

VECTOR ECOLOGIST

SECTION 1: POSITION DESCRIPTION

BASIC FUNCTIONS:

Under general and/or specific directions of the District Manager, plans, coordinates and conducts specialized vector control services, computer and statistical services and related duties.

RELATIONSHIP:

The Vector Ecologist reports to the District Manager and serves at the will and pleasure of the District Manager.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS:

The Vector Ecologist provides and applies biological and other knowledge in surveillance programs, develops and implements computer programs, develops and conducts community education programs and safety procedures, assists in procurement of certain supplies.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Plans and conducts studies and surveillance of vector populations; establishes a system of vector population measurements, maintains collections, does identifications, records and evaluates findings, does biological and chemical laboratory work; prepares reports including maps, graphs and analyses for program evaluation and development; keeps records of insecticides and herbicides, conducts disease surveillance programs.
2. Conducts laboratory and field tests to determine efficiency of insecticides used under field conditions, coordinates aerial treatments.
3. Assists in making assessments on the effectiveness of field operations and control methods.
4. Participates in determining land and water use and participates in the development of programs to reduce or eliminate environmental factors favorable to vector production; conducts studies and investigations to evaluate effectiveness of source-reduction programs.
5. Prepares training materials and trains employees in safety measures.
6. Develops and participates in public relations and community education programs; attends and addresses community meetings and prepares educational material for distribution.
7. Conducts Cal/OSHA, or other Safety inspections.
8. Develops and implements computer related services and trains staff in such activities.
9. Newly encountered problems, other duties as directed.
10. Operate effectively new electronic devices such as computers, hardware and software, GPS/GIS system including various phases of operation such as data input , analysis, etc.
11. Regular attendance is an essential function.

SECTION 2: POSITION REQUIREMENTS

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge of:

- Ecology and biology of vectors and vector-borne diseases.
- Biological sciences.
- Pesticides and their application and effects.
- Vector surveillance programs.
- Procurement process.
- Entomological activities as regards vector control.
- Federal, State and local laws and regulations regarding vector control.
- Computer operation and Software.

Ability to:

- Identify vectors and their breeding habitats.
- Apply biological and ecological principles to survey and monitor vector populations.
- Plan and conduct safety inspections.
- Apply scientific principles to practical situations.
- Communicate with people effectively.
 - Practice safety techniques and use good judgment in the use of vector control materials and equipment.
- Use pesticides according to label specifications and establish standards.
- Operate computer and related software.
- Analyze data and draw conclusions based on statistical bases.
- Train field and lab staff in various categories such as pesticide application, electronic devices.

Education and Experience:

Graduation from accredited university with a doctorate degree in science and appropriate knowledge of entomological activities in regards to vector control computer programs. Three years of experience in vector control and related duties.

POST-OFFER PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:

A qualified physician must certify that a candidate is physically able to perform the duties of the position and is free of illegal substances as determined by a drug screen. The post-offer physical examination and drug screen shall be performed by a qualified medical doctor and/or laboratory as designated by the District and all costs shall be paid by the District.

FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Individual must be sighted with the ability to demonstrate measurable depth perception.
- Minimum of single ear aided hearing.
- Ability to speak and write effectively in English.
- Ability to frequently traverse uneven ground such as fields, dirt banks, streambeds, and shallow ponds.
- Ability to frequently operate a motor vehicle.
- Ability to frequently bend at the knees and waist to inspect sources.
- Ability to periodically assist in the lifting of objects weighing in excess of 60 pounds.
- Ability to periodically perform repetitive motion activities.
- Ability to periodically sit for extended periods of time.
- Ability to periodically climb ladders.
- Ability to use respirator and gloves.
- Ability to use Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS:

Certificates:

Must possess valid certifications by the California Department of Health Services as a Certified Technician in Mosquito Control, Vertebrate Vector Control and Terrestrial Invertebrate Vector Control and must maintain throughout the employment in this class.

Must be certified to wear a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

Within one year of employment with the District, the employee must obtain Public Health certificates in all categories for vector control agencies offered by California Department of Public Health or any other license(s) or certification(s) as directed by the District Manager and maintain such certification(s)/license throughout their employment.

License:

Possession of a valid California driver's license is required at the time of appointment and must be maintained in good standing throughout the employment in this class. Must be insurable with District's insurance carrier at all times throughout the employment.

Working Conditions:

Incumbent may be exposed to pesticides, communicable diseases, and other health hazards, inclement weather conditions and verbal abusive behavior from hostile individuals.

The District reserves the right to modify, delete, augment, or supplement the duties, qualifications, and requirements stated at its sole and absolute discretion.