**Position Title:** Assistant CE Specialist in Industrial Hemp Production and Management

**Position:** The Specialist will conduct applied research and extension on the production and management of industrial hemp. Responsibilities include statewide leadership of UC AES and CE research and extension efforts in industrial hemp with close collaborations with CDFA and other regulatory agencies as well as cultivators and others. A Ph.D. in horticulture, plant sciences, agronomy or related discipline is required with experience in cultivation, breeding, and chemical and genetic analysis of industrial hemp. Policy experience is desirable.

**Justification:** Industrial hemp is an agricultural commodity that is cultivated for use in the production of a wide range of products, including biocomposites, fabrics, paper, foods and beverages, nutritional supplements, cosmetics and personal care products, and other manufactured goods. The California Industrial Hemp Farming Act (SB 566) authorized commercial production of industrial hemp in California, which became effective on January 1, 2017. Section 7606 of the 2014 Farm Bill authorizes research and pilot projects on industrial hemp. The bill further established a statutory definition for industrial hemp as “the plant *Cannabis sativa L*. and any part of such plant, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis”. Current US hemp sales are projected to be around $600M annually, with opportunity for California to become a global leader in industrial hemp production and processing. A significant number of questions concern its cultivation and management. Important areas to address include variance of THC levels as a result of genetic variability and/or cultivation conditions and identification or development of cultivars that are well suited for production in California, water and nutrient utilization, pest and disease management, and weed control. This position will be critical in further developing industrial hemp as a sound and sustainable commodity in CA.

**Extension:** This Specialist will provide leadership and integration among campus faculty, CE Advisors and Specialists and between UC, regulatory agencies and industry groups associated with industrial hemp. This will occur within existing organizational structures such as campus Departments, ANR Program teams and workgroups, state regulatory agencies such as CDFA and DPR, and grower organizations, as well as through presentations, field days, print, internet and social media outreach tools.

**Research**: The Specialist will address core questions related to cultivation and management of industrial hemp with the goal to improve production. Specific research goals could be to develop specialized cultivars, optimize cultivation practices, characterize and quantify chemical and genetic profiles associated with specific traits, minimize water and nutrient inputs, and develop sound pest, disease, and weed management strategies. Research will be published in peer-reviewed technical journal articles, book chapters, ANR publications and in online electronic formats.

**ANR Network:** The Specialist will collaborate with county advisors and specialists, and collaborate with faculty in horticulture, plant nutrition, entomology, nematology, soil science, plant pathology and economics and policy. There is an urgent need for statewide leadership in the development of industrial hemp as an agricultural commodity in California. A specialist in this position will have numerous opportunities for collaboration among other faculty and assist in moving research to end users.

**Network External to ANR:** The CE Specialist is expected to work closely with the Hemp Industries Association, Industrial Hemp Advisory Board, CDFA, DPR, SWRCB and with local growers of industrial hemp. The person in this position would also be expected to network with researchers and extension specialists in other states who work on industrial hemp.

**Support:** The Botany and Plant Sciences Department at UC Riverside will provide office, laboratory and administrative support for the position. The College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at UC Riverside will supply a portion of the start-up funds and funds for travel.

**Other support:** Considerable interest has been expressed by growers, investors and others in supporting applied research in industrial hemp. Funding opportunities are also expected to be available from CDFA and other agencies.

**Location:** UC Riverside has a long history in basic and applied research, as well as extension and outreach, in the development and sound management of agricultural commodities.

**Developed and proposed by:** This position proposal was developed by the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences and Department of Botany and Plant Sciences at UC Riverside.