



CMSF CALIFORNIA
MARINE
SANCTUARY
FOUNDATION

Community Engagement Coordinator
Salinas Valley Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program
Part-Time, 1-2 Year Term Position
\$40-50/hour

The California Marine Sanctuary Foundation (CMSF) is seeking a Community Engagement Coordinator to work with CMSF and the Salinas Valley Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP) Team on a project to implement water resource management projects in the Lower Salinas Valley Watershed.

About the Organization

The California Marine Sanctuary Foundation (CMSF) has worked to protect the state's coastal ecosystems while strengthening coastal resilience since 1995. In collaboration with a variety of local communities, including government agencies, tribal communities, harbors and marinas, and NGOs, we focus on five thematic areas: water quality protection, marine conservation, coastal restoration, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and community engagement. We strive to engage stakeholders, members of the public, and experts in these areas to identify and implement practical and effective solutions to reduce human impacts on and increase the resiliency of California's coastal resources.

For more information about our collective work please visit: <https://www.californiamsf.org/>

About the Program

The Salinas Valley Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program involves working with a broad coalition of stakeholders to strategically and voluntarily repurpose the least viable agricultural lands in the Lower Salinas Valley that can provide multiple water resource benefits. The project is part of the California Department of Conservation's (DOC's) Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program designed to increase regional capacity to repurpose agricultural land, thereby reducing reliance on groundwater, increasing groundwater sustainability, and providing other community benefits.

Community Benefits

Benefits to communities may include flood risk reduction, improved surface water quality, improved groundwater supply, enhanced wildlife habitat, reduced blight (e.g., via debris removal from creeks), opportunities for hands-on education and volunteerism, recreation and/or open space areas, and assistance for growers in meeting surface water quality objectives.

Goals for Community Engagement

Community engagement, particularly with disadvantaged communities and possibly with socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, is an essential part of the MLRP program. The goals for engagement include informing communities about groundwater management issues and the MLRP approach to addressing them, and soliciting and documenting community needs and potential direct benefits of MLRP projects.



About You

The successful applicant will have:

- Substantial experience and a proven track record of effective community engagement and collaboration across diverse communities and organizations, including experience with the tasks described below.
- Fluency in Spanish and English, and at least the ability to coordinate with Mixteco translators to communicate effectively with community members and community-based organizations.
- Ability to facilitate broad regional support for the program.
- A basic understanding of watershed processes related to wetland restoration, flood-risk reduction, water storage and treatment, and groundwater recharge sufficient to allow community engagement and education for the purposes of this program.
- Substantial experience planning, organizing, facilitating and documenting in-person meetings, and effectively coordinating with community-based organizations to allow MLRP information to be presented and discussed at meetings convened by those organizations.
- Experience developing and translating meeting announcements, fliers, and other brief informational materials in paper and digital form.
- Ability to organize and provide food, refreshments, and childcare activities to encourage meeting participation.
- Ability to host online meetings, including sharing presentations among multiple online presenters, recording and responding to chats, and managing discussion to allow all participants opportunities to comment.
- Ability to walk neighborhoods in the immediate vicinity of potential projects to engage residents door-to-door or by other means.
- Ability to create complete, concise reports documenting the level of engagement and capturing community comments, including specific project benefits identified by community members as well as details of broader community visions and values.
- Ability to work in a positive and efficient way with staff from CMSF, the MLRP Project Team, and program managers at the California Department of Conservation.

Your tasks are to support outreach to a broad and diverse range of communities and neighborhoods within the northern Salinas Valley to promote a comprehensive community understanding of the MLRP program; and to advance the collaborative stakeholder structure that aligns land and water management projects with community values and supports the program over the long term.

Tasks include:

- Messaging
 - Assist the project team in creating cross-culturally relevant, concise statements about the program and effective questions to solicit comments about desired project benefits, concerns, community values, and visions for the future of the region in terms of land and water management.
 - Effectively convey these messages to the community through the tasks described below.
- Community Surveys
 - Review surveys created by the MLRP Project Team.



- Translate surveys into Spanish and assure that surveys are cross-culturally relevant.
- Distribute surveys to effectively reach an established proportion of the community.
- Collect survey responses.
- Analyze survey responses quantitatively and qualitatively to extract key points related to community visions, values, potential project benefits and potential negative impacts of the MLRP projects.
- Provide a written summary, in text and data, of the survey results to the MLRP Project Team.
- Community Meetings – In-Person
 - Assist the MLRP Team in identifying forums where the MLRP program can be discussed. These will primarily be places and times where existing meetings are scheduled, including meetings of community-based organizations (CBOs), local agency boards, and informal gatherings such as farmers markets, car shows, and regular gatherings after athletic events.
 - Work with the MLRP Team to prepare meeting announcements and meeting materials and translate them into Spanish.
 - Distribute meeting announcements at least 72 hours before meetings via social media, CBO networks, websites, and door-to-door.
 - Support partners (CBOs, Farmers Markets, etc.) by providing childcare activities, food, and refreshments as needed.
 - Assist with transportation to meetings as needed.
 - Provide translation services in Spanish and Mixteco to assist with presentations and record public comments.
- Community Meetings – Online
 - Assist with hosting online meetings, including sharing screens for presentations, managing and recording chat comments, ensuring that all attendees have an opportunity to comment regardless of access limitations. For example, if there are multiple participants joining via a single cell phone, making sure all get a chance to participate.
 - Provide translation in Spanish and Mixteco.
 - Prepare and distribute announcements and materials as described above for in-person meetings.
- Social Media
 - Develop short informational videos in English, Spanish and Mixteco to promote understanding of the MLRP program and announce opportunities to participate in the discussion of projects.
 - Share information about MLRP via social media platforms.
 - Develop informational announcements for local Spanish radio.

Compensation, Benefits, and Location

This is a part-time 20 hours/week, 1-2 year term position, with an hourly rate of \$40-50/hour, based on experience. This position is fully remote, but you must have a reliable car and be located in either Santa Cruz or Monterey County. You must also be available for evening and weekend work when necessary to participate in community meetings scheduled at those times. The position requires a home office with a reliable internet connection. CMSF can provide funding assistance for standard office equipment (i.e., computer, monitors, desk) if needed. Candidates must be authorized to work in the United States.



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To Apply

Please send a cover letter describing your experience and credentials for this position, your resume, and three references with phone numbers and email addresses to jobs@californiamsf.org.

Applications will be accepted until July 15, 2024. We anticipate the Community Engagement Coordinator position to begin in August 2024.

California Marine Sanctuary Foundation 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.