



Job Description

Title: Community Solutions Advocate

Organization: Community Water Center

Location: Based in Visalia, CA; serving communities in the San Joaquin Valley (currently remote due to the COVID-19 Pandemic)

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 center of 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

The Community Solutions Advocate position is a regular, full-time, exempt employee position that will work in and with communities in the Southern San Joaquin Valley to help secure access to safe and affordable drinking water through empowering communities to engage in local drinking water projects and local/regional/statewide policy and political campaigns.

This position will help CWC work to continue to build a people-driven movement for water justice, as we fight to bring community-driven change to the San Joaquin Valley, to California and beyond.

All employees at CWC are "at will." This position will report directly to the CWC Organizing Manager or another position as assigned, and will work closely with other CWC staff, community partners, and allies.

Major Responsibilities

Specific to this Position:

- Help develop and implement strategies focused on environmental justice communities and low-income communities of color to:
 - Educate local community members, local stakeholders, and local/regional/state decision-makers about the safety, affordability, and accessibility of drinking water in communities in the Southern San Joaquin Valley.
 - Organize local communities to take action to obtain drinking water solutions by participating in local/regional/statewide policy campaigns, policy and political processes, and local and regional drinking water projects.
 - Advocate for community drinking water solutions as a representative of CWC.
- Engage, train, and support local community leaders and advocates from low-income communities and communities of color throughout the San Joaquin Valley and surrounding areas as part of CWC's local-, regional- and state-level community drinking water solutions and policy/political campaigns.

- Support CWC's community outreach and organizing efforts, including, as needed, making phone calls to community members, sending out texts and emails, making event reminder calls, updating CWC's contacts database, assisting with meeting coordination and logistics, and assisting with translation/interpretation.
- Coordinate community meetings and activities, including planning community meeting logistics, developing meeting agendas, facilitating meetings, outreach and follow-up work with community partners.
- Support CWC's efforts to lift up community voices with traditional media and on social media.

General Staff Duties:

- Foster an environment that promotes trust and cooperation amongst CWC staff, community members, and affiliate organizations.
- Actively participate in program strategy, planning, tracking and reporting, and staff meetings.
- Actively participate in CWC fund development activities, such as donor drives, online appeals, and other events.
- Provide general administrative and program support.
- Other duties as assigned by the Executive Director.

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

Required Qualifications and Skills:

- Strong passion for and commitment to social and environmental justice.
- Strong interpersonal verbal communication and writing skills, with sensitivity to appropriate delivery depending on target and audience.
- Strong interpersonal communication skills via various methods (ie in-person, telephone, email, video conferencing, and in writing).
- Outstanding organizational skills.
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively.
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines.
- Ability to juggle multiple tasks and responsibilities, while remaining focused on overarching goals.
- Ability to work with and inspire diverse communities and age groups.
- Creative and comprehensive problem solving skills.
- Ability to think strategically and understand how individual campaigns and projects fit into CWC's overall model of change.

- Ability to accept praise and critical feedback – the ideal candidate would value self-improvement and seek evaluation.
- Flexible schedule – willing and able to work weekends and attend night meetings and attend out-of-town events, activities and meetings as needed.
- Proficient with basic computer skills including, at minimum: Microsoft Office, Google Apps, and ability to troubleshoot basic software and computer equipment problems.
- Fluent in Spanish (oral and written).
- Valid CA driver’s license.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience working with low-income communities and/or communities of color.
- Understanding of and fluency in digital organizing tools and software, including online, mobile, social media, and text platforms.
- Experience with, or knowledge of, water and environmental issues and/or community development.
- Knowledge of political landscape in California.

Starting Date: Open until filled

Salary: Starting at \$50k (based on experience and qualifications).

Application:

To apply, email resume and cover letter to: christina.marquez@communitywatercenter.org

Benefits:

We offer a comprehensive compensation and benefits package which includes: medical, dental, and vision 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, 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