Position Title: Cooperative Extension Indigenous Disaster Resilience, Planning and Policy Area Advisor (Central Sierra Multi-County Partnership (MCP) serving Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, and Tuolumne counties).

Position: The advisor is responsible for assessing, developing, implementing and evaluating disaster planning, response and recovery efforts as well as advancing policy change that uplifts the needs, expertise and priorities of Indigenous and other marginalized communities. (1) A minimum of a master’s degree in crisis and emergency management, community or rural development, geography or related social sciences, land use planning, or related fields is required. (2) An additional degree in Native American studies, and/or experience working with Indigenous or other marginalized communities in rural communities and natural resource-based economies is highly desirable. (3) This position will work with the Disaster Workgroup, Fire Advisor network, Climate Resilience network, Native American Community Partnerships Workgroup, UC SAREP, CIWR and other relevant PTs and SWPs. This position is part of the Indigenous Communities cluster hire proposal.

Justification: Achieving community disaster resilience requires an equity lens to ensure that all members of the community are included. Indigenous communities in particular exhibit extraordinary resilience in the face of disaster, having survived the devastation wrought by settler colonialism including genocide and forced assimilation. Yet they remain largely excluded from county and regional planning and policy processes. California communities are learning to adapt to the increased threat of climate change, wildfires and associated smoke and air quality, drought, floods, heatwaves, water insecurity, infectious diseases and associated food supply chain disruptions. This position will focus on three programmatic themes, centering the knowledge, experience and expertise of Indigenous communities: (1) facilitate community-engaged disaster risk assessment, planning and preparedness ensuring inclusion of marginalized voices (2) enhance individual, household, tribal, community and regional capacity to better prepare for, respond to and recover from disaster and (3) implement policy, systems and environmental changes to strengthen all Californians’ food, energy, housing and water security.

The Native American population in the Central Sierra is more than double California’s percentage with seven federally recognized tribes and many more tribes and tribal communities in the surrounding areas. Poverty rates range from 8.1% (El Dorado) to 12.5% (Tuolumne). Increasing evidence shows that disasters often disproportionately impact low-income communities of color due to existing structural inequities in society associated with poverty, food insecurity, and racial discrimination. This position will engage with and learn from Indigenous communities to build more climate-resilient communities and ecosystems, develop an inclusive and equitable society, promote healthy people and communities, protect California’s natural resources, improve food security, and promote economic prosperity.

Extension: Extension activities may include, for example, (1) working with tribes, non profit organizations, and government agencies to conduct a needs/assets assessment with tribes and other marginalized communities to inform future disaster planning (2) assessing the resilience of various sectors (food, water, housing, energy, transportation) and facilitating strategic planning to prepare for and respond to disaster in culturally appropriate and equitable ways, and (3) co-developing strategies with tribes and other marginalized communities to increase culturally-responsive and inclusive disaster resilience, focused on locally identified priorities which may include water security, food self-sufficiency, climate adaptation, eco-cultural landscape restoration, housing security, and/or resilient local and regional power infrastructure to ensure equitable and secure access to water, food and power.

Research: It is crucial to understand how climate change and disaster events amplify existing inequalities, such as food insecurity, houselessness, poverty, and disease, and develop strategies to lessen the resulting harms. Research will include a holistic and applied research approach that bridges understanding of social and natural factors, leveraging subject-matter expertise from across ANR to assess and mitigate the vulnerability of specific sectors (eg. water, housing, food) and populations to climate and disaster risk. It will focus on understanding
and developing culturally responsive disaster preparedness and post-disaster recovery efforts, centering the priorities, concerns, and capabilities of Indigenous communities and the place-based organizations that support them. The advisor will contribute to regional and statewide policy dialogue on building a more resilient California landscape while protecting tribal cultural heritage and cultural resources. Following the UC Native American Cultural Affiliation and Repatriation Policy they will help facilitate the return of ancestors and cultural items to California Indians and other Native American Tribes.

**ANR Network:** This position will significantly augment ANR’s capacity to network with and serve California’s Indigenous and other marginalized communities. It will address critical gaps in ANR’s capacity to help our California communities prepare for, respond to and recover from disaster in both applied and research to policy realms. It will leverage the expertise of and contribute to ANR’s Fire, Water, Food System and Health Resilience networks. It will collaborate closely with and receive support from: UCB’s Water Justice, Planning and Policy Specialist and Food System Specialists (Sowerwine and Getz), UC SAREP, UC IGIS, CIWR, the Research to Policy, Climate Change, California Communities, & DEIJ PTs, CalNat Climate Stewards, Disaster Workgroup, and the Native American Community Partnerships work group and local advisors.

**Network External to ANR:** This position will network with the 7 federally and other non federally recognized tribes, tribal communities, and tribal serving organizations, agencies and other non-profit organizations serving socially disadvantaged communities including but not limited to: United Indian Health Alliance, the Indigenous People’s Burning Network, the California Immigrant Resilience Fund, California Indian Manpower Consortium, MACT Health Board, and Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions and Tuolumne County Office of Emergency Services. Other organizations and agencies include: the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN), Rural Community Assistance Corporation, USDA Rural Development, CDFA Farm Equity Office, Office of Emergency Services, CAL FIRE, Department of Water Resources, county governments, RCDs, NationFirewise Communities and Fire Safe Councils.

**Support:** Support for this position, including office space, travel, communication (telephone, internet), clerical support, and office supplies are provided from the MCP through direct county support.

**Other support:** Additional research support will come from competitive grants such as USDA (NIFA, WSARE), local community groups and tribes, the California Tribal Fund, and national level organizations such as the First Nations Development Institute.

**Headquarters and Coverage Area:** The advisor will be housed in the Central Sierra MCP, final location to be determined. Although the geographic responsibility consists of four counties, it is only a 2-hour drive to reach the opposite end of the assigned area.

**Developed and proposed by:** This position is jointly submitted by JoLynn Miller, Central Sierra County Director and Research to Policy PT, with input and support from UC SAREP, California Communities, Cal Naturalist, and DEIJ PTs, Native American Communities Partnership WG, as well as Faith Kearns, Susie Kocher, Sabrina Drill, and Dore Bietz (Tuolumne County Office of Emergency Services Coordinator).