

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

4/21/2023

2. Department

California Department of Public Health

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

Center for Environmental Health

4. CEA Position Title

Deputy Director, Center for Environmental Health

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

This position supports California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) mission and strategic plan by managing and directing policy and program development on a wide range of public and environmental health issues. The Deputy Director leads the Center for Environmental Health (CEH), including Environmental Management; Food, Drug and Medical Device Safety; and Radiation Safety programs and issues, including over 400 staff. The Deputy Director serves as the liaison with other state entities for environmental health areas, including the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS/ Agency), the Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), as well as with the Governor's Office (GO), the Legislature, and California business and health care communities. The Deputy Director also coordinates with federal and local governmental entities addressing environmental health. This CEA C will replace the Exempt CEH Deputy Director position that was recently abolished by the GO.

6. Reports to: (Class Title/Level)

Assistant Public Health Officer, Population Health/Exempt

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 CEA C / Deputy Director will manage and direct the activities of the CEH to ensure program compliance with departmental policies, establishing overarching vision and identity for the Center, bringing together its disparate and diverse programs into a cohesive whole. This position develops, implements, directs and evaluates statewide public and environmental health policies and programs to ensure the effectiveness of investigation, inspection, education, and control programs to maintain a physical, chemical, and biological environment that contributes positively to health, prevents illness, and ensures protection of the public.

The CEA C serves as the State Environmental Health Director and interacts with other states, relevant national organizations, and federal counterparts. This position also collaborates with CalHHS/Agency and other state agencies, such as CalEPA, CDFR and CNRA, as well as with local governmental entities addressing environmental health.

The CEA C represents the Department at local, state, national, and international forums dealing with public and environmental health. This position provides public health and environmental health leadership and functional direction to California's 61 local health jurisdictions (LHJs), and coordinates with regulated business and health communities.

The Deputy Director, CEH advises the Director and State Public Health Officer, CalHHS/Agency, and the GO on policy and legislative matters pertaining to Environmental Management; Food, Drug and Medical Device Safety; and Radiation Safety. This position leads the responses to legislative, media, organizational and other inquiries regarding environmental public health programs and policies; collaborates with various entities on relevant policy development as needed/appropriate; presents and testifies at legislative and budget hearings; and works with the Department of Finance, the Legislative Analyst's Office, and academic and other partners/stakeholders.

The CEA C directs CEH's emergency preparedness and response planning, and collaboration with numerous entities on relevant policies, in order to assure CDPH's preparedness for disasters and other environmental health emergencies (such as those caused by fires, floods, drought, radiation, etc.).

As Deputy Director, CEH, this position participates on CDPH senior leadership teams and assists with development and implementation of department-wide strategic priorities and initiatives; and provides professional review of public environmental health studies, reports to the Legislature, and various technical reports.

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's mission is to advance the health and well-being of California's diverse people and communities. CEH is a key component for accomplishing this mission by administering programs that protect and manage food, drugs, and medical devices (including industrial hemp manufacturing) that regulate radiation machines/producers and radioactive materials; oversee the disposal of low-level radioactive waste; regulate the generation, handling, and disposal of medical waste; and protect the public from many other environmental health risks. Across program areas, CEH conducts emergency response, surveillance and assessment; and provides analytical services, quality assurance, and technical assistance activities to benefit the public and regulated entities. CEH is dedicated to preventing disease and injury by protecting Californians from environmental health hazards.

CDPH is comprised of many Centers and Offices with a total of over 200 unique programs, including environmental health programs in addition to those in CEH (e.g., climate change, environmental health investigations, childhood lead poisoning prevention, vector-borne diseases, etc.). CEH, led by the CEA C, interacts with all of these environmental health programs, many other public health programs across the department, and other state agencies along with federal/national partners, local environmental health entities and other stakeholders, in order to best address complex environmental public health challenges.

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 Deputy Director, CEH was an Exempt position, under the authority of the GO. The previous incumbent retired in December 2022, and the GO decided to abolish the Exempt position in March 2023. To move forward in filling this critical leadership position for the Department, CDPH is requesting to establish a CEA C to serve as the CEH Deputy Director.

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 C / Deputy Director will be the primary policy maker in many environmental health domains, including:

1. The CEA C determines and leads CDPH policies for radiation safety (for healthcare and industrial uses of radiation and for community assessments) as well as for preparedness for radiation emergencies (such as a nuclear power plant [Diablo Canyon] accident, a terrorist incident [e.g., improvised nuclear device or a radiation dispersal device], or radiation from other sources). This also includes evaluating approaches for clean-up needed for closures of Department of Defense (DOD) bases for transfer to civilian authority and uses, working with DOD, the Department of Toxic Substances Control in CalEPA, and affected communities to ensure that radiation sources/contamination are mitigated to levels acceptable in California. Facilities and sites are statewide, and a radiation event/emergency could occur anywhere in the State. These policies and approaches have an impact on the health and safety of many communities, healthcare, and industries in California, and every resident of the State that utilizes healthcare or that could potentially be affected by radiation exposure.

2. The CEA C drives policies for food, drug and cosmetic safety in California. CEH oversees manufacturing, processing and distribution of products from these industries. These policies impact the health and safety of every resident that consumes or uses one of these products (essentially all Californians). This includes coordinating investigations and responses to outbreaks associated with such products - field inspections, tracebacks to find source product, recalls and embargoes, etc. Appropriate policies are important not only for public health and protection, but also for the regulated industries in order to ensure safe, adequate supplies of essential products, a safe workplace, and economic stability. They are also important for local environmental controls in the retail sector for these products. The most recent example of this is current efforts to implement policies for Industrial Hemp in foods, beverages, and cosmetics (resulting from AB 45 which legalized such products).

3. Policies for marine or freshwater hazards are another example of an important policy area under the CEA C / Deputy Director, CEH. These policies are critical to protect the public from potential hazards from recreation in such waters, or from consuming shellfish or finfish from them. These hazards include various bacterial, viral or parasitic pathogens (e.g., Vibrio, Salmonella, E. coli, Enterobacter, hepatitis A) that may be natural or due to contamination, such as sewage or runoff, and/or toxins, such as shellfish poisoning toxins and harmful algal blooms, or resulting from human activities (e.g., heavy metals, pesticides). This policy area involves extensive collaboration with other state agencies as well as federal and local partners. The impacts are statewide in coastal areas as well as inland waters, and these policies often include significant health equity and environmental justice implications (e.g., subsistence fishing, differential use of recreational waters).

4. Broadly, by serving as CDPH's primary liaison to local, state and national organizations, the CEA C provides state leadership on policy development with local environmental health and regional and national organizations. This includes coordination and collaboration with the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health, with other states and territories via the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and with federal partners (e.g., EPA, FDA, CDC). The CEA C directs, reviews, and interprets legislative proposals, bills, budget concepts, and new laws and guidelines. The CEA C also presents and testifies at legislative and budget hearings, and advises State leadership (department directors, agency secretaries, Governor's office) on program policy and legislative matters pertaining to environmental health. The impacts of contributions to such policies are local, statewide and, in some cases, affect national policies and regulations.

C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE (continued)

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

The CEA C / Deputy Director has full authority over the key statewide environmental public health policies and regulatory programs that ensure the effectiveness of investigation, inspection, education, and control programs to maintain a physical, chemical, and biological environment that contributes positively to health, prevents illness, and ensures protection of the public. Specifically, the Center's programs protect and manage food, drugs, and medical devices, including industrial hemp manufacturing; regulate radiation machines/producers and radioactive materials; oversee the disposal of low-level radioactive waste; regulate the generation, handling, and disposal of medical waste; and protect the public from many other environmental health risks. Across program areas, CEH conducts emergency response, surveillance and assessment, quality assurance, and technical assistance activities to benefit the public and regulated entities.

This translates into the Deputy Director making decisions pertaining to program and budget/funding priorities, legislative needs and guidance, and policy priorities for the Center and environmental health generally, including policy interactions and decisions with local counterparts. Under this capacity, the Deputy Director makes decisions on statewide policies and guidance pertaining to both regulatory and other environmental health activities, and directs the policies and standards for data collection and reporting internally and across departments. These activities also require the CEA C to take an active role in convening and negotiating with other state departments, and presenting at legislative budget hearings, working with Department of Finance, Legislative Analyst Office, academic institutions, relevant industries, and community entities.

The CEA C also exercises delegated decision-making authority from the CDPH Director for various environmental health activities (a few examples include public shellfish advisories, local environmental health collaborations, interactions with other state entities, coordinations with national and federal agencies, etc.).

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

The CEA C both develops and implements new policies as well as interprets and implements existing policies. Areas requiring development and implementation of new policy may be due to legislation or budgetary changes (a couple examples include industrial hemp regulation, recreational water safety, and food safety, as described above in more detail). New policies have also been driven from within the administration or department, including significant activities funded and staffed as part of CDPH's recent Future of Public Health Initiative (e.g., health equity / environmental justice components, the One Health approach to complex environmental public health challenges, and emergency preparedness for environmental health). Areas of interpretation and implementation of existing policy include many of the areas previously described, such as food and drug safety; radiation safety (including military base realignments, community scans); and medical waste handling, treatment and disposal. In all cases, policies may lead to regulations, guidelines, education, collaboration and other strategies to ensure the health and safety of the public from environmental health hazards.