**CED13:** **Water and Community Resilience Area Advisor**

**DESCRIPTION**

The general disciplinary focus of this position is water and community development and resilience. The preferred educational and professional background requirements include a minimum of a master’s degree in a water or community development related field. The position will report to the Kern County Director and work with many supporting units including ANR statewide programs such as the California Institute for Water Resources, the Nutrition Policy Institute, the California Communities Program Team and the Water Program Team.

**JUSTIFICATION**

While ANR has long had a water focus on technical fields such as irrigation management and environment-related issues such as adequate streamflows for fish and agriculture, as well as a focus on community development and rural assistance, these two areas have tended to work separately. Given increasing pressure on household and community water systems due to long-term drought, water contamination, increased groundwater pumping, and increased demand, however, it is an important time to integrate ANR's water and community development efforts to better ensure long-term community resiliency, particularly in rural areas such as the Central Valley.

This advisor would focus on providing technical assistance for community water system consolidation and resiliency, enhancing both water provision and long-term community resiliency in the face of a changing climate and pressure on water systems. The advisor will serve as the regional lead for water and community resiliency. High priority subject areas include water sustainability and community development and resiliency. The advisor will be expected to work cooperatively with California agencies including the State Water Board and Department of Water Resources, community water groups, and UC investigators to 1) provide technical assistance for community water system consolidation efforts 2) provide technical assistance for communities to lessen negative externalities and meet local regulatory and management program goals (such as the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP)) and 3) create collaborative synergistic relationships with state and non-governmental partners.

This position will contribute to UC ANR's goals of 1) promoting economic prosperity in California, particularly through enhanced community economic development, 2) protecting California’s natural resources through improved water-supply security, and 3) building climate-resilient communities and ecosystems.

**EXTENSION**

The position will be expected to work in partnership with organizations involved in water management, community development, and environmental justice, take an active role in public outreach, and develop strong collaborations with key community groups and other non-governmental organizations. The advisor will collaborate with UCCE Advisors and Specialists, as well as other UC and CSU system academics. The nature of the work will dictate appropriate partners. Potential areas of collaboration/partnership include water systems engineering, water quality testing and analysis, government relations, community development, economic cost/benefit analysis and public relations and facilitation.

**RESEARCH**

The candidate would address key questions in areas such as the following: 1. How do water system consolidations increase community resiliency? 2. What kinds of additional actions might be taken to increase community resiliency when it comes to water? 3. What are the co-benefits of water system consolidation and other efforts to increase community water resiliency? The candidate will need the skills and competencies to cross disparate research fields, such as environmental justice and technical assistance provision, to address critical issues that will ensure the long-term resiliency of rural communities.

Additional areas of research could include 1) GIS Mapping – a significant amount of data exists concerning well testing activities. This data on contaminant levels, depth to groundwater and other water parameters could be analyzed to produce maps to target programs and efforts. 2) Point of Use / Point of Entry devices –analyses of innovations occurring around filtration for various contaminants is needed to understand their potential for use in disadvantaged communities. Inclusive cost studies are need as part of this analysis. 3) System Consolidations – There is a need to analyze system consolidations in the SJV to learn lessons and develop best practices. The state would gain from an understanding of the process of systems consolidation and the role of communities in successful efforts.

**ANR NETWORK**

California Institute for Water Resources, Nutrition Policy Institute, ANR Water Program Team, ANR Water Strategic Initiative, ANR California Communities Program Team, ANR Research to Policy Program Team, ANR DEI Program Team, the new Environmental Justice and Water Specialist at UC Berkeley.

**EXTERNAL NETWORK**

USDA Rural Development, Community Water Center, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, Center on Poverty Race and the Environment (CRPE), Kern, Kings, and Tulare County and city governments, water system operators, and other UC and CSU institutes and academics working in water resiliency and community water system consolidations.

**SUPPORT**

The advisor will be provided with an office, telephone, high speed wireless internet access, storage space, access to UCCE Kern laboratory, office supplies, program development funds, clerical and administrative support.

**OTHER SUPPORT**

It is expected that research support will come from ANR competitive grants and local community groups. Program support will come from UC ANR general funds. Additional support agencies include the California State Water Resources Control Board, SAFER program, The Water Foundation, The U.S. Water Alliance

**HEADQUARTERS AND COVERAGE AREA**

The position will be headquartered in Kern County with coverage to include Kings and Tulare Counties.

**DEVELOPED AND PROPOSED BY**

Doug Parker and Faith Kearns (UC ANR California Institute for Water Resources), Glenda Humiston (UCANR Vice President), Tom Collishaw (CEO Self-Help Enterprises), Brian Marsh and Karmjot Randhawa (UCCE County Directors)