



Sea Grant Fellowship
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Natural Resources Division

2020 Host Application

1. Host location and contact information

Natural Resources Division, California State Parks
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2. Name of fellowship supervisor

Doug George
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3. Point of contact for California Sea Grant, prospective fellows, and finalists

Doug George, Coastal Program Manager
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4. Position Description

California State Parks' Natural Resources Division (NRD) provides general policy direction and technical assistance for natural resource management. In addition, NRD administers major funding programs for natural resources management and ecological restoration throughout the State Parks System and coordinates with other State and federal agencies on issues of Statewide significance. Currently, California State Parks protects and manages 129 coastal park units that span a substantial portion of the State's coastline. With expected impacts from Sea Level Rise (SLR) and an increase in extreme events along the California coast, identifying and addressing management priorities for coastal State Park units is becoming increasingly critical for the protection of coastal resources.

The 2020 Sea Grant Fellow will have a unique opportunity to inform State Parks policy and program development and assist in the development of natural resource management solutions, with a focus on coastal parks. The Sea Grant Fellow will work closely with NRD headquarters, and District staff, and will coordinate with the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) as an integral team member on a leading edge of natural resource management in State Parks. The fellow will also have the opportunity to interface directly with senior government officials and leaders in natural resource management policy. Sea Grant Fellow work products include presentations and reports that may be shared throughout the Department and with external entities.



Potential Projects and Duties

Specific project and program duties will be developed collaboratively with the Sea Grant Fellow. Listed below are several project opportunities that address a mix of current policy and technical needs:

Implement State Parks Sea Level Rise Strategy

The State Parks Sea Level Rise Working Group is an internal body consisting of managers or their designees from a range of State Parks divisions. The Working Group tackles complex coastal issues, including those related to sea level rise and extreme storm events that affect management of coastal State Park units. The Working Group will be completing a statewide Strategy for coastal parks to adapt to sea level rise, as well as the creation of tools to support coastal adaptation decisions. The Sea Grant Fellow may assist staff in implementing the action items outlined in the Strategy with Natural Resources identified as project lead.

Further State Parks Estuary Initiative

State Parks manages lands that contains nearly 50% of California's estuaries and more than half of coastal park units contain estuaries. Further, over 45% of estuarine habitat in State Parks is vulnerable to sea level rise. The Estuaries Initiative is developing a comprehensive statewide approach for the restoration and preservation of lagoons and estuaries within California State Parks. The Sea Grant Fellow may assist with synthesizing emerging science on estuaries and lagoons, engaging with stakeholders and State Parks resource managers, and collaboratively developing a management plan for estuary resilience in State Parks.

Coordinate internal and external communication

- Prepare and deliver presentations to State Parks leadership and Department staff. Presentations may address Parks-focused topics or the findings of regional and Statewide studies related to a particular coastal resource or topic that affects State Parks units.
- Engage directly with Department staff to increase awareness and understanding of high priority resources for coastal resource management. Work with coastal State Parks staff to identify local priorities and opportunities to address the impacts of sea level rise and extreme storm events, and assist in the review of adaptation management alternatives.
- Collaborate with State Parks' Interpretation and Education Division, the OPC, and others to develop communication strategies and messaging related to issues impacting coastal units.
- Participate in interagency meetings and coordinate with program staff at the California Natural Resources Agency, California Coastal Conservancy, California Coastal Commission, OPC, other State and federal agencies, and NGOs regarding coastal issues. Disseminate applicable information to appropriate audiences, including State Parks HQ and district staff.



Track work products of other State and federal agencies and NGOs regarding coastal issues

Track and monitor progress of other agency work products, including State policy guidance documents, coastal adaptation strategies, and science reports, related to coastal issues. Disseminate applicable information to appropriate audiences, including State Parks HQ and District staff.

Analyze and integrate data to address SLR and other global climate change impacts

In collaboration with the OPC, Coastal Commission and others, recommend data sets and analytical approaches to assist District staff with addressing local land management decisions. Provide land managers with assistance incorporating SLR data in project development and grant applications. As appropriate, develop or revise existing guidance documents to ensure accordance with the most up-to-date science and State policy.

Assist with other coastal issues

Work with NRD and District staff on other coastal issues, as assigned.