



# Executive Secretary 1

**Exam Code: 0PBDC**

**Department:** State of California

**Exam Type:** Servicewide, Open

**Final Filing Date:** Continuous

## CLASSIFICATION DETAILS

**Executive Secretary 1** – \$4,095.00 - \$5,129.00 per month

View the [Executive Secretary 1 classification specification](#)

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Final Filing Date: Continuous

### Who Should Apply:

Applicants who meet the minimum qualifications as stated on this bulletin may apply for and take this examination.

### How to Apply:

The link to connect to the online multiple-choice exam is located farther down on this bulletin in the "Taking the Exam" section.

Once you have taken this examination, you may not retake it for **twelve (12)** months.

### Special Testing Arrangements:

If you require special testing arrangements due to a verified disability or medical condition, please contact:

California Department of Human Resources  
CalCareer Service Center

1810 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (866) 844-8671

Email: [CalCareer@CalHR.CA.GOV](mailto:CalCareer@CalHR.CA.GOV)

California Relay Service: 7-1-1 (TTY and voice)

TTY is a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf, and is reachable only from phones equipped with a TTY Device

## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

All applicants must meet the education and/or experience requirements as stated on this exam bulletin to be accepted into the examination. Part-time or full-time jobs, regardless of whether paid or volunteer positions, and inside or outside California state service will count toward experience.

### Executive Secretary 1

#### Either 1

In the California state service, one year of experience performing secretarial duties at a [level of responsibility not less than that of Secretary](#).

#### Or 2

[Three years of experience in clerical work](#) at least one year of which shall have been in a responsible secretarial position performing a variety of difficult secretarial work. (Experience in California state service applied toward the special one-year requirement must be in a class with a level of responsibility not less than that of Office Technician.) [Academic education](#) above the twelfth grade may be substituted for one year of the required general experience on the basis of either (a) one year of general education being equivalent to three months of experience; or (b) one year of education of a business or commercial nature being equivalent to six months of experience. Students who are enrolled in the last semester or its equivalent of course work, which upon completion will fulfill these requirements, will be admitted to the examination, but they must submit evidence of completion before they can be considered for appointment.]

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

### Executive Secretary 1

This is the advanced journey person level. Under direction of the administrator of a major subdivision of a large State agency or a comparable level executive. Incumbents

perform difficult and responsible secretarial work and relieve the administrator of a variety of administrative and office details.

Positions at this level typically exist in major subdivisions or large field installations or large State agencies. The secretary's supervisor must have complex program responsibility requiring careful coordination of activities supervised a considerable amount of demanding personal contact with citizen groups and officials of other governmental agencies.

Positions are allocated to this level where the administrator who is the secretary's supervisor has delegated a substantial amount of administrative detail and non-routine work to the secretary. The potential for the level of delegated duties is directly related to the importance and responsibility of the position of the administrator, the nature and scope of the functions for which the administrator is responsible, and the level of public contacts.

## **EXAMINATION SCOPE**

This examination consists of the following components:

**Multiple Choice Written Examination – Weighted 100% of the final score.**

The written examination is designed to evaluate a candidate's knowledge in the areas of:

1. Situational Judgment
2. Written Communication
3. Analysis

To obtain a position on the eligible list, a minimum score of 70% must be received. In addition to evaluating applicants' relative knowledge, skills, and ability, as demonstrated by quality and breadth of education and/or experience, emphasis in each exam component will be measuring competitively, relative job demands, each applicant's:

### **Knowledge of:**

1. Modern office methods, supplies, equipment and procedures with particular reference to the work involved in the office of an administrative official.
2. Business English and correspondence.

### **Ability to:**

1. Type at a speed of 45 words per minute.
2. Read and write English at a level required for successful job performance.
3. Direct the work of other support staff.
4. Perform difficult clerical work.
5. Keep difficult records.

6. Make briefs of reports and correspondence and compose letters or reports independently or from instructions, utilizing a wide knowledge of vocabulary, grammar, and spelling.
7. Perform minor administrative assignments independently.
8. Handle with courtesy and tact a wide variety of public contacts both on the telephone and in person.
9. Communicate effectively.
10. Understand and carry out directions following a minimum of explanation.
11. Analyze situations accurately and take effective action.

### **Special Personal Characteristics:**

A demonstrated interest in assuming increasing responsibility; mature judgment; loyalty; poise; tact; and discretion.

### **Additional Desirable Qualifications:**

Education equivalent to completion of the twelfth grade; ability to take dictation at 110 words per minute.

## **ELIGIBLE LIST INFORMATION**

A servicewide, open eligible list for the Executive Secretary 1 classification will be established for the State of California (all State of California departments, statewide).

The names of successful competitors will be merged onto the eligible list in order of final score regardless of exam date. Eligibility expires **twelve (12) months** after it is established. Applicants must then retake the examination to reestablish eligibility. Veterans' Preference will be granted for this examination. In accordance with Government Codes 18973.1 and 18973.5, whenever any veteran, or widow or widower of a veteran achieves a passing score on an open examination, he or she shall be ranked in the top rank of the resulting eligible list.

Veterans status is verified by the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR). Information on this program and [the Veterans' Preference Application](#) (Std. form 1093) is available online. Additional information on veteran benefits is available at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Career Credits **will not** be added to the final score for this exam, because it does not meet the requirements to qualify for Career Credits.

## **PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION**

Here is a list of suggested resources to have available prior to applying for the examination.

**Employment History:** Employment dates, job titles, organization names and addresses, names of supervisors or persons who can verify your job responsibilities and phone numbers of persons listed above.

**Education:** School names and addresses, degrees earned, dates attended, courses taken (verifiable on a transcript), persons or office who can verify education, and phone numbers of persons or offices listed above.

**Training:** Class titles, certifications received, names of persons who can verify your training, and phone numbers of persons listed above.

## **TAKING THE EXAMINATION**

**We recommend using Chrome, Firefox, or Edge for optimal performance when accessing the examination.**

**Note: This examination is being given online and you are able to take the examination at any time on any day of the week. Once you click the “[Take the Executive Secretary 1 examination](#)” button, your time will begin. There is no way to pause, stop, or reset the timer once you start. A stable internet connection is recommended as no additional time will be provided for internet loss, power loss, or computer/browser issues. At this time, if you are unable to complete the timed examination, it is recommended you do not continue until you are able to do so.**

## **TESTING DEPARTMENTS**

State of California (all State of California departments)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

California Department of Human Resources  
CalCareer Service Center  
1810 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
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## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

The State of California is an equal opportunity employer to all, regardless of age, ancestry, color, disability (mental and physical), exercising the right of family care and medical leave, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, medical condition, military or veteran status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religious creed, sex (includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related

medical conditions), and sexual orientation.

## **DRUG-FREE STATEMENT**

It is an objective of the State of California to achieve a drug-free State work place. Any applicant for State employment will be expected to behave in accordance with this objective, because the use of illegal drugs is inconsistent with the law of the State, the rules governing civil service, and the special trust placed in public servants.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Examination and/or Employment Application (STD 678) forms are available at the California Department of Human Resources, local offices of the Employment Development Department, and through your [CalCareer Account](#).

If you meet the requirements stated on this examination bulletin, you may take this examination, which is competitive. Possession of the entrance requirements does not assure a place on the eligible list. Your performance in the examination described in this bulletin will be rated against a predetermined job-related rating, and all applicants who pass will be ranked according to their score.

The California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) reserves the right to revise the examination plan to better meet the needs of the service, if the circumstances under which this examination was planned change. Such revision will be in accordance with civil service laws and rules and all applicants will be notified.

**General Qualifications:** Applicants must possess essential personal qualifications including integrity, initiative, dependability, good judgement, the ability to work cooperatively with others, and a state of health consistent with the ability to perform the assigned duties of the class. A medical examination may be required. In open examinations, investigation may be made of employment records and personal history and fingerprinting may be required.

**Eligible Lists:** Eligible lists established by competitive examination, regardless of date, must be used in the following order: 1) sub-divisional promotional, 2) departmental promotional, 3) multi-departmental promotional, 4) servicewide promotional, 5) departmental open, 6) open. When there are two lists of the same kind, the older must be used first. Eligible lists will expire in one to four years unless otherwise stated on the bulletin.

**High School Equivalence:** Equivalence to completion of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade may be demonstrated in any one of the following ways: 1) passing the General Education Development (GED) Test; 2) completion of 12 semester units of college-level work; 3) certification from the State Department of Education, a local school board, or high school authorities that the competitor is considered to have education equivalent to graduation from high school; or 4) for clerical and accounting classes, substitution of business college work in place of high school on a year-for-year basis.