



State of California  
 California Environmental Protection Agency  
 Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

## DUTY STATEMENT

CURRENT       PROPOSED

RPA Number: CEERB-003 FY 25-26	Classification Title: Research Scientist	Position Number: 811-135-5582-xxx
Incumbent Name:	Working Title: CalEnviroScreen Research Scientist	Effective Date:
Tenure: Permanent	Time Base: Full Time	Intermittent Hours Per Month:
Division/Office: Division of Scientific Programs/ Community and Environmental Epidemiology Research Branch	Section/Unit: Community Assessment and Research Unit	Reporting Location: Oakland/Sacramento
Supervisor's Name: Andrew Slocombe	Supervisor's Classification: Research Scientist Supervisor I	CBID: R10
Confidential Designation:  <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	Designated Position for Conflict of Interest:  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Position Telework Eligible:  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Supervision Exercised: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Lead <input type="checkbox"/> Managerial <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisory		

<b>Human Resources Use Only:</b>	
<b>HR Analyst Approval:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

### General Statement

This position requires the incumbent to maintain consistent and regular attendance; communicate effectively (orally and in writing if both appropriate) in dealing with the public and/or other employees; develop and maintain knowledge and skill related to specific tasks, methodologies, materials, tools and equipment; complete assignments in a timely and efficient manner; and adhere to department policies and procedures regarding attendance, leave, and conduct.

### Position Description

The Community Assessment and Environmental Trends Section (CAETS) in the Community and Environmental Epidemiology Research Branch (CEERB) within the Office of Environmental Health



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Hazard Assessment has responsibilities for directing two major program areas within the branch. These two programs are (1) the development and updating of the CalEnviroScreen cumulative impacts screening tool and (2) the analysis of environmental and population data to characterize statewide trends in environmental conditions. Each of these programs is housed in a unit (the Community Assessment and Research Unit and the Environmental Trends Unit). CAETS also provides technical assistance related to the evaluation of cumulative impacts to other programs in OEHHA, the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), and other California government entities and supports the identification of disadvantaged communities under Senate Bill 535 of 2012.

Under the general supervision of the Chief of the Community Assessment and Research Unit (CARU), the Research Scientist plans, organizes, and carries out moderately complex scientific research and data analysis concerning the development and refinement of CalEnviroScreen and related tools. The incumbent applies principles of epidemiology, biostatistics, public health, and environmental justice to examine relationships between pollutant exposures and potential cumulative impacts in communities. The incumbent evaluates health and environmental data, supports the development of indicators, and serves as a technical scientific consultant in communicating findings to internal and external stakeholders. The incumbent serves as a team member in various public health-related projects and investigations to improve CalEnviroScreen as a screening tool for cumulative impact analysis on a geographic basis and to communicate its findings. The incumbent also serves as a team member in fulfilling contractual obligations to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), supporting research efforts on a variety of issues related to drinking water, as well as on efforts related to the human right to water and OEHHA's Human Right to Water Data tool. The Research Scientist will perform the following duties and other related work:

### **Essential Functions (Including percentage of time):**

#### **35% Scientific Investigations of Indicators of Drinking Water and other Indicators of Pollution Burden or Vulnerability**

Evaluates drinking water quality data and other environmental indicators relevant to cumulative impacts and the human right to water. Conducts data cleaning, moderately complex statistical analysis, and visualization of drinking water quality data from various sources. Coordinates with other OEHHA staff, section staff, and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on issues related to drinking water. Provides support to SWRCB on the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) program by reviewing relevant research on drinking water and providing SWRCB with recommendations to strengthen the risk assessment methodology for public water systems, state small water systems, and domestic wells. Reviews relevant research on drinking water and other indicators of pollution burden regarding potential impacts and evaluates the scientific merits and feasibility of adding additional measures to cumulative impact assessment tools such as CalEnviroScreen. Analyzes statewide data and presents findings on the suitability for incorporation into such tools. Prepares concise and accurate written summaries and data visualizations of the analyses for Unit and Section chief review. Responds to comments and revises materials as appropriate.



**20% Improvement of Methodological Approaches to Cumulative Impact Assessment**

Assists in evaluating and refining analytical approaches to evaluate health and environmental data currently used for cumulative impact analyses, such as CalEnviroScreen, to improve measures of pollution burden and vulnerability across different geographical areas. Conducts moderately complex spatial and statistical analyses of environmental and health data to assess pollution burden and population vulnerability. Participates with team members in the development of alternative metrics and contributes to documentation of scientific rationale and assumptions. Prepares written recommendations for supervisor review that describe proposed alternative analytical approaches and their underlying scientific rationale to ensure they meet the program's objectives. Revises work, as appropriate, in response to supervisor and public comment.

**20% Outreach and Consultation with CalEPA Boards and Departments to Use and Improve CalEnviroScreen Data**

Acts as a technical consultant in meetings with program staff from CalEPA boards and departments as well as other state entities on scientific topics related to CalEnviroScreen to understand program needs and provide scientific input. Evaluates and summarizes concerns and their scientific merits in writing or verbally for consideration by OEHHA management. Provides support and recommendations to the SWRCB on the development of new drinking water indicators that measure water quality, water accessibility, and water affordability.

**10% Outreach and Consultation with External Stakeholders to Develop Community-Relevant Data**

Participates with team members in preparing and presenting findings and analyses of health and environmental data to stakeholders and other interested parties in public meetings and workshops. Communicates to SWRCB and other external stakeholders as a technical scientific consultant regarding the methods used to assess the cumulative impact of environmental pollutants, with a focus on drinking water data, as well as the contribution of socioeconomic factors and other population vulnerability factors on a geographic basis. Reviews public comments on drafts of materials, develops and summarizes responses, and revises written materials, as appropriate.

**5% Manuscript preparation**

Contributes to the preparation of manuscripts for publication in scientific journals, along with section staff or other collaborators on CalEnviroScreen, the Human Right to Water, and other drinking water analyses, through developing methods, conducting moderately complex statistical analyses, or writing sections of the manuscript.



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### **Marginal Functions (Including percentage of time):**

- 5% Attends relevant scientific meetings and conferences at the local and national level and make presentations where appropriate. Attends continuing education courses to maintain and further develop technical skills and expertise.
- 5% Attends Racial Equity and Environmental Justice (REEJ) related trainings and activities. Trainings include building skills to enhance OEHHA's outreach through improving science communication with both written material and oral presentations. Participates in workgroups to support REEJ practices. Works with REEJ manager to support the process of including REEJ in all OEHHA programs.

### **Typical Physical Conditions/Demands:**

The job requires extensive use of a personal computer and the ability to sit/stand at desk, utilize a phone, and type on a keyboard for extended periods of time. Ability to lift 15 pounds, bend and reach above shoulders to retrieve files and/or documents.

### **Typical Working Conditions:**

OEHHA has a hybrid work environment that includes work in an office setting in a high-rise building and telework at home. The air-conditioned accommodation consists mainly of open areas furnished with cubicles. Not all areas have direct natural illumination. Various time-critical assignments are part of the workload. Prolonged sitting while reviewing scientific articles, reports and generating scientific documents and reports is required. Repetitive motion in using office equipment occurs. Must be available to travel statewide, including assignments at short notice, and occasionally out of State. The office hours are 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M., with accommodation subject to supervisor's (and above) approval. The duties may at times necessitate attendance at the State office or at external meetings outside standard office hours.

### **Special Requirements of Position (Check all that apply):**

- Duties performed may require pre-employment and/ or routine screenings (background/criminal/fingerprint clearance, drug testing, fingerprinting, physical, etc.).
- Duties require participation in the DMV Pull Notice Program.
- Performs other duties requiring high physical demand. (Explain below)
- Requires repetitive movement of heavy objects and/or operation of heavy machinery or motorized vehicles.
- Other (Explain below)

### **Explanation:**

