



POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**University of California Cooperative Extension
Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources**

Agriculture and Environmental Issues Advisor

(#ACCSO-07-06-R)

Location: **Headquartered in Lancaster, CA (Los Angeles County).**
Assignment covers Los Angeles and San Bernardino High Desert areas.

Closing Date: **To assure full consideration, application materials must be received by**
June 13, 2008 (Or Open Until Filled)

BACKGROUND: The High Desert areas of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties are long standing, traditional agricultural communities that face tremendous change over the next decade due to increasing population and related environmental pressures. As the predominant remaining rural area of two complex urban counties, the high desert faces numerous and exciting challenges in the agricultural/environmental arena.

NATURE AND PURPOSE: The Agriculture and Environmental Issues Advisor will address high desert crop production along with associated environmental issues, particularly those related to the agriculture/urban interface, dust control and waste management. High Desert growers currently produce alfalfa, peaches and other tree crops, carrots, onions and more. High desert production is varied, including large commercial farms, many smaller family farms, pick-your-own operations, farm stands and so forth. Farmers have the market advantage of major urban centers nearby, yet urban residents are frequently unaware of the nearby presence of farms and their value as an amenity. The advisor will provide a direct link between UC and the community, seeking creative research-based solutions to local agricultural/environmental problems, helping local growers stay on the cutting edge of production technologies, and educating urban residents about local agriculture and its value.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES: Academic appointees in Cooperative Extension are responsible for performance in four major areas: extending knowledge and information, applied research and creative activity, professional competence and activity, and University and public service.

The primary responsibility for the advisor will be to design, develop, implement and evaluate educational programs for high desert growers and the public on crop production and related environmental issues. The advisor will:

- Consult with high desert growers and local agricultural and natural resources agency staff to identify priority research and educational programs.
- Design, implement and evaluate educational programs such as workshops, field days, publications, and internet-net based learning opportunities to extend research-based knowledge to growers, the public and local agency staff on agricultural and related environmental issues.
- Seek ways to assist local growers to promote their products and expand their markets in nearby urban areas through farmers markets, marketing campaigns, educational campaigns, etc.
- Develop expertise in High Desert agriculture, and serve as a subject matter expert within UC's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) on this topic. Maintain professional competence by participating in professional societies, attending technical meetings, in-service training, and keeping up with current professional literature.
- Conduct an applied research program that enhances the body of knowledge on high desert agriculture and related environmental issues. The Advisor will work with Specialists and UC faculty, along with the local communities in the High Desert, to conduct applied research design to improve crop production, and to develop agricultural technologies that address environmental issues and engage growers in finding solutions to environmental problems.
- Provide local leadership in agricultural production and related environmental issues, including facilitating community dialogue and promoting sound local policy development.

Relationships: The advisor is administratively responsible to the Cooperative Extension County Director in Los Angeles, and through the County Director, to the Regional Director in the Central Coast and South Region.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Implement outreach efforts to ensure nondiscrimination in program identification and delivery. Promote and encourage maximum participation of minorities, women, and other under-served groups. Include outreach objectives as a component in planning, implementing, and evaluating program efforts. Establish and update statistical data pertaining to populations served, and to be served, by programs. Record, document, and report outreach plans, goals, activities, progress and results; and submit required activity reports as scheduled.

EDUCATION: A minimum of a Master's Degree in an agricultural field is required. Knowledge of crop production practices, soil science, and pest management is essential. Knowledge of emerging environmental issues is helpful.

EXPERIENCE: Demonstrated outreach and education/experience/skills preferred. Demonstrated ability to work with and motivate people; knowledge of teaching methods and skills; ability to plan and communicate with many and varied audiences. Demonstrate organizational skills to conduct multiple projects simultaneously; ability to work both independently and as a team member. Must demonstrate personal skills to establish and maintain positive working relationships with clientele and colleagues. Must demonstrate ability to relate research-based information to the public, conduct applied research, and ability to teach effectively. Computer skills required.

SALARY: Beginning salary will be in the Cooperative Extension Assistant rank, commensurate with education and relevant experience. This is an academic, career-track appointment subject to administrative review of the need for the position and the incumbent's performance in three, two-year renewable terms. Upon successful completion of the three terms, the appointment will be converted to indefinite status.

If the successful candidate is currently a UCCE Advisor, the candidate will be offered the position as a lateral transfer, retaining their current rank, step, salary, and definite or indefinite status.

BENEFITS: The University of California offers comprehensive benefits including two days per month paid vacation, one day per month paid sick leave, and approximately thirteen paid holidays per year. A variety of health and dental insurance plans are available, with employer contributions to the premiums. In addition, the University provides basic life and disability insurance, which may be supplemented at group rates. Workers Compensation Insurance is provided. An excellent UC Retirement System is coordinated with Social Security; and optional annuity plans may supplement retirement. Employee-paid automobile insurance is available. Sabbatical and study leaves are available.

INTERVIEWS: A search committee will review all applications and associated materials, interview candidates, and recommend individuals most suitable for the position. Candidates selected for interviews will be asked to come to Los Angeles County for the interview. Travel expenses for the interviews will be reimbursed according to University of California policy.

HOW TO APPLY: To be considered, applicants must submit the following four components (by hard copy) of the Application Packet:

- 1) Cover Letter indicating interest in the position.
- 2) UC-ANR Academic Application form—which can be downloaded in PDF format from our website (<http://ccsr.ucdavis.edu/>)
- 3) Brief resume.
- 4) College Level Transcripts (original transcripts preferred, however, legible photocopies of original transcripts will be accepted. Transcripts downloaded from websites will not be accepted.)

Please do NOT send Letters of Reference. If you are selected for an interview, the Search Committee will contact the references you listed on the UC-ANR application form--a minimum of four (4), and a maximum of six (6) names, current addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

Application and associated materials will not be returned to the applicant.

**To request a UC-ANR Academic Application packet, contact us by e-mail
Or
for questions on the application process, contact us at:**

**E-mail: ccsracadrecruitment@ucdavis.edu
or Phone (951) 827-2529**

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For further questions on the position details, contact:

Rachel Surls, County Director (ramabie@ucdavis.edu)

or

Janet Hartin, Search Committee Chair (jshartin@ucdavis.edu)

Please refer to Position #ACCSO-07-06-R

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