

**Department of Conservation  
Winter 2008**

**Internship Executive Summary**

My internship experience with the State of California Department of Conservation has given me great insight into how state government operates. My daily tasks included normal office activities such as copying printing and faxing. Although my daily tasks were mundane, I was assigned long term projects that allowed me to do more. Working for the client services section, I was responsible for helping register companies with the state division of recycling, and also researching companies that were not in compliance with the state's recycling laws. I was also able to conduct field research which revolved around finding stores and distributors that sold bottled products but neglected to pay California Redemption Value (CRV), and finding stores that overcharged for CRV.

One distinct aspect of my internship was that I was able to see how California state government departments go about implementing and regulating policy on many different levels. The flexibility of my position allowed me to participate in many different sections throughout the department. After meeting people in various divisions and branches throughout the Department of Conservation, I found the legislation branch to be very helpful in exposing me to many different analysis methods. Although it was under a separate branch and not one of my official duties; one of the most fulfilling tasks was working with the legislation branch of the department on legislation analysis. One of the best experiences was analyzing a bill that was just passed, and called for more regulation on the part of my department. Under our analysis we found that a new position was needed to implement the new policy. I was able to help form the parameters for that new position, and upon the passing of the new budget, if the position is available, I will be able to apply for the position I helped create. I would recommend this internship to a future scholar, however I would focus on interning with the legislation branch of the department where you truly get to use and build upon your analytical skills.