

**STAFF REPORT**

**67**

A Statewide

10/24/19

C2019038

S Statewide

K. Forbes

J. Mattox

**CONSIDER GRANTING AUTHORITY FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO TO PROCURE THE SERVICES OF TWO SCIENCE POLICY FELLOWS THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA SEA GRANT STATE FELLOWS PROGRAM**

**PARTIES:**

California State Lands Commission

University of California, San Diego

**PROPOSED ACTIVITY:**

The Executive Officer requests authority to enter into an agreement with the University of California, San Diego, which administers California Sea Grant (CASG), to procure the services of two science policy fellows through CASG's State Fellows Program. The State Fellows Program is an opportunity for graduate students who are interested both in marine resources and in the policy decisions affecting those resources to be placed in a 12-month, full time policy fellowship with host government agencies. The Commission has hosted State fellows through this program every year since 2012, and staff believes the fellows' expertise and scientific knowledge greatly benefit the Commission's activities and programs. For example, past fellows have participated in and advanced the following policy initiatives (not an exhaustive list):

- 2016-2020 Strategic Plan
- Environmental Justice Policy
- Sea-level rise staff guidance, training, and developed an online viewing tool
- San Diego Ocean Planning Partnership
- Offshore renewable energy policy and interagency collaboration
- Assembly Bill 691 compliance and coordination

For the 2020 fellowship year, it is expected that the fellows will continue the policy work of prior fellows and assist staff in new initiatives as they arise.

## STAFF REPORT NO. 67 (CONT'D)

Expected tasks for the 2020 year include:

- Working with granted lands trustees (major ports, harbor districts, marinas, and local jurisdictions) and the Commission's consultant team on reviewing AB 691 sea-level rise vulnerability and adaptation assessments to identify priority assets and preferred sea-level rise adaptation approaches, evaluate the economic impacts of sea-level rise, and recommend short-term and long-term actions to support local implementation efforts, supporting and participating in interagency research, management, and policy development teams related to climate change and sea-level rise impacts along our coast with specific focus on:
  - Coastal erosion and how implementation of natural coastal infrastructure can be implemented to reduce erosion and storm damage.
  - Organizing and developing materials for a report on the adverse effects of coastal armoring on the resources and values entrusted to the Commission's care.
  - Exploring offshore renewable energy potential, research needs, and environmental challenges.
- Develop and implement solutions to reduce ocean and coastal pollution, litter, and microplastics by participating in multi-agency efforts such as the California Ocean Litter Prevention Strategy interagency group and the Tijuana River cross-border pollution issues working group.
- Researching issues and supporting efforts related to Tribal engagement on projects; participating on interagency groups including the Cultural Resources Climate Change Task Force and Santa Barbara Channel oil and gas decommissioning working groups associated with Platform Holly and Rincon Island; and participating on the Commission's environmental justice implementation team to ensure integration of Tribal environmental justice and equity issues.

### **STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION:**

#### **Statutory Authority and Other References:**

Public Resources Code Section 6106; Government Code section 11256; State Administrative Manual section 1200 et seq.; State Contracting Manual, Vol. 1 (rev. 1/18).

#### **State's Best Interests Analysis:**

The recommended action, executing an Agreement to hire policy fellows through the University of California, San Diego, to assist Commission staff, is in the State's best interests because it allows the Commission to focus its staffing resources on its core program needs and provide

STAFF REPORT NO. 67 (CONT'D)

practical experience to graduate students with an interest in pursuing careers in ocean/coastal science policy and governance. Some of these fellows may later join the State workforce with directly relevant experience in State operations.

**OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:**

1. The proposed action is consistent with Strategy 1.0 of the Commission's Strategic Plan to lead Innovative and Responsible Land and Resource Management, and with Strategy 3.0 to engage Californians to Help Safeguard their Trust Lands and Resources.
2. Authorization to execute an agreement with the University of California, San Diego, is not considered a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is an administrative action that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Authority: Public Resources Code section 21065 and California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15378, subdivision (b)(5).

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

It is recommended that the Commission:

**STATE'S BEST INTERESTS:**

Find that the recommended action is in the best interests of the State.

**AUTHORIZATION:**

Authorize the Executive Officer or her designee to execute an Agreement with the University of California, San Diego, in accordance with current State policies and procedures.