



Water Quality Research, Education, and Outreach Specialist

Overview

Since 1995 the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation (CMSF) has worked to protect the state's coastal ecosystems while strengthening coastal resilience in the face of population growth, urban and industrial uses, climate change, and resource extraction. Working with local communities, government agencies, tribal communities, harbors and marinas, and NGOs, we identify and implement practical and effective solutions to reduce human impacts and increase stewardship of California's coastal resources. Our core focus is on improving coastal resilience by using an interdisciplinary approach, engaging stakeholders, members of the public, as well as experts to drive cutting edge and creative solutions. For the past 27 years CMSF has proven a strategic partner and innovator of highly impactful marine conservation projects and programs.

Position Summary

CMSF leads scientific research on agricultural plastic pollution in watersheds through a partnership with Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, UC Cooperative Extension, local growers, researchers from Washington State University and Cal Poly, and industry representatives. This position will help conduct trials of biodegradable mulch in place of traditional plastic mulch on strawberry fields and explores end of life solutions for plasticulture. The primary focus of this position is:

1. Soil Biodegradable Mulch Trials (45%)- In October of 2022, Washington State University and collaborators, and CMSF were awarded the four-year Specialty Crop Research Initiative Grant (SCRI). The SCRI project will help advance our understanding of Soil- Biodegradable Mulch. Within this project.
 - Coordinate multi-year Soil-Biodegradable Mulch Trials in the Monterey Bay Region,
 - Monitor plastic performance, monitor harvest yields, and monitor post tillage plastic degradation, analyze data collected.
 - **To note, the person in this position will spend multiple hours per week collecting yield data from strawberry fields, this will require the person to be bent down for long periods of time.*
 - Lead outreach and education with agricultural stakeholders in California's Central Coast to share results from data collected and promote implementation of sustainable agriculture plastic alternatives.
2. End of Life Solutions for Agricultural Mulch Film (45%) - In collaboration with agricultural stakeholders the staff member in this role will be responsible for coordinating field trials across Monterey, Ventura, and Santa Maria counties. The staff member will collect, process, and analyze data from the trials. They will assist with outreach, project management, and collect data for an economic analysis. Travel will be required for this role.
3. Provide Support for MBNMS Water Quality (10%)
 - Support the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) in identifying innovative solutions for mitigating pollution from agriculture operations as well as promoting the science and success stories of these efforts.

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- Provide support for accomplishing the objectives and tasks related to current grant programs managed by CMSF.
- Support sampling of water quality in watersheds draining to MBNMS.
- Use the information from all water quality monitoring efforts to identify solutions that will reduce threats to water quality of the sanctuary.
- Support the MBNMS in identifying innovative solutions for mitigating pollution from agriculture operations as well as promoting the science and success stories of these efforts.
- As needed provide support to the Urban Water Quality Program by helping sample urban runoff, provide technical support, and help with outreach.

Qualifications

- Advanced degree (BS or MS) or equivalent experience in environmental science, agronomy, biology, ecology, natural sciences, or similar;
- Ability to collect, analyze, and prepare data in a timely and accurate manner;
- Ability to communicate results through written and oral communication and with agricultural stakeholders;
- Be willing to work in agricultural fields, watersheds, and urban runoff areas;
- Ability to manage time, equipment, and supplies to achieve project goals;
- Outstanding written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills as well as organizational;
- Advanced Microsoft Office, GIS, R, and other statistical software skills preferred;
- Aptitude for working collaboratively as a team member with diverse individuals and organizations;
- Able to adapt as circumstances warrant;
- Demonstrated ability to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion;
- Preferably speak, write, and read in English and Spanish; and
- Driver's license and access to a vehicle for field work.

Physical Demand and Working Conditions

The job requires field work, and as such the employee must be able to lift and carry heavy objects (up to fifty pounds) and be able to negotiate steep, slippery surfaces commonly found along streams, rivers, and near outfall sites.

Salary and Benefits

This position offers competitive compensation ranging from \$40,000 to \$47,900 and a benefits package including vacation, paid holidays and sick leave, medical and dental benefits, and a 403(b)(7) deferred retirement savings account.



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To apply:

For primary consideration, applications should be received by April 30, 2023, the position will remain open until filled. Applications should include: 1. A cover letter. 2. Curriculum vitae 3. Contact information for three references. Please send applications as a single PDF document (in the order shown above with the file name) to the California Marine Science Foundation at jobs@californiamsf.org

Diversity Statement

CMSF is committed to dismantling the longstanding racial, gender, and socio-economic boundaries that exist in the field of environmental conservation. When bringing on new staff and interns, we adhere to equitable recruiting policies and promote anti-discrimination within our work and with our partners in the local and conservation communities. We acknowledge that environmental conservation is woven with rich diversity including Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Ecological Knowledge and we will do our best to amplify all the voices that contribute to conservation. Lastly, we commit to continued listening and learning, adapting to the needs of our community, and being inclusive.