



**Port of San Diego, San Diego, CA
Planning and Green Port
Sea Grant State Fellow Opportunity**

Host Location and Contact Information:

Port of San Diego
Planning & Green Port
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Supervisor and Point of Contact for Finalists:

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Position Description:

The Port of San Diego was created by the State Legislature to manage San Diego Bay and surrounding waterfront land through a regional governance approach in 1962. The Port of San Diego is the fourth largest of the 11 deep water Ports in California, and is bordered by five member cities: Chula Vista, Coronado, Imperial Beach, National City, and San Diego. The Port oversees two marine cargo terminals, two cruise ship terminals, over 20 public parks, the Harbor Police Department, and the leases of over 200 tenants and over 500 sub tenant businesses around San Diego Bay. The Port is an economic engine, and environmental steward of San Diego Bay and the surrounding tidelands, and a provider of community services and public safety.

Two Sea Grant Fellows with the Port of San Diego will support programs and initiatives through Planning & Green Port. Through integrated planning, sustainable development of Port of San Diego operations, and protection and enhancement of natural resources that celebrate tidelands and waterfront life, Planning & Green Port comprises five distinct teams and departments:

1. **Aquaculture and Blue Technology**
2. **Energy**
3. **Environmental Conservation**
4. **Environmental Protection**
5. **Planning**

The Port's two Sea Grant Fellows will have the opportunity to assist all of these programs, with an emphasis on Aquaculture and Blue Technology, Environmental Conservation, and Planning.

Aquaculture and Blue Technology provides a launching pad for sustainable aquaculture and emerging blue technology businesses in and around San Diego Bay by offering key assets and support services focused on pilot project facilitation, planning and predevelopment tools, state and federal policy and legislative development, permit ready infrastructure, entitlements, market access, and strategic funding. Current and ongoing efforts with this team include: the Blue Economy Incubator, use of marine spatial planning and other tools to inform future aquaculture siting opportunities, and participation in current Blue Economy Incubator pilot projects.

Environmental Conservation supports projects and programs that conserve and enhance natural resources by expanding native habitats and ensuring regulatory compliance through sound resource management, to advance a thriving and sustainable waterfront. Current and ongoing efforts include: mitigation banking, natural solutions for resilient shoreline infrastructure, and managing the Port of San Diego's Environmental Education Program.

Planning creates and supports a well-planned and integrated waterfront through strategic initiatives, policy formation, and agency coordination. Planning advances a holistically planned waterfront that is welcoming, sustainable, prosperous, and improves the quality of life for present and future generations. Current and ongoing long range planning efforts include: the Port of San Diego's Port Master Plan Update, the San Diego Ocean Planning Partnership, and environmental review of all Planning & Green Port projects and activities.

There are a number of initiatives currently underway with Planning & Green Port that Sea Grant Fellows could contribute to. Some of these initiatives and general descriptions of the work needed by Sea Grant Fellows could include:

- **Policy, permitting, and grants:** assist with a variety of pilot and other projects conducted by Planning & Green Port programs (like the Blue Economy Incubator) or external stakeholders. This work may include pilot project proposal review, researching relevant grant opportunities and drafting grant proposals, planning, permitting and entitlements (CEQA, Coastal, Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board), coordination with partners, and outreach activities.
- **Aquaculture pilot project support and research:** assist with a variety of current and upcoming pilot projects to support the growth of shellfish and seaweed aquaculture in San Diego Bay. This work may include research and literature review, data analysis and/or review to identify data gaps, and planning for new data collection to assist with identifying suitable locations for various types of aquaculture operations.
- **San Diego Ocean Planning Partnership:** The California State Lands Commission and the Port of San Diego formed the San Diego Ocean Planning Partnership to collaborate on an ocean planning pilot in the ocean space offshore San Diego County. This work may involve local, state, regional, and federal agency coordination, stakeholder engagement, and review of ocean and coastal-related data.
- **Natural Resources:** potential to be involved in or gain exposure to a variety of projects, including but not limited to: natural resources management, wetlands restoration and monitoring, living shorelines, climate change studies, permit compliance, bioremediation, and mitigation banking.
- **Site Visits:** potential to attend site visits to various locations on Port tidelands, including parks, project sites, terminals, or other sites. These visits may involve meetings with Port staff or external stakeholders, environmental monitoring, tours, or public meetings.
- **Other project management and coordination:** assist with various projects (primarily with Aquaculture & Blue Technology, Environmental Conservation, and Planning) to achieve milestones, and provide due diligence for deliverables. This work may involve creating work plans and timelines, coordinating meetings with other Port departments or stakeholders (e.g. local or state agencies, nonprofits, academia), taking meeting minutes, drafting presentations and memos, and preparing reports.

A successful candidate must be able to work independently but also function as part of a multi-disciplinary team within the Port's Planning & Green Port, as well as counterparts in other agencies and industry, with emphasis on communication, inter-personal skills, interaction with policy and regulatory information; there is little emphasis on direct scientific research, however, the ability to conduct detailed literature, legal, and administrative reviews and research will be an important contribution. Strong organizational, listening, and writing skills and a willingness to work on and interact with a broad variety of projects will greatly enhance the fellowship.