

California Sea Grant State Fellowship 2019 HOST DESCRIPTION

Host Location and Contact Information

San Francisco Estuary Partnership 375 Beale Street, Suite 700 San Francisco, CA 94105

Contact: Caitlin Sweeney, Director 415.778.6681 caitlin.sweeney@sfestuary.org

Fellowship Supervisors

Caitlin Sweeney, Director Karen McDowell, Senior Environmental Planner

Host Background Information

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership (www.sfestuary.org) 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 is staffed by 12 people who manage 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 contract for services. The Partnership is located at the Bay Area Metro Center at 375 Beale Street in San Francisco. 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 assistance from a Sea Grant Fellow with several critical actions identified in the 2016 Estuary Blueprint.

The Fellow's primary responsibility initially will be to assist with two major Partnership initiatives called for in the Estuary Blueprint; the 2019 State of the Estuary Report and the 2019 State of the Estuary Conference. The State of the Estuary Report is the most comprehensive report on the health of the San Francisco Estuary. The 2015 report used the best available science and the most recent data contributed by over 30 scientists from the region to assess the status and trends of 33 indicators of ecosystem health. The 2019 version will be an interim report and will focus on reporting out on Estuary-wide indicators as well as lay the groundwork for new indicators. The Fellow will work closely with Partnership staff as well as staff from the Delta Stewardship Council to manage the development of the report, including managing the work of the science lead, the San Francisco Estuary Institute, one of California's premier aquatic and ecosystem science institutes. The Fellow will support coordination an Advisory Committee responsible for guidance on indicators, metrics, etc. The Fellow may also provide science support to the Partnership during the development of the report, including contributing to the development or update of indicators.

The Fellow will also assist with planning and executing the 2019 State of the Estuary Conference, where the report will be released and highlighted in various presentations and posters. The State of the Estuary Conference is held every two years in the fall in Oakland, and is attended by over 800 scientists, managers, students, and policy makers.

In addition to the report and conference, the Fellow will be assigned tasks to support the successful implementation of the Estuary Blueprint in other ways, such as advancing the Partnership's work on developing a Regional Wetlands Monitoring Program, or by assisting with specific Partnership-funded projects focused on restoring habitat, improving water quality, increasing climate resiliency, and championing the Estuary.

Finally, the Fellow would 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.