



California Department of Parks and Recreation  
Natural Resources Division  
Sea Grant Fellow Opportunity

**Host location**

Natural Resources Division, California State Parks  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> St, Room 923  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: 916-653-6725

**Name of fellowship supervisor**

Laurie Archambault  
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**Point of contact for prospective fellows and finalists**

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**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 Park System and coordinates with other state and federal agencies on issues of statewide significance. Currently, California State Parks protects and manages 98 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 2016 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 policy and technical needs:

***Refine strategies and policies to better address climate change***

Evaluate existing State Parks policies and management directives in light of expected climate change and SLR impacts. Work with the NRD Environmental Program Manager to prepare policy revisions for consideration by State Parks leadership.

***Contribute to on-going studies***

Work with the State Parks staff and external partners to produce a report describing potential SLR impacts to coastal State Park units. Depending on the status of this project at the time the fellowship commences, the fellow may be responsible for preparing sections of the report, such as background summaries of the state of the science, key findings from technical analyses, and recommendations for the department's response to SLR-related coastal vulnerabilities.

***Communicate and coordinate with department staff and other partners***

Prepare and deliver presentations to State Parks leadership and staff. Presentations may address Parks-focused studies and issues (including findings from the SLR report described above). Presentations may include findings from additional studies for particular regions or coastal topics. Engage directly with department staff to increase awareness and understanding of relevant resources for coastal resource management.

Collaborate with and serve as liaison to the OPC. Participate in meetings and coordinate with program staff at the California Natural Resources Agency, California Coastal Conservancy, California Energy Commission, other state and federal agencies, and NGOs regarding coastal issues. Disseminate applicable information to appropriate audiences, including State Parks HQ and district staff.

Work with coastal State Park districts to identify local priorities and opportunities to address the impacts of climate change. Assist field and district staff in conveying these priorities to regional and State partners.

Collaborate with State Parks' Interpretation and Education Division, the OPC, and others to develop communication strategies and public information related to global climate change and climate change adaptation strategies.

***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 and field 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 system-wide access to information about data products.

***Compile existing research and establish a State Parks-focused research agenda***

Compile and communicate relevant scientific research to State Park HQ and district staff. Work with department staff and external partners to identify and develop research questions that would advance the department's understanding of coastal processes and resource management.

Participate in adaptation science conferences related to biological diversity, coastal adaptation, land management, and recreation management.

***Assist on other coastal issues***

Work with NRD and district staff on other coastal issues as needed, including but not limited to those related to estuary management.