

DUTY STATEMENT

Employee Name:	Position Number: 580-353-5594-003
Classification: Research Scientist III (Epidemiology/Biostatistics)	Tenure/Time Base: Permanent / Full-Time
Working Title: Climate and Health Scientist	Work Location: 850 Marina Bay Parkway, Bldg. P, 3 rd Floor Richmond, CA 94804
Collective Bargaining Unit: R10	Position Eligible for Telework (Yes/No): Yes
Center/Office/Division: Center for Healthy Communities	Branch/Section/Unit: Environmental Health Investigations Branch Exposure Investigations Section Climate Change and Health Unit

All employees shall possess the general qualifications, as described in California Code of Regulations Title 2, Section 172, which include, but are not limited to integrity, honesty, dependability, thoroughness, accuracy, good judgment, initiative, resourcefulness, and the ability to work cooperatively with others.

This position requires the incumbent to maintain consistent and regular attendance; communicate effectively (orally and in writing) in dealing with the public and/or other employees; develop and maintain knowledge and skill related to specific tasks, methodologies, materials, tools, and equipment; complete assignments in a timely and efficient manner; and, adhere to departmental policies and procedures.

All California Department of Public Health (CDPH) employees perform work that is of the utmost importance, where each employee is important in supporting and promoting an environment of equity, diversity, and inclusivity, essential to the delivery of the department's mission. All employees are valued and should understand that their contributions and the contributions of their team members derive from different cultures, backgrounds, and life experiences, supporting innovations in public health services and programs for California.

Competencies

The competencies required for this position are found on the classification specification for the classification noted above. Classification specifications are located on the [California Department of Human Resource's Job Descriptions webpage](#).

Job Summary

This position supports the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) mission and strategic plan by promoting equitable environmental, social, and economic conditions and protecting the health of Californians from climate-related exposures to achieve optimal physical and mental health and well-being for all.

The incumbent works under the general direction of the Research Scientist Supervisor I, Manager of the Climate Change and Health Unit, in the Environmental Health Investigations Branch (EHIB). The Research Scientist III (RS III) plans, organizes, and directs climate and health studies of a highly developed scientific scope and complexity, focusing on wildfire smoke, drought, and extreme precipitation. The RS III collaborates with other epidemiologists to develop surveillance for climate-related health outcomes, in alignment with CDPH's data modernization efforts. The RS III acts as a

subject matter expert in the branch, providing consultation and technical assistance to other programs and at the Department level on an as needed basis. The incumbent exercises a high degree of initiative and flexibility in a substantial decision-making role and must be able to work effectively on a team.

Special Requirements

- ☐ Conflict of Interest (COI)
- ☐ Background Check and/or Fingerprinting Clearance
- ☐ Medical Clearance
- ☒ Travel: Up to 15%, with possibility of overnight stay
- ☐ Bilingual: Pass a State written and/or verbal proficiency exam in
- ☐ License/Certification:
- ☐ Other:

Essential Functions (including percentage of time)

- 35% **Epidemiologic investigations and community-engaged research.** Establishes partnerships with academic researchers, governmental agencies, health care systems and Local Health Departments (LHDs), and community partners to identify morbidity and mortality associated with wildfire smoke, drought, and extreme precipitation. Conceptualizes, designs, coordinates, and directs studies of highly-developed scientific scope and complexity in support of CDPH's Climate and Health Surveillance Program. Conducts highly specialized phases of major scientific projects. Studies may include, but are not limited to, large-scale epidemiological studies, community-based participatory research, targeted investigations, pilot studies, intervention studies, or community assessments. Applies EHIP's Racial Health Equity framework and other data health equity guides developed by CDPH to advance racial health equity, climate and environmental justice, diversity, and inclusion. Conducts literature reviews and collaborates with other experts to maintain and build subject matter expertise in the health impacts of climate change, available data sources, and quantitative and qualitative research methods used in environmental epidemiology and community-engaged research. Provides scientific guidance to other epidemiologists within the branch as needed.
- 30% **Climate health surveillance and data modernization.** Collaborates with other epidemiologists in the unit to design, implement, and maintain surveillance systems to monitor health outcomes associated with wildfire smoke, drought, and extreme precipitation. Supports efforts to modernize data infrastructure, in alignment with federal and state public health data modernization initiatives, including CDPH's Future of Public Health initiative. Maintains awareness of developments and best practices in data science, advanced analytics, and data governance. Uses state-of-the-art statistical and epidemiologic methodologies to analyze surveillance data and develop predictive models to improve early detection and response to climate-related events. Uses modern data science tools to develop computational pipelines in a cloud-based computing environment to automate data ingestion, storage, integration, analysis, and visualization. Collaborates with other CDPH staff who address climate change-related health issues. Participates in the National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP) Community of Practice to share information, build knowledge, develop expertise, and solve problems to improve syndromic surveillance practice
- 15% **Data dissemination and communication with diverse partners.** Disseminates surveillance data and epidemiological findings by preparing data dashboards and other interactive

visualizations, reports, peer-reviewed publications, presentations, and other communication products. Uses modern data visualization tools such as ArcGIS, R Shiny, or PowerBI. Appropriately adapts writing and presentation methods for a variety of audiences, including governmental agencies, public health professionals, scientific audiences, community-based organizations, and the public. Collaborates with health educators and other staff, as well as internal and external partners, to create data and communication products that are accessible, culturally and linguistically appropriate, and at an appropriate literacy and numeracy level.

15% Technical assistance. Provides technical assistance and scientific support to LHDs and other external entities, as needed. Provides input on statewide climate change-related plans. Reviews governmental reports and other materials as needed. Acts as a CDPH representative on advisory groups, workgroups, and scientific forums, as they relate to climate change and health.

Marginal Functions (including percentage of time)

5% Participates in EHIB's Public Inquiry Duty program. Performs other work-related duties as assigned.

☐ I certify this duty statement represents an accurate description of the essential functions of this position. I have discussed the duties and have provided a copy of this duty statement to the employee named above.

☐ I have read and understand the duties and requirements listed above and am able to perform these duties with or without reasonable accommodation. (If you believe reasonable accommodation may be necessary, or if unsure of a need for reasonable accommodation, inform the hiring supervisor.)

Supervisor's Name:	Date	Employee's Name:	Date
Supervisor's Signature	Date	Employee's Signature	Date

HRD Use Only:

Approved By: HD

Date: 04/2025