



San Francisco
**ESTUARY
PARTNERSHIP**
sfestuary.org

California Sea Grant State Fellowship 2023

Points of Contact

Fellowship Supervisors

Heidi Nutters, Senior Program Manager (heidi.nutters@sfestuary.org)

Natasha Dunn, Environmental Planner (natasha.dunn@sfestuary.org)

Fiscal Point of Contact

Athena Honore, Contract Manager (athena.honore@sfestuary.org)

Fellowship Location

San Francisco, CA with hybrid remote options available

Host Background Information

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership (Partnership) is pleased to submit this application to host two California Sea Grant Fellows in 2022-2023.

The Partnership was established in 1988 as part of the National Estuary Program (NEP) under the Clean Water Act as a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency program. The Partnership is a collaboration of local, state, and federal agencies, NGOs, academia and business leaders working to protect and restore the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. The Partnership's work is guided by the development and implementation of the Estuary Blueprint, a comprehensive, collective vision for the Estuary's future.

The Partnership manages important multi-benefit projects that improve the health of the Estuary. We build partnerships and leverage federal funding with millions of dollars in state and local funds for regional-scale restoration, water quality improvement, and resilience-building projects.

The Partnership's host entity is the Association of Bay Area Governments, which is staffed by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission under a memorandum of understanding and a contract for services. The Bay Area Metro Center houses the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and is designed to facilitate communication and collaboration among the agencies.

Position Description

The Partnership recently collaborated with more than 70 partners throughout the region to develop long term goals and a five-year action plan. The resulting 2016 Estuary Blueprint is a comprehensive, collective vision for the Estuary's future. The partnership is seeking two Fellows to provide assistance with several critical actions identified in the 2016 Estuary Blueprint.

Both Fellows will be integrated into the Partnership staff, attending staff meetings, participating in quarterly meetings of the Partnership's Implementation Committee, and attending meetings or workshops with regional partners that pertain to the work of the Partnership.

Fellow #1 – Wetland Regional Monitoring Program

The San Francisco Estuary restoration community is working rapidly to protect and restore wetlands that can provide flood protection, recreation, water quality improvement, and habitat for surrounding communities. In order to meet a regional target of 100,000 acres restored by 2030 (Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Update), close coordination is needed between land managers, scientists and regulators.

The Wetland Regional Monitoring Program for the SF Estuary improves wetland restoration project success by putting in place regional-scale monitoring increasing the impact, utility and application of site-specific permit-driven monitoring to inform science-based decision-making. The WRMP is a robust, science-driven, collaborative regional monitoring program that includes:

- Monitoring site network.
- Open data sharing platform.
- Comprehensive science framework.



The Program is co-managed by the SF Estuary Partnership and SF Estuary Institute. This co-management model allows us to bring together science, governance, program management and data informatics in support of the WRMP.

The Sea Grant Fellow will be an integral member of SFEP and WRMP staff. Duties will be dependent on Fellow interests and qualifications to ensure a right match for the Fellowship. Some of the options available are: 1) Supporting the People and Wetlands Workgroup to integrate social science and traditional ecological knowledge into the Program; 2) Support development of the WRMP Data Dashboard and Data Management procedures for the Program; 3) Coordinate the WRMP Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committee; 4) Website and Communications.

Fellow #2 – State of the Estuary Report and State of the Estuary Conference

State of the Estuary Report: The State of the Estuary Report is the most comprehensive health report for the San Francisco Estuary. It uses the best science and most recent data contributed by dozens of scientists to assess the status of various parts of the ecosystem. The purpose is to identify problems with estuarine health, so that conservation and restoration efforts can focus on solutions. The 2024 report will update and modernize how data are collected, accessed and viewed, utilizing a collaborative platform to centralize and share information in a more dynamic, engaging, real-time setting. The Sea Grant Fellow will be a key part of the team producing the update, and duties will include coordinating various partners involved in the update, tracking progress, and assisting in managing the process.

State of the Estuary Conference: Every two years, the Partnership brings focus to the management and ecological health of the estuary. The State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference showcases the latest information about the region's work to sustain and improve the estuary's habitats, living resources, water quality, climate resilience, and environmental stewardship. For the 2023 conference, we hope to bring new topics into the conversation on the health of the estuary and continuing to broaden the conversation around equity and the human dimension. The Sea Grant Fellow will be part of the core team planning and implementing the conference, supporting the steering committee, coordinating with partners and developing conference sessions.

In addition to these duties, the Fellow may also assist with other programmatic work on various SFEP grant programs.

