

JOB DESCRIPTION AND POSITION CLASSIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION Research Data Specialist II		DWR POSITION NUMBER 1890-5758-002		SAP POSITION NUMBER 50004963	MCR 1
APPOINTEE Vacant		SAP PERSONNEL NO. TBD	DIVISION/SECTION DOP/Data & Decisions Support/Socioeconomics		
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IDENTIFIER Management Related BU: <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisory Related BU: <input type="checkbox"/> Confidential Related BU: <input type="checkbox"/> Rank and File BU: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R01					
RESPONSIBILITIES EXERCISED <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisory <input type="checkbox"/> Lead Person		IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR (Print) Emmanuel Asinas	SUPERVISOR'S CLASSIFICATION Research Data Manager		
APPROVED BY (Personnel Analyst's Name) S. Meeks				DATE 1/28/26	
Percent of Time 30%	Activity				
<p>POSITION SUMMARY</p> <p>Under the general direction of the Manager for Socioeconomics (Lead Economist), the Research Data Specialist II conducts highly complex economic studies, employing independent, methodical research skills and innovative statistical techniques. This position supports Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Strategic Plan Goal 3: "Pursue Innovative Infrastructure Solutions." The economic analysis conducted in this role plays a vital function in modernizing infrastructure, integrating nature-based solutions, aligning financial strategies with infrastructure needs, and implementing sustainability best practices. The incumbent acts as a consultant to program managers and staff, offering expert economic insights to advance sustainable and resilient water management strategies.</p> <p>In alignment with DWR's commitment to equity and resilience, this position emphasizes a holistic approach to economic analysis that incorporates environmental, social, and climate resilience considerations. The incumbent will ensure that economic assessments support equitable benefits for all communities, particularly those under-served or vulnerable to climate impacts. This role is integral to stakeholder engagement, collaboration, and transparency, promoting informed, inclusive, and equitable decision-making processes.</p> <p>ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS</p> <p>This position requires an in-depth understanding of California water issues and systems, including the State Water Project, Central Valley Project, and local water management activities. The incumbent will use this knowledge to plan, design, and implement innovative economic research and statistical projects that support specific program objectives. Collaboration, consistent attendance, and sound judgment are critical for this role. Key duties include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>30% Independently reviewing, evaluating, and conducting advanced economic and statistical analyses to assess the socioeconomic feasibility and impacts of urban and agricultural water uses, as well</p>					
SUPERVISOR'S STATEMENT: I HAVE DISCUSSED THE DUTIES OF THE POSITION WITH THE EMPLOYEE.					
SUPERVISOR'S NAME (Print) Emmanuel Asinas		SUPERVISOR'S SIGNATURE 		DATE	
EMPLOYEE'S STATEMENT: I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH MY SUPERVISOR THE DUTIES OF THE POSITION AND HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF THE DUTY STATEMENT.					
EMPLOYEE'S NAME (Print) Vacant		EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE 		DATE	

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Percent of Time	Activity												
30% (cont'd)	as multi-benefit water projects. The incumbent will actively apply economic theory and methodological research to these analyses, using sophisticated techniques such as benefit-cost analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, economic impact analysis, and trade-off analysis. Specialized modeling tools, including Python, R, and GIS, will be utilized to support detailed economic assessments.												
30%	Conducting advanced modeling studies, including linear programming and econometric modeling, maintaining and applying in-house economic models, and exploring opportunities to develop new models and tools. Multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) and trade-off analysis frameworks will be employed to evaluate projects involving multiple benefits and stakeholders, ensuring that economic, social, and environmental considerations are fully integrated into decision-making processes. Life-cycle benefit and cost assessments will be applied to evaluate long-term costs and benefits of water resource projects, ensuring sustainable investments over time.												
20%	Providing expert economic consultation and analytical support to program managers for projects such as the California Water Plan, Sustainable Groundwater Management Program, Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, Coordinated Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, California Aqueduct Subsidence Program, Water Use Efficiency initiatives, IRWM Grant Programs, and departmental regulations related to dam safety.												
15%	Serving as the Department's consultant on advanced econometric techniques for time-series and cross-sectional studies of water demand, ensuring robust and scientifically rigorous analyses aligned with current best practices. Translating complex economic findings into accessible technical reports for both management and the public to ensure transparency and promote informed decision-making. Evaluating the economic value of recreation, ecosystem services, and other societal values that are difficult to quantify, applying market and non-market valuation techniques from natural resource and environmental economics, and incorporating GIS-based tools as needed.												
5%	Actively participating in workshops, public forums, and technical meetings, and collaborating with stakeholders to integrate diverse perspectives into the planning process. This role may require travel to attend meetings and/or field visits.												
SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS Travel may be required to attend meetings and/or field visits. All employees are expected to contribute to an inclusive, safe, and secure work environment that values diverse cultures, perspectives, and experiences and is free from discrimination.													
WORK ENVIRONMENT The Department of Water Resources is committed to its mission and employees, and we are grounded in our commitment to public safety. Regular, consistent, and predictable attendance is essential to the successful performance in this position.													