Fellows and agency staff to support Coastal Conservancy funded grants for the update of Local Coastal Program (LCP) to address sea-level rise and related climate change impacts.

The SCC is committed to fostering and developing the fellow's professional goals as much as possible, and will tailor the suite of tasks accordingly.