

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST

Definition:

Under general direction, develop concepts involving environmental science and biology, including the preparation of written assessments of the condition of existing aquatic and terrestrial biological resources and the potential environmental impacts associated with proposed actions or projects within PCWA's jurisdiction, including the Middle Fork American River Project relicensing and operation, and the expansion, development, improvement maintenance and operation of the PCWA raw and treated water utilities; may also develop resource management plans, mitigation and monitoring plans and programs; represent the Agency's interests in collaborative, multi-jurisdictional stakeholder processes; negotiate permits and agreements required by local, State and Federal regulatory agencies; and to perform related work as required.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

This is an exempt, mid-management level class. Incumbents in this class perform a full range of highly complex or difficult work, while exercising considerable independent judgment and initiative regarding impact assessments, scientific research, environmental surveys, monitoring programs, habitat restoration planning, environmental regulations, interpreting data and developing solutions to problems. May supervise professional and technical staff and direct the work of consultants. Duties include work in office and field environments, travel from site to site; exposure to inclement weather; work in or with water, traversing uneven, wet or slippery surfaces or inclines on occasion, sitting for long periods, use of a personal computer and typical office software. Routinely bends, stoops, kneels, reaches and climbs, lifts, and carries up to 35 lbs.

Examples of Duties:

- coordinate and participate in specialized natural resources studies and impact analysis relating to Agency projects, programs and related watershed-level efforts;
- plan, manage and implement baseline assessments of riparian, wetlands, and other biological resources;
- plan, manage and implement biological resources mitigation and monitoring programs for inclusion in environmental documents including environmental assessments and environmental impact reports;
- prepare and review biological resources habitat restoration/revegetation plans and specifications;
- develop short and long term mitigation monitoring performance standards and success criteria;
- analyze, interpret and summarize monitoring data;

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- provide policy recommendations to management on biological regulatory issues;
- coordinate and trace all Agency permitting activities; prepare permit progress reports for the Board and management staff;
- review, interpret, analyze and comment on local, state and federal laws, regulations, standards, procedures and policies relating to the regulatory process;
- notify management staff of changes in biological resource regulations;
- represent the Agency's interests in regional and State efforts regarding biological resource regulations, management and ecology;
- negotiate contracts for professional and consultant services and administer the work of consultants;
- ensure that budgets, schedules, standards and contract specifications are met appropriately;
- prepare a variety of technical and administrative reports and correspondence;
- make presentations to various groups including the Agency's Board and managers, private citizen organizations, agency staffs, various boards, commissions or councils regarding biological issues and projects;
- may prepare or assist in the preparation of brochures, slide shows, new releases, displays, tours, lectures, seminars and similar environmental education and public relations activities for Agency staff and the public relating to biological resources, protection and functions;
- participate in major engineering staff studies;
- perform related duties as required.

Qualifications:

Knowledge of:

- principles, theories and practices of biology, ecology, botany, wetlands science, wildlife management, fisheries and related natural resources management;
- principles and practices of classification, identification and mapping of biological resources;
- principles and practices of environmental planning, habitat restoration, natural resources management and conservation planning;
- methods and techniques of scientific research, analysis and reporting;
- methods and techniques of environmental impact assessment mitigation, monitoring and reporting;
- basic principles, practices concepts and techniques of public administration and local government organization, budget preparation and administration and public relations;

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- pertinent federal, state and local environmental laws, codes, regulations and procedures to include Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Habitat Conservation Plan, Safe Drinking Water Act.

Ability to:

- plan, organize and manage ecological investigations and studies relating to biological resources;
- participate in various regulatory permit processes
- participate in environmental planning, habitat restoration, natural resources management and conservation planning activities and services;
- analyze and evaluate complex biological data and make recommendations based on results
- operate a variety of field testing equipment and apparatus
- perform complex scientific research, analysis and reporting
- assess, mitigate, monitor and report environmental impacts
- prepare clear and concise administrative and financial reports
- interpret and apply federal, state and local policies, laws and regulations
- communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing
- establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Education/Experience:

Sufficient education, training and experience to demonstrate the knowledge skills and abilities listed above. These would normally be acquired by completion of a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major coursework in biological or natural sciences, ecology, environmental sciences or a closely related field and four years of increasingly responsible biological, ecological or other related scientific research or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience.

License/Certificates:

Must possess and maintain a valid California driver's license with an acceptable driving record.