

My interest in local government started in an environmental science class when I realized I did not know where my water came from, how I got my energy, where my trash went and other factors affecting access to daily resources in my life. I followed my curiosity through my undergraduate studies, and through my career in the fields of environmental planning, government, and public outreach. With these experiences, I have become passionate about the impact local government can have on processes, infrastructure, and socioeconomic factors that create an individual's neighborhood. In the fall, I will be attending the USC Price School Master of Planning Program to build research skills and create place-based solutions for environmental and social equity. Obtaining the Wes McClure Scholarship for my studies will help me in my goal to ensure vital resources for all communities.

During my undergraduate studies, I chose to double major in Urban Studies and Spanish, and minor in Environmental Studies. My second year of college, I studied abroad in El Salvador to advance my Spanish language skills and the experience deepened my passion for environmental sustainability and community outreach. As a part of my immersion I spent two days a week volunteering in a poor, rural community where most of the residents grew their food instead of buying it, walked over owning a vehicle, created little waste, and used wisely the limited water they had. The residents' environmental stewardship was out of economic necessity and I carry this perspective with me, knowing that not all individuals have equitable access to basic vital resources. Building upon my abroad experience, I took college classes on topics such as "Environmental Justice and Chicanos/as," "Urban Ecology," and "Community Development." These classes affirmed my passion to study environmental and community planning to help shape the processes, infrastructure, and socioeconomic factors that determine an individual's access to environmental or other necessary resources in their neighborhood.

The past three years in Sacramento I have implemented local and state initiatives and connected resources to California communities. With the Local Government Commission, I helped address climate change by orienting AmeriCorps CivicSpark members to work on local action projects, as well as assisted in the first California Adaptation Forum, attended by many government climate professionals. I also created resources with the Institute for Local Government to engage and serve immigrants in the regions of San Mateo and Santa Clara. These local government work experiences compliment my public service with the California Natural Resources Agency and the California Air Resources Board. At these two state agencies I have learned the importance of grant funding for local parks, rivers, and wildlife habitat, as well as how to translate air quality regulations to small business owners and vulnerable populations most affected by air pollution. Whether it has been addressing climate change, engaging immigrants, working on grant administration, or explaining air quality regulations to others, these

positions have helped me understand the integral management role government plays to impact a community's quality of life.

Environmental planning and community engagement are what I have chosen to focus on in the USC Master of Planning Program. These concentrations are two avenues to address some issues local governments are facing today: climate change, civic participation in isolated and disadvantaged communities, creating multi-sector partnerships for funding, and empowerment of city staff and residents. City management and planning require an interdisciplinary approach to implementing state and local policy, creating the built environment, and bringing people together to tackle complex city issues. In particular, the city managers of Indian Wells, San Pablo, San Rafael, Rosemead, and South El Monte have an educational background in planning, and many other California city managers have worked in planning during their career.

During my years after USC, I hope to be involved with the City Management Foundation's seminars, networking, and mentorship. I will take tools learned from the Foundation to help me give back to my local region. I am originally from Long Beach and would like to one day work for a City Manager's office with one of the cities revitalizing the Los Angeles River parkways or work with the Gateway Cities Council of Government on goods movement. I believe that through my graduate studies in planning, my diverse background, and extensive experiences, I can become a strong leader that works within many facets of local government to ensure vital resources for all communities and help build successful, manageable, and enduring cities.

Natalie M. Hernandez

Hernandez.Natalie.Marie@gmail.com • 562-477-7911 • www.linkedin.com/in/nataliemhernandez

EDUCATION

Loyola Marymount University; Los Angeles, CA
Bachelor of Arts in **Urban Studies and Spanish**

August 2009 – May 2013
Minor: **Environmental Studies** **GPA: 3.76**

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Institute for Local Government; Sacramento, CA

Immigrant Integration Project Assistant (20 hours a week)

September 2015 – Present

- Conduct outreach to stakeholders and provide materials for coaching and technical assistance calls
- Manage budget and work plan for 11-month project, including facilitating team meetings
- Organized two convenings for 50+ leaders in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties

Office of the Ombudsman, California Air Resources Board; Sacramento, CA

Public Liaison Assistant (20 to 30 hours a week)

October 2014 – Present

- Provide bilingual air quality regulation assistance in response to ~ 35 phone calls/emails per month
- Synthesize technical information and work with the Ombudsman to resolve conflicts, research impacts to small businesses, and enhance public participation for all interested stakeholders
- Represent the Ombudsman in environmental justice interagency discussions, particularly regarding CalEnviroScreen and benefits to disadvantaged communities

Local Government Commission; Sacramento, CA

AmeriCorps CivicSpark Orientation Coordinator (30 hours a week)

September 2014 – October 2014

- Recruited and prepared speakers for several presentations on California climate policy and programs
- Developed lesson plans and webinars to build knowledge and capacity of AmeriCorps members

California Natural Resources Agency; Sacramento, CA

Capital Executive Fellow (40 hours a week)

November 2013 – August 2014

- Led a GIS bond map analysis project with 20 state departments to gather and evaluate data on 17,500+ projects worth \$11.87 billion from five bond measures (Propositions 12, 13, 40, 50, & 84)
- Identified projects funded by park and water bonds in CalEnviroScreen disadvantaged communities, and presented findings to Assembly Speaker, Senate Pro Tem, and other legislators' offices
- Aided with grant workshops, site visits, application reviews, and policy and procedures manual
- Fostered Art and Youth Engagement Partnership for the first California Adaptation Forum

Office of Sustainability, Loyola Marymount University; Los Angeles, CA

Office Manager (20 hours a week)

May 2012 – October 2013

Outreach Coordinator (20 hours a week)

May 2011 – May 2012

- Trained team of six to eight students per semester to develop resources and programs for campus sustainability such as newsletters, GreenLMU website, Green Office Program, and Earth Day Fair
- Oversaw \$10,000 budget, community garden workdays, and bi-monthly farmers market outreach
- Acted as Chair of the university environmental committee to facilitate sustainability efforts
- Managed one-year assessment of campus efforts, resulting in a national AASHE STARS Silver rating

City of Long Beach; Long Beach, CA

Office of Sustainability Intern (15 hours a week)

June 2012 – July 2012

- Assisted in external and internal stakeholder meetings to implement the Sustainable City Action Plan
- Gathered and maintained data on grant funds and key organizational partners
- Produced and edited press releases to promote energy efficiency incentives

LEADERSHIP

Millennium Momentum Foundation; Los Angeles, CA

October 2012– Present

Program Scholar and Leadership Development Institute Graduate

Participated in leadership trainings over six-months on topics such as cultural awareness, project management, and diverse communication. As an alumna, I speak to the current cohort once a year about public service, scholarships, and fellowship opportunities.

California Center for Civic Participation; Sacramento, CA

February 2014 – Present

Green Focus Program Instructor

Instructor for several one-day conferences for the Green Focus Program. Educate ~ 45 high school students from the Sacramento area on environmental policy and green careers. Familiarize youth with scope of California environmental issues by guiding group critical thinking activities. Assist in organizing site visits, speakers, activities, and presentations for each conference.

Sacramento Valley Section - American Planning Association; Sacramento, CA

October 2014 – June 2015

Planning + Leadership + Advancement + Networking (PLAN) Program Graduate

Participated as a mentee in a nine-month program to gain greater knowledge of the professional planning sphere. Attended monthly seminars and one-on-one mentoring sessions. Built an extended network of peers and mentors, learned about the politics of planning, and increased understanding of tools and resources available to be a successful professional planner.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Undergraduate Research Symposium (Loyola Marymount University, March 2013)

Poster and Paper: “Community Development, Urban Revitalization, and Demographic Changes Surrounding the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach”

Studied correlation of demographic shifts and port community investment projects that occurred from 2000 – 2012 in port-adjacent-census-tracts (PACTS). For analysis, used SimplyMap 2.0 and GIS to map and calculate demographic changes in median household income, educational attainment, and residential stability. Gathered information on port community investment projects via websites, articles, and interviews. Concluded that conditions within the PACTs generally improved overall and the projects may correlate with the shifts from 2000 – 2012. Results suggest the value of continued monitoring of these variables as ports continue to expand.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Loyola Marymount University Dean’s Academic List

2009 – 2013

Loyola Marymount University Arrupe Merit Scholarship

2009 – 2013

Loyola Marymount University Latino Alumni Association Scholarship

2009 – 2013

Millennium Momentum Foundation Scholarship

2012 – 2013

US Department of State-Gilman International Scholarship

Spring 2011

Loyola Marymount University Dr. Renee Harangue Leadership Award

Spring 2011

Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholarship

2009 – 2011

SKILLS

Advanced in **Microsoft Office and Adobe Acrobat software**

Proficient in written and oral **Spanish**

Adept in **small group facilitation, relationship building, and outreach**

Basic knowledge of **grant writing and administration**

Familiarity with **Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and ArcGIS online**