

COMMUNITY WATER INTERNSHIP

Project Descriptions for Review

The CSU Water Resources and Policy Initiatives and the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority have provided summaries of each internship project. Specific organization titles and contact information are intentionally excluded. As projects are evaluated on a rolling basis, this list may be updated. Projects are listed in random order. Note that indicating your project preference does not guarantee you will be placed in that location. Also, interns will be required to regularly participate in cohort-wide activities with the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority in addition to these projects.

Project One

Interns will work on a project to increase community understanding of barriers to clean water access for homeless encampments along the Santa Ana riverbed in Orange County. Interns will research the daily practices of people living in the riverbed to obtain water, sources and uses of water, quality of water used for drinking and sanitation, and the consequences of barriers to clean water access for health and well-being.

Work Assignments

- Survey administration
- Ethnographic methods, including observation, field notes, video, photographs, and audio recordings
- Content analysis of open-ended survey questions and ethnographic data using a software package such as ATLAS TI
- Collection of water or soil samples and testing for toxins
- Assessment of health risks
- Meetings with public officials and coalition partners
- Development of an educational media campaign

Location

Orange County (Santa Ana, Anaheim, Orange)

Project Two

Students will help a water agency develop new outreach tools for customers for a range of projects, with a focus on improving Spanish-language community engagement and education materials for the San Jacinto Valley. The interns will provide special support to a conservation project involving groundwater, water banking, and indirect potable reuse.

Work Assignments

- Development of materials used to promote conservation practices and support long-term water supply programs
- Translation of materials into Spanish
- Updates to existing outreach materials
- Contact with customers and other stakeholders to discuss outreach programs • Attending and providing support to staff at community events

Location

Perris, San Jacinto Valley

Project Three

Interns will gather feedback from residents on a turf replacement program that was implemented in Jurupa Valley. Students will conduct a survey and interview residents who had their turf replaced with drought tolerant landscaping, so the program can be improved and more attractive for future community members.

Work Assignments

- Calling and visiting residents to conduct surveys
- Taking pictures at survey sites
- Researching water use and recording data
- Analyzing survey findings
- Presenting to board of directors

Location

Jurupa Valley, Mira Loma

Project Four

Students will provide support for a nonprofit's outreach activities in underserved communities in Orange County and will serve as liaisons between community members, resources, and local leaders. The outreach activities will include presentations, field trips, community events, and water monitoring, and they will cover basic issues, such as water supply, governance, quality, conservation, recycling, and desalination. The events will inform community members on issues of direct concern and show them ways to be involved in water management.

Work Assignments

- Researching and writing reports
- Conducting scientific and social surveys on a wide variety of water-related projects
- Entering data into databases and conducting analysis
- Tabling at community events
- Planning and implementing community events
- Development of outreach materials, including fliers, brochures, presentations, videos

Location

Central Orange County (Fullerton, Buena Park, Anaheim, Garden Grove, Westminster, Stanton, Santa Ana, Costa Mesa, and Huntington Beach)

Project Five

Interns will help plan and organize cleanups and trash pickups on a weekly basis from homeless encampments within the Santa Ana River watershed. Students will engage and partner with community members, as well as the City of Riverside and the Santa Ana River Trust in organizing events. The project aims to reduce the accumulation of waste and toxic substances in the river and living spaces of people who are homeless.

Work Assignments

- Project development and implementation
- Coordinating meetings and calls with stakeholders
- Conducting site checks with partners

Location

Riverside



Project Six

Students will be part of a comprehensive research and strategic planning project for the future of Lake Elsinore, Southern California's largest natural, freshwater lake. The project will include research on former agreements and the overall health of Lake Elsinore to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to the lake. This research will be used to create a summary of the overall state of Lake Elsinore and strategic alternatives for water quality concerns and sustainable funding sources. Interns will also develop community outreach tactics on issues related to the lake.

Work Assignments

- Reviewing, documenting, and summarizing existing studies of the lake and agreements related to water quality and management of the lake
- Organizing lake-related studies and agreements for easy retrieval and review
- Conducting a SWOT analysis for the lake in partnership with other staff and representatives
- Interviewing key stakeholders
- Researching and drafting a strategic plan
- Presenting findings and developing a timeline for grant opportunities

Location

Lake Elsinore

Project Seven

Students will support CBWCD's Walkable Watersheds initiative. The goals of the initiative is to build regional capacity for integrating community and watershed health into existing/planned multi-benefit infrastructure, parks, and transit projects in Inland Valley communities that capture, treat, reuse and/or recharge storm-water; improve equitable access to and connectivity of public green space networks; develop safe active transportation routes to schools, workplaces, and other important destinations; demonstrate low maintenance and sustainable landscapes; enhance habitat value; showcase public art and celebrate sense of place and community character; and/or provide signage for public interpretation and education to strengthen regional climate resilience.

The goal is to engage diverse perspectives in multi-benefit project planning that not only build local water resilience but also provide additional benefits that address other community needs. CBWCD serves multiple disadvantaged communities, specifically within the cities of Montclair and Ontario. The intern will assist with developing outreach strategies to engage diverse perspectives from these communities to inventory existing conditions and identify needs, develop GIS support tools, and work with community stakeholders to develop public interpretation signage templates, content development guidelines, and public education programming resources.

Work Assignments

- Develop GIS database and tools to identify and analyze pedestrian and bike trails, public open space, storm drain networks, community centers, water infrastructure, etc.
- Review and analyze opportunities for multi-benefit projects within existing local General Plans, Safe Routes to Schools plans, Active Transportation Plans, etc. at the city and county level.
- Develop, administer, and synthesize community surveys to evaluate community priorities for multi-benefit project planning Coordinate and facilitate community outreach by developing communications materials, setting up focus groups and community meetings to involve community members and key stakeholders in prioritizing needs in multi-benefit projects Solicit

community input to inform the messaging, look and feel of interpretative signage templates and content development guidelines to reflect community character and sense of place.

Location

Montclair, CA