

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

06/13/19

2. Department

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

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

Technology

4. CEA Position Title

Deputy Director Technology

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

Under direction of the Director and Chief Deputy Director, the CEA will act as the Deputy Director of Technology. The position will serve as the principal policymaker responsible for managing, directing, providing leadership, and developing and implementing policy relative to the identification, evaluation, testing, and implementation of new technology and innovation that will enhance the Department's ability to meet its critical mission to serve and safeguard the people and protect the property and resources of California.

6. Reports to: (Class Title/Level)

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.

In light of significant initiatives of the current Administration focusing on innovation and technology, especially related to wildfire safety, this position will play a critical role at the executive level to provide leadership, program management, and policy development and implementation in this area.

The Deputy Director advises the Director/Chief Deputy Director and the State Fire Marshal on the formulation and evaluation of all Departmental policy matters. The Deputy Director will develop policy that will ensure statewide critical technological systems are deployed and utilized evenly and effectively across the Department. This position will play a critical role at the executive level to provide leadership, program management, and policy development and implementation in this area.

This position has the authority to make independent decisions and be held responsible for those decisions. As a CEA, the policy making responsibility has a high degree of sensitivity. This position sits at the Executive level to have direct reporting relationships to the Director, Chief Deputy Director, and the State Fire Marshal, as well as ongoing interaction with program deputy directors and region chiefs. This position works attends high level committee meetings and requires the utmost tact and Departmental knowledge to assist with advising and providing support to the Department's Executive Management Team.

The Deputy Director meets and negotiates directly with the highest levels in State government and with comparable levels in Federal and local jurisdictions on matters critical to the mission of the Department. The position represents CAL FIRE before legislative committees, and as designated, acts as the Director's or Chief Deputy Director's representative to various boards and commissions. The Deputy Director participates in key technology decisions and provide direction over Telecommunications and Research and Development for the Department.

The Deputy Director will develop policy that will ensure statewide critical technological systems are deployed and utilized evenly and effectively across the Department. This will ensure effective delivery of CAL FIRE's public safety mission.

**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: The mission of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is to serve and safeguard the people and protect the property and resources of California. CAL FIRE strives to be a leader in providing fire prevention and protection, emergency response, and natural resource protection services. Each of the programs listed below play a vital role in CAL FIRE's success and allow the Department to complete its mission.

Technology will continue to play a critical role in the Department's ability to fulfill its critical mission. In order to remain a leader in fire prevention and protection, emergency response, and natural resource protection, the Department must be at the forefront of innovation and emerging technologies. It must be well positioned to explore and embrace new technological advancements that will enable all programs within the Department to work more efficiently and effectively.

**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 State's fire season has become year-round. Wildfire is by far the most likely and frequent disaster that faces California. Technological advances and potential solutions to confounding communication and forecasting have proven promising and useful, yet complex to manage on a Statewide basis. Department level policy needs to be developed and continually analyzed to ensure the effective deployment and use of limited fire prevention and emergency response resources throughout the State.

Further, there are interoperable systems and technologies that cross Department, Federal, and local government emergency response boundaries. It is critical that policy development happens immediately so that emergency responders and the Department can meet challenges of the new normal and a changing climate. This Deputy Director will lead the Department's efforts to explore and implement innovation and new technology to ensure the Department will work smarter across the State to protect lives property and the environment and reduce decision making lag time due to cumbersome unsophisticated communications and interactive systems. The development and implementation of new policies will also enhance and make more efficient the Department's business processes.

### **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.

The CEA will exercise independence and authority in developing, implementing, directing, and evaluating CAL FIRE's statewide policies relative to new technology and innovation (including information technology, telecommunications, and research and development). This position provides critical consultation to the Director and Chief Deputy Director on mission-critical program and policy issues relative to the identification, evaluation, development, and implementation of new technology across both operational and administrative programs of the Department. The incumbent works with fellow program deputy directors to assess needs and develops policy and provides direction with an emphasis on compliance with relevant laws, rules, and regulations, as well as with an eye towards aligning operational performance with Departmental strategic goals and objectives.

One example is SCOUT, which is a common operating platform for real time situational awareness and which is critical to the allocation of resources on emergency incidents. The Deputy Director will work with the Deputy Director of Fire Protection and both region chiefs to ensure that SCOUT is an efficient and effective tool that will assist firefighters and emergency responders in their work.

Another policy area over which this position will have primary control is the identification, evaluation, testing, and deployment of new information technology systems. With information technology expanding at an exponential rate, it is critically important to have an executive level position overseeing the evaluation of new technology, determining the priority of implementation, and helping to manage the workload of a limited pool of information technology professionals. The Deputy Director will report to the Director and Chief Deputy on new initiatives and establish expectations for advancements in technology and innovation.

As fires season lengthens throughout the State and emergency responders find themselves responding to incidents in some of the more remote areas in California, remote connectivity is of critical importance. In order to ensure that emergency responders can operate efficiently and effectively no matter where they are sent, the Deputy Director must develop and implement the policies that will ensure the availability of all technology needs (both operational and administrative (SCOUT, FISCAL, EPay, CAIRS, Comms, etc.)) everywhere the technology is needed to enable employees to meet the Department's mission.

Another policy area involves the use of remotely piloted/operated detection and response systems. Although it operates a number of different aerial firefighting resources, CAL FIRE does not currently deploy remotely piloted aircraft as part of its operational response. However, the demand to use this resource is great, and this is a highly controversial area that will require a tremendous amount of policy development and implementation as the Department looks to increase its operational capabilities.

Finally, this position will be responsible to spearhead the evaluation of new ideas and technology that have the potential to increase effectiveness of protecting lives property and the environment. This position must develop and implement policies relative to the identification, evaluation, testing, and implementation of innovative ideas and technology.

**C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE (continued)**

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

Decisions related to the Department's policies and use of technology affect the efficiency and effectiveness of all Departmental programs (i.e., Fire Protection, Resource Management, Office of the State Fire Marshal) in all areas of the State.

Decisions made by this position have the potential to directly influence the socio-economic condition of most of the State's emergency responders as well as the public. The CEA will direct and oversee the use of existing technology, as well as the exploration, development, testing, and implementation of new innovations and technology throughout all programs and across the entire State.

Ultimately, the decisions made by this position impact the ability of the Department to protect lives and property and to preserve the natural resources of California.

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

The Deputy Director will be responsible for developing policy for technology that is not currently covered. The review and implementation of existing policy will be under the purview of this Deputy Director as well. There are internal policy needs that will be met, as well as policies that cross Departmental boundaries and in some cases State and Federal programs. This Deputy Director will be responsible for these policies.

Furthermore, the Department fields hundreds of inquiries each year from innovators who have new ideas or new technology to employ. In addition, changes in information technology are happening at an exponential rate. With every new change or new advancement in technology that the Department employs comes new policies or changes to existing policies to ensure consistent application by thousands of users Statewide. This position will develop and implement new policy related to changing technology and will revise and implement existing policy to keep pace with technological advances.