

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

February 19, 2020

2. Department

Department of Water Resources

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

Executive Division

4. CEA Position Title

State Water Project Assistant Environmental Director

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

The Department of Water Resources proposes to allocate the above position to the CEA category. The State Water Project Assistant Environmental Director will be responsible for providing Executive-level oversight and policy guidance for the complex framework of environmental planning, permitting, and compliance activities associated with the new permits for the long-term operations of the State Water Project.

6. Reports to: (Class Title/Level)

Deputy Director/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 will report to the State Water Project (SWP) Deputy Director of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and will be responsible for providing Executive-level oversight and policy guidance for the complex framework of environmental planning, permitting, and compliance activities associated with the new permits for the long-term operations of the SWP. This position will be a member of DWR's Executive team and will advise the Director, Chief Deputy Director, other Executive staff, and DWR leadership on major environmental policy issues affecting the long-term operations of the SWP. The position will also oversee programs and projects in the SWP's operating divisions to ensure they are implemented consistent with the federal and State endangered species acts and associated permits.

On November 21, 2019, DWR issued a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) that identifies potential operational changes to protect species and manage the SWP based on real-time conditions in the Delta ecosystem, including additional flows dedicated to the environment. Concurrent with the environmental review under CEQA, DWR is seeking a permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for long-term SWP operations under the state endangered species act with a specific focus on improving protections for threatened and endangered fish. Additionally, the federal environmental resource agencies issued proposed biological permits for the long-term operation of the federal Central Valley Project (CVP) and SWP on October 22, 2019. This position will be responsible for providing policy direction and overseeing implementation of the new permits to manage SWP operations in a more adaptive way to protect species and continue to provide water to 27 million Californians. This will require the incumbent to work closely with leadership from CDFW, other federal and State environmental resource agencies, and other water agencies including the federal CVP.

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 position will perform a critical leadership role for meeting DWR's mission of managing and protecting California's water resources, working with other agencies to benefit the State's people, and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the natural and human environments. The position will ensure DWR is able to implement requirements of the new State and federal permits that will be issued for the long-term operation of the SWP. The new adaptive management provisions in these permits will require the incumbent to establish policy positions to ensure actions taken are the most effective to both the environment and people of California.

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.

New State and federal permits for the long-term operation of the SWP will be adopted in early 2020. These permits will require DWR to take additional complex actions to protect threatened and endangered species. The permits include adaptive management provisions that require an Executive-level position to interact with leadership from other agencies and make policy-level decisions on the real-time operation of the SWP that affect the water supply of millions of Californians.

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 position will serve as the principle policy maker for environmental matters associated with the new permits for the long-term operation of the SWP. The position will provide policy direction on the adaptive management provisions of the new operating permits for the SWP. The position will also provide policy direction regarding DWR's engagement with environmental resource agencies. Additionally, the position will provide policy direction on the overall focus of environmental activities performed by the SWP operating divisions. The overall impact of these policy areas is of statewide significance since the actions are intended to benefit species of significance to California and the SWP provides water to over 27 million Californians.

C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE (continued)

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

The position will be the DWR Executive with broad authority and responsibility for establishing policy and overseeing the complex set of environmental permits and actions associated with the new permits for the long-term operation of the SWP. The scope of authority will include decision-making related to items such as: the real-time management of SWP operations; policy assessment of environmental adaptive management actions; selection of major studies required to assess species condition, selection of major projects to carry out permit conditions; etc. The position will have regular interaction with DWR's Director and Executive team and interact as decision-maker with leadership from State and federal environmental resource agencies and water agencies.

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

The position will focus on developing new policy on environmental matters associated with the new permits for the long-term operation of the SWP. This includes providing policy direction on operating requirements established by new State and federal permits, engagement with environmental resources agencies, and environmental activities performed by the SWP's operating divisions. The position will be invested with decision-making authority over: the real-time management of SWP operations, policy assessment of environmental adaptive management actions, selection of major studies required to assess species condition, and selection of major projects to carry out permit conditions. The position will work closely with the DWR Executive team and the SWP divisional leadership to coordinate policy decisions with other State and federal agencies.