



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

AGRICULTURAL LIAISON

Group-Section: Water Resource Management	FLSA Status: Exempt Bargaining Unit: MAPA	Salary Grade: 60 Job #: PM034
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JOB SUMMARY

Serves as the District's liaison to farmers, agricultural communities, water agencies, and local government for agricultural issues. Responsible for planning, organizing, and conducting agricultural economic research and survey studies to develop and recommend farm land use and water management strategies. Develops and recommends sound agricultural programs that support water conservation initiatives, water resource management, and water quality protection.

OVERSIGHT

Supervision Received: Receives assignments and directions from the Section Manager and/or Group Manager.

Supervision Given: May exercise technical and functional supervision over assigned staff.

JOB DUTIES

1. Plans, organizes, and conducts studies related to agricultural economics and water conservation.
2. Collaborates with internal stakeholders and characterizes water resource issues related to Metropolitan's agricultural land holdings.
3. Coordinates with internal stakeholders on potential water transfer or acquisition developments and water transfer or acquisition activities with agricultural districts, coordinates with internal stakeholders on agricultural activities, land management, and water savings opportunities on Metropolitan properties.
4. Builds cooperative relationships with farmers and other agricultural stakeholders to address issues regarding Metropolitan land holdings and water saving partnerships.
5. Negotiates terms of agreements; analyzes proposals and alternatives; and drafts agreements.
6. Monitors activities and practices on Metropolitan owned lands to ensure farming and other practices are consistent with water conservation, land stewardship, and water management principles.
7. Recommends actions to management for the resolution of issues relating to execution and implementation of fallowing and agricultural lease agreements.
8. Monitors and tracks groundwater banking and storage programs with agricultural participants; recommends and assists in negotiating improvements to programs and to lessen potential impacts on partnering districts and farmers; and attends meetings related to negotiating, modifying, or operating programs.

9. Evaluates the agricultural economy and explores opportunities for cost effective transfers, acquisitions, or exchanges.
10. Reviews crop statistics and monitors agribusiness trends and improvements and recommends techniques and practices to optimize profitability while conserving water. Advises management of potential crop values in anticipation of crop fallowing, stressing, or substitution proposals.
11. Evaluates farm land-use strategies to create mutually beneficial crop planting plans that generate water use savings while producing high crop yields.
12. Represents Metropolitan at local events, professional associations, and public agencies including their Board meetings; develops positive working relationships with farmers, water agencies, vendors, communities, economic institutions, and government agencies.
13. Prepares reports, presentations for above tasks as needed.
14. Performs other related duties as required.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience: Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a major in agribusiness, agricultural economics, agricultural or irrigation engineering, or other related field and eight years of increasingly responsible relevant experience; or Master's degree from an accredited college or university specializing in agribusiness, agricultural economics, agricultural or irrigation engineering, or other related field and six years of increasingly responsible relevant experience.

Required Knowledge of: Principles, practices, methods, and techniques of agribusiness; large scale farming, irrigation techniques, crop production and markets; and regulations, policies and procedures, including those of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, California Department of Food and Agriculture, University of California Cooperative Extension, county agricultural commissioners, and air pollution control and air quality management districts, as they apply to agricultural operations.

Required Skills and Abilities to: Negotiate agreements; encourage and facilitate cooperation; develop consensus with agricultural agencies and Metropolitan; exercise sound judgment and discretion; communicate orally and in writing on administrative and technical topics; represent Metropolitan to public agencies, regulatory bodies, interest groups, and the public; identify and analyze agricultural operation questions, issues and needs; evaluate alternatives and recommend effective courses of action; resolve conflict regarding budgeting, scheduling, funding, and procurement requirements; and establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers, other agencies, regulatory agencies, and the public.

CERTIFICATES, LICENSES, AND REGISTRATIONS REQUIREMENTS

Certificates

- None

Licenses

- Valid California Class C Driver License

Job Title: Agricultural Liaison

Job Code: PM034

Adopted: 07/01/2018

Revised:

Supersedes:

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Registrations

- None

Desirable Qualifications:

- License in good standing as a California Professional Engineer
- Knowledgeable of trends in agricultural research and technological advances
- Experience working with research institutes

PHYSICAL DEMANDS/WORK ENVIRONMENT

The physical demands and work environment characteristics described here are representative of those that must be met or may be encountered by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Physical Demands: The work requires some physical exertion such as long periods of standing; walking over rough, uneven, or rocky surfaces; recurring bending, crouching, stooping, stretching, reaching, or similar activities; recurring lifting of moderately heavy items such as personal computers and record boxes. The work may require specific, but common, physical characteristics and abilities such as above-average agility and dexterity. The work may be performed under all types of conditions including extreme temperatures.

Work Environment: Mostly an indoor work environment typical of an office setting, combined with periodic outdoor site visits and field inspections. The work involves moderate risks or discomforts that require special safety precautions, e.g., working around moving parts, carts, or machines, or irritant chemicals; etc. Employees may be required to use protective clothing or gear such as masks, gowns, coats, boots, goggles, gloves, or shields. Frequent travel to various sites requiring overnight stay.

Vision Requirements: No special vision requirements