INTERNSHIP FOCUS AREAS

Field Monitoring Intern
(Field studies and water quality sampling)
The Field Monitoring Internship was created for students who hope to gain skills in environmental science and hydrology fieldwork. Interns will be engaged in activities like taking water quality measurements at swim sites and will be taught the standards of how to collect samples and document field observations. Among those activities, interns will learn how to fill out chain of custody forms, take water grab samples, collect soil samples, fill out field data sheets, and engage with the public while sampling. Interns will also be taught how to manage, calibrate, and program water monitoring devices such as turbidimeters, pH meters, conductivity meters, and water level loggers. This position will provide the opportunity to visit project sites throughout Los Angeles where the Council has installed low impact infrastructural designs and best management practices such as bioswales, infiltration galleries, permeable pavement, and native plant gardens and therefore will give an intern a robust exposure to the environmental science field. Depending on the intern’s interests, he/she will be involved in managing and analyzing some of the data that results from our monitoring to get a full picture of field work.

GIS and Database Intern
(GIS, analysis, and data crunching)
The GIS and Database Intern will be given experience working with ArcGIS in the non-profit setting and developing quantitative, environmental science research projects. This intern will work with the Council’s two ArcGIS experts and learn how the program can be used to create applications, determine project sites, and conduct spatial analysis in the environmental field. This intern will get the opportunity to work with large amounts of real world data and synthesize how socio-economic characteristics of a neighborhood relate to environmental health. GIS projects at CWH range from watershed mapping throughout the west coast to creating web applications that show connectivity of bikeable streets to trailheads and parks. The internship thus could be of interest to students with backgrounds in urban planning as well as environmental policy or hydrology.

Policy and Research Intern
(Follow legislation, conduct deep literature reviews)
The Policy and Research Intern will follow legislation that relates to groundwater, storm water, and green infrastructure. The Council conducts science-based research projects to investigate the technologies and methods that will lead California towards a more sustainable future. This intern will help the Council ensure its work is having a policy impact by attending relevant meetings and writing concise briefs that connect the Council’s work to ongoing legislative efforts. In addition, the intern will be given the opportunity to conduct long term research projects under the guidance of one of our staff experts and will be given access to data and reports the Council has written over the last 20 years. Using the Council’s research, the intern will be able to understand research design in the environmental field, synthesize technical information, and ask new questions that would prompt new research projects and grant proposals. In that way, the intern will gain vital research experience while helping CWH disseminate its research and ensure the sustainability of its projects.
Engagement and Education Intern
(Work with events coordinator and community capacity building)
The Engagement and Education Intern will also help improve the impact and sustainability of the Council’s work by planning events that showcase CWH’s research, engaging with interested stakeholders, and by creating educational material about CWH’s work in Spanish and English. This intern will attend community meetings, accompany our experts on fieldwork visits, and help plan and execute fundraising events. This position will give an intern valuable experience in non-profit communication and fundraising. This intern will also have the opportunity to make a lasting impact by brainstorming how to adapt the Council’s projects and communications such that they are relevant to the communities in which they are conducted.