

Urban IPM Area Advisor, UCCE Capitol Corridor

Position: The Urban IPM Area Advisor will address pest management issues in urban and suburban settings including residences, buildings, landscaping, gardens, and parks. This position will be based in Sacramento County with coverage to Yolo and Solano Counties. The Urban IPM Area Advisor will develop IPM strategies to effectively manage pests in urban areas while protecting public health and the environment. Key clientele includes public agencies, pest management professionals licensed by either the Structural Pest Control Board or the Department of Pesticide Regulation, and unlicensed members of the general public. This position will be a member of the Statewide IPM Program. Candidates should have a graduate degree (M.S. or Ph.D.) in a pest management discipline.

Currently, Karey Windbiel-Rojas is 20% Area Urban IPM Advisor for the Capitol Corridor and 80% Associate Director for Urban and Community IPM in the Statewide IPM Program. This position proposal is to separate that assignment into two positions – 1.0 FTE Urban IPM Area Advisor for the Capitol Corridor and 1.0 FTE Associate Director for Urban and Community IPM.

Justification: This position will primarily address the UC ANR condition change of ‘promoting healthy people and communities’ but will also contribute to ‘developing a qualified workforce’ and ‘promoting economic prosperity.’ The three counties of UCCE Capitol Corridor have a combined population of approximately 2.25 million people, which is more than the total populations of 15 states. Safe and effective pest management is needed to protect these Californians from negative health impacts of pests and practices used to manage pests in the places where most residents live, work, and play. Although pesticide use is commonly attributed to agriculture, about half of the non-water treatment pesticides used in California are applied in urban settings. Pesticides applied in urban and residential settings may result in significant human exposure and urban pesticide runoff causes higher levels of pesticide contamination of urban surface water resources than agricultural surface water resources.

Extension: The Urban IPM Area Advisor will coordinate with local Advisors, UC faculty and Specialists, public agency personnel, pest management professionals, and business and professional groups to research, demonstrate and extend information related to managing pests in urban areas. Key activities include coordinating with local public agencies, pest management professional groups (such as Pest Control Operators of California and Pesticide Applicators Professional Association), the UC IPM Program, and faculty and CE Specialists at the UCR and UCB Urban Pest Management Centers to develop, implement and participate in train-the-trainer programs and hands-on workshops for urban pest managers. The advisor will coordinate or participate in projects that demonstrate IPM practices to local audiences, either directly (for example, landscape maintenance professionals) or indirectly through UC Master Gardeners. In addition, the IPM advisor will develop information for trade journals as well as UC ANR educational materials such as Pest Notes, Quick Tips, and other UC ANR publications for clientele.

Research: Research projects will focus on development of IPM programs to address high priority landscape pests (weeds, plant diseases, insects, vertebrates) or pests in and around structures (insects and commensal rodents). The Urban IPM Area Advisor will be expected to identify local research needs with statewide implications, develop teams to address them, and establish metrics to indicate progress. The expected outcome of the Urban IPM Area Advisor’s program will be increased use of IPM practices that improve management of urban pests, address pests of public health significance, reduce unnecessary or unsafe pesticide use, and reduce pesticide contamination of surface water resources. Success can be measured by change in practices, increased use of IPM strategies, increased awareness of pesticide safety and consequences, or in use of specific tactics through clientele surveys. It is expected that the Urban IPM Area Advisor will publish in the relevant pest management journals, such as Journal of Integrated Pest Management, Environmental Entomology, Plant Disease, or Weed Science and other scholarly journals.

ANR Network: The advisor will be closely linked to all levels of the ANR continuum. At the local level, the Advisor is well positioned to develop close relationships with the Environmental Horticulture Advisor for Capitol

Corridor, Vertebrate Pest Management Advisor in Lake, Napa, and Solano Counties, and the UC Master Gardeners in Sacramento, Yolo, and Solano Counties. As part of the UC Statewide IPM Program, the Advisor would become the third full-time Urban IPM Area Advisor serving a large metropolitan region in California. The other two are Andrew Sutherland in the San Francisco Bay Area and Siavash Taravati in the Los Angeles Basin. The Advisor will be immediately linked to a network of UC urban pest disciplinary experts and UC IPM's Urban and Community IPM Advisory Committee. Campus-based collaborators could include (but are not limited to) faculty and CE Specialists at the UC Riverside Urban Entomology Program and the UC Davis Human Ecology Department.

Network External to ANR: The advisor would also link with public agencies and professional groups. Public agencies would include local mosquito and vector control districts, municipalities, storm water management groups, and regional and local parks districts. At the state level in Sacramento, the Urban IPM Team currently works with the Community IPM unit at the Department of Pesticide Regulation and the Structural Pest Control Board within the Department of Consumer Affairs, and there is also an opportunity to develop a relationship with California Department of Public Health. Professional groups include organizations of professionals licensed by the state to manage pests in landscapes or in and around structures. These groups need applied research to address local urban pest management issues and extension programs to improve the knowledge and skills of their members while providing continuing education units to maintain licensing.

Support: The advisor will be housed at the UCCE Capitol Corridor office in Sacramento County. Pooled financial resources from the three counties will be used to provide an office, a vehicle, personal mileage reimbursement, internet access, telephone, printing, clerical support, a conference room, and office supplies.

Other support: The Advisor could obtain support from the Structural Pest Control Board, Department of Pesticide Regulation, Western IPM Center, industry organizations such as Pyrethroid Working Group, water resources or stormwater associations, or NGOs concerned with environmental and human-health issues relate to pest management. The current 0.2 FTE Urban IPM Area Advisor received support from the California Pear Advisory Board to trap for brown marmorated stink bug due to the concern for migration of the insect from metropolitan Sacramento into the pear region of the delta.

Headquarters and Coverage Area: This position will be housed at the UCCE Capitol Corridor office in Sacramento. This location has necessary space, the highest population of the three counties, and therefore the greatest urban IPM need. Some coverage of Roseville and Rocklin in Placer County is projected.

Developed and proposed by: Position proposal developed by the Director of the Statewide IPM Program with input from the UCCE Capitol Corridor Director. The Pest Management Program Team and the Environmental Horticulture Program Team ranked this position as important during their November 2021 meetings. The UC IPM Urban and Community Stakeholder Advisory Committee stated this position should be increased from the current 0.2 FTE to 1.0 FTE.