



Job Description

Agricultural Water Quality Program Coordinator

Overview

Since 1995 the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation (CMSF) has worked to protect the state's coastal ecosystems while strengthening coastal resilience in the face of population growth, urban and agricultural uses, climate change, and resource extraction. Working together with local diverse communities, government agencies, tribal communities, harbors and marinas, and NGOs, we identify and then implement practical and effective solutions to reduce human impacts and increase stewardship of our state's coastal resources. Our core focus is on improving coastal ecosystem resilience by using an interdisciplinary approach: engaging stakeholders, members of the public, as well as experts to help drive cutting edge and creative solutions. For the past 25 years CMSF has proven to be a strategic partner and innovator in restorative and regenerative coastal program development.

Position Summary

The Agricultural Water Quality Program Coordinator for CMSF is responsible for developing and maintaining agricultural water quality programs to support a sustainable agricultural industry and prevent agricultural pollution from negatively influencing Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). Agriculture is a major industry and utilizes a significant portion of the land and water in watersheds surrounding MBNMS. Additionally, agricultural runoff is recognized as a pollutant source for nutrients, pesticides, and plastics. Agriculture is a potential sink for greenhouse gases, storing carbon in the soil while building soil health and drought resilience. The agricultural water quality program revolves around strong working partnerships in the agricultural community with other agricultural support organizations, agricultural professionals, and directly with growers and ranchers to address water quality issues and support the research and education to better manage and reduce these pollutants.

MBNMS is one of our nation's largest marine sanctuaries, encompassing more than 6,000 square miles of central California coastal waters that contain a rich array of habitats and marine life. The Sanctuary program provides protection of these natural resources through research and education to foster public understanding and stewardship of this nationally significant marine area. The Sanctuary works closely with CMSF on many programs, including the Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP).

Job Functions

1. *Grant Management and Grant Writing*

Provide leadership for accomplishing the objectives and tasks related to current grant programs managed by CMSF. This includes grants with the Department of Pesticide Regulation and California Department of Food and Agriculture, as well as pending grants. This role will also assist with writing future grants aligned with CMSF's strategic direction and potential to make a positive impact.

2. *Internal Collaboration within CMSF and MBNMS WQPP*

This position provides support to other members of the water quality protection team including staff working on agricultural and urban water quality issues. Support may include water quality monitoring, soil and forage sampling, harvest and yield monitoring, biodegradable mulch photo



assessment, updating websites, assisting with webinars, data analysis, developing videos, organizing educational and citizen science events, and writing reports.

3. *Maintaining a Strategic Outlook, overcoming issues and Identifying Opportunities*

The agricultural water quality program coordinator must understand the issues experienced in agricultural production, be familiar with agricultural water quality regulations, and be concerned with creating a future for agriculture in the face of climate change and the consequences to agriculture imposed by a warming climate. Within this context are opportunities and barriers that need to be understood and best management practices that can be implemented to create agricultural sustainability and regeneration in ways that improve water quality.

Examples of issues and opportunities this role may address:

- Build a network throughout the agricultural supply chain, including growers, buyers, brands, retailers, and others, and conduct outreach for managed non-crop vegetated practices that can accomplish water quality objectives while addressing scientifically validated food safety practices.
- Lead and facilitate workshops that highlight leading edge changes and change makers who are regenerating agricultural soils, improving water efficiency and quality, and bringing together cultural intelligence to produce outstanding food products.
- Develop a decision support tool for best management practice (BMP) applications to remove pesticides and achieve water quality targets. This will incorporate a Department of Pesticide Regulation model and other BMPS through engagement of key agricultural partners/decision makers, literature review and monitoring.
- Develop strategies for progressing with regard to each of the four agricultural pollutant categories: pesticides, nutrients, plastics and GHGs.
- Help strategize future directions of the water quality program and contribute to the development of grant proposals.

Position Requirements

- Advanced degree or equivalent experience in natural sciences (chemistry, soil science, environmental science, agriculture or similar);
- Demonstrated capacity for grant management, fiscal responsibility, and achieving objectives;
- Understanding and interest in agriculture and food production;
- Familiarity with regulatory water quality standards, and applicable federal and state policies;
- Experience reporting water quality results to a variety of stakeholders;
- Outstanding written and verbal communication as well as organizational skills;
- Advanced Microsoft Office, GIS, video editing, and R software skills preferred;
- Aptitude for working collaboratively as a team member with diverse individuals and organizations; and
- Ability to speak Spanish and a familiarity with LatinX culture is preferred.

Physical Demands and Working Conditions

The job requires some field work, and as such the employee must be able to lift and carry heavy objects (up to fifty pounds) and endure sustained outdoor work required for soil sampling and monitoring.



CMSF CALIFORNIA
MARINE
SANCTUARY
FOUNDATION

The employee must be able to drive to education and outreach events, planning sessions with partners and funders, government hearings at the state and local levels, and other meetings and/or events as needed.

Reporting

This position reports the Executive Director of CMSF in coordination with MBNMS WQPP Director.

Salary

This is a fulltime position with competitive compensation between \$50,500-\$72,500 depending on experience. We also provide a benefits package including vacation, paid holidays and sick leave, medical and dental benefits, and a 403(b)(7) deferred retirement plan.

To Apply

Please send letter of introduction and CV to the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation jobs@californiamsf.org. Please use "Ag Water Quality Program Coordinator Position" in the subject line. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until position is filled, with the first deadline on March 3rd 2023.

Diversity Statement

CMSF is committed to dismantling the longstanding racial, gender, and socio-economic boundaries that exist in the field of environmental conservation. When bringing on new staff and interns, we adhere to equitable recruiting policies and promote anti-discrimination within our work and with our partners in the local and conservation communities. We acknowledge that environmental conservation is woven with rich diversity including Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Ecological Knowledge and we will do our best to amplify all the voices that contribute to conservation. Lastly, we commit to continued listening and learning, adapting to the needs of our community, and being inclusive.