



**California Department of Food and Agriculture
Integrated Pest Control Branch
Agricultural Technician I (Seasonal)
Duty Statement**

***** For the safety of all applicants, as well as the current staff, please review the requirements regarding bodies of water and water safety listed in the task statements and working conditions, which require the ability to swim independently *****

I. Program/Position Identification

The primary responsibilities of the Integrated Pest Control Branch (IPCB) are the detection and control or eradication of exotic and invasive pests that threaten California's agricultural and natural resources. This is accomplished through a number of general, federal, and industry funded Programs. These programs include Cotton Pest Control Program, Cotton Seed Bug Program, Silverleaf Whitefly Monitoring Program, Beet Curly Top Virus Program, Broomrape Program, Navel Orangeworm Program, Hydrilla Eradication Program, Vertebrate Pest Control Research Program, Pink Hibiscus Mealybug Program, Terrestrial & Aquatic Weed Grant and County Weed Program, Statewide Weed Management Areas, Biological Control Program, Apiary Protection, Bee Brand, and County Beekeeper Registration Program.

The Hydrilla Eradication Program is a statewide effort to detect the highly invasive weed hydrilla and mitigate its spread by quarantine and eradication methods. The goal of the Program is to eradicate all existing infestations of hydrilla within the State and prevent any new infestations from establishing in the future. This is achieved through: 1) prevention via education; 2) detection via surveys and outreach; and 3) eradication. CDFA conducts eradication efforts in multiple counties throughout California integrating various methods of control and management. The largest eradication effort is the infestation in Clear Lake which began in 1994. The Branch has successfully eradicated hydrilla from 15 counties.

Under supervision of the Agricultural Pest Control Supervisor, and under the lead of the Agricultural Pest Control Specialist, the Agricultural Technician I perform duties of average difficulty regarding the survey and treatment of hydrilla and other noxious aquatic weeds.

Classification: Agricultural Technician I (Seasonal)

Position Number: 014-457-0034-982

Page: 2

Classification	Agricultural Technician I (Seasonal)
Working Title:	Agricultural Technician I
License or Other Requirement:	Valid Driver's License Safe Driving Record Completion of one semester college in Agricultural Subjects OR One season of Ag related experience
Position Number:	014-457-0034-982
Division/Branch/DAA:	PHPPS/Integrated Pest Control Branch
Location:	Lakeport, CA
Date Prepared:	January 2026
Work Hours/Shift:	M-F, 40 hours per week, 8:30a-5pm (hours and days may vary per week)

II. Essential and Non-Essential Job Functions

A. Essential Functions:

Function #1: Survey Activities

40%

- Conduct aquatic surveys from boats and kayaks in lakes, canals, and other waterways, requiring navigation skills and the ability to maintain composure in case of capsizing.
- Conduct visual surveys along primary roads and other high-hazard areas for noxious weed introductions, including recreational lakes in Lake County.
- Repeatedly throw and retrieve heavy metal hooks during surveys, requiring strength, balance, and water safety awareness.
- Swim, as necessary, to recover equipment or return to the watercraft in case of accidental entry into the water.
- Use sampling equipment, including heavy grappling hooks dragged through water to sample aquatic weeds.
- Plan and organize surveys and maintain records of survey activities and results in computer databases.
- Operate vehicles for survey projects, including large pickup trucks, ATVs, trailers, boats, and kayaks
- Utilize tools and equipment such as rakes, weed hooks, and binoculars.
- Collect specimens of suspected noxious weeds for submission to the CDFA Plant Pest Diagnostic Center
- Map infestations visually and electronically using GPS/GIS technology.

Classification: Agricultural Technician I (Seasonal)

Position Number: 014-457-0034-982

Page: 3

Function #2: Control and Eradication Activities

35%

- Apply herbicides and perform eradication tasks primarily from boats or kayaks, requiring stability and readiness to swim in emergencies.
- Maintain ability to swim while wearing protective gear and life vests that may take several seconds to inflate or require manual inflation.
- Operate various equipment for weed control, including shovels, dredges, water pumps, backpack, and power herbicide application equipment.
- Read and properly follow herbicide/pesticide label directions to mix, load, and apply herbicides; perform maintenance of all equipment used for weed control.
- Assist the lead Agricultural Pest Control Specialist with data collection for eradication activities for submission to the Senior Environmental Scientist and the Division's Annual Report.

Function #3: Water Monitoring Activities

10%

- Collect water samples from deep or moving bodies of water, requiring safe entry and exit from watercraft and swimming capability if needed.
- Store collected samples in appropriate containers
- Track samples by entering data into databases/spreadsheets (Access or Excel).
- Mail water samples to Sacramento for delivery to the Center for Analytical Chemistry (CAC) Laboratory
- Receive analytical results and update databases/spreadsheets accordingly.
- Provide water sampling data to program lead for submission to the Senior Environmental Scientist for reports and the Division's Annual Report.

Function #4: Report Activities

10%

- Prepare and submit daily activity logs, survey reports, auto logs, and assist with Pesticide Use Reports to program lead and headquarters administration staff for recordkeeping.
- Assist in the preparation of reports and slide presentations for the Agricultural Pest Control Specialist for training and/or meetings, as necessary.

B. Non-Essential Functions:

Function #1: Miscellaneous Duties

5%

- Maintain office, warehouse, and all equipment in an operational, safe, and clean condition.
- Perform other job-related duties as requested by supervisor.

III. Work Environment

The duties of this position primarily occur outdoors, approximately 85% of the time. The workload requires traveling to remote and/or populated areas within the State of California via State government assigned truck. When working in the field, the incumbent works alongside Agricultural Pest Control Specialist and/or a group of seasonal employees of the program. Incumbent works with varied and unfamiliar vehicles and equipment, including airboats, kayaks, grappling hooks, and pumps of various kinds. Often, activities may require driving for several hours, lifting objects, and moving equipment of

Classification: Agricultural Technician I (Seasonal)

Position Number: 014-457-0034-982

Page: 4

various weights. The incumbent may encounter extremes in temperature, humidity, variable terrain (smooth to irregular and unstable), and aquatic or riparian situations. Incumbent is required to enter or swim in bodies of water (lakes and ponds) that vary in temperature, length, width, and depth. Incumbent may also be required to navigate variable lengths of distance over unpredictable terrain. There is a regular exposure to dust, pollen, and moisture. Exposure to Herbicides is common. Various sitting, bending, stooping, standing, and reaching motions may be required on an irregular basis. Noise level for work is variable. Incumbent may work extended hours and days at any given time in the month including holidays. Incumbent may also be required to travel on a short notice that requires full days or over few to several nights in length.

The remaining workload will be in permanent buildings or trailers leased or owned by the state or cooperating agencies or other locations. The setting is standard with a phone, computer, keyboard, desks, tables, chairs, fax machine, copier, stapler, printers, calculators, and writing instruments. Computer software used may include MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, and Publisher as well as other databases/software created especially for a given research task.

Occasional telework may occur under unavoidable circumstances as part of the incumbent's ongoing regular schedule in accordance with CDFA's Telework Policy.

Classification: Agricultural Technician I (Seasonal)

Position Number: 014-457-0034-982

Page: 5

IV. Employee's Statement

_____ I have read and understand the duties and essential functions of the position. I understand Reasonable Accommodation¹ and how it applies to essential functions.

I can perform the duties of this job without Reasonable Accommodation.

OR

_____ I have read and understand the duties and essential functions of the position. I understand Reasonable Accommodation¹ and how it applies to essential functions.

I will need Reasonable Accommodation to perform one or more of the essential functions described in this duty statement.

Employee Signature² Date Supervisor Signature Date

Print Name Print Name

**CC: Employee
Employee Personnel File
Supervisor's Drop File**

1 A reasonable accommodation is an adjustment or modification to a job or workplace that allows qualified employees or prospective employees to perform the essential functions of the job successfully.

2 Duties of this position are subject to change and may be revised as needed or required. If/when duties change you will be provided a revised duty statement to sign.