



# Cachuma Resource Conservation District

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920 East Stowell Road, Santa Maria, CA 93454

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## **JOB ANNOUNCEMENT (Please Post and Distribute)**

### **IRRIGATION SYSTEMS SPECIALIST**

#### **Position Summary:**

Cachuma Resource Conservation District (RCD) is currently seeking applications for a highly motivated individual to co-manage our irrigation mobile lab. The incumbent, in collaboration with RCD staff, partners, landowners and researchers, will assume a leadership role to coordinate planning and implementation of management practices that address water issues. More than one-half of the work that the incumbent is responsible for will be in the field, conducting and overseeing irrigation system evaluations. Technical support to other projects, which have irrigation and nutrient management components, will make up the remainder of the responsibilities.

#### Key tasks for this position include:

- Perform evaluations of irrigation systems for distribution uniformity.
- Set up irrigation schedules for all types of local crops.
- Conduct field measurement of water quality parameters of groundwater and surface water.
- Manage and maintain local CIMIS weather stations, including updating a recorded telephone message with data from DWR website.
- Oversee on-farm field trials.
- Conduct outreach and education related to the mobile lab and other irrigation topics.
- Manage grant funded projects that are related to water resource issues, including writing proposals.

#### **District Overview:**

Cachuma RCD is a non-regulatory local special district established in 1945. The RCD is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors, employs a technical staff of five and is funded through grants. Current RCD programs include irrigation evaluation of agricultural and urban systems through-out Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, outreach and education to small acreage strawberry farmers near Santa Maria and soil erosion control in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). These programs include: outreach and technical assistance supporting soil conservation and water quality improvement; and the recommendation, consultation and implementation of conservation practices related to erosion control and irrigation, nutrient and pest management. An area of emphasis is outreach and technical assistance to small acreage Spanish speaking growers. This region includes some of the most productive and intensively farmed cropland in the United States as well as beautiful landscapes, topography and coastline.

#### **Required Qualifications**

- Bachelor's degree in engineering, crop science, soil science, or agronomy.
- Desire to embrace agriculture and achieve the mission of the RCD: to provide confidential technical assistance and training to landowners and farm managers, helping them voluntarily conserve natural resources.
- Ability to exercise professional judgment in the recommending irrigation system improvements.

- Demonstrated proficiency with word processing, spreadsheet and presentation software.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Valid California driver's license and proof of insurance.

**Desired Qualifications**

- Three years professional experience in the field of farm management, agricultural engineering, irrigation design, and/or water quality improvement.
- Experience engaging and collaborating diplomatically with diverse groups, including farmers, industry representatives, researchers, and regulators.
- Knowledge of production agriculture, irrigation evaluation for distribution uniformity, pump efficiency testing, soil and water conservation principles; including: hydrology, erosion, storm-water runoff.
- AutoCAD, ArcGIS, Spanish fluency.

**Position Information:**

Irrigation Systems Specialist is a non-exempt full-time position based on a Monday through Friday daytime schedule. Job related travel is required and some weekend and overnight travel may be necessary. Approved travel expenses incurred while conducting official RCD business will be paid on a reimbursable basis.

**Compensation:**

Financial compensation will be commensurate with applicable experience (\$40,000-\$60,000 annually). The incumbent will be eligible for enrollment in the RCD group health and dental insurance plan with an annual employer contribution equivalent to 80% employee-only coverage of RCD selected plans. Additional benefits include 16 days of paid vacation which accrue uniformly throughout the year, 13 days of paid sick leave and 10 paid holidays.

**Application Procedures:**

Applicants must submit a letter of interest, resume, salary history, unofficial academic transcripts and contact information for at least 3 professional references to: The Cachuma RCD, Attn: Irrigation Systems Specialist, 920 E. Stowell Rd., Santa Maria, CA, 93454. Applicants are encouraged to concurrently submit application materials (excluding transcripts) electronically. For that submittal and for additional information about the position or RCD programs, please contact [Tom.Lockhart@ca.nacdnet.net](mailto:Tom.Lockhart@ca.nacdnet.net).

**Deadline:**

This position is open until filled. For consideration in the first round of interviews, applications must be received by April 20, 2008. Short-listed applicants will be notified within one week and interviews will be scheduled no later than the week of April 30, 2008.

**Employment Eligibility:**

The successful applicant will be asked to show proof of citizenship or proof of eligibility to work in the United States. The provisions of this bulletin do not constitute an expressed or implied contract and may be modified or revoked without notice. Cachuma RCD is an equal opportunity employer, makes employment decisions on the basis of merit, and prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, religion, color, sex, age or marital status.