



## CA State Lands Commission Sea Grant Fellow Opportunity Division of Environmental Planning and Management

### **Host Location**

California State Lands Commission  
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South  
Sacramento, CA 95825

### **Fellowship Supervisors**

Environmental Program Managers within the Environmental Planning and Management Division

### **Point of contact for prospective fellows and finalists**

Cy Oggins  
Environmental Planning and Management Division Chief  
[cy.oggins@slc.ca.gov](mailto:cy.oggins@slc.ca.gov)  
(916) 574-1880

### **Agency Background**

The [California State Lands Commission](#) (CSLC) is an independent and dynamic state agency that works on the cutting edge of integrating science into policy decisions. One of the CSLC's major roles is to act as the landlord for lands within its jurisdiction. When California became a state in 1850, it acquired approximately four million acres of land underlying the State's navigable and tidal waterways. These "sovereign lands" include the beds of California's navigable rivers, lakes, and streams, as well as the State's tide and submerged lands along the State's 1,100+ miles of coastline and offshore islands, from the mean high tide line to three nautical miles offshore. The CSLC holds these lands in trust for the people of California under the Public Trust Doctrine.

Part of the CSLC's trust responsibility includes reviewing and approving or denying lease applications for uses of or activities on sovereign lands (e.g., major energy projects, artificial reefs, piers, etc.). Activities on sovereign lands must be appropriate public trust uses, including commerce, fishing, navigation, environmental preservation, and recreation. The CSLC is the main agency tasked with protecting public access and overseeing public trust uses. Valid public trust uses often conflict with each other; the CSLC works to manage those conflicts and ensure that the Public Trust Doctrine is upheld on sovereign land. In this way, the CSLC, along with its sister state agencies, decides on appropriate uses for California's ocean and proactively plans for future issues and conflicts.

The three-person Commission is comprised of the Lieutenant Governor, State Controller, and the Director of Finance. One Fellow will be supervised by [Division of Environmental Planning and Management \(DEPM\)](#) managers. DEPM is the lead division for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review and compliance; spearheading projects that facilitate interagency coordination; adaptation to climate change and sea-level rise; and forward-thinking decision-making. DEPM staff also coordinates extensively with staff in other CSLC divisions, including: Executive, Legal, External Affairs, Mineral Resources Management, and Land Management.

### **Position Description**

DEPM's Sea Grant Fellow will have the opportunity to work on complex and challenging marine and coastal issues. Accordingly, the Fellow will likely have a variety of short-term and long-term projects throughout the fellowship year. Some projects might be open-ended or investigatory; others could emerge as a function of DEPM's CEQA management role and have specific products and deadlines, such as drafting comment letters and reviewing environmental analysis documents. The Fellow will also be

welcome to participate in conferences, interagency meetings, and collaborative projects with other Fellows as opportunities arise. Our 2012-15 Sea Grant Fellows worked on and participated in the following projects and activities:

- Participated in the State Coastal Leadership Group on Sea-Level Rise and the California Collaborative on Coastal Resilience's Humboldt Pilot Project;
- Assisted with the update of the CSLC's lease application to address sea-level rise and developed a webpage to help applicants account for it;
- Represented the Commission in collaborative working groups, including the Marine Protected Areas Statewide Leadership Team, the California Seafloor and Coastal Mapping Steering Committee, and the Marine Resources Companion Plan Development Team for the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan update;
- Attended training to explore and assess the latest coastal and marine spatial planning tools and techniques for potential utility to the Commission;
- Reviewed and provided feedback on Sea Grant research proposals;
- Drafted and presented to State Lands Commissioners reports on marine renewable energy and marine debris;
- Assisted with the review and update of the CSLC's low energy Offshore Geophysical Permit Program;
- Wrote memoranda on discrete regulatory and CEQA issues and drafted comment letters on draft environmental impact reports and draft environmental impact statements for major projects off the California coast;
- Attended Commission meetings, legislative hearings, and relevant coastal and marine conferences;
- Presented at the Headwaters to Ocean Conference; and
- Volunteered for the Thank You Ocean campaign.

Specific project and program duties will be developed collaboratively among the Fellow, Division Chief, and Environmental Program Managers, and will be based on the CSLC's needs that arise during the fellowship, as well as the Fellow's interests. The Fellow, if he or she desires, will likely have the opportunity to continue or collaborate on the current (2015) Sea Grant Fellow's projects, with guidance from recent Fellows who are now full-time staff at the CSLC. Examples of topics that our staff works on include:

- Sea level rise and climate change
- Marine renewable energy
- Aquatic invasive species
- Offshore oil development and terminals
- Marine spatial planning
- Granted lands
- Underwater Infrastructure
- Artificial Reefs

### **Desirable Qualifications**

- Ability to work both independently and with diverse interdisciplinary teams that require clear communication;
- Ability to apply and develop expertise in natural resources and coastal management issues;
- Ability to translate science into layman's terms;
- Ability to work toward consensus positions with governmental, private, and public interest groups; and
- An interest in CEQA and other natural resource laws, rules, and regulations (e.g., National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), California Coastal Act, California Ocean Protection Act, Federal and State Endangered Species Acts, etc.).