

Per California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 548.5, the following information will be posted to CalHR's Career Executive Assignment Action Proposals website for 30 calendar days when departments propose new CEA concepts or major revisions to existing CEA concepts. Presence of the department-submitted CEA Action Proposal information on CalHR's website does not indicate CalHR support for the proposal.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Date

Sept.1, 2016

2. Department

Public Health

3. Organizational Placement (Division/Branch/Office Name)

Division of Radiation Safety and Environmental Management

4. CEA Position Title

Chief, Division of Radiation Safety and Environmental Management

5. Summary of proposed position description and how it relates to the program's mission or purpose. (2-3 sentences)

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) proposes to fill a vacant CEA for the purposes of hiring a Division Chief for the modified Division of Radiation Safety and Environmental Management (DRSEM), which will remain as part of the Center for Environmental Health (CEH). Prior to 2014 there were two divisions: Division of Food, Drug and Radiation Safety (DFDRS) that included the Food and Drug Branch (FDB), the Food and Drug Laboratory Branch (FDLB), the Radiologic Health Branch (RHB) and the Division of Drinking Water & Environmental Management (DDWEM) that included the prior Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Branch (ELAP), the prior Drinking Water Program (DWP), the Environmental Management Branch (EMB) and the Drinking Water Radiologic Laboratory Branch (DWRLB). The new division necessitating this proposed CEA would be called the Division of Radiation Safety and Environmental Management (DRSEM) and would include RHB, EMB, and DWRLB.

The proposed CEA position will be responsible for policy formulation for all statewide radiologic health and environmental management issues, including testing of drinking water and support for the radiation laboratory.

6. Reports to: (Class Title/Level)

Deputy Director and Assistant Deputy Director, Center for Environmental Health (CEH)

7. Relationship with Department Director (Select one)

- Member of department's Executive Management Team, and has frequent contact with director on a wide range of department-wide issues.
- Not a member of department's Executive Management Team but has frequent contact with the Executive Management Team on policy issues.

(Explain):

8. Organizational Level (Select one)

- 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th (mega departments only - 17,001+ allocated positions)

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST

9. What are the duties and responsibilities of the CEA position? Be specific and provide examples.

The Division of Radiation Safety and Environmental Management (DRSEM) CEA Division Chief is responsible for the development, implementation, coordination, evaluation, and management of the programs that comprise the Radiologic Health Branch (RHB), the Environmental Management Branch (EMB), and the Drinking Water and Radiation Laboratory Branch (DWRLB). On an ongoing and continuous basis, the Division Chief formulates statewide policies to improve radiation safety and environmental management programs to maintain a physical environment that will promote good health and reduce or eliminate conditions hazardous to health. The Division Chief advises the Deputy Director, Assistant Deputy Director, Chief Deputy Director, and the Director and/or Agency Secretary on policy matters critical to the management of the RHB, EMB, and DWRLB programs' responsibilities to environmental health and safety.

The Division Chief plans, organizes, directs, and manages staff within DRSEM in program activities that include the oversight and regulation of medical waste facilities, public institutions, shellfish growing waters, operation and inspection of x-ray equipment, and radioactive materials licensees. These programs require the ongoing and continuous development of statewide standards, regulations, and policies for continued implementation.

The Division Chief evaluates the effectiveness and adequacy of the programs within DRSEM and implements adjustments to the program's goals, policies, objectives, and operations to improve program performance and operate within budget.

The Division Chief is the CDPH liaison to the Department of Defense (DOD) on remediation efforts due to potential public health and safety issues, political issues, and post transfer issues of formerly federally regulated facilities undergoing clean up of radioactive contamination. This involves complex and scientifically detailed policy issues and coordination of federal agencies such as the DOD, Department of Energy, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as well as numerous levels of leadership at the state level. The Division Chief is responsible for policy development involving radiation and the subsequent policies that must be developed and implemented for responding to threats, challenges, and public health issues as they arise through the public health emergency response system. The Division Chief must be ready to respond and provide critical policy guidance to the challenges posed by emergencies such as floods, fires, earthquakes, etc.

The Division Chief represents the Department in meetings with federal, state, and local government jurisdictions, as well as private industry, to discuss policy, legislative, and budget issues pertaining to the programs within DRSEM.

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)

10. How critical is the program's mission or purpose to the department's mission as a whole? Include a description of the degree to which the program is critical to the department's mission.

- Program is directly related to department's primary mission and is critical to achieving the department's goals.
- Program is indirectly related to department's primary mission.
- Program plays a supporting role in achieving department's mission (i.e., budget, personnel, other admin functions).

Description: CDPH is dedicated to optimizing the health and well-being of the people of California and is comprised of five Centers dedicated to specific aspects of public health. The Center for Environmental Health's Division of Radiation Safety and Environmental Management (DRSEM) plays a vital role in CDPH meeting its mission. DRSEM administers programs that protect the public from unsafe drinking water through laboratory support for testing of drinking water; regulate the generation, handling, and disposal of medical waste; oversee the disposal of low-level radioactive waste; regulate, inspect, and register the use of radiation producing machines, and licenses and regulate the use of radioactive materials and users. DRSEM ensures safe shellfish production, supply-chain distribution and inspects and regulates state-wide facilities by performing food safety inspections, compliance, and enforcement activities.

The responsibilities for DRSEM are all basic tenants of public health safety and protection and its mission as a whole.

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)

11. Describe what has changed that makes this request necessary. Explain how the change justifies the current request. Be specific and provide examples.

Formerly, two divisions reported to the Deputy Director of the Center for Environmental Health (CEH): The Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management (DDWEM); and The Division of Food, Drug and Radiation Safety (DFDRS).

Recent changes to the Center for Environmental Health include: 1) the transfer of the Drinking Water Program (DWP) and the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) Branch out of CEH to the California Environmental Protection Agency, State Water Resources Control Board (Board); and 2) the establishment of the newly legislated medical cannabis program.

The CEA B position that was formerly over the DDWEM has been vacant since June 21, 2013. During the time it was vacant, an acting Chief was appointed. However, following the transfer of the DWP and ELAP out of CEH, the DDWEM was dissolved and the CEA position was transferred to the Center of Health Care Quality, as the Chief, Policy and Planning. Now, with the addition of medical cannabis authority, remaining programs must be restructured under a new Division, named, the Radiation Safety and Environmental Management, with new policy development responsibilities for the Chief (proposed CEA B). These program changes warrant the need for the establishment of the new CEA B over Radiation Safety and Environmental Management with duties that are significantly different from the duties of the former CEA B over DDWEM.

Previous responsibilities of the CEA, Chief, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management, included the development, implementation, coordination, evaluation and management of program comprised of the Drinking Water Technical Programs Branch, two Drinking Water Field Operations Branches, the Environmental Management Branch, and the Sanitation and Radiation Laboratory Branch. The CEA position will no longer be responsible for the Drinking Water Technical Programs Branch or the two Drinking Water Field Operations Branches, but will be responsible for the development, implementation, coordination, evaluation and management of the Environmental Management Branch and the Drinking Water and Radiation Laboratory Branch. These changes bring with them the focus on the safety and security of radiation sources and the sanitation and radiochemistry laboratory support for programs with the Division, other Department programs, and other State agencies. The changes to CEH required a restructuring of the remaining programs into a rational and responsive structure that addressed the remaining numerous ongoing environmental health policy challenges within the scope of responsibility for CEH and CDPH. Remaining programs include RHB, FDB, FDLB, EMB, and DWRLB.

There remains ongoing significant and complex scientific and environmental health challenges for California and CDPH. With new scientific technologies, climate change, changes in land use, emergency response, maintenance of safe food and food resources, drought dynamics, and other challenges for CEH, policy development remains ongoing and critical and requires a CEA-level of responsibility.

C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE

12. Provide 3-5 specific examples of policy areas over which the CEA position will be the principle policy maker. Each example should cite a policy that would have an identifiable impact. Include a description of the statewide impact of the assigned program.

Surge Capacity for federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Since 1999, Drinking Water and Radiation Laboratory Branch (DWRLB) has functioned as a surge (increased capacity) laboratory for the CDC, which provides one-third of DWRLB's operating budget. CDC requires DWRLB to analyze human blood and urine specimens in the event of a public health emergency. With the latest contract award from CDC, DWRLB is now required to become a California certified clinical laboratory. The certification is performed by the Clinical Laboratory Certification Program in CDPH's Laboratory Field Services program through a rigorous set of requirements established by California and the federal government. The Division Chief plays a critical role in providing policy guidance for DWRLB to satisfy a number of certification requirements. Requirements include licensure of DWRLB's laboratory director, licensure of laboratory chemists as clinical chemists or toxicologists, and satisfying continuing education requirements for these staff to support renewal in the future. These requirements represent a significant, new challenge for the laboratory, and an opportunity to improve the preparedness and practices of the laboratory to serve CDC and California residents in the event of any major public health emergency. The Division Chief is responsible for policy development of standards for acceptable State drinking water and radiation laboratory practices that meet scientific and credential requirements for state and federal compliance.

Harmful Algae Blooms: Harmful algae blooms (HAB) are increasingly impacting drinking water supplies in California due to nutrient runoff, increases in water temperature associated with climate change, reduced flow rates due to dams, reservoirs, and impoundments and most recently, drought conditions throughout California. DWRLB anticipates HAB testing will continue every bloom season. The Division Chief provides key policy guidance and direction around reviewing existing standards and modifying or creating newer ones as needed. DWRLB will be called upon to test water supplies and to ensure that low water levels and low flow rates are not creating HABs and endangering the quality of water. Many water quality and storage policies are being reviewed and reconsidered in the wake of the drought. These discussions are ongoing at the highest levels of leadership, including communication with the White House on this critical issue for California. The Division Chief plays a critical policy-influencing and formulation role in these discussions.

Fracking: Legislation was passed effective January 1, 2014, that regulates fracking and its environmental impacts. The process, formally known as hydraulic fracturing, involves pumping water, sand, and a mixture of chemicals into geological strata to free trapped hydrocarbons. Regulations on fracking require state permits, testing of groundwater, and notification of neighbors, and are called the toughest in the United States. Oil companies are not allowed to frack or acidize in California unless they test the groundwater, notify neighbors, and post every chemical found, on the Internet. California's vast resources of petroleum, interests in environmentally-sound development of petroleum supplies and the Governor's leadership in regulating fracking will create new demands on environmental agencies in California. The Division Chief will be a key participant in current and future policy influencing discussions as new types of fracking techniques are developed, and as tests must be modified and/or updated to keep pace with technology changes and challenges. The Division Chief is also a key person, as new laboratory and science-based testing is developed, to detect fracking contamination. RHB monitors fracking activities to ensure no contamination occurs from naturally occurring radioactive materials.

C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE (continued)

13. What is the CEA position's scope and nature of decision-making authority?

The Division Chief's position scope and nature of decision-making authority involve highly sensitive, controversial, and scientifically complex issues that are statewide and may involve federal agencies. The Division Chief will have delegated, decision-making authority regarding the implementation of policies, strategies and methods by which information will be disseminated and programs will perform. The Division Chief will report directly to the Deputy Director and Assistant Deputy Director for CEH and will provide regular updates to the Deputy Director, Assistant Deputy Director, Director, Agency Secretary, and Governor's Office regarding decisions, strategies, and development/implementation of DRSEM activities and methodologies. The decisions made by the Division Chief will have a substantial impact not only on CDPH employees and managers, but also on external stakeholders and the California population at large.

14. Will the CEA position be developing and implementing new policy, or interpreting and implementing existing policy? How?

The Division Chief will be developing and implementing new policy and revising and updating older policies as needed. As Division Chief, the incumbent will be challenged with many scientific and technical issues relating to the operations of the three branches for his/her division. In addition, new issues will develop as a result of federal agency direction that may not align with existing State policy. The Division Chief will be required to investigate, analyze, and meet with affected groups to determine the policy that most satisfies the principles of public health protection and safety. Policy usually requires the development of laws and regulations; which in turn often provide the basis for enforcing these changes.