Public agencies and 501c3 organizations within the Los Angeles-Ventura Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP) Area are eligible to participate in a state-funded Community Water Internship. Through the program, students from California State University (CSU) campuses, University of California (UC) campuses and local community colleges (CC) will be available to assist with community engagement and education projects related to water in disadvantaged communities in the Los Angeles-Ventura IRWMP.

The state awarded the Los Angeles County Flood Control District a $9.8 million grant in 2017 to support its Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Program (DACIP) over three years. The DACIP, a requirement of Proposition 1, ensures the involvement of people in disadvantaged and underrepresented communities or economically distressed areas in Integrated Regional Water Management planning.

A key part of the program is Los Angeles-Ventura IRWMP’s partnership with the CSU system to run the Community Water Internship, which CSU Water Resources and Policy Initiatives (WRPI) will administer.

Organizations and projects must meet the criteria listed below to qualify:

- Applicant is a public agency or 501c3 nonprofit.
- Agency is located within the Los Angeles-Ventura IRWMP.
- Project serves people within the Los Angeles-Ventura IRWMP.
- Project serves people who live in a disadvantaged community, an economically distressed area, or an underrepresented community in the Los Angeles-Ventura IRWMP. For reference, see https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Integrated-Regional-Water-Management.
- Project is related to water resources management.
- Project involves community engagement and education or public affairs work.
Student interns improve engagement with people in disadvantaged communities through this project. Project tasks are appropriate for up to 360 hours of undergraduate/300 hours of graduate work. Project tasks are clearly defined. Project stakeholders from disadvantaged and underrepresented communities are clearly identified. Advisor at the agency is committed to this project. Project is valuable experience for a graduate seeking a career in water management, public affairs, or community engagement and organizing.

Responsibilities of Supervisors

Advisors are responsible for overall supervision of the intern(s) throughout the internship. The intern supervisor plays a key role in the success of each student’s internship.

**Government agencies and nonprofits** that want to offer an internship should download the Application Form for the WRPI Community Water Internship from the WRI website and begin developing the description of the project within their agency. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Dr. Julianna Delgado, Project Manager (jdelgado@cpp.edu) or Christina Rodriguez at WRPI (chrodrig@csusb.edu). Once an agency has completed the application process, the agency supervisor assumes the same responsibilities as on-campus faculty advisors and researchers, which are listed below.

**START-UP ACTIVITIES**

1. The agency supervisor will assist each intern in **developing an individual scope of work for his or her project**. The scope of work must be the following:
   a. Relevant. It must describe useful outcomes of the project to the disadvantaged community involved.
   b. Achievable. The scope must suit the student’s knowledge, skills, and abilities. It must also conform to the hourly limitations of the internship (360 hrs for undergraduate students and 300 hrs for graduate students).
   c. Include experiential, transferable learning. This program is an experiential learning opportunity for students and is intended to prepare them for future work in environmental justice and water management.

2. The supervisor will assist the intern in **identifying supplies and materials needed** to complete the project (including travel costs), up to a max of $560 per internship.
   a. The student will fill out the Internship Supplies Order Form, which the intern supervisor must review and sign before the student returns it to the WRPI for final approval.
b. WRPI must compare the supply list against the project scope of work and also LA-V DACIP policies before approving the purchase. This happens within days generally. Please note that any equipment purchased becomes the property of the organization (not the student) with final ownership addressed when DWR closes out the award.

3. A supervisor will individually mentor each student.
   a. The supervisor will train, oversee, and monitor the student and his or her progress on the project and will be reasonably available to the student if questions arise.
   b. The supervisor will provide guidance and encouragement to underrepresented interns to graduate, continue their education to graduate levels, and pursue a career in a related field. The supervisor should encourage the student to publish research and give presentations on projects as applicable.

4. The supervisor is responsible for monitoring intern hours and signing off on the UEC Student Employee Time Sheet, which students submit on a bi-monthly basis. The supervisor will also sign off on any purchase of supplies or travel reimbursements.

5. The supervisor is responsible for communicating any issues with the student or the project to WRPI or program managers in a timely manner, so issues can be addressed and resolved.