



State Coastal Conservancy Sea Grant Fellow Opportunity South Coast Program

Host location and contact information:

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

Fellowship Supervisor(s): Megan Cooper, Joan Cardellino

Point of contact for prospective fellows and finalists:

Megan Cooper
Deputy Program Manager, South Coast
510-286-4172, mcooper@scc.ca.gov

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 prepare for and mitigate the effects of climate change, 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. 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 planning, restoration and management) the quality and resiliency of coastal wetlands, streams, watersheds, and near-shore ocean waters;
- Address the 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, by acquiring land and easements, and supporting the development of low-cost accommodations along the coast, including campgrounds and hostels;
- Work with local communities to revitalize urban waterfronts; and
- Protect agricultural lands and working landscapes.

Specific Scope of Work: The SCC fellow will help carry out work which involves collaborating with scientists and other professionals to apply the latest science to on-the-ground coastal resource protection and restoration. Specifically, the fellow will be placed in the SCC's South Coast Program to help support the [Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project \(WRP\)](#), a broad-based partnership of 18 state and federal agencies working in concert with scientists, local governments, and environmental organizations. In the coming year, the WRP will undertake the following actions, which the fellow will work to support:

- Participate in a large science collaborative process to determine how to incorporate information about past, present, and predicted future conditions (such as historical ecology and climate change research) into a framework/tool that guides conservation goals.
- Update the *Regional Strategy*, which will involve defining, and assessing ecosystem services, and incorporating products from the science collaborative process.
- Continue to develop an in-lieu fee program, including preparation of site-specific mitigation plans.
- Coordinate and provide staff support for meetings of the various branches of the WRP including the Board of Governors annual meeting, Science Advisory Panel regional meetings (two to three per year), Wetlands Managers Group monthly meetings, and County Task Force meetings as needed.
- Assist in the development of the Headwaters to Ocean (H2O) Conference, an annual professional conference that draws together scientists, resource managers, public stakeholders and decision-makers around the topic of coastal management.
- Increase the WRP's public visibility by managing social media and web outreach.

The fellow will have the opportunity to work with leading wetland scientists, practitioners, and managers. Tasks may include helping to determine management and science needs, facilitating movement of a very diverse group toward those goals, reviewing and writing technical papers, participating in meetings, conducting site visits, undertaking GIS work, and managing contracts and budgets.

Although helping to staff the work of the WRP will be the fellow's primary task, s/he will likely also take on other SCC projects such as public access (e.g., trail and open space planning and construction), urban waterfronts (e.g., projects that bring together public access, economic, and fisheries elements), habitat restoration, or climate change adaptation (e.g., "living shorelines" projects that use nature-based solutions to address erosion and provide/maintain habitat). Tasks may include project development, project and contract management, presentations to the SCC Board and others, and leadership in communications (e.g., website, social media). 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.