



CONTRA COSTA MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

155 Mason Circle
Concord, CA 94520
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www.contracostamosquito.com

Job Title: Laboratory Assistant (Seasonal)

Salary Range: \$15.00 - \$18.00

Department: Scientific and Technical

FLSA Employment Status: Non-exempt

ESSENTIAL FUNCTION

Under the supervision of the Scientific Programs Manager, assists with field surveys for vectors and vector-borne diseases; assists with care/maintenance of sentinel chicken flocks and collection of serological samples for virus testing; assists with laboratory identification of vector specimens; records data and performs routine data entry; assists with laboratory assays and applied research projects; keeps laboratory and lab equipment clean and organized; assists with repair and maintenance of laboratory and field surveillance equipment.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This position is responsible for daily assistance with the District's field surveillance and laboratory programs and for recording and entering surveillance data.

PRIMARY DUTIES

Vector Surveillance: Assists with mosquito and arbovirus surveillance programs and special projects, including but not limited to: larval sample identification, light trapping, carbon dioxide trapping, gravid trapping, sentinel chickens, mosquito pooling, dead bird testing. Records surveillance data and performs routine data entry. Assists with care of sentinel chicken flocks including feeding, watering, cleaning, and coop construction/repair. Assists with collection and processing of chicken and rodent serum samples for disease testing. Assists with seasonal surveillance (flagging) for ticks. Performs routine repairs on field sampling equipment. Assists with periodic special projects for surveillance and investigation of vertebrate-borne diseases.

Vector Control: Assists with periodic evaluations of vector control procedures (including analysis of post-treatment larval samples, field assessments of adulticiding, and pesticide resistance testing).

Laboratory: Keeps laboratory clean and organized, cleans glassware and other equipment; alerts Vector Ecologist of supply needs; assists with maintenance of arthropod cultures and insectary.

Research: Provides field assistance with applied research projects.

Public Affairs: Identifies ticks and other medically important pests for the public when Vector Ecologist is not available, maintains records of specimens identified.

General: Ability to conduct field surveys, accurately record scientific data, work with limited supervision, good verbal and written skills, basic mechanical aptitude/ability, basic knowledge of Windows computer software and data entry. Assists with special projects. Basic knowledge of insect/vector taxonomy is helpful. May occasionally be required to work evening or weekend hours.

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Knowledge of the following is required to perform the essential function:

Must have basic knowledge of: general biology; insect identification; biosafety principles; data entry in Windows applications.

Ability to do the following is required to perform the essential function:

Accurately record scientific data; communicate clearly and effectively, both verbally and in writing; collaborate effectively with others; work alone outdoors in field situations; safely operate a motor vehicle on and off-road; lift objects weighing up to 25 pounds.

QUALIFYING TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

A combination of training and experience which demonstrates that a person has obtained the required knowledge and is able to perform the required work (with reasonable accommodation, if needed). Successful completion of a pre-employment physical examination will be required. A person with the following combined training and experience would typically qualify to compete in a selection process:

EDUCATION: A Bachelors or Associates degree in Biology, Entomology or a related field or one (1) year of relevant full or part-time paid experience in a biology-related field

EXPERIENCE: One (1) year of full or part-time paid experience at a college, University, public agency or industry related to field biology may be substituted for the educational requirement.

REQUIRED LICENSES CERTIFICATION AND REGISTRATIONS

Must have a valid California driver's license and maintain a good driving record as required for insurability with the VCJPA, using the accepted guidelines of the insurance provider. Must obtain California Department of Health Services Vector Control Technician certification (Categories A, B, C and D) within two years of employment.

Employment Conditions:

Fair Labor Standards Act Overtime: Non-exempt, receives overtime compensation
Appointment and Removal Authority: General Manager