



# California Ocean Protection Council



## About

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) works to ensure healthy, resilient, productive coastal and ocean ecosystems in California for current and future generations. We achieve this by advancing innovative, science-based policy and management, making strategic investments, and catalyzing action through partnerships and collaboration. Our priorities include: safeguarding coastal and marine ecosystems and communities in the face of climate change; advancing equity across ocean and coastal policies and actions; enhancing coastal and marine biodiversity; and improving ocean health through a blue economy.

As a Cabinet-level state policy body nested within the California Natural Resources Agency, OPC advances the Governor's priorities for coastal and ocean policy and works broadly to protect the coast and ocean in California. The seven-member Council is chaired by the Secretary for Natural Resources and includes the Secretary for Environmental Protection, the Chair of the State Lands Commission, two public members, and two members of the Legislature. OPC is led by an Executive Director who also serves as the Deputy Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy for the California Natural Resources Agency.

## Potential Projects

- Influence policy and lead collaborations that cascade across the California Natural Resource Agency
- Participate in cross-cutting state, regional and international initiatives
- Work with dedicated, passionate staff
- Obtain experience working at the intersection of science, policy, and management

Specific examples of the types of projects a summer intern might work on include:

- Advancing priorities in OPC's 2020 - 2025 Strategic Plan to Protect California's Coast and Ocean related to climate change, equity, biodiversity, equity, and the sustainable blue economy.
- Reviewing grant proposals for projects that support OPC's programmatic priorities
- Monitoring and analyzing state and federal legislation affecting ocean and coastal policy



# California Ocean Protection Council



## Desired Qualities, Skills and Abilities

- Strong communication, interpersonal and leadership skills
- Ability to think critically and develop innovative ideas
- Ability to manage multiple projects with tight deadlines
- Ability to understand and translate science for diverse audiences
- Ability to work effectively in a team and independently



# California State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Information Management and Analysis



## About

The State Water Board's mission is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Office of Information Management and Analysis was established in 2008 to serve as an advocate for data management, a bridge between data collectors and users, as well as, provide transparency of the Water Board's information management infrastructure. Our goal at OIMA is to collaborate monitoring efforts, accurately analyze data, make our data easily accessible, and create visualizations and reports that make data understandable across all audiences.

## Potential Projects

The OIMA charge provides many candidate projects related to turning water data into useful information. When recruiting new fellows and interns in our office we try to match the skills, interests and focus of the people with our candidate projects. One candidate project area would be to focus on one (or more) of the common "tests" for drinking water and designing storytelling projects around the data ecosystem(s) needed to inform on safety, reliability, and affordability. An example project in the "affordable" space would be to help wrangle water rates data as well as the secondary datasets that could inform conversations about affordability.

Another thematic area of potential work is the intersection of water resource management and racial equity, tribal data, and public health, working with a new, statewide team of data scientists in public service trying to develop new data tools. The successful candidate intern working in OIMA could do data science work, host workshops where "competing" ideas get discussed and inform the regulatory and policy world with visualizations and data stories.

Finally, there are several thematic areas that are encompassed within the California Water Quality Monitoring Council workgroups and turning the data collected by programs throughout California including but not limited to those led by the Water Boards. Projects continue to evolve and OIMA is confident we can find a project that will suit candidate interests and skillsets with some part of the Water Boards.



# California State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Information Management and Analysis



## Examples of Former EPIC Fellow Projects

We have had fellows help with the following general types of activities: (1) Explore how to improve geospatial data related to public water systems (2) Prototype an [Indigenous Language Isolation Data tool](#), (3) Aid in the development of web services (e.g., application program interfaces, or APIs) and creation of public data products; (4) Help manage data and increase the value and accessibility of the Water Board's data via scripts and visualization software to transform and flow data towards open data publication sites; (5) Help improve how the Water Board's monitoring programs collect, use, manage, and publish data; (6) Help improve the Water Board's data quality and how data quality is measured and communicated; and (7) Help ensure Water Board data is available, reliable, consistent, accessible, secure, and timely.

Some of the work our team has helped create can be seen in this year's [Water Quality Status Report](#) and at our [github site](#).

## Desired Qualities, Skills and Abilities

In addition to a strong interest in water resources, water quality, and how human and environmental systems interact with water data, the successful candidate will have one or more of the following desired qualities, skills and abilities:

- Engaging with the public using data or technology to address stakeholder interests and achieve outcomes
- Ability to analyze data using various levels of data science skills to identify insights or build decision-support tools
- Interest and ability to work on a team
- Experience or interest in learning more about interest-based stakeholder processes
- Experience or interest to build knowledge of watershed management principles and water quality assessment procedures and policies
- Knowledge of current suite of methods and approaches needed to efficiently collect, store and make accessible data to inform management questions about bioaccumulation, bioassessment, ecological flows, watershed/stream health
- Knowledge of principles and practices to apply statistics and biometry to the design and review of water quality monitoring programs aimed at answering complex management questions





# San Francisco Department of the Environment, Toxics Reduction & Healthy Ecosystems Program



**SF**Environment

## About

The San Francisco Department of the Environment provides solutions that protect the environment and enhance quality of life for all San Franciscans, and beyond. For more information on the Department of the Environment, visit [www.SFEnvironment.org](http://www.SFEnvironment.org).

The Toxics Reduction & Healthy Ecosystems Program leads a variety of programs, policies and projects, ranging from reducing the use of harmful chemicals in residential, commercial and City government settings, to supporting biodiversity and the health of the urban forest. Projects and programs we undertake at the local level often become models for scaling elsewhere! Current initiatives include:

- eliminating the use of fluorochemicals in numerous consumer and industrial uses
- tackling antibiotic resistance
- protecting pollinator health
- addressing microfiber pollution

## Potential Projects

- Researching products and identifying safer alternatives to toxic products
- Analyzing grocer data and assisting with public reporting of antibiotics use
- Improving our grocer reporting system for antibiotics use data
- Conducting outreach and technical assistance to commercial businesses and residents
- Assisting in creating policies and programs that drive the use of safer products in San Francisco
- Drafting policy and outreach documents
- Conducting surveys and analyzing results
- Assisting with the Annual Urban Forestry Report





## San Francisco Department of the Environment, Toxics Reduction & Healthy Ecosystems Program



**SF** Environment

### Desired Qualities, Skills and Abilities

- Data heads, you are welcome here! We would love to leverage your ability to prepare reports, spreadsheets, data and documentation for reporting information to the public.
- Enjoy writing? We have many needs for public-facing materials including factsheets, web pages, presentations, etc.
- Do you have phone super powers? Research by our department often involves making phone calls to a wide range of businesses, residents and other stakeholders. Those who are persistent enough to navigate a phone tree and find the right person, and then have an engaging phone voice are gold.
- Are you confident, self-motivated and a well-organized individual?
- Can you analyze and synthesize information from various sources?
- Second language commonly spoken in San Francisco, especially Vietnamese, Spanish and/or Chinese.

If any or all of the above sounds like you, then join us and be a part of making the world a better place, starting in San Francisco!





## California Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Strategic Growth Council



CALIFORNIA  
STRATEGIC  
GROWTH  
COUNCIL

### About

State law establishes the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) as the comprehensive state-planning agency. OPR is responsible for formulating long-range goals and policies spanning numerous issues, including land use, state and local planning, climate change, environmental justice, renewable energy, transportation, health, and military affairs. It also serves several important functions in the administration of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Strategic Growth Council (SGC) is housed within OPR and is responsible for the implementation of policies through grant programs related to affordable housing, sustainable communities, transit-oriented development, infrastructure, conservation, health, and social equity.

### Potential Projects

Interns in OPR and SGC will work on a variety of projects that further the Governor's policy and planning priorities. Interns will have a hands-on opportunity to learn about state government and policy implementation. The interns will gain skills in policy research and writing, land use planning, local government outreach, interagency coordination, legislative analysis, and more.

Example Intern Projects:

- **Wildfire:** Intern may work to support the Commission on Catastrophic Wildfire Cost and Recovery, housed at OPR. An intern may participate in research on wildfires in California.
- **Regions Rise Together:** This initiative focuses on inclusive economic development and sustainable approaches to land use and transportation planning. Intern may engage with state policy makers with ideas about how to align funding and policy to support economic development in inland areas.
- **Health and Equity:** Intern may work on various projects to advance health and racial equity in California, including through the Health in All Policies Task Force.
- **Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities:** Intern may research how to advance State policy objectives through the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities grant program.
- **Climate Adaptation and Resilience:** Intern may support State policy work to support local, regional, and statewide adaptation and resilience, including through the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) and grant programs for regional adaptation planning community resilience centers.



## California Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Strategic Growth Council



CALIFORNIA  
STRATEGIC  
GROWTH  
COUNCIL

### Potential Projects (cont.)

- Electric Vehicles: Intern may research and draft memo on the funding of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and setting up car share programming. Intern may also organize working groups, and catalog relevant studies, and models. Past interns have also worked on the Coast-to-Coast Smart e-Mobility program, which focuses on smart and clean transportation solutions, and had the opportunity to travel to Europe.
- Bill Analysis: Intern may work with the Legislative Director to write bill analyses.
- Intern projects, to an extent, can be tailored to the intern's specific areas of interest.

### Desired Qualities, Skills and Abilities

Ideal candidates are self-driven and independently motivated, can balance multiple projects at once and meet deadlines, are highly professional and responsible, have strong verbal and written communication as well as analytical and organizational skills, and demonstrate a strong interest in one or more of the subject matters that OPR and SGC cover. Please see the OPR and SGC websites for more information on the areas of work.

Bonus skills: experience with GIS/modeling/mapping tools, graphic design/web design/multimedia skills, communications/outreach skills, legal or legislative analysis.







## Green Science Policy Institute



### About

We are scientists who conduct and communicate research to decision-makers in government and business to protect people's health and our planet from the harmful chemicals in everyday products.

We developed the Six Classes Approach to Reducing Chemical Harm (see <https://www.sixclasses.org/>) which has helped reduce the use of toxic chemicals in products like carpet, furniture, cosmetics and food packaging. We are a leading information source for consumers seeking to eliminate PFAS in their personal purchases (see <https://pfascentral.org/pfas-free-products/>)

### Potential Projects

We are a small Institute (approximately eleven staff) and we wear many hats. Projects you would likely be involved in include:

- research on products (e.g. cookware, vehicle materials, batteries, solar panel materials, electronics, building materials)
- organizing scientific data
- organizing and supporting meetings of scientists, government staff and businesses who want to address problem products
- writing newsletter articles
- creating efficiencies in our internal systems and processes

### Desired Qualities, Skills and Abilities

We seek a summer intern to assist us in protecting people's health and the planet. Are you

- a people person who enjoys science?
- able to ferret out information from a variety of sources, not just academic journals, but also through stakeholder interviews and deep internet searches?
- a great organizer of information?
- are you a self starter who can work independently and with a team?
- able to switch gears quickly when needed to pitch in on a project?
- a good writer who can synthesize information?
- into data and spreadsheets?

If you said yes to most of those questions, we'd like to meet you! We offer a flexible hybrid work environment with several staff working from our Berkeley office two or more days a week.





## California State Lands Commission



### About

The Commission is an independent and dynamic state agency on the cutting edge of integrating the best available science into policy decisions. The Commission is comprised of the State Controller, Lieutenant Governor, and the Governor's Director of Finance. One of the Commission's major roles is to act as the landlord for lands within its jurisdiction. This sets the Commission apart from purely regulatory agencies. When California became a state in 1850, it acquired roughly four million acres of land underlying the state's navigable and tidal waterways. These lands, known as sovereign lands, include the beds of navigable rivers, lakes, and streams, and tide and submerged lands along 1,100+ miles of coastline and offshore islands. The Commission holds these lands in trust for the people of California under the Public Trust Doctrine.

The Commission also protects state waters from marine invasive species introductions and prevents oil spills by providing the best achievable protection of the marine environment at marine oil terminals and offshore oil platforms and production facilities. And finally, the Commission oversees the management of waterfront land and coastal waters, including the major California ports and harbors, that the California Legislature granted in trust to about 70 local jurisdictions.

The Commission processes applications to lease sovereign lands for uses such as major energy projects, piers, marinas, and utility lines, among other things. The Commission is the main agency that protects public access and oversees public trust uses. Valid public trust uses sometimes conflict with each other; the Commission works to manage those conflicts and ensure that the Public Trust Doctrine is upheld on sovereign land. In this way, the Commission, along with its sister state agencies, decides on proper uses for California's ocean lands and resources.





## California State Lands Commission



### Potential Projects

- Assist Commission staff with issues where science and policy interface and learn how staff navigate complex and politically sensitive issues, including adaptation to climate change and sea-level rise; management of California's marine protected areas; promotion of equity and environmental justice; California Environmental Quality Act review; and many other public land management issues.
- Conduct research and support efforts related to implementing the Commission's Environmental Justice Policy.
- Research legislation, assist with writing bill analyses and testimony for committee hearings at the State Capitol, and work with staff and others on legislation affecting the Commission.
- Assist staff in a variety of divisions with projects that may involve oil and gas decommissioning, offshore wind energy development, and waterfront redevelopment at ports and harbor districts.

### Desired Qualities, Skills and Abilities

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Enthusiasm, curiosity, and a desire to learn and contribute
- Ability to think critically
- Self-motivated
- Well organized
- Experience with or interest in developing website content or social media



## Delta Stewardship Council, Planning Division



**Delta  
Stewardship  
Council**

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

### About

The Council was created by the Delta Reform Act in 2009 and is made up of seven members. Of the seven members, four are appointed by the Governor, one each by the Senate and Assembly, and the seventh member is the chair of the Delta Protection Commission. The Council's mission is to advance the State's coequal goals for the Delta - a more reliable statewide water supply and a healthy and protected ecosystem, both achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique characteristics of the Delta as an evolving place.

Perhaps the Council's most important and challenging role is the facilitation, coordination, and integration of a range of actions and policies in support of the coequal goals. Implementing the Delta Plan occurs through the Council's leadership of the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee, ongoing staff-to-staff agency coordination, development of science to support the long-term sustainable management plan for the Delta, the Delta Plan, and related activities, and use of the Council's regulatory authority over "covered actions" - plans, programs and/or projects that must be consistent with the Delta Plan.

### Potential Projects

An intern at the Council can work on a variety of projects that further the co-equal goals such as [Delta Adapts](#) and the Council's [Environmental Justice](#) effort. They will have a hands-on opportunity to learn about state government and policy implementation. The interns will gain skills in land use planning, local government outreach, interagency coordination and policy research and writing as part of a team working on a large project.



## Delta Stewardship Council, Planning Division



**Delta  
Stewardship  
Council**

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

### Desired Qualities, Skills and Abilities

Ideal candidates have strong analytical and organizational skills, are independently motivated, highly professional and responsible, have strong verbal and written communication, and demonstrate a strong interest in subject matters that the Council covers.

- Ability to use data or technology to address stakeholder interests in public venues
- Experience or interest to understand and translate science for a diverse audience
- Ability to analyze data using various levels of data science skills to identify insights or build decision-support tools
- Interest or experience in learning more about interest-based stakeholder processes
- Interest or experience to build knowledge of watershed management principles
- Ability to think critically and develop innovative ideas and manage multiple projects
- Desire and ability to work effectively in a team and independently



## California Air Resources Board, Office of Community Air Protection



### About

In 2017, the Legislature passed Assembly Bill (AB) 617, which helped propel CARB to establish the “first-of-its-kind” Office of Community Air Protection Program (Program or OCAP), whose focus is to reduce exposure in communities most impacted by air pollution through monitoring and emission reductions programs at the community level. Assembly Bill (AB) 617 (C. Garcia, Stats. 2017, Ch. 136) requires the Board to “adopt a statewide strategy to reduce emissions of toxic air contaminants and criteria air pollutants in communities affected by a high cumulative exposure burden.” (Health and Safety Code § 44391.2(b).). In 2018, after a robust statewide engagement process with a diverse group of stakeholders, CARB adopted its statewide strategy, or Community Air Protection Program Blueprint (Program Blueprint), to reduce emissions of criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants in communities most impacted by air pollution.

### Potential Projects

Interns in CARB’s OCAP Division will work on a variety of projects that focus on working with disadvantaged environmental justice communities and leaders throughout the state to reduce emissions of toxic air contaminants and criteria air pollutants. Interns will have a hands-on opportunity to learn in a fast-paced environment about state government processes, policy implementation, and community and air district partnerships. The interns will gain skills in policy research and writing, land use planning community impacts, impacted community engagement and outreach, local government partnerships, interagency coordination, and more. Example Intern Projects:

- **Re-Imagining Our AB 617 Program:** Intern may work to support engagement and outreach with impacted communities throughout the state in our efforts to re-imagine and update our Program Blueprint (statewide strategy). Intern may also assist in the development of the new Program Blueprint research and writing.
- **Racial Equity and EJ:** Intern may work on various projects to promote and advance racial equity and environmental justice in CARB’s community engagement and cross-agency efforts.
- **Community Focused Tools:** Intern may develop and enhance web presence around the Program Blueprint to make Program tools, information, and data easy to access, user friendly, and in plain language.
- **Interagency Coordination:** Intern may work with other CARB Divisions, and sister agencies to implement Program goals, objectives, and deliverables for the Program Blueprint 2.0 Update.



## California Air Resources Board, Office of Community Air Protection



### Desired Qualities, Skills and Abilities

Ideal candidates are self-driven and independently motivated, have the ability to balance multiple projects at once and meet deadlines in a dynamic environment, are highly professional and responsible, have strong verbal and written communication as well as analytical and organizational skills, and demonstrate a strong interest in one or more of the subject matters that CARB and the OCAP Program cover. Please see the CARB website for more information on the areas of work.

Desirable Qualifications: Experience with graphic design/web design/multimedia skills, and communications/outreach skills.

