

Agricultural Outreach Assistant

Pay range: \$20-\$25/hr, depending on experience Reports to: Regional Agricultural Specialist

The Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Greater San Diego County aims to protect, conserve, and restore natural resources through information, education, and technical assistance. We work across the majority of San Diego County on a variety of programs, including fire prevention and education, watershed education, school garden support, promotion of pollinator habitat, management of two large community gardens and a regenerative farm.

The RCD Carbon Farming Program and the San Diego Pollinator Alliance (SDPA), of which the RCD is a member, support farmers and ranchers to implement climate-smart agricultural practices, monitor the benefits of conservation practices, and coordinate with regional stakeholders to expand program outcomes. The RCD has received support to provide technical guidance and grant application assistance to the San Diego agricultural community from the California Department of Food and Agriculture Healthy Soils Program, California Department of Conservation Sustainable Agricultural Lands Program and US Fish & Wildlife Program, among others.

We are seeking an Agricultural Outreach Assistant, who is passionate about agriculture and conservation, to conduct outreach to farmers, ranchers, and land managers about practices and programs that improve soil health, pollinator habitat, and overall environmental quality. The Outreach Assistant will also provide technical assistance, environmental monitoring, and serve as coordinator of the SDPA.

Outreach Responsibilities (50%)

- **Public Workshops and Educational Events**: Preparing, inviting and tracking attendees, assisting with facilitation, communicating with participants
- **Partnership Development**: Maintaining communication with existing partners, reaching out to stakeholders to develop new relationships, and representing the RCD at meetings or workshops
- Stakeholder Communication: Designing and editing media content for newsletters, videos, social media posts and event flyers
- Application Assistance: Advising grant applicants on eligibility, criteria and effective activities
- Farmer Database: Maintaining, organizing and updating record of County agricultural producers
- **Document Review**: Drafting, editing and proofreading applicant's documents and outreach text

Technical guidance and environmental monitoring (25%)

• Soil Testing

Native Habitat Assessment

• Irrigation Efficiency Evaluation

• Soil Conservation Practice Guidance

Coordination of the San Diego Pollinator Alliance (25%)

- Convening and facilitating bi-monthly meetings
- Coordinating SDPA projects and programs, including the San Diego Native Milkweed Project
- Tracking membership
- Grant reporting

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Position requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in agriculture, natural resource management, environmental science, or a related conservation field
- Active professional interest in agriculture and environmental conservation
- Enjoys educating and building relationships with stakeholders
- Physically able to perform field work (walking on hilly terrain, carrying supplies and equipment, planting, etc.) during all seasons and some inclement weather
- Possess a current, valid California driver's license
- Familiarity with Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel
- Punctual, reliable and professional
- Creative, sense of humor, "can do" spirit, flexible, passion for learning

Preferred qualifications:

- Two years or more of previous work experience in public outreach, agriculture and/or environmental science is desired. Training will be provided.
- Experience in organizing and facilitating educational events
- Training or experience in environmental monitoring such as soil testing, irrigation evaluation and/or plant identification
- Knowledge of soil science, farming systems, and land management practices to build soil health
- Knowledge of land management practices to support pollinators
- Familiarity with safety procedures to prevent the spread of contagious disease
- Bilingual in English and Spanish

Compensation and Benefits:

- Full-time position
- After successful completion of a 90-day probationary period:
 - Health insurance compensation in lieu of health care
 - Participation in RCD 457 retirement plan
 - Phone stipend of \$50 per month
 - Ten paid holidays and thirteen days of paid time off (PTO) in your first year of service, rising to eighteen days after the first year

Start date: Late September 2021

Schedule and location: Working hours are generally flexible within normal business hours (between 8AM – 5PM). Workshops and virtual events may occur outside of normal working hours. Work is partially remote, with field visits at least one day per week and office meetings at least one day per week. The main RCD office is located in Lakeside. Workshops and field visits occur throughout San Diego County.

To apply: Please send your resume and cover letter explaining your interest in and qualifications for this

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position to Joel Kramer, Regional Agricultural Specialist, at <u>joel.kramer@rcdsandiego.org</u> with "Agricultural Outreach Assistant" in the subject line by **Wednesday, September 8, 2021**. For additional information, please contact the RCD by phone at (619) 562 - 0096 or visit our website at <u>http://www.rcdsandiego.org</u>.

The RCD is an equal opportunity employer. We consider qualified applicants for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, genetic information, medical condition, disability, marital status, or protected veteran.