



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
Division of Water Quality: Ocean Standards Unit
2023 Sea Grant Fellow

HOST APPLICATION

1. 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
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2. Fellowship Supervisor:
Katherine Walsh, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor
Ocean Standards Unit Chief
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3. Point of Contact for California Sea Grant, Prospective Fellows, and Finalists:
Katherine Walsh
4. Position Description:
The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) was created by the Legislature in 1967. Our mission is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Ocean Standards Unit is a part of the State Water Board's Division of Water Quality. The Ocean Standards Unit is responsible for developing and amending statewide water quality control plans, policies, and standards involving marine waters. This includes the [Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California](#) (Ocean Plan), the [Water Quality Control Plan for Control of Coastal and Interstate Waters and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California](#) (Thermal Plan), and the

[Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling](#) (Once-Through Cooling Policy). The Ocean Standards Unit also administers the Public 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 Ocean Standards Unit supervisor, the Sea Grant Fellow (Fellow) will perform complex analyses involved in the development and implementation of statewide policies, plans, and standards to ensure the continued protection of ocean and estuarine water quality. The Fellow will use scientific principles and research to formulate recommendations to management and State Water Board Members on the development of beneficial uses of ocean waters, appropriately protective water quality objectives, and implementation programs.

The Fellow will have an opportunity to gain experience working on a variety of projects and ocean issues. The Fellow may be involved in developing amendments to the Ocean Plan identified in the [2019 Ocean Plan Review](#), including developing an amendment to address ocean acidification and hypoxia and developing an amendment to incorporate tribal beneficial uses of ocean waters (e.g., tribal cultural and subsistence uses). The Fellow may also assist with implementation of the Once-Through Cooling Policy, including developing [determinations to mitigate interim impacts to marine life](#) from facilities that continue to use ocean waters for power plant cooling.

In working on amendments to the Ocean Plan 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, to support the Ocean Standards Unit and the Division of Water Quality, such as providing scientific guidance on issues related to ocean water quality, facilitating stakeholder engagement, and participating in inter-agency working groups, such as the Marine Protected Areas Statewide Leadership Team. In performing these duties, the Fellow will 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.

Skills or attributes we seek include:

- Ability to perform complex scientific analysis and communicate findings to technical staff, managers, and the general public.

- Strong interest in policies, standards, and regulations.
- Strong interest in the intersections of water quality, environmental justice, and racial equity.
- Ability to lead groups of people, often with divergent views on how to move forward on a particular issue.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- A problem solver with strong personal initiative and the ability to work well under minimal supervision.