



Classification: Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)
 Position Number: 880-180-0765-008, 880-180-0765-xxx

DUTY STATEMENT

CURRENT PROPOSED

RPA Number: 25-180-061 25-180-062	Classification Title: Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)	Position Number: 880-180-0765-008 800-180-0765-XXX
Incumbent Name: Vacant	Working Title: Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)	Effective Date: TBD
Tenure: Permanent	Time Base: Full Time	CBID: R10
Division/Office: Regional Planning, Permitting, and TMDLs Development & Implementation Branch / RWQCB-8		Section/Unit: Special Projects Unit
Supervisor's Name: Jagroop Khela		Supervisor's Classification: Environmental Program Manager I (Supervisory)

Human Resources Use Only:	
HR Analyst Approval: <i>J. Khela</i>	Date: 03/24/2026

General Statement

Under the general direction of an Environmental Program Manager I (Branch Chief) and consistent with good customer service practices and the goals of the State and Regional Board's Strategic Plan, the incumbent is expected to be courteous and provide timely responses to internal/external customers, follow through on commitments, and to solicit and consider internal/external customer input when completing work assignments.

Position Description

In alignment with the goals and objectives of the State Water Resources Control Board and the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board's Strategic Plan, the Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) provides high-level scientific and technical expertise on complex water quality issues and serves as a technical lead on complex, interdisciplinary special projects and studies related to water quality protection and restoration. The incumbent works independently or as a team lead on assignments that may include, but are not limited to: regional and watershed planning; development and implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs); municipal stormwater (MS4) permitting and watershed-scale stormwater planning; soil and nutrient management plans; California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review; climate



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change considerations; and water quality policy development and implementation. This position provides expert scientific analysis and guidance to Regional Board management, program staff, and external partners; supports enforcement and regulatory actions as assigned; and serves as a technical liaison among State Water Board programs, Regional Boards, local agencies, regulated entities, consultants, and the public. Assignments may vary based on Division priorities and may emphasize different technical specialties while maintaining a common foundation of advanced scientific expertise, regulatory knowledge, and leadership responsibility. This position utilizes strong analytical, organizational, and communication skills; demonstrates professionalism, responsiveness, and sound judgment. The incumbent uses data management systems, analytical tools, and presentation software to evaluate information, develop recommendations, prepare technical and policy documents, and communicate complex scientific concepts to diverse audiences.

Essential Functions (Including percentage of time):

40%	<p>Lead and/or contribute to the planning, development, implementation, and adaptive management of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), Basin Plan amendments, and related regulatory and non-regulatory actions addressing impaired waters. Responsibilities include reviewing, integrating, and synthesizing complex scientific, technical, and regulatory information; conducting and overseeing quantitative and qualitative analyses of water quality data (including nutrients, salts, sediment, and other pollutants of concern); developing technical reports, modeling evaluations, and supporting documentation; and preparing defensible administrative records. Support Clean Water Act Section 303(d) listing and delisting decisions, TMDL prioritization, and implementation tracking in coordination with Regional Water Board management, State Water Board programs, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.</p> <p>Ensure accurate, timely, and high-quality entry, maintenance, and quality assurance/quality control of project-related data and documentation in State Water Board information management systems, including California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS), California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN), Electronic Content Management (ECM), and related databases. Support data analysis, performance tracking, reporting, and documentation requirements for assigned projects and regulatory programs, including evaluation of implementation effectiveness and progress toward water quality objectives.</p> <p>Depending on assignment, serve as a subject-matter expert in nutrient and salt management, sediment transport and fate, watershed-scale stormwater management, MS4 permitting and implementation, agricultural and urban load-reduction strategies, and other control measures supporting attainment of water quality standards. Develop, review, and communicate technical recommendations; prepare and deliver presentations; and effectively convey complex scientific and regulatory information to the Regional Board, advisory committees, regulated entities, stakeholders, and the public.</p>
20%	<p>Serve in a senior technical and advisory capacity for assigned special projects within the Regional Planning, TMDLs Development and Implementation, and MS4 Permitting programs. Provide leadership in identifying, prioritizing, and addressing complex water quality issues</p>



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	affecting inland and coastal waters. Coordinate special project activities across programs; advise management on emerging scientific, regulatory, and policy issues; and ensure consistency in technical approaches, interpretations, and implementation strategies. Provide expert input on projects involving watershed and regional planning, nutrient and sediment management, climate change considerations, and water quality protection strategies.
10%	Act as a technical lead or senior reviewer for CEQA and NEPA-related activities, including reviewing environmental documents, developing comments and recommendations, and preparing or assisting with compliance documents when the Regional Board serves as a lead or responsible agency. Advise staff and management on environmental impacts, mitigation measures, and regulatory consistency related to proposed projects and plans.
10%	Provide technical guidance, mentoring, and knowledge transfer to staff within the Division. Assist in building staff capacity related to scientific study design, data interpretation, field investigations, technical writing, and regulatory application. Support the identification of relevant training opportunities and best practices to address complex ecological, hydrological, and water quality challenges.
10%	Provide scientific and technical support for enforcement actions and compliance activities, including those related to MS4 stormwater programs, water quality certifications (401), and other regulatory authorities. Assist with Health and Safety related functions and record tracking. Assist with maintenance of the Region's laboratory sampling and inspection equipment and instrumentation and building floor warden activities. Assist the Board's liaison during emergency response situations. Participate in meetings with regulated entities, consultants, attorneys, and representatives from federal, state, tribal, and local agencies to resolve complex environmental and compliance issues.
Marginal Functions (Including percentage of time):	
5%	Develop and maintain effective working relationships and represent the Regional Board in collaborative efforts with governmental agencies, regulated entities, community groups, and other stakeholders on complex water quality and environmental issues, including climate resilience, sustainability, and environmental justice.
5%	Perform other duties as required.



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Typical Physical Conditions/Demands:

The job requires extensive use of a personal computer and the ability to remain stationary at desk, utilize a phone, and use a keyboard for extended periods of time. Ability to retrieve and/or move materials up to 15 pounds. Navigate uneven, rugged terrain for extended periods of time, in extreme temperatures throughout the workday, move more than 50 lbs., remain stationary for long periods of time, etc.

Typical Working Conditions:

The incumbent works on the 4th floor of a state office building in downtown Riverside, in an enclosed, non-windowed office cubicle in a smoke-free environment. The work schedule is typically Monday through Friday. Local and statewide travel may be required.

Supervisor Statement

I certify this duty statement represents an accurate description of the essential functions of this position. I have discussed the duties of this position with the employee and provided the employee with a copy of this duty statement.

Supervisor Name	Supervisor Signature	Date

Employee Name	Employee Signature	Date