THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT

The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) is one of six constituent organizations of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). As the lead state agency assessing health risks posed by hazardous substances in the environment, we conduct cutting-edge work on toxic chemicals and their impact on the environment and public health. OEHHA’s evaluations of hazards and risks from toxic chemicals are used by the various regulatory programs within CalEPA as well as other state and local agencies. We also work with federal agencies, the scientific community, industry, and the general public on environmental and public health issues. OEHHA’s programs regularly garner statewide, national, and international attention. Key OEHHA activities include:

- Assessing the health risks of air and drinking water contaminants.
- Developing, refining, and updating pioneering environmental justice screening tools such as CalEnviroScreen.
- Exploring the use of novel toxicity data streams to characterize the toxicity of chemicals with sparse or without traditional toxicology information.
- Developing fish advisories for contaminants in sport fish from water bodies throughout the state, and making recommendations regarding fishing safety and closures after marine oil spills.
- Collaborating with the California Department of Public Health and Department of Toxic Substances Control on the Biomonitoring California program.
- Evaluating and assessing health risks and exposures to carcinogens and reproductive toxicants as part of implementing the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65).
- Identifying the impacts of climate change on California, and the effects of heat and air pollutants on human health.
- Peer reviewing health risk assessments of pesticides, monitoring the health of pesticide workers, and training medical personnel on the recognition, management and reporting of pesticide illnesses.
- Providing guidance to regional and local agencies on the health-risk assessment of contaminated sites.

Our staff includes over 100 scientists who are committed and passionate about their work and OEHHA’s mission. The relatively small size of the Office facilitates and fosters a collegial environment that promotes interaction and cross-discipline teamwork.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Chief, Pesticide and Environmental Toxicology Branch

This is an exceptional opportunity for individuals with the desire to be a public and environmental health leader within a specialized area of toxicology and environmental health sciences.

OFFICIAL DUTIES

A Supervising Toxicologist (Managerial) is responsible for the long-term as well as day-to-day management of professional, scientific, and administrative functions of the programs within their purview. This includes scientific program and policy development, design, and management, as well as ensuring compliance to departmental policies.

As a Branch Chief, the incumbent originates, directs, and oversees toxicological analyses that relate environmental chemicals and other factors to public health effects. They advise development of environmental risk-related policies and may serve as departmental expert spokespersons or testify as expert witnesses at scientific meetings and hearings. They represent OEHHA in collaborations with other state and federal agencies, and in meetings with special interest and community groups. They review and approve all scientific and policy work and are responsible for the preparation of OEHHA reports as well as scientific papers for publications.

The Pesticide and Environmental Toxicology Branch (PETB)

- provides scientific analyses and significant input on policy development for developing Public Health Goals and Notification Level recommendations for drinking water,
- develops Fish Advisories for California water bodies to protect public health, assesses safety of seafood following oil spills,
- functions as peer reviewers of pesticide exposure and risk assessment documents developed by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) for regulation of pesticide use in California,
- provides input to DPR’s risk management options,
- conducts pesticide illness reporting and physician training,
- provides technical support to the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) on invasive species control issues
THE IDEAL CANDIDATE
A broad scientific background combined with expertise and experience in toxicology and proven leadership skills are critical in this role as well as the ability to communicate complex concepts effectively across a broad range of audiences from highly-trained technical experts to the general public.

The ideal candidate will be well versed in the current science of toxicology, environmental and occupational health, exposure assessment, and risk assessment. This includes knowledge and experience relevant to the assessment of complex toxicity and exposure information on chemicals based on animal and human studies (including extrapolation of animal toxicity data to humans), exposure assessments, human health evaluations, and interpretation and application of environmental and public health standards. The individual should be able to plan and carry out multidisciplinary studies, research projects and health evaluations, analysis and interpretation of toxicologic data, and be able to prepare written or oral reports describing them. The ideal candidate will also have experience in program development and implementation with demonstrated supervisory and administrative capabilities, including ability to handle complex technical and personnel issues and assist in the development of departmental policies and interpretations of them.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS
Candidates interested in a Supervising Toxicologist (Managerial) position must meet minimum requirements for eligibility as follows. Either:
» Two years of experience in the California state service performing the duties of a Staff Toxicologist (Specialist) or (Supervisory); and
» Possession of a Doctoral Degree in Toxicology, Biochemistry, Pharmacology, or a closely related specialty.

Or:
» One year of experience in the California state service performing the duties of a Senior Toxicologist; and
» Possession of a Doctoral Degree in Toxicology, Biochemistry, Pharmacology, or a closely related specialty.

Or:
» Five years of postdoctoral experience in toxicology or closely related field in positions of increasing responsibility. This experience must have included the interpretation of toxicological findings relative to probable human health or aquatic life hazards, one year of experience in the development and design of toxicological research and investigative studies, and two years of experience in supervisory or management positions.

LOCATION
Supervising Toxicologists may be based in the Sacramento office at 1001 I Street, or the Oakland office at 1515 Clay Street, depending on the selected individual’s preference.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
The annual salary range for Supervising Toxicologist (Managerial) is $162,192 - $184,248. The selected candidate will receive a salary based on State of California salary laws and rules. Individuals appointed to this classification will also receive an educational pay differential of 3% on top of their salary for possession of a PhD. As an employee of the State of California, a Supervising Toxicologist (Managerial) also receives a comprehensive benefit plan including, but not limited to:

Retirement
California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS); employee contribution required.

Insurance
Health, dental, vision, and life insurance programs provided. Employee contributions may be required depending on programs selected.

Leave Allowance
» Vacation and sick leave benefits provided
» 11 holidays observed

APPLICATION PROCESS
This position is open until filled. To be considered for this exceptional opportunity, please follow the guidance on the official postings for the PETB Branch Chief position, available from the OEHHA website at https://oehha.ca.gov/jobs or the CalCareers website at https://www.calcareers.ca.gov/.

Note that before applying for the PETB Branch Chief vacancy, candidates must first obtain list eligibility as a Supervising Toxicologist (Managerial), which requires submission of an application package.

For more information about this position or the related programs, please contact:
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