

## **SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

### **Job Description**

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#### **Position Summary:**

Under the direction and supervision of the District Manager, Superintendent, and/or Assistant Superintendent, this position has a full-scale leadership of the Surveillance and Research Program. The Scientific Program Director (SPD) oversees laboratory operations to ensure accurate and consistent surveillance and testing procedures. The incumbent trains, mentors, and evaluates laboratory staff to ensure quality control, safety, and record maintenance. SPD organizes and conducts high standard research projects independently or in collaboration with external institutions, prepares reports, and presents results at the annual Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) conference. Similarly, SPD provides biological and entomological services and covers the illustrative tasks of the Entomologist/Lab Technician if and when the position is not filled.

#### **Illustrative Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Plans and conducts studies and surveys of mosquito sources, vector populations, ecology, and species distribution.
- Conducts biological and chemical laboratory work, data analysis, and prepares reports.
- Evaluates effectiveness of vector control operations and control methods and work with the field operators to make required modifications.
- Evaluates pesticide resistance in field caught mosquito populations.
- Provides consultation on ecology and biology of vectors to the public and private organizations involved in activities which have a bearing on vector control and/or medical entomology.
- Supports the public relations and community education program: attends and addresses community meetings, and helps Assistant Superintendent/Public Information Officer to prepare educational material.
- Performs general insect/arthropod/arachnid identification for the public and provides relevant information on the pest and/or nuisance control.
- Stays informed about current developments in vector control and works closely with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and universities when needed and/or requested.
- Monitors and proposes laboratory expenditures for consideration by the District Manager.
- Develops recommendations for the District Manager regarding maintenance and improvement of laboratory facility and equipment.
- Organizes and conducts studies to enhance the District's Integrated Vector Management Program.
- Maintains safety and operating efficiency of equipment and cleanliness of the lab space.

- Provides educational support to Vector Control Technicians as needed.
- Compares efficacy of insecticidal products in the lab and the field. Calibrates spray equipment and analyzes droplet size to determine effectiveness and efficiency.
- Performs other related tasks/assignments as directed by management in a timely and efficient manner.

Preferred Qualification:

Master's degree in entomology or related field (biology, ecology, epidemiology, parasitology, etc.)

Proficient in natural history, biology, ecology, and taxonomy of disease vectors.

Experienced in conducting research, data collection, and use of pesticides.

Proficient in identifying insects and arthropods/arachnids of medical importance.

Knowledge of federal, state, and local laws and regulations pertaining to driving, vector control, and disposal/storage of hazardous material.

Prior supervisory experience is desirable.

Minimum Qualification:

- Possess a Bachelor's degree in entomology or related fields (biology, ecology, epidemiology, etc.) from an accredited college or university. Or, have successfully worked a minimum of five years in an Entomologist or equivalent position at a vector control district in California.
- Must have a valid California Class "C" Driver's License at the time of appointment. Must have and maintain a driving record that is acceptable to the District's insurance carrier. DMV printout is required.
- Ability to direct, supervise, advise, and coordinate various operational functions of the District.
- Ability to plan general surveys and apply scientific principles to practical situations.
- Ability to use taxonomic key to identify mosquitoes and other arthropods of public health significance to species.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other employees.
- Capable of preparing reports and corresponding effectively with the public groups.
- Knowledgeable about the proper use and safety of laboratory and field equipment, and chemical application calibration techniques.
- Ability to understand the Safety Data Sheets and pesticide labeling information as it pertains to each pesticide's appropriate application and handling procedures.
- Ability to work -independently and responsibly in the field and lab and -cooperatively and effectively with other employees and the public.
- Ability to work safely with power and hand tools.
- Ability and willingness to perform heavy physical labor.

**Employment is contingent upon candidate passing a physical examination which includes a drug screen.**

Physical Requirements:

**Physical Activity:**

**Amount of Time**

	<i>Occasionally</i>	<i>Regularly</i>	<i>Frequently</i>
Standing			<b>X</b>
Walking			<b>X</b>
Sitting		<b>X</b>	
Lifting, carrying, pushing, or pulling			<b>X</b>
Stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl			<b>X</b>
Climb or balance		<b>X</b>	

**Lifting or Force Exertion Requirements:**

**Amount of Time**

	<i>Occasionally</i>	<i>Regularly</i>	<i>Frequently</i>
Up to 10 pounds			<b>X</b>
Up to 25 pounds		<b>X</b>	
Up to 50 pounds		<b>X</b>	
Up to 100 pounds	<b>X</b>		

Once Hired:

- Must be certified by the California Department of Public Health as a Public Health Vector Control Certified Technician in Category A (Pesticide Application and Safety Training for Applicators of Public Health Pesticides), Category B (The Biology and Control of Mosquitoes in California), Category C (Arthropods of Public Health Significance in California) and Category D (Vertebrates of Public Health Importance in California) **within twelve (12) months** of employment.
- Must successfully complete additional training and certifications as may become requisite.
- Must earn CPR and First Aid certificates **within two years** of employment and keep the certificates updated.

Working Conditions:

While performing the duties of this position, the incumbent is frequently exposed to: extreme heat in summer months, moving mechanical parts, high, precarious places, fumes or airborne particles, toxic or caustic chemicals, and outside weather conditions. The incumbent may occasionally be exposed to toxic, noxious or irritating plants and venomous or potentially dangerous animals. The incumbent may be exposed to verbally abusive behavior from hostile individuals. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate, but may occasionally be loud. The incumbent may be called on for evening and weekend work, as assigned.