



Job Description

Title: Senior Policy Advocate

Organization: Community Water Center

Location: Sacramento, CA

ORGANIZATION

The Community Water Center (CWC) is an environmental justice nonprofit that works directly alongside impacted communities towards the goal of securing universal access to safe and affordable drinking water in California. We believe access to safe and affordable drinking water is a basic human right, not a privilege. CWC seeks to build an enduring movement for water justice that is powered by community activists by serving as a catalyst for community-driven water solutions through organizing, education, and advocacy.

The Center employs three primary strategies in order to accomplish our goals:

- Educate, organize, and provide capacity building assistance to low-income communities and communities of color in the San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast facing local water challenges.
- Advocate for systemic change to address the root causes of unsafe drinking water by advancing community-driven legislative, regulatory and policy changes and by lifting up community voices in the media.
- Serve as a resource for information and expertise on community water challenges for impacted communities, decision-makers and the general public.

Since opening our doors in 2006, CWC has worked with local residents from dozens of California communities to improve access to safe, clean, and affordable water. Over the years CWC has trained many community residents as clean water advocates and provided technical and legal assistance to numerous local water boards and community-based organizations struggling with how to manage efficient and accountable water systems in their communities. Our work in partnership with ally organizations has helped pass the nation's first Human Right to Water Law, helped secure more than \$2 billion dollars in funding for drinking water, advanced multiple groundbreaking legislative and regulatory policies that help advance the cause

of water justice, raised the visibility of California's unjust drinking water reality in the media, and most importantly empowered community members themselves to advocate for change.

CWC's team is passionate, dynamic and believes in the cause of water justice and making real change that is driven directly by impacted communities themselves. Our organizing and advocacy work, community collaborations, and organizational culture all reflect a concern for equity, mutual respect, appreciation for diversity, and environmental and social justice. As CWC continues to grow, we are looking for candidates who share our values, bring a passion for our mission, and seek to contribute to achieving our mission and for making change in our society.

CWC is headquartered in Visalia, California and also has offices in Watsonville and Sacramento.

Position Description

CWC is hiring for a Senior Policy Advocate position that will be responsible for leading policy advocacy campaigns designed to address root causes of unsafe drinking water by advancing community-driven legislative, regulatory, and policy changes. This is a regular, exempt, full-time, salary position. This position reports to the Policy Director and is based out of CWC's Sacramento office. All employees at CWC are "at will."

Major Responsibilities

- For select CWC campaigns and projects:
 - Serve as a policy advocate and internal staff lead to achieve the goals of select CWC policy campaigns and projects, with support from other members of the CWC team
 - Represent CWC at public hearings, legislative and regulatory meetings, and other key external meetings and events as needed
 - Develop the strategy and tactics to achieve the goals of assigned campaigns/projects, and then lead CWC's work to implement those campaigns/projects
 - This includes legislative and/or regulatory advocacy, drafting letters and other written advocacy materials, coalition building and coordination, media and communications, community engagement and empowerment, and internal CWC team coordination
 - Provide information that helps empower frontline communities, ally organizations, key external decision-makers and other target audiences to help them understand the problem and how CWC campaigns and projects help address the problem
 - Support fundraising efforts to help fund campaigns and projects (in collaboration with the Policy Director and the Director of Strategic Partnerships)
 - Supervise other members of the CWC team
- General Duties
 - Foster an environment that promotes trust and cooperation amongst CWC staff, community members, and affiliate organizations
 - Actively participate in program strategy and staff meetings

- Actively participate in CWC fund development activities, such as donor drives, online appeals, and other events
- Other duties as assigned by the Executive Director and the Policy Director

Note: Nothing in this job description restricts management's right to assign or reassign duties and responsibilities to or from this position at any time.

Required Qualifications and Skills:

- Strong passion for, and commitment to, social and environmental justice
- Experience with creating and executing advocacy strategies (e.g. legislative, regulatory, policy campaign, coalition building)
- Strong legislative and administrative lobbying and advocacy skills
- Strong policy analysis and writing skills
- Outstanding organizational skills
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment, meet deadlines and “own” assigned campaigns and projects
- Ability to work in, and help build and coordinate, teams and coalitions
- Creative and comprehensive problem-solving skills and ability to quickly adapt strategies to new, changing or unexpected circumstances
- Ability to analyze and respond to technical documents related to groundwater quality and supply, public finance, governance, and public health
- Ability to accept and provide praise and critical feedback – the ideal candidate would value self-improvement and seek and provide regular feedback and evaluation
- Proficient with basic computer skills including, at minimum: Microsoft Office, Google Apps, and ability to troubleshoot basic software and computer equipment problems
- Flexible schedule: willing and able to travel to communities in the San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast, work weekends, and attend night meetings when necessary
- Valid California Driver’s License

Preferred Qualifications

- Strong verbal and written fluency in Spanish, including strong bilingual (Spanish-English) interpersonal verbal communication and writing skills, with sensitivity to appropriate delivery depending on target and audience
- At least 4 years of experience in CA regulatory and/or legislative policy advocacy, particularly in the following areas:
 - CA water and environmental law
 - CA local government law
- Graduate degree (particularly JD)
- Experience creating and executing advocacy campaigns and strategies that include grassroots organizing in low-income communities and communities of color
- Experience working directly with low-income communities and/or communities of color, particularly Latinx farmworker communities
- Experience working with media and developing communications materials around advocacy campaigns, including digital engagement strategies
- Experience working with people directly impacted by environmental justice issues in advocacy campaigns

- Background in environmental science or policy, public health, sustainable agriculture, community development or related field
- Experience developing campaign strategies, plans, grants and reports, and communicating with foundation program officers
- Experience supervising or managing others
- Experience working in team settings

Starting Date: Open until filled

Salary: Starting at \$65,000 (based on experience and qualifications).

Application:

To apply, email resume and cover letter to: patricia.avila@communitywatercenter.org

Benefits:

We offer a comprehensive compensation and benefits package which includes: medical, dental, vision, and life insurance; retirement program contributions, generous vacation, family, and sick leave, and holiday policies; a flexible work schedule; professional development opportunities and more. (Benefits guidelines and eligibility vary based on tenure and employment status, among other factors.)

Community Water Center is committed to providing equal opportunity to qualified job applicants and employees and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability (including pregnancy), mental disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, age, gender, sexual orientation, citizenship, military service status or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state or local law.

To learn more about the Community Water Center and our programs, visit our website at www.communitywatercenter.org