



Call for Applications to Serve on the California State Coastal Conservancy's Explore the Coast Advisory Board

Application Deadline: October 16, 2026

Background

California's ocean, coast, and beaches have long been recognized and used as spaces of joy, relaxation, and healing. The State Coastal Conservancy's Explore the Coast (ETC) grant program provides coastal experiences for people and communities who face challenges or barriers to accessing or enjoying the coast ("ETC Priority Communities"). ETC Priority Communities include, but are not limited to, lower-income individuals and households, people with disabilities, people of color, immigrant communities, and foster youth. Since 2013, this program has distributed over \$20 million to more than 320 ETC grants to connect more people to California's spectacular coast. Through these grants, approximately 185,000 Californians have experienced California's coast, often for the first time.

The Advisory Board

In 2019, to better achieve the ETC grant program's goals, the State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) created the Explore the Coast Advisory Board. Through the Advisory Board, the Conservancy continuously improves the ETC grant program by leveraging input and experience from diverse representatives; and shares decision-making power with the communities served by the program. To ensure that the ETC grant program is impactful and equitable, the ETC Advisory Board advises Conservancy staff on the application process, review of applications, and ongoing administration of the grant program. [The Advisory Board](#) consists of about 10 members, with lived and professional experience, who share their expertise on outdoor recreation programming and equity.

We're searching for 4 new Advisory Board Members!

The Conservancy is soliciting applications for four new Advisory Board members who will serve at least a single term, lasting two years. After the first term, Advisory Board members may be

invited, upon satisfactory participation on the Board, to serve an additional term, for a total of four years.

The work of the Advisory Board includes the following:

- Reviewing ETC grant applications, discussing applications at project discussion meetings, and recommending projects for funding.
- Providing recommendations on how Conservancy staff can better communicate future ETC grant opportunities to a broader audience and provide technical assistance for applicants.
- Reviewing and commenting on the grant materials and selection criteria for future grant rounds to help the ETC grant program better achieve its goals.

Time Commitment

We are asking Advisory Board Members to commit to at least one two-year term on the Board. Each year, all Board members are expected to:

- Attend an orientation meeting in late winter (approximately 2 hours)
- Review grant applications, providing written scores and comments, prior to the project selection meeting (see next bullet) (approximately 10 hours)
- Participate in a full-day in-person/hybrid project selection meeting in the late spring/early summer (approximately 6 hours). Please note that the project selection meeting may be divided into shorter meetings at the Conservancy's discretion. All Advisory Board members must attend at least one project selection meeting in-person or virtually.
- Participate in a program assessment meeting in the fall (approximately 2 hours)
- Respond to various questions or requests for assistance from Conservancy staff that may come up throughout the year.

The Conservancy will reimburse select travel costs at the [state rate](#) to attend the project selection meeting(s) if it's held in-person. The Conservancy will offer an annual stipend of \$500 to Advisory Board members subject to successful completion of that year's duties.

Anticipated Advisory Board Schedule

October 16, 2026, 11:59 pm, Application Deadline

March 2027, Initial Orientation Call

March-April, 2027, Application Review Period

Mid-May 2027, Project Selection Meeting #1

Late May, 2027, Project Selection Meeting #2

Oct – Nov 2027, Review Upcoming Round of Draft Request for Proposals

Oct – Nov 2027, Fall Advisory Board Meeting

Note: Dates above indicate a range for tentative date(s). Final date(s) will be selected at a later time.

Eligibility

To avoid a conflict of interest, Advisory Board members cannot be employees or board members of current or prospective ETC grant recipient organizations. Advisory Board members that have another form of close relationship with an ETC grantee will be asked to recuse themselves from discussion of that organization's application(s).

Desired Qualifications

Conservancy staff seek Advisory Board members from across California who reflect the state's diversity (including racial, ethnic, income, gender, language, as well as physical and cognitive disability diversity), and with experience in some of the following areas:

- Designing and implementing culturally relevant programming for populations that may face barriers to accessing the coast (including communities of color, California Native American tribes, Tribal communities, low-income communities, or persons with physical and/or cognitive disabilities)
- Embedding mental, cognitive, and physical wellness into programming
- Public access and outdoor recreation
- Environmental education or youth leadership programs
- Environmental equity
- Leading and/or practicing cultural humility
- Community engagement
- Monitoring and evaluation of non-profit programming
- Grant-making and/or philanthropy
- Public and private financing

To Apply:

If you are interested in becoming an ETC Advisory Board member, please fill out the below linked application by **Friday, October 16, 2026, at 11:59pm**. **To complete the application, you will need to upload a copy of your resume.** Please be aware that your submitted application will be a public record subject to disclosure under the [Public Records Act](#).

If you have questions about the ETC Advisory Board and would like more information to help you decide whether to apply, please contact Conservancy Project Manager Irvin Tang at irvin.tang@scc.ca.gov.

[CLICK HERE FOR ONLINE APPLICATION](#)