

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

September 19,
2017

2. Department

Conservation

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

Executive Office

4. CEA Position Title

Technical Outreach Coordinator

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

A key mission of all DOC divisions is to provide technical information, technical training, and assistance to local agencies regarding highly technical issues including seismic hazards, land slides, geological resources, earthquakes, oil, gas and geothermal resources, agricultural lands and watersheds, mining inspection and mining reclamation.

The Technical Outreach Coordinator will cross train technical outreach staff, coordinate the outreach of all technical divisions with local agencies to improve and increase outreach and the transfer and application of technical information, and manage a more proactive effort to provide technical information to local agencies that use this information to make land use decisions.

6. Reports to: (Class Title/Level)

Director, Department of Conservation (Governor Appointee)

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 Technical Outreach Coordinator will be responsible for the following duties:

1. Coordinate technical outreach by the four DOC technical divisions to local agencies that use the DOC technical information to make policy, land use decisions, and regulatory decisions.
2. Design a proactive outreach program that delivers technical information to counties and cities before anticipated local decisions, such as decisions regarding land use that may prevent future use of important mineral resources, or to permit construction projects on top of improperly plugged oil or gas wells, or to build near a earthquake fault.
3. Lead a program to cross train DOC technical staff with current outreach techniques and principles so they may engage local agencies efficiently to brief or train on multiple technical issues of interest.
4. Coordinate a technical outreach team to design new outreach methods to achieve greater reach to targeted audiences of local technical staff and deliver information in a more user-friendly fashion.
5. Represent DOC in engaging local agencies and leaders regarding the most difficult and controversial technical issues.

The work of the Department of Conservation's Directorate requires that the Director oversee a variety of highly technical programs, including reservoir engineering, hydrology, underground injection, hydraulic fracturing, mineral resource management, agriculture conservation, and other scientific and technical specialties. For instance:

The Department's California Geological Survey (CGS) increases public safety, reduces property loss, and enhances the economic well-being of California through knowledge of the State's diverse geological environment and natural resources. The CGS produces detailed, state-of-the-science geological maps that provide the bases for engineering and development of technical reviews and studies, and other public policy decision-making, regulatory, and informative products.

The Department's Division of Land Resource Protection (DLRP) provides information, maps, funding and technical assistance to local governments, consultants, Resource Conservation Districts (RCD) and non-profit organizations statewide with the goal of conserving the state's agricultural and natural resources. The Division awards conservation grants and easements in order to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adequately determines the amount mitigated by the conservation of land.

The Department's Division of Mine Reclamation (DMR) was created to provide a measure of oversight for local governments as they administer the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) within their respective jurisdictions. The DMR may provide comments to lead agencies on a mining operation's reclamation plan and financial assurance and may initiate actions that encourage SMARA compliance. The Engineering Geology unit coordinates with the Engineering Services unit to determine if surface mining operations have been reclaimed in accordance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

The Department's Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) oversees the drilling, operation, maintenance, and plugging and abandonment of oil, natural gas, and geothermal wells. The regulatory program emphasizes the development of oil, natural gas, and geothermal resources in the state through sound engineering practices that protect the environment, prevent pollution, and ensure public safety.

To coordinate and make accessible all of the above information necessitates the establishment of an executive level Technical Outreach Coordinator.

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:

Providing technical information and/or training to local agencies and regulating natural resources impacting local jurisdictions are core functions of the Department's mission. Much of the resource conservation work that the DOC is charged with implementing relies heavily on local partners. DOC produces hundreds of data sets, maps and analyses that provide key information for local agencies to make major health and safety related decisions, and for those agencies to make informed decisions about major land use activities and development.

Without a proactive and coordinated technical outreach program, much of this information will not reach those persons and organizations that need the information, or be in a form that is useful to them. The Technical Outreach Coordinator will significantly enhance DOC's ability to get critical technical information to end users and stakeholders.

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.

The DOC has re-evaluated many of its program areas for effectiveness and determined that our limited outreach abilities are a hindrance to successfully meeting our resource conservation mandates. Part of the the Department's mission is to preserve the State's natural resources, ensure the safe exploration of those resources, and protect the health and safety of the citizens during the exploration of those resources.

The Technical Outreach Coordinator will provide executive level expertise for all Departmental programs. The Department has had a very limited capacity to do technical outreach, and existing outreach of our four technical divisions is not proactive, coordinated or efficient due to the lack of a senior technical outreach coordinator. This has led to many local decisions being made about health and safety and natural resources without the benefit of existing technical information produced by the Department.

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.

1. Policies related to local agencies reviewing hazard technical information prior to approving new development projects that may be exposed to seismic, land slide, mineral, mine, or oil and gas hazards.
2. Policies related to development and conservation of agricultural lands.
3. Policies related to oil and gas production safety in urban environments.
4. Policies related to protection of drinking water sources near oil and gas fields.
5. Policies related to counties and cities lack of enforcement of mining reclamation regulations.
6. Policies related to protecting access to important minerals resources from development.
7. Policies and strategies that are nimble enough to target outreach based upon changing strategic objectives, changing public concern and interest, and other dynamic factors.

C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE (continued)

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

The Technical Outreach Coordinator will play a key role in policies related to local implementation of natural resources regulations and how to facilitate and ensure local compliance with natural resources regulations and requirements. This position will bring the local agency perspective to policy discussions.

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

The proposed CEA will direct the technical outreach opportunities, the development and implementation of new policies, and the interpretation of existing policies. The proposed CEA will examine how existing natural resources laws implemented by DOC will impact or engage local agencies and develop ideas for new policies that will better serve natural resources conservation and better support local land use decisions. For new policies, the CEA will work closely with the programs to identify advances or changes that may necessitate the development and implementation of new polices to meet the new norms. As science and technology evolve, the need for new policies will grow within the Department. For instance, the use of hydraulic fracturing requires new policies and regulations that necessitate local agencies input in order to properly develop and implement these changes. It is of the utmost importance that the Department have a high level advisor to perform the necessary technical outreach to keep DOC on the cutting edge and connected with local agencies and the needs of the State of California.