



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
2019 Sea Grant State Fellow

HOST DESCRIPTION

Host Location and Contact Information:

State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality
California Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters Building, 15th Floor
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
www.waterboards.ca.gov

Fellowship Supervisor & Point of Contact for Finalists:

Rebecca Fitzgerald, Environmental Program Manager
Water Quality Standards and Assessment Section Chief
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916-341-5775

Position Description:

The State Water Resources Control Board was created by the Legislature in 1967. Our mission is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Sea Grant Fellow will primarily work on projects in the Standards Planning Unit 2 (formerly the Ocean Standards Unit), which is one of several units under the Surface Water Quality Standards and Assessment Section. The unit is responsible for developing and updating statewide water quality control plans, policies, and standards involving marine waters. This includes the *Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California* (California Ocean Plan), the *Water Quality Control Plan for Control of Coastal and Interstate Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California* (California Thermal Plan), and the implementation of the *Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling* (Once-Through Cooling Policy). The unit also manages the Beach Safety Program to monitor pathogen contamination at ocean beaches, participates in marine invasive species issues from vessel ballast water discharges, and provides scientific support and inter-agency coordination regarding marine pollution and resource management issues.

Under the general direction of the manager of the Water Quality Standards and Assessment Section, the Sea Grant Fellow will perform complex analyses involved in the development and implementation of state policies and plans for the protection of ocean, estuarine, and inland surface waters. In performing these duties, the fellow shall interact with interested agency staff, stakeholders, and the general public in a courteous and helpful manner. The fellow is responsible for the quantity, quality, and timeliness of work assigned.

The Water Quality Standards and Assessment Section is dynamic with several high priority projects currently under development. The fellow may be involved in prioritizing new planning projects as part of the Ocean Plan triennial review, developing standards and policies for nutrients and blue-green algae in marine and estuarine waters, implementing protections for areas of special biological significance, amending and implementing the Once-Through Cooling Water Policy, and coordinating beach bacteria water quality assessment.

In working on California Ocean Plan amendments and other water quality plans and policies, the fellow's duties may involve all phases of the public planning process, including literature reviews of scientific studies, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping, discussion with interested parties to identify possible alternatives for action, preparation of environmental documentation, preparation for public meetings, response to public comments, preparation of recommendations to the Board, and preparation of the administrative record for any changes that the Board adopts. The fellow will also perform other duties as assigned. The working environment is primarily an office environment with limited opportunities for field visits.