



## California Sea Grant State Fellowship Program 2019

Host Agency: California State Lands Commission

Location: 100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South, Sacramento, CA 95825

Fellowship Supervisor: Jennifer Mattox, Science Policy Advisor/Tribal Liaison;  
Maren Farnum, Environmental Scientist

Point of Contact: Jennifer Mattox, [jennifer.mattox@slc.ca.gov](mailto:jennifer.mattox@slc.ca.gov); (916) 574-0748  
Maren Farnum, [maren.farnum@slc.ca.gov](mailto:maren.farnum@slc.ca.gov); (916) 574-0966

### Agency Background:

The [California State Lands Commission](#) (CSLC) is an independent and dynamic state agency that works on the cutting edge of integrating science into policy decisions. One of the CSLC's major roles is to act as the landlord for lands within its jurisdiction. When California became a state in 1850, it acquired approximately four million acres of land underlying the State's navigable and tidal waterways. These "sovereign lands" include the beds of California's navigable rivers, lakes, and streams, as well as the State's tide and submerged lands along the State's 1,100+ miles of coastline and offshore islands, from approximately the mean high tide line to three nautical miles offshore. The CSLC holds these lands in trust for the people of California under the Public Trust Doctrine.

Part of the CSLC's trust responsibility includes reviewing and approving or denying lease applications for uses of or activities on sovereign lands (e.g., major energy projects, artificial reefs, piers, etc.). Activities on sovereign lands must be appropriate public trust uses, including commerce, fishing, navigation, environmental preservation, and recreation. The CSLC is the main agency tasked with protecting public access and overseeing public trust uses. Valid public trust uses often conflict with each other; the CSLC works to manage those conflicts and ensure that the Public Trust Doctrine is upheld on sovereign land. In this way, the CSLC, along with its sister state agencies, decides on appropriate uses for California's ocean and proactively plans for future issues and conflicts.

The three-person Commission is comprised of the State Controller, Lieutenant Governor, and the Director of Finance. The Fellow will be supervised by the Science Policy Advisor/Tribal Liaison and the Environmental Scientist within the Executive Office of CSLC. The Science Policy Advisor/Tribal Liaison consults with other CSLC staff on many issues where science and policy interface and helps staff navigate complex and politically sensitive issues, including adaptation to climate change and sea-level rise; management of California's marine protected areas; development of offshore renewable energy; and the preservation of cultural and tribal resources. This work includes extensive coordination with other CSLC divisions, including Environmental Planning and Management, Legal, External Affairs, Mineral Resources Management, Marine Environmental Protection, and Land Management.

### Position Description:

The Sea Grant Fellow will have the opportunity to work on complex and challenging marine and coastal issues. The Sea Grant Fellow's main work will be related to climate change and sea-level rise; offshore renewable energy; coastal erosion, seawalls, and natural coastal

infrastructure; and the San Diego Ocean Planning Partnership. This will include continuing to refine and deliver ongoing climate change and sea-level rise training program for CSLC staff, integrating the best available science into CSLC decision-making processes, and collaborating with other state, federal, local, and tribal entities. Accordingly, the Fellow will likely have a variety of short-term and long-term projects throughout the fellowship year. The Fellow will also be welcome to participate in conferences, interagency meetings, and collaborative projects with other Fellows as opportunities arise. Previous CSLC Sea Grant Fellows worked on and participated in a number of challenging and high-profile activities, including developing a comprehensive sea-level rise and climate change education and training program for CSLC staff that included development of a GIS viewer; participating on state-level interagency efforts to address sea-level rise policy, including the State Guidance update and the Safeguarding California update; the development of the Commission's new Environmental Justice Policy, evaluating and compiling scientific materials for negotiations on sensitive projects, including coastal sand mining on the Central Coast and shellfish aquaculture in Humboldt Bay; compiling, reviewing, and developing materials for a coastal armoring report; participating on interagency teams exploring offshore renewable energy potential; supporting staff's development of a pilot ocean planning partnership in San Diego; and participating in the development of an environmental justice policy. Many of these projects are ongoing and the Fellow will have an opportunity to continue the work started by current Fellows.

In addition to these long-term projects, the Fellow will interact with CSLC staff from multiple divisions that encompass a wide variety of coastal and marine resource topics. Examples of potential projects include:

- Coastal engineering, erosion, armoring
- Marine and terrestrial renewable energy
- Aquatic invasive species
- Offshore oil development and terminals
- Legacy oil wells and other coastal hazards
- Environmental Justice
- Granted lands/AB691
- Underwater infrastructure impacts
- Cultural and tribal resources
- Marine spatial planning/ocean planning

Specific project and program duties will be developed collaboratively among the Fellow, Science Policy Advisor and Tribal Liaison, and Executive Office, and will be based on the CSLC's needs that arise during the fellowship, as well as the Fellow's interests.

**Desirable Qualifications:**

- Ability to work both independently and with diverse interdisciplinary teams that require clear communication;
- Ability to develop and apply expertise in natural resources and coastal management issues;
- Ability to translate science into layman's terms;
- Familiarity and/or experience with GIS and web-development;
- Ability to work toward consensus positions with governmental, private, and public interest groups;
- An interest or experience in using social media to educate, engage, and communicate with a wide array of audiences; and
- An interest in CEQA and other natural resource laws, rules, and regulations (e.g., National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), California Coastal Act, California Ocean Protection Act, Federal and State Endangered Species Acts, etc.).



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The Legislature has enacted more than 300 statutes granting sovereign public trust lands to over 80 local municipalities (referred to as grantees or trustees) to manage in trust for the people of California. The specific uses permitted in each granting statute vary. Some trust grants authorize the construction of ports, harbors, airports, wharves, docks, piers, slips, quays and other structures necessary to facilitate commerce and navigation, while others allow only visitor serving recreational uses or open space. All grants reserve to the people the right to fish in the waters over the lands and the right to convenient access to those waters for that purpose.

While granted public trust lands and assets are managed locally, the Legislature delegated the State's residual and review authority for granted lands to the Commission. The Commission represents the statewide public interest to ensure that trustees operate their grants in conformance with the California Constitution, applicable granting statutes, and the Public Trust Doctrine. Recognizing that evaluating and planning for sea-level rise impacts on granted public trust lands must be prioritized, in 2013, the Legislature enacted Assembly Bill (AB) 691. This bill requires trustees of granted lands with average annual gross public trust revenues exceeding \$250,000 to submit a sea-level rise adaptation strategy assessment to the Commission by July 1, 2019. The assessments are required to inventory vulnerable assets and infrastructure,

estimate the financial costs of sea-level rise, and describe specific sea-level rise adaptation and mitigation strategies.

**Position Description:**

Under the direction of the Science Policy Advisor/Tribal Liaison and the Environmental Scientist within the Executive Office of CSLC, the Sea Grant Fellow will have the opportunity to work primarily (75%) with our granted lands trustees (major ports, harbor districts, marinas, and local jurisdictions) on developing and reviewing their AB 691 sea-level rise adaptation assessments and evaluating compliance with the legislative criteria. Before this submission deadline, the Fellow will be expected to compile helpful resources to assist grantees with developing their assessments, update the Commission's sea-level rise and AB 691 webpages, create assessment criteria for evaluating submissions, and hold webinars and maintain communication channels with grantees and a hired consultant. After July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, the Fellow will work closely with the Commission's GIS team to publish and maintain a sea-level rise GIS viewer, evaluate submissions, and continue to interface with a hired consultant throughout the AB 691 review process.

The Fellow will also work (25%) on a variety of short and long-term projects throughout the fellowship year, which may include working on the San Diego Ocean Planning Partnership pilot, supporting the Commission's environmental justice team, refining climate change and sea-level rise policy and outreach strategies, integrating the best available science into decision-making processes, and analyzing and compiling scientific materials for a variety of Commission projects. The Fellow may also participate in conferences, interagency meetings, and collaborative projects with other Fellows as opportunities arise.

**Desirable Qualifications:**

- Ability to work independently and with diverse interdisciplinary teams that require clear communication;
- Someone who is a self-starter and deadline-oriented;
- Experience with GIS and web-development;
- Ability to develop and apply expertise in natural resources and coastal management issues and regulations (e.g. National Environmental Policy Act, California Coastal Act, California Ocean Protection Act, Federal and State Endangered Species Acts, etc.).
- Ability to translate science into layperson's terms;
- Knowledge of/familiarity with resource economics;
- Ability to work toward consensus positions with government, private, and public interest groups;
- Enthusiasm for public policy and lawmaking; ability to work in a complex, fast-paced professional environment;
- An interest or experience in using social media to education, engage, and communicate with a wide array of audiences