

CEA ACTION PROPOSAL

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

July 1, 2020

2. Department

Conservation

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

California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM)

4. CEA Position Title

Public Outreach Coordinator

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

This Public Outreach Coordinator for CalGEM will strengthen the capacity to work with local government agencies and community organizations and will improve transparency and facilitate a collaborative working relationship with our partners. This is critically important as a direct interface with urban areas such as the L.A. basin where wells and facilities are embedded within the communities.

6. Reports to: (Class Title/Level)

Governor's Appointee - State Oil and Gas Supervisor

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): This CEA is a member of the CalGEM Executive team but will interact with the Directorate.

8. Organizational Level (Select one)

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

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B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST

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

The CalGEM Outreach Coordinator will be responsible for the following duties:

1. Coordinate outreach by Headquarters and the four CalGEM Districts on oil, gas and geothermal issues and serve as principal liaison to local jurisdictions and community groups.
2. Design a proactive outreach program that delivers technical, regulatory and policy information to counties and cities before, during, and after important decisions are made such as new or updated oil and gas ordinances, land use conditions or mitigating operations impacts on communities that affect local government decision making or impact the public they represent. These decisions may include, but are not limited to, issues such as permitting construction projects on top of or near plugged and abandoned, idle or active oil or gas wells, approval of aquifer exemptions, or notice of oil spills or gas leakage.
3. Lead a program to cross train DOC technical staff with current outreach techniques and principles so they may engage local agencies and community groups efficiently to brief or train on multiple technical, regulatory and policy 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 CalGEM in engaging local agencies and leaders regarding the most difficult and controversial technical issues.

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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 Department's mission to balance today's needs with tomorrow's challenges and foster intelligent, sustainable, and efficient use of California's energy, land, and mineral resources. The Department's vision is a safe, sustainable environment for all Californians. CalGEM's mandate is to prevent, as far as possible, damage to life, health, property, and natural resources, including damage to underground and surface waters suitable for irrigation or domestic purposes. CalGEM also ensures that the oil and gas industry remains accountable and that operators responsibly and safely retire assets at the end of their productive lives. Finally, CalGEM is tasked with protecting public health and safety and environmental quality, including reduction and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the development of hydrocarbon and geothermal resources in a manner that meets the energy needs of the State.

The Legislature passed and the Governor signed AB 1057, Statutes of 2019, Chapter 771, that changed the name of the Division to CalGEM and further stated that part of their new mission places an even higher emphasis on public health and safety and environmental protection and adds a new focus on reducing climate impacts of oil production. This bill was driven by the lack of trust and transparency of the Division by affected communities, stakeholders, and the public. The new Public Transparency Unit will help alleviate that and create trust within the State and the affected communities. This CEA will lead that effort.

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

Over the past few years the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) was under immense pressure from the legislature, public, local affected communities, stakeholders, and NGO's to perform their duties and ensure oil and gas production had a limited effect on the environment and the health and safety of those who live near oil and gas facilities. In 2019, there was serious internal conflict of interest scandal that rocked the organization and further eroded trust in the organization. The Legislature and Governor noticed this and new leadership in the Department and Division were brought in. In addition, the Division's name was changed to the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) and the mission was changed and places an even higher emphasis on public health and safety and environmental protection and adds a new focus on reducing climate impacts of oil production. To increase the trust in the organization this CEA was placed in a BCP to work with all of the organizations mentioned above providing public transparency in what CalGEM does and increase our data and reporting to the aforementioned parties.

Some examples of lack of trust are as follows:

1. Gas release in Aliso Canyon and the effect on the public in surrounding neighborhoods.
2. Oil Spills in the Cymric Oil Field. Long term spills and the effect to the surrounding environment.
3. THUMS Island oil wells offshore and their stability. This is a serious environmental threat to the Long Beach area.

All, of these serious issues were not handled adeptly by CalGEM due to the lack of a dedicated position that this CEA would address.

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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. Health and Safety Regulations. CalGEM is currently starting to work with affected communities on health and safety regulations for those who live near oil and gas wells or attendant facilities. Studies have shown that these communities suffer more health side effects than those who do not live near these types of facilities. The Division is undertaking discussions with the affected communities on how to mitigate the effects of the industry safely. These regulations will have a dramatic impact on the communities and the industry going forward.
2. Public transparency and data transparency. CalGEM has suffered through some recent controversial times as it relates to transparency with the public, stakeholders, Legislature, media, and NGOs. CalGEM is trying to change the way it does business and work more closely with all of the groups and in a proactive manner. CalGEM is also moving toward a more open organization that freely shares all of its data it is allowed to with these groups. Developing parameters to this and implementing it is part of the Governor's new mission for CalGEM.
3. Forging cooperative relationships with local communities. CalGEM has not had the ability, or the staffing, to forge ongoing relationships with local governments, affected communities, or other stakeholders. This CEA will lead that charge. This will allow CalGEM to coordinate new policy objectives with those communities giving them an active role in the formulation of changes to the industry.

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C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE (continued)**13. What is the CEA position's scope and nature of decision-making authority?**

The CEA's scope is all things related to public and data transparency. This includes approving all messaging for CalGEM to external sources. In addition, this includes all data related reporting to the public including annual reporting on the state of affairs for CalGEM which is a mandated annual report to the Governor and the Legislature.

The CEA will report to the State Oil and Gas Supervisor, a Governor's appointee, on all issues regarding public and data transparency. The CEA will have decision making authority for the Supervisor as directed. The CEA will work directly with the Legislature and the Governor's office on many issues in lieu of the Supervisor and will have the authority to implement the Supervisor's vision on a statewide basis.

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

The CEA will assist the Supervisor with implementing health and safety and environmental policies statewide that will further protect those in affected communities and the environment as a whole. The CEA will lead the way for community outreach, community engagement, NGO engagement, and other stakeholder engagement to implement statewide policies. The CEA will also assist the Supervisor in statewide policies to effectively continue to reduce the dependence on oil in the State and move toward other means of energy production. Furthermore, the CEA will assist local communities in planning for the transition to a less dependent oil-based economy. This is a long-term transition that must be thoughtful in its application.