

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

April 15, 2024

2. Department

Office of Planning and Research

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

State Planning and Policy Development

4. CEA Position Title

Deputy Director for Planning and Climate Policy

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

Under the general direction of the State Planning and Policy Development (SPPD) Executive Director, the Deputy Director for Planning and Climate Policy is responsible for running OPR's Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's (ICARP) Technical Advisory Council and strategic oversight of key program areas: Judicial Streamlining, Planning and Land Use, California Fifth Climate Change Assessment, and Climate Services. The Deputy for Planning and Climate Policy ensures these programs align with California's environmental goals, fostering interagency collaboration, strategic planning, and policy integration.

6. Reports to: (Class Title/Level)

Executive Director

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.

This position plays a pivotal role in leading and coordinating statewide efforts in land use planning, climate resilience, and environmental justice to align with California's climate goals. The individual is tasked with fostering collaborations across state agencies, regional planning organizations, and local jurisdictions to advance sustainable, resilient, and equitable planning practices. These practices are designed to integrate quality housing, healthy transportation options, and access to family-supporting jobs.

A significant part of the job involves guiding streamlining related to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), development of General Plan Guidelines, and transportation emission reduction to facilitate sustainable urban development and lower carbon emissions. Additionally, the person oversees climate resilience research and technical assistance efforts, including initiatives like the California 5th Climate Assessment and the development of climate science tools. This duty aims to bolster California's resilience to climate change through comprehensive strategies that prioritize equity, environmental justice, and the dual benefits of greenhouse gas emissions reductions and adaptation efforts.

Beyond developing new policies, the role requires interpreting and implementing existing regulations to steer the state's efforts in climate adaptation, sustainable land use, and environmental protections. Engaging with a broad spectrum of partners, including the public, government agencies, and legislative bodies, is crucial to ensure that policies are effectively communicated and implemented. This engagement also emphasizes the importance of collaboration and breaking down silos to achieve the state's environmental and sustainability objectives. Through these efforts, the individual in this position is central to shaping and guiding California's approach to tackling climate change, promoting sustainable development, and ensuring social and environmental equity.

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: This person will have critical role in supporting OPR to achieve the statutory requirements listed below:

- 1) Public Resources Code §21083 - OPR shall prepare and develop proposed guidelines for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act.
- 2) Government Code §65040 - OPR shall serve the Governor and his cabinet as staff for long-range planning and research and constitute the comprehensive State Planning Agency.
- 3) Government Code §65040.2 - OPR shall develop and adopt guidelines for the preparation and content of the mandatory elements required in city and county general plans.
- 4) PRC 71350-71360- The Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) drives California's response to climate impacts, prioritizing equitable approaches that integrate mitigation and adaptation. ICARP's home within the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) enables the State to coordinate across local, regional, and state efforts to support cohesive strategies.

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 duties of the position were previously handled by exempt staff. In 2023, OPR was directed to shift from an all exempt organization to a traditional civil agency. In addition, OPR received multiple new responsibilities that required policy oversight including the Infrastructure Streamlining Program at OPR under which an expanded list of eligible projects can now receive streamlined judicial review if they are challenged in court under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). OPR also received directions to update the State General Plan Guidelines which is local government's blueprint for meeting the community's long-term vision for the future.

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.

Land Use Planning and Sustainable Development: This role leads in collaborating with state agencies, regional planning organizations, and local jurisdictions to foster land use planning that supports sustainable, resilient, and equitable growth. Policies under this domain aim to integrate quality housing, healthy transportation options, and family-supporting job access, directly contributing to the state's climate goals.

State CEQA, General Plan, and Transportation Emission Reduction: Guiding CEQA streamlining processes, General Plan Guidelines and transportation emission reductions guidelines, enhancing statewide efforts toward a lower carbon footprint and sustainable urban development.

Climate Resilience Research and Technical Assistance: Overseeing initiatives like the 5th Climate Assessment and the development of climate science tools. This area focuses on building California's resilience to climate change through holistic strategies that also prioritize equity, environmental justice, and the dual benefits of greenhouse gas emissions reductions alongside adaptation efforts.

C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE (continued)

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

The position entails comprehensive authority over the strategic direction and implementation of policies related to land use planning, climate resilience, and environmental justice. It requires active collaboration with a broad spectrum of stakeholders to align statewide efforts with the overarching climate and sustainability goals of California.

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

The position is involved in both the development of new policies and the interpretation and implementation of existing ones. By focusing on strategic integration across various domains such as land use planning, climate resilience, and environmental justice, the role is pivotal in shaping and guiding policy directions that comply with and expand upon existing legislative and regulatory frameworks.