

County of Santa Cruz

INVITES YOU TO APPLY FOR:

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST TRAINEE

Consumer Protection Program



Supplemental Questionnaire Required

Open and Promotional

Job # 26-TJ5-01

Salary: \$6,547 – 8,377 / Month

Closing Date: Monday, November 30, 2026

Plus \$10,000 Recruitment Incentive*

County Equity Statement

Equity in action in Santa Cruz County is a transformative process that embraces individuals of every status, providing unwavering support, dignity, and compassion.

Through this commitment, the County ensures intentional opportunities and access, fostering an environment where everyone can thrive and belong.

THE JOB: Population health in the US since the 1880s has vastly improved because of a focus on sanitation and vaccinations. Environmental Health Specialists are the frontline of public health's success in addressing sanitation and chemical protection. Do you want to be a part of the important local health department's efforts to protect surface and groundwater water from sewage and chemical impacts; food is served safely to the public; hazardous chemicals are managed properly at large chemicals facilities to auto body shops; pools are safe to swim in; prepare for and respond to local disasters? Under direction, to inspect and investigate environmental health conditions to enforce Federal, State, County and local environmental health and safety laws, ordinances, and regulations; to obtain compliance or corrective action; to educate the public concerning environmental health and safety; and to do other work as required. Environmental Health Specialist Trainee positions may be recruited in one of the following units: Consumer Protection, Hazardous Materials, Site Mitigation, Land Use, and Water Resources. **The eligible list established from this recruitment will be used to fill the current and future vacancies throughout the life of the eligible list.**

Inspectors are required to work in the office or out in the field. A hybrid remote work option may be available depending on the type of work and operational needs.



THE REQUIREMENTS: Any combination of education and experience which would provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying, unless otherwise specified. A typical way to obtain this knowledge and abilities would be Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in environmental science or any combination of education and experience approved by the California State Department of Public Health.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS/CONDITIONS: License Requirements: Possess and maintain a valid California Class C Driver License. Possession of a written statement from the California State Department of Public Health indicating that educational requirements have been met for admission to examination for Registered Environmental Health Specialist. For more information, please visit <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/Pages/EMB/REHS/REHS.aspx> **A COPY OF THIS WRITTEN STATEMENT MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH YOUR APPLICATION.**

SPECIAL WORKING CONDITIONS: Exposure to variable temperatures; slippery surfaces; loud noises; sunburn; dust and pollen; bee stings; infections, such as tick-borne Lyme disease or mosquito-borne encephalitis; angry or hostile persons; hazardous materials; wetness, such as while walking in the rain or through a stream on a site inspection; raw or partially treated sewage; inadequate ventilation; live electrical wires, aggressive dogs, fleas, cockroaches, and rodents.

OTHER SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Positions may be assigned to carry a pager, cell phone or other communication equipment and respond to emergency situations and perform on-call or call-back duties. Work situations may include evenings, weekends, and holidays.

Knowledge: Some knowledge of methods and techniques of scientific investigation, inspection and resolving unsanitary conditions.

Ability to: Analyze situations accurately and take effective action; establish and maintain cooperative relationships with others; prepare clear and concise reports; learn to detect unsanitary conditions and public health hazards, secure corrective action through education or voluntary compliance or legal enforcement; learn to provide instruction in the methods and procedures of sanitary inspection and correction of unsanitary conditions; learn to understand conditions and develop alternatives for soils and percolation problems; learn environmental health and safety codes; learn the principles of environmental health and sanitation; learn to apply Federal and State laws, local ordinances and regulations governing environmental health and sanitation; obtain additional training pertaining to environmental health; learn to input, access and analyze data using a computer; and learn to make public presentations.

THE EXAMINATION: Your application and supplemental questionnaire will be reviewed to determine if you have met the education, experience, training and/or licensing requirements as stated in the job announcement. If you meet these criteria and are one of the best qualified, you may be required to compete in any combination of written, oral and/or performance examinations or a competitive evaluation of training and experience as described on your application and supplemental questionnaire. You must pass all components of the examination to be placed on the eligible list. The examination may be eliminated if there are ten or fewer qualified applicants. If the eligible list is established without the administration of the announced examination, the life of the eligible list will be six months, and your overall score will be based upon an evaluation of your application and supplemental questionnaire. If during those six months it is necessary to administer another examination for this job class, you will be invited to take the examination to remain on the eligible list.

HOW TO APPLY: Apply online at www.santacruzcountyjobs.com or mail/bring an application and supplemental questionnaire to: Santa Cruz County Human Resources Department, 701 Ocean Street, Suite 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. For information, call (831) 454-2600. Hearing Impaired TDD/TTY: 711. Applications will meet the final filing date if received: 1) in the Human Resources Department by 5:00 p.m. on the final filing date, 2) submitted online before midnight of the final filing date.

Women, minorities, and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply. If you have a disability that requires test accommodation, please call (831) 454-2600.

To comply with the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act, Santa Cruz County verifies that all new employees are either U.S. citizens or persons authorized to work in the U.S.

Some positions may require Fingerprinting and/or Background Investigation.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

ANNUAL LEAVE – 22 days first year of service, increasing to 37 days after 15 years of service. Available for vacation and/or sick leave.

***\$10,000 Recruitment Incentive** – initial payment of 50% within 30 days of start date. Remaining 50% of payment upon completion of one calendar year of service (2080 service hours).

HOLIDAYS – 14 paid holidays per year.

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE – 3 days paid in California, 5 days paid out-of-state.

MEDICAL PLAN – The County contracts with CalPERS for a variety of medical plans. For most plans, County contributions pay a majority of the premiums for employees and eligible dependents.

DENTAL PLAN – County pays for employee and eligible dependent coverage.

VISION PLAN – County pays for employee coverage. Employee may purchase eligible dependent coverage.

RETIREMENT – Pension formula 2% at age 60 or 2% at age 62 as determined based on provisions of the CA Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013(PEPRA). Pension benefit determined by final average compensation of three years. County participates in Social Security.

LIFE INSURANCE – County paid \$20,000 term policy. Employee may purchase additional life insurance.

DISABILITY INSURANCE – Employees in the General Representation Unit participate in the State Disability Insurance (SDI) program. This program is funded 100% by employee payroll deductions.

DEPENDENT-CARE PLAN – Employees who make contributions for child or dependent care may elect to have their contributions made utilizing "pre-tax dollars."

H-CARE PLAN – Employees who pay a County medical premium may elect this pre-tax program.

HEALTH CARE FLEXIBLE SPENDING ALLOWANCE (HCFSA) – Employees may elect this pre-tax program to cover qualifying health care expenses.

DEFERRED COMPENSATION – A deferred compensation plan is available to employees.

Note: Provisions of this bulletin do not constitute an expressed or implied contract.

LIVE Here

WORK Here

PLAY Here

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST TRAINEE SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME: _____

The supplemental questions are designed specifically for this recruitment. Applications received without the required supplemental information will be screened out of the selection process. Employment experience referred to in your response must also be included in the Employment History section of the application.

NOTE: Please answer the question(s) below as completely and thoroughly as possible, as your answer(s) may be used to assess your qualifications for moving to the next step in the recruitment process.

1. Do you possess a letter from the California Department of Public Health certifying that you meet the minimum educational requirements for, and are eligible to commence work as an Environmental Health Specialist Trainee?

YES_____ If yes, you MUST submit a copy of the letter with your application.

NO_____

2. Describe your education and experience that would enable you to work effectively as an Environmental Health Specialist Trainee.
3. Describe your knowledge and/or experience in preparing reports and developing cooperative working relationships.