



1. Host location and contact information

Natural Resources Division, California State Parks
1416 9th St, Room 923, Sacramento, CA 95814
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2. Name of fellowship supervisor

Marina Cazorla, Coastal Program Manager, Natural Resources Division

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

Marina Cazorla, Coastal Program Manager, Natural Resources Division

4. Position Description

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) manages 128 coastal park units, equating nearly a quarter of the California coastline. As manager of these public coastal lands, State Parks has the responsibility and opportunity to serve as a leader in coastal land management. State Parks' Natural Resources Division (NRD) provides policy direction and technical assistance for natural resource management in the State Park System. NRD also administers funding programs for natural resources management and habitat restoration, and coordinates with other State and federal agencies on policy issues of statewide significance. Within NRD, the Coastal Programs team serves to coordinate these efforts as they relate to coastal processes and ecosystems within the department's coastal park units. Further, with expected impacts from climate change along the California coast, identifying and addressing management priorities for coastal State Park units is becoming increasingly critical for the protection of California's coastal resources.

The fellow will work with the Coastal Programs team to inform, develop, and implement State Parks' coastal policies and programs. **The NRD Coastal Program welcomes fellows with a broad range of backgrounds, technical skills, and subject-matter interests. Specific fellow duties will be developed collaboratively between the fellow and mentor at the start of the fellowship.** The Coastal Program acknowledges this is a fellowship position with the purpose of helping the fellow gain professional and technical skills. While pre-existing subject-matter expertise and technical skillsets may be helpful in this position, none are required, and may instead be developed over the fellowship. Anticipated project and programmatic opportunities are described below, with highest priority areas of work listed first.

Support the Natural Resources Division's Estuaries Initiative

The *Estuaries Initiative* is a strategic planning effort aimed at developing a comprehensive, statewide approach for the management, preservation, and restoration of the 158+ estuarine lagoons and tidal wetlands associated with the State Park System. The fellow will further the Initiative by assisting in the development and implementation of a collaborative strategy designed to: synthesize emerging science on coastal lagoons and estuaries; engage with stakeholders and State Parks resource managers across the California coast; advance the implementation of estuarine projects and management activities in the field; and build estuary resilience in the face of climate change. The fellow may engage with a variety of tasks, such as:

- Lead data-driven investigations to develop best practices and/or guidance recommendations that address key estuarine management questions.
- Conduct data syntheses and geospatial analyses to better define the scope of State Parks' estuarine

natural resource portfolio and address key management questions.

- Produce data visualization products to communicate the department's estuarine management role to the public.
- Provide technical support for estuarine restoration/resilience project prioritization, planning, implementation, and funding.
- Convene a State Parks Estuaries Working Group to review estuarine management successes, challenges, questions, and priorities with practitioners from across the State Parks System.
- Engage in a range of cross-boundary and multi-stakeholder organizations active in the conservation, management, and assessment of California's estuarine resources.

Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy implementation

State Parks developed a [Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy](#), which is being implemented in a phased approach. The fellow may assist with implementing action items identified in the Strategy or assist with the review of sea level rise adaptation projects. In conjunction with the Estuaries Initiative, the fellow may explore how to best integrate sea level rise planning and adaptation into estuarine conservation and management at State Parks.

Coastal Management and Policy

Depending on the fellow's interests, there are additional coastal management opportunities within State Parks that would allow the fellow to: apply or strengthen their technical and data/GIS skills; perform policy analysis; apply communications skills; or all the above. These opportunities include:

- Work with other programs/teams at NRD (e.g., wildlife, forestry, aquatic resources, vegetation, Cannabis Watershed Protection Program) to collaborate on cross-cutting management issues pertinent to coastal natural resources management. This could include, for example: fish passage barrier assessment and removal; watershed-scale landscape management; wildfire and cannabis impact assessment and restoration in coastal park units; or Western snowy plover management.
- Track work products of other agencies, NGOs, and academia regarding coastal issues, including State and federal policy guidance, legislative bills, coastal adaptation strategies, and scientific literature. Distill and disseminate applicable information to appropriate audiences, including State Parks HQ and district staff.
- Collaborate with staff at partner agencies on a range of coastal management issues.
- Collaborate with State Parks' Interpretation and Education Division and partner agencies/organizations to develop targeted and effective science communication strategies and messaging related to issues impacting coastal park units.