

SFEP

SAN FRANCISCO



ESTUARY
PARTNERSHIP

California Sea Grant State Fellowship

2022 HOST

Host Location and Contact Information

San Francisco Estuary
Partnership
375 Beale
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San Francisco, CA 94105

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Fellowship Supervisors

Caitlin Sweeney, Director
Heidi Nutters, Environmental Planner

Host Background Information

The San Francisco Estuary Partnership (www.sfestuary.org) was established in 1988 as part of the National Estuary Program (NEP) under the Clean Water Act as a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency program. The Partnership is a collaboration of local, state, and federal agencies, NGOs, academia and business leaders working to protect and restore the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. The Partnership's work is guided by the development and implementation of the Estuary Blueprint, a comprehensive, collective vision for the Estuary's future.

The Partnership is staffed by 12 people who manage important multi-benefit projects that improve the health of the Estuary. We build partnerships and leverage federal funding with millions of dollars in state and local funds for regional-scale restoration, water quality improvement, and resilience-building projects.

The Partnership's host entity is the Association of Bay Area Governments, which is staffed by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission under a contract for services. The Partnership is located at the Bay Area Metro Center at 375 Beale Street in San Francisco. The Bay Area Metro Center houses the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and is designed to facilitate communication and collaboration among the agencies.

Position Description

The Fellow's primary responsibility will be to assist with the development of a Bay Area Wetlands Regional Monitoring Program (WRMP). This grant-funded project responds to a new urgency for faster and more certain tidal marsh restoration in the Bay Area as a result of forecasts of accelerated sea level rise. The WRMP addresses the need to monitor wetland restoration efforts in ways that assess their effectiveness, improve future restoration efforts, support regional coordination of regulatory review and permitting, and adequately account for the large public investment in tidal marsh restoration. The WRMP project includes translating science to management for wetland monitoring.

The WRMP core team includes the Partnership, the San Francisco Estuary Institute, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, and the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The Fellow would work directly with the Partnership's project manager, Heidi Nutters, and the core project team to support the WRMP steering committee and technical advisory committee through direct engagement and technical assistance. In addition, there would be an opportunity for the Fellow to engage with Steering Committee members on various specific projects that support the development of the WRMP, depending on interest and skills. High priority 2022 WRMP tasks include operationalizing a regional monitoring site network, building capacity to manage and deliver WRMP data, advancing alignment with state and federal wetland regulatory programs and procedures, and community outreach and engagement.

In addition to the WRMP, the Fellow would work to support ongoing Partnership projects and programs, such as updating the State of the Estuary Report, collaborating with regional partners to advance climate adaptation planning and funding, or by assisting with specific Partnership projects focused on restoring habitat, improving water quality, increasing climate resiliency, and championing the Estuary. Finally, the Fellow would be integrated into the Partnership staff, attending staff meetings, participating in quarterly meetings of the Partnership's Implementation Committee, and attending meetings or workshops with regional partners that pertain to the work of the Partnership.