

Government Relations Specialist

Coastal Water Authority
Austin, Texas (Primary) | Houston, Texas (As Needed)

Position Overview

The Coastal Water Authority (CWA) is seeking a highly experienced Government Relations Specialist responsible for leading and coordinating CWA's funding request and advocacy efforts across local, State of Texas, and federal funding programs. This role is mission-critical to advancing CWA's water supply, flood resilience, and infrastructure investment priorities and will focus heavily on legislative engagement, agency coordination, and strategic funding advocacy. The position will primarily operate in Austin, Texas, with periodic travel to and participation in CWA Board meetings, funding workshops, and stakeholder engagements primarily in Houston, TX, as needed.

CWA has recently demonstrated significant funding success, including securing a \$100 million grant through the Texas Legislature and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to support the modernization of CWA's Lynchburg Pump Station, a critical component of the Authority's regional water delivery system. This achievement underscores the importance of strategic legislative and agency engagement in advancing major capital investments.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead and coordinate all funding request and advocacy efforts for CWA across local, state, and federal programs
- Develop and execute legislative and funding strategies aligned with CWA's capital improvement and resilience objectives
- Serve as CWA's primary liaison with the Texas Legislature, TWDB, Governor's Office, and federal delegations
- Prepare funding requests, testimony, presentations, and advocacy materials
- Advise CWA leadership and Board on legislative developments and funding opportunities
- Attend and support CWA Board meetings and funding workshops in Houston as needed

Required Qualifications

- Demonstrated success securing public funding from the Texas Legislature and TWDB
- Deep knowledge of Texas water policy and public-sector finance
- Strong communication and stakeholder engagement skills
- High level of professionalism and discretion

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience representing public water authorities or infrastructure agencies
- Existing relationships within the Texas Legislature or TWDB
- Experience supporting governing boards

Engagement Structure

This is a full-time position. The primary work location is Austin, Texas, with periodic travel to Houston as required to participate in CWA Board meetings, funding workshops, public meetings, and stakeholder engagements. Salary Range: \$140,000 – \$160,000 annually, depending on experience and qualifications.

About the Coastal Water Authority

CWA is a conservation and reclamation district created by a Special Act of the 60th Legislature of the State of Texas in 1967. CWA is a governmental agency and political subdivision of the State of Texas located within Harris, Chambers, and Liberty Counties.

CWA provides untreated surface water for municipal purposes to the Cities of Houston, Baytown, and Deer Park, and supplies untreated surface water to approximately 100 industrial and agricultural customers throughout Southeast Texas.

CWA is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors. Four Directors are appointed by the Mayor of the City of Houston with the advice and consent of the City Council. One Director is appointed by the Governor of Texas from each of Harris, Liberty, and Chambers Counties with the advice and consent of the Texas Senate.

Benefits

- Competitive salary commensurate with experience
- Comprehensive health, dental and vision insurance
- Life and disability insurance
- 403(b) retirement plan
- 457(b) deferred compensation plan
- Generous paid time off, including vacation, sick leave and holidays
- Support for licensure and certification.

Application Process

Please apply through CWA's website (<https://coastalwaterauthority.org/careers/>) by completing an application and provide a resume to careers@coastalwaterauthority.org. If there are any questions please direct them via email to Greg Olinger, P.E., Executive Director: golinger@coastalwaterauthority.org.