

## **Sustainable Energy/Community Development Fellow**

**Office:** Blue Lake Rancheria, Sustainability and Community Development Department

**Position Title:** Sustainable Energy/Community Development Fellow

**Position Location:** Hybrid (In-Person / Remote) in Blue Lake, CA. This position will be a hybrid position meaning that it is possible for a Fellow to complete deliverables from a remote location so long as the Fellow is willing to travel to California's North Coast region periodically to ensure they have the opportunity to understand the local and political landscape, develop relationships with partners and be able to conduct research activities with respect to the Redwood Region and its Tribal Nations. It would be expected that the Fellow be on the North Coast at least three weeks out of each calendar year the Fellowship is offered.

**Special Consideration:** Tribal affiliation preferred

**Program Overview:** The Innovator Fellow will support Blue Lake Rancheria Tribal Government (BLR) to further understand opportunities for programs and the various roles of the different entities that are involved in the offshore wind industry cluster (e.g., wind farms, electrical transmission, port development, ecosystem mitigation, management, monitoring, and research, and other industries as applicable), on the West Coast, and research related policy, permitting structures (e.g., CEQA / NEPA) and processes, and opportunities for Tribal Government leadership and co-management roles. Further, the Fellow will support BLR staff in design of and engagement with marine and Mad River watershed environments and related workforce development programs tailored for Tribal nations. The Fellow may also support other efforts related to developing climate resilience data and solutions for the Pacific Coast.

**How this position specifically relates to marine and coastal policy:** The development of floating offshore wind (Offshore Wind) energy at scale in the Pacific Ocean is a novel technology in a new location, and requires significant capacity to engage on ecosystem baseline data, research, and monitoring activities, and develop opportunities for careers and increasing skill sets needed to support the adaptive management of this new green industrial deployment. The Fellow would assist as a researcher to blend policy, interdisciplinary study of this new industry cluster, and topics that balance its impacts and benefits in terms of programs, regulatory structures, and the intersection of policy, data, and applied science. Further, this region has the fastest rate of sea level rise on the West Coast, ocean acidification and deoxygenation, ocean temperature increases, and changes in ocean and Humboldt Bay habitats which are all impacting people and other species, including cultural resources of the Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe (BLR). BLR is a co-manager of the Mad River watershed which empties into the Pacific Ocean, with instream flow considerations and significant estuarine environments that are increasing in importance for threatened and endangered species that are anadromous. Research on these topics is useful as BLR designs its cultural, social, environmental, regulatory, and economic strategies over the next decade of projected regional growth.

**Summary of the fellow's anticipated day-to-day activities and how these tasks fit within a larger project scope:** Within a larger project scope of increasing climate resilience for the Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe (BLR) and the region, the Fellow will support sustainability, community development, education, and environmental programs departments by researching data and various programmatic topics and components related to floating offshore wind energy in the Pacific Ocean and the intersectional components of that industry cluster. Day to day activities will include but not be limited to technical writing of white papers on various topics, in some cases adding citations to inform the cost / benefit

analysis of certain initiatives or strategies. As two examples, the Fellow will 1) research workforce development, pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship opportunities with respect to the offshore wind energy industry cluster and Pacific Ocean ecosystem adaptive management activities (e.g., protected species observer trainings and train the trainer for local replication) for organizational structures, SWOT analysis, and strategies for implementation by BLR and other Tribal Nations as applicable, and 2) research offshore wind transmission permitting requirements and cultural / environmental cost / benefit analyses, both offshore and onshore. The Fellow will assist with BLR events as a docent (with proper advance briefings and training). Further, the Fellow will assist BLR staff to match the Tribal Government's priorities with funding opportunities available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL / IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), conducting initial screening of funding opportunities and tracking new funding announcements in Excel or other software program.

The Fellow will participate in regular WCOA meetings and meetings with BLR staff (sustainability, community development, education and/or environmental departments, as applicable). Additionally, the Fellow will be invited to regional summits or conferences. The Fellow will also be expected to share a final memo of summative analysis of lessons learned to appropriate BLR staff, regional Tribal network(s), and WCOA members, as well as offer suggestions for further inquiry.

**Approximate breakdown of field/office work:** The Fellow will be expected to manage their time independently for 75% of the time. This means engaging in research, presentation development, white papers, final memo etc. 25% of the Fellows' time will come in the form of attending, participating and presenting in meetings, workshops, training, serving as a BLR event or meeting docent and more.

**The communities or stakeholders with which the fellow may engage:** WCOA members;

- Schatz Energy and Research Center (offshore wind design, engineering, transmission studies, environmental studies, efficiency, monitoring, etc);
- Five regional Tribal Nations (e.g., the Tribal Climate Resilience Network)
- Cal Poly Humboldt Natural Resources and Sciences College;
- College of the Redwoods;
- Redwood Coast Energy Authority;
- County of Humboldt;
- Offshore Wind developers and other supply chain participants;
- Blue Lake Rancheria sustainability, community development, environmental and education departments;
- and others as defined by the Primary and Secondary Mentors.

**Desired products from the fellow:**

- Spreadsheet of potential funding opportunities from the BIL/IIJA and IRA, and State of California as applicable
- Presentation of Tribal benefits associated with the Inflation Reduction Act and other potential funding opportunities
- Several two- to five-page white papers on various research topics as assigned e.g., one white paper every two weeks of the fellowship, sample topics may include:
  - Workforce development opportunities identification
    - Develop list of models, trainings, and curricula
    - Tribal apprenticeship and training (e.g., PSO) programs and opportunities

- Offshore wind transmission permitting requirements and cultural / environmental cost / benefit analyses, both offshore and onshore
    - Offshore Wind / Tribal Nation nexus opportunities report
  - Mad River / Pacific Ocean topics
    - Map / memo of public / private land ownership, regulatory, and advocacy entities, roles, responsibilities related to the Mad River watershed and estuary co-management
    - Support design of Mad River watershed programs and projects
- At least two presentations to Tribal network(s) on various research topics
- Final memo on Fellow's work
- A presentation (virtual or in-person) to the WCOA membership on Fellow's project(s);
- One blog post (due in the last month of the Fellowship) about the Fellow's experience;
- Access to the Tribal network(s) presentations.

**Potential benefits of this position to the fellow:**

- Develop expertise of the Pacific Ocean floating offshore wind and related industry cluster, environmental, workforce development, permitting, policy and other components
- Build experience supporting the onboarding of offshore wind development in a rural / Tribal region
- Broaden community development and climate resilience solution-based skills, particularly within Tribal Nation and government contexts
- Become fluent in researching, organizing, and presenting highly-reliable information regarding climate resilience related to the Pacific Ocean and related strategies;
- Networking opportunities with federal, state, and Tribal governments;
- Conference and meeting attendance (Offshore Wind Summit, Tribal Summit);
- Practice writing technical memos with qualitative and quantitative data supporting a program or initiative cost / benefit analysis
- Networking with Tribal, Federal, and State governments addressing coastal and ocean issues on the West Coast;
- Attendance of WCOA in-person and virtual meetings
- Opportunity to amplify your work regionally, along the West Coast

**Skills required:**

- Graduate degree preferred (relevant work experience will be considered)
- Knowledge and experience of one or more of the following
  - Technical / professional writing (e.g., highly accurate reports, memos, presentations)
  - Marine policy
  - Marine science
  - Program / curriculum development
  - Engineering, climate science, or related technical background
  - General policy and permitting processes (e.g., NEPA, Section 106, CEQA)
- Effective research, writing, presentation and oral communication skills
- Interdisciplinary and critical thinking skills required

**Skills preferred:**

- Tribal affiliation
- Tribal government experience and/or policy advocacy

- Program / curriculum development
- Workforce development program design
- Environmental monitoring, data collection, research
- Data analysis
- Scholarly and/or policy research