**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

**DUTY STATEMENT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST**

**EMPLOYEE NAME:**

**WORKING TITLE:**  Environmental Scientist – Offshore Wind Energy

**WORK UNIT/DIVISION:** Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency

**LOCATION:** San Francisco

**DATE OF APPOINTMENT:**

**CBID:** R10

**TENURE/TIMEBASE:** Permanent/Full-time

**OPENING PARAGRAPH**

The Environmental Scientist is the journey level of the series. Incumbents independently conduct scientific investigations and provide consultative advice to internal and external clients and do other related work.

**GENERAL STATEMENT**

Under direction of the Supervisor and Manager of the Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency Division and the Director of the Energy, Ocean Resources, Federal Consistency and Technical Services Divisions, incumbent has responsibility for reviewing and analyzing permit applications and federal consistency submittals for activities related to the planning, development and operation of offshore wind farms. Incumbent will also review federal agency and federally-permitted activities (e.g., dredging and sediment management, navigation improvements, habitat management and restoration on federal lands, military training, testing, and construction activities, transportation infrastructure projects) as well as energy projects (e.g., coastal power plants, wave energy facilities and energy storage facilities, offshore and onshore oil and gas transport, production and facility decommissioning), ocean-based development (e.g., fiber optic cables, desalination facilities, aquaculture) and other environmental restoration projects and planning efforts. Incumbent performs complex environmental analysis, research, and investigations, identifies problems, coordinates with Tribes and federal, state and local agencies, and recommends courses of action to the Supervisor and Manager on specific federal consistency, energy, and ocean resource issues, project proposals, and submittals. Incumbent reviews applications, works with federal and state agency staff to develop mitigation measures, writes staff reports and recommendations, prepares correspondence, answers questions from the public, and makes verbal staff presentations of recommendations to the Coastal Commission at public meetings. Incumbent has knowledge of the California Coastal Act and federal Coastal Zone Management Act and the associated regulations, and monitors state and federal agency document distribution and other circulation lists to determine activities warranting federal consistency review.

Incumbent may represent the Coastal Commission on multi-agency working groups, task forces and other similar entities. Incumbent serves as a resource to other Commission staff, to staff of local, state and federal agencies, legislature, special interest groups, media, and to the public regarding offshore wind energy development and the Commission’s regulatory role in particular and the energy and ocean resources program in general. Incumbent identifies and analyzes potential environmental justice impacts in projects, and drafting environmental justice, diversity and inclusion provisions in staff reports, settlements, or other documents, consistent with the Commission's Environmental Justice Policy. Incumbent conducts tribal coordination and consultation for relevant projects, including communicating with and gathering information from tribes, assessing impacts to cultural and tribal resources and drafting findings in staff reports, settlements, or other documents, consistent with the Commission’s Tribal Consultation Policy.

**TYPICAL TASKS/DUTIES**

The following is a general summary of the allocation of time to the various responsibilities assigned to the Environmental Scientist. This allocation does not necessarily reflect the actual time spent on each task on a day-to-day basis but is intended instead to represent a long-term average.

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

**35% FEDERAL CONSISTENCY PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

Responsible for performing independent professional work to implement complex planning and regulatory projects under the Coastal Commission’s federal consistency authority. Analyze and prepare reports on complex and highly technical proposed projects, including federal agency, federally permitted, and federally funded projects, including designation of offshore wind energy areas for leasing, construction and operation of wind farms in federal waters, military training, testing and scientific research activities, military base defense and other construction activities on federal land, dredging, habitat management and restoration plans implemented by federal agencies, federal government management plans for marine sanctuaries, military bases, national parks and forests, wildlife refuges, and other federal lands, offshore oil and gas development and decommissioning in federal waters, alternative energy facilities, artificial reefs, aquaculture, fiber optic cables, marine managed areas, and other similar projects in federal waters. Review negative determinations, consistency determinations and certifications regarding these proposed projects. Conduct independent complex site investigations as necessary. Prepare and present complex and often controversial staff recommendations to the Coastal Commission at public meetings and be able to support staff proposals and answer questions with accuracy and tact. May work with other analysts on project teams and be responsible for coordinating with Coastal Commission’s legal and technical staff and keeping supervisor informed of all important policy issues. Act as liaison with other state/federal agencies and local government through participation in coordination committees, workgroups, Joint Review Panels, and similar bodies.

**35% ENERGY AND OCEAN RESOURCES PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

Responsible for performing independent professional work to implement complex planning and regulatory projects under the Coastal Act. Analyze and prepare reports on complex and highly technical proposed projects, including scientific survey and research activities, installation of seafloor cables and electric transmission infrastructure, shipping and boating facilities, communications facilities, habitat management and restoration plans, tribal activities and facilities, onshore and offshore oil and gas development and decommissioning in state waters, coastal power plants, beach nourishment and sediment management, seafloor surveys, alternative energy facilities, artificial reefs, aquaculture, fiber optic cables, marine managed areas, and other similar projects in state waters. Review permit applications, local coastal plan (LCP) amendments, and appeals of local government action regarding these proposed projects. Conduct independent complex site investigations as necessary. Prepare and present complex and often controversial staff recommendations to the Coastal Commission and be able to support staff proposals and answer questions with accuracy and tact. May work with other analysts on project teams and be responsible for coordinating with Coastal Commission’s legal and technical staff and keeping supervisor informed of all important policy issues. Act as liaison with other state/federal agencies and local government through participation in coordination committees, workgroups, Joint Review Panels, and similar bodies. Includes emergency permit work.

**20% SUBJECT AREA EXPERTISE, PROJECT LEAD AND TECHNICAL  
ASSESSMENTS**

Develop and maintain expertise in specific energy, ocean resources, and federal consistency subject area(s) applicable statewide, such as offshore wind energy planning and development, dredging and sediment management, navigation improvements, habitat restoration and management, military training, testing, and construction activities, transportation infrastructure projects, tribal activities and facilities, artificial reefs, dam removal and stream restoration, sea level rise and climate change, coastal hazards and shoreline protective devices. Research technical developments in subject area(s) and consult with and advise others at agencies and institutions engaged in related topics. Act as a Coastal Commission staff lead on subject area(s) and provide technical and policy guidance to the Coastal Commission, staff, other agencies, project proponents, and the interested public to assure consistency in project review, local coastal program amendments, and other Coastal Commission actions. Participate as the Coastal Commission’s representative on work groups, interagency task forces, Joint Review Panels, and other similar bodies. Give presentations at conferences, workshops, legislative hearings, etc.

**5% MARGINAL FUNCTIONS**

Monitor condition and mitigation compliance on completed projects, assist other staff in federal consistency matters, maintain project records and schedules pursuant to state requirements, and perform other duties as required.

**5% Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**

Participates in tasks, trainings, outreach and other activities that support implementation of the agency’s Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) plan, which aims to create an inclusive workplace that allows staff from diverse backgrounds to thrive and improves agency outreach and public engagement. For example, this may include attending quarterly JEDI calls, sitting on interview panels, contributing to or attending staff trainings on JEDI issues such as on implicit bias, presenting at outreach events at locations with greater diversity, and providing input on hiring practices.

**SUPERVISION EXERCISED OVER OTHERS**

Does not supervise. May be assigned lead responsibility for a specific project, program function, or area of expertise; and may act as a consultant to other technical staff, management, and other agencies in those matters.

**KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES**

Knowledge of: Basic principles of land, water, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources research; principles of ecology; oceanography; soil and irrigation sciences, resource management, hydrology, geology, and waste prevention; statistical methods; land-use practices with reference to their general effect on human health, natural resources, agricultural productivity, and the environment; effects of hazardous and non-hazardous waste material and their interactions on the environment; chemical reactions; California and Federal environmental laws, rules, regulations, and requirements; basic toxicology, hydrology, geology, and principles of risk assessment and risk management; concepts employed in a variety of disciplines including environmental planning, economics, and resource management; geolocation and geo-referencing software applications, resource conservation program impacts and implementation strategies; and recycling issues.

Ability to: Apply or modify scientific methods and principles; collect environmental data; analyze and evaluate data and reach sound conclusions; review, check, and interpret scientific and environmental reports; analyze situations and take appropriate actions; establish and maintain cooperative relations with all persons contacted; communicate effectively;  prepare clear, complete, and technically accurate reports; apply laws, rules, regulations, policies, and requirements of California and Federal environmental protection and resource management programs; assess the impact of proposed State and Federal environmental legislation and regulations; understand principles of risk assessment and risk management; work with professionals from a variety of disciplines within and outside of State government; and review and understand technical research reports on emerging public health and environmental issues.

**CONSEQUENCE OF ERROR/RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECISIONS**

The consequences of error are high; important coastal resources such as wetlands, environmentally sensitive habitat, marine resources, and other coastal resources could be compromised if errors are made. Given the high levels of technical complexity of work regularly assigned, it is difficult for reviewers to detect errors in facts or judgment; therefore, the independent judgment expected is very high. Errors in judgment could also erode agency credibility, and/or significantly increase legal costs to the agency.

**PUBLIC AND INTERNAL CONTACTS**

Extensive contact with other Environmental Scientists, Coastal Program Analysts, federal and state agency staff, and the public.

**PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

* Ability to lift up to 15 pounds.
* Ability to use a computer several hours a day.
* Ability to make site visits, inspections and attend meetings. (Required to maintain a valid Defensive Driver’s Training card if operation of a State vehicle is needed to perform work.)

**WORK ENVIRONMENT**

Prolonged periods of sitting

Work in a high-rise building in downtown San Francisco

Work in office Monday through Friday.

I certify that this duty statement represents an accurate description of the essential functions of this position.

(SUPERVISOR’S NAME) DATE

I have read this duty statement and agree that it represents the duties I am assigned.

(EMPLOYEE’S NAME) DATE