

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENTIST

County of Tulare

DEFINITION

To conduct inspections and investigations in the enforcement of environmental health and public health laws and regulations.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is an entry level position for those who possess a bachelor's degree, but do not possess the experience or additional educational requirements necessary for registration. Incumbents will perform increasingly independent work of a routine nature and will work within an environmental health program that does not require registered staff.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Supervision is provided by an Environmental Health Supervisor or higher-level department staff. Functional or lead supervision may be provided by an Environmental Health Specialist III.

DUTIES

Conduct compliance and enforcement in any of the environmental health programs that do not require registered staff such as water supply systems, sewage disposal systems, solid waste disposal sites, underground storage tank systems and biomedical waste management.

Ensure compliance with state and local laws and regulations governing environmental hazards.

Recommend changes and provide instructions for correction of deficiencies.

Note violations and secure voluntary compliance.

Issue written notices of violation or take steps to initiate legal action to enforce compliance.

Collect water, soil, and effluent samples for laboratory analysis.

Investigate violations and complaints regarding insect, rodent, animal, and other public health nuisances.

Instruct, educate, and make recommendations to individuals and groups in methods of control and effectively communicate the principles of a safe and healthy environment.

Review and approve permits, building plans, and specifications of water, sewage, underground tank control systems, emergency response plans and procedures, and waste handling systems.

Gather, organize, and analyze information.

Prepare reports and correspondence.

Maintain files on inspections and investigations.

Manage the investigation of vector borne disease.

Use and maintain a variety of scientific precision measuring instruments.

Interpret laws and regulations, and act as a resource person for private and public agencies.

Keep records, prepare reports, and participate in special studies and surveys.

Essential job duties may be assigned that are not listed above but are relative to this job classification. (Reasonable accommodation will be made when requested and determined by the County to be appropriate under applicable law.)

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Minimum qualifications are used as a guide for establishing the education, training, experience, special skills and/or license which are required and equivalent to the following.

Knowledge of:

- General principles of environmental health and public health.
- Principles of chemistry, biology, microbiology, and environmental health sciences.
- Advanced math including algebra, geometry, and statistical analysis.
- Proper sampling procedures for laboratory analysis.
- Relevant scientific and technical terminology.
- Safety practices of the industry.

Skill/Ability to:

- Work and communicate effectively with people of various education and socioeconomic backgrounds by respecting beliefs, interpersonal styles, attitudes and behaviors of both clients and co-workers.
- Operate contemporary office equipment inclusive of computer, keyboard, and all applicable electronic equipment.
- Read, interpret, and apply laws, rules, regulations, and technical documents.
- Detect unsanitary conditions and public health hazards.
- Analyze situations accurately and take effective action.
- Use patience, tact, and courtesy to deal with people under various circumstances.
- Write clear, concise, grammatically correct reports, memos, and letters.
- Give and follow complex verbal and written instructions.
- Make scale drawings and plot plans.
- Determine alternative solutions to complex problems and select the most appropriate solution.
- Coordinate work with others.
- Adjust to changes in workload.
- Establish priorities and meet deadlines within a fast-paced work environment. Perform duties under stressful conditions.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Read and understand operational and mechanical procedures of source sampling equipment.
- Work outdoors.
- Communicate and explain technical and legal terms to people from various educational and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Work a flexible schedule including evening, overnight, and weekend hours.
- Complete multiple priority projects with strict deadlines.
- Maintain confidentiality of patient/client information.
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Education:

- Bachelor's degree in environmental health or related fields of science; or possess alternate qualifications per Title 17, Article 1, Section 7941 of the California Administrative Code.

License or Certificate:

- Possession of or ability to obtain an appropriate, valid California driver's license.
- Incumbents assigned to the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) Program: Possession of or ability to obtain the International Code Counsel (ICC) certificate within 12 months of hire.
- Incumbents assigned to the CUPA Program: Possession of or ability to obtain the Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA) certificate within 12 months of hire.

DESIREABLE EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

License or Certificate:

- ; Lead inspector assessor; Vector; Certified Pool Operator (CPO)

[Environmental Health Scientist] Job Code: 021400, Res: 2023-0864, Approved: 09/24/23

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Supplemental Information
Overtime Status: Eligible
Probation: Twelve (12) months
BU: 06