___ Current
_x_ Proposed

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Pierce's Disease Control Program
Environmental Scientist
Duty Statement

I. Program/Position Identification

The primary mission of the Pierce's Disease Control Program (PDCP) is to minimize the statewide impact of Pierce's disease (PD) and the glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS). PDCP is a partnership that includes the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), County Agricultural Commissioners (CAC), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the University of California and the California State Universities, other state and local agencies, industry, and agricultural organizations throughout the state.

Given the infrastructure and expertise, PDCP has been also working for the Biological Control Program of the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) in collaboration with the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention (Citrus) Division to suppress and stop the further spread of ACP throughout the state of California. The ACP Biological Control Program is responsible for the selection, production, and field-release of biological control agents that specifically attack ACP are carried out efficiently and effectively.

At the Arvin Biological Control Facility, program operations include the production of biological control of GWSS and ACP, area-wide trapping of GWSS, and PDCP warehouse activities, to suppress the pest populations and stop the further spread of these pests in California. Under the supervision of the Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory), the Environmental Scientist performs a range of duties involving the research, environmental analysis, outreach, and logistics of a biological control program for the PDCP and Citrus Division.

Classification:	**Environmental Scientist**
Working Title:	**Environmental Scientist**
License or Other Requirement:	**Must maintain a valid CA Driver's License and safe driving record. Bachelor's or advanced degree with a major in biological, chemical, physical, or environmental science or a closely related scientific discipline.**
Position Number:	**018-482-0762-001**
Division/Branch:	**Pierce's Disease Control Program**
Location:	**Arvin, CA**
Date Prepared:	**March 2026**
Work Hours/Shift:	**Full-Time / 40 hours a week** **Monday – Thursday; 6:00am-4:30pm** **Hours may vary depending on time of season. Overtime may be required at times.**

Range A is the entry and first working level of the class. Under close supervision, incumbents perform a variety of the less difficult and responsible professional scientific office and field work. In accordance with detailed instructions and specific standards, incumbents gather data on environmental issues; perform preliminary environmental analysis, research, surveys, investigations, and studies of less difficulty; prepare preliminary drafts of reports; prepare drafts of routine correspondence; answer questions of a routine and minor nature from the public; and do other related work. Work at this level is characterized by a reliance on detailed instructions and assistance from lead persons and supervisors in the application of proven techniques and methodologies to assigned work.

Range B is the intermediate working level of the class. Under general supervision, incumbents perform a variety of responsible scientific professional office and field work. Incumbents gather data on environmental issues; perform environmental analysis, research, surveys, investigations, and studies of average difficulty; write preliminary reports; prepare routine correspondence and answer questions of a routine nature from the public; prepare regulatory and compliance documents; and do other related work. Work at this level is characterized by a reliance on proven techniques and methodologies.

Range C is the full journey level. Under direction, incumbents perform a variety of responsible professional scientific office and field work. Incumbents independently perform complex environmental analysis, research, surveys, investigations, and studies; write final reports; prepare regulatory and compliance documents; prepare non-routine correspondence and answer difficult questions from the public; and do other related work. Incumbents allocated to this level perform a variety of tasks including the more responsible, varied, and complex assignments; incumbents may provide consultative advice to various governmental entities and agencies. Work at this level is often characterized by independent development and use of techniques and methodologies. Incumbents may be assigned lead responsibility for a specific project.

II. Essential and Non-Essential Job Functions

A. Essential Functions

Function #1: Program and Field Activities (40%)

- Travel to sites, using a State vehicle to conduct pest detection, eradication and control planning and implementation activities for regional or statewide programs to ensure that the State's agriculture and natural resources remain free of threatening and invasive pests.
- Conduct studies and develop designs and protocols to improve mass rearing system of biological control agents to determine the optimal species-specific environmental conditions for rearing in order to increase production efficiency.
- Evaluate the performance of GWSS biological control agents in laboratory and field, priority of rearing and field releases, selection of host plant bearing GWSS eggs, and scientific guidance for post-release survey.
- Routinely inspect on-site activities of program operation and review recorded

observations to ensure that operation standard procedures and protocols have complied.

- Compile reports and prepare presentations presenting evaluation of scientific studies to measure effectiveness of program activities and to plan for future efforts.
- Advise the program management and stakeholders by creating and delivering reports and presentations demonstrating information, findings, suggestions, to assist informed decision-making.
- Develop recommendations regarding GWSS detection, eradication, and biological control methodology as these may be affected by new scientific findings.
- Obtain and maintain Qualified Applicator Certificate (QAC) or Qualified Applicator License (QAC) required for pesticide applications during program activities, upon hiring.
- Monitor pest occurrence on host plants of target pests to ensure steady and sustainable supply of pesticide-free and clean host plants for biological control programs.
- Provide training and technical assistance for PDCP staff to ensure the scientific knowledge and principles accepted and implemented during the PDCP program operations.
- Provide technical advice and expertise to State and local agencies, industry, and agricultural organizations throughout the State in the identification, mitigation, and eradication measures of GWSS and PD infestations in order to keep those apprised of environmental and agricultural regulatory requirements. Coordinate with other CDFA programs and local government agencies for pest detection, pest control, environmental monitoring, and other related sampling (insects, leaves and other field samples).

Function #2: Research Activities (35%)

- Independently design research and methodology for new projects and provide scientific oversight and suggestions to the standard operating procedures to the Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory).
- Review, analyze and evaluate biological data using established scientific and statistical methods to ensure data quality and draw sound conclusions of progress and accomplishments.
- Perform a broad range of research activities concerning environmental health and natural resource management issues related to protecting the State's agricultural industry, natural resources and public health from invasive species. This includes applying scientific methods and principles in the identification, research, and solution of problems in the areas of pest detection, eradication and control, environmental monitoring, and natural resources protection.
- Analyze and evaluate biological and environmental research findings on professional journals and magazines to ensure research goals and objectives are being met; identify issues or deficiencies, make recommendations to management for resolutions; and follows up with researchers as needed.
- Analyze and evaluate data from research and implementation activities on the effects of pest detection, eradication and control on human health, and other aspects of the environment.
- Conduct annual reporting of GWSS and PD research activities to management and close working partners including both the USDA and County Agricultural

Commissioners.

Function #3: Outreach Activities (15%)

- Gather and evaluate information from research activities to prepare outreach materials and brochures on current and pertinent program research activities for meetings, presentations, and symposiums at universities, other government agencies, and ag fairs.
- Create and organize scientific papers for publication; consult with and advise other agencies and institutions engaged in related environmental analysis, management, planning, regulations, investigation, and research. Keep abreast of current knowledge of scientific, technical, and research developments for projects by reading scientific manuals and articles and attending seminars, conferences, and training sessions.
- Meet and confer with individuals such as ranchers, growers, and other commercial agricultural entities as well as stakeholders to provide regulatory guidance to ensure compliance with current laws and regulations**.**
- Conduct oral presentations on a variety of topics as they pertain to the Arvin Biocontrol Facility to government organizations, scientific associations, industry, and the public.

Function #4: Logistics Activities (5%)

- Evaluate funding and equipment needs to maintain effective and efficient projects. Identify necessity and make recommendations to the Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory) to initiate the procurement process as needed.
- Procure equipment, supplies, and materials required for program activities.
- Examine field research and survey samples collected using scientific equipment, such as microscopes, and enter data into computer databases to be used in future scientific publications.

B. Non-Essential Functions:

Function #1: Miscellaneous Duties/Logistics Activities (5%)

- Perform other job-related duties as requested by the Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory).

III. Work Environment

The duties of this employee are performed indoors about 75% of the time, in the field, in crop fields, orchards, and vineyards, and in greenhouses and buildings 25% of the time. The employee's workstation is in an office that is equipped with standard office equipment. When working in the greenhouses or the field sites, the employee may be exposed to extremes in temperature and humidity. The noise level for this work is low.
Some of the 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, Publisher, and Adobe Acrobat as well as other databases/software created especially for a given research task.

The remaining time is spent either in a vehicle traveling to meetings or evaluating program progress in the field. Field work may involve walking over unpaved, uneven terrain or traveling in off-road vehicles. Extremes in temperatures, air quality, and other adverse conditions are frequently encountered. Various bending and stooping motions may be required on an irregular basis. The noise level for work is variable. Often, activities require driving for extended hours and lifting objects and equipment.

The remaining workload requires traveling to remote and/or populated areas within the State via government assigned vehicle (car/truck) for meetings or evaluating program progress in the field. When working in the field, the incumbent works alone or with a group of field scientists and/or seasonal employees. Also, the incumbent may encounter extremes in temperature, humidity, variable terrain (smooth to irregular and unstable). Incumbent may also be required to walk variable lengths of distance over unpredictable, irregular terrain. Various sitting, bending, stooping, standing and reaching motions may be required on an irregular basis. Noise level for work is variable.

Incumbent may be required to work for extended hours and days at any given time in the month, including holidays. Incumbent may also be required on short notice to travel or work on emergency projects for PDCP or other departmental programs from a few days to several weeks in length.

Regular or recurring telework may occur as part of the incumbent’s ongoing regular schedule in accordance with CDFA’s Telework Policy.

IV. Employee's Statement
(Initial Applicable Statement)

____ I have read and understand the duties and essential functions of the position. I understand Reasonable Accommodation[1] 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 Accommodation[1] 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 Signature[2]	Date	Supervisor Signature	Date
Print Name		Print Name	

CC: Employee
Official Personnel File
Supervisor's Drop File

[1] A reasonable accommodation is an adjustment or modification to a job or workplace that allows qualified employees orprospective 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.