



Title: Community Solutions Advocate

Organization: Community Water Center (CWC)

Location: Based in Watsonville, CA, serving communities in the Central Coast. CWC believes our mission can be effectively advanced while being flexible in our approach to work style and location. All candidates for this position must be able to work in-person out of our Watsonville office at least two days per week and are expected to report in the office, attend public meetings, and/or conduct community outreach and advocacy more than two days a week if needed based on job responsibilities.

ORGANIZATION

Community Water Center is an environmental justice nonprofit that works alongside under-resourced communities of color to secure 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.

CWC employs three primary strategies to accomplish our goals:

- Educate, organize, and provide capacity building support to low-income communities and communities of color in the Central Coast and San Joaquin Valley who are 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 drinking water challenges for under-resourced 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 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,

secure more than \$2 billion in funding for drinking water needs in low-income communities and, advanced multiple groundbreaking legislative and regulatory policies that help advance the cause of water justice, raise the visibility of California's unjust drinking water reality in the media, and most importantly, empower community members 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 actively supports the growth and expansion of skills by providing each staff member a professional development budget, integrating growth goals into work plans and encouraging mentorship internally.

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

Position Description

The Community Solutions Advocate position is a regular, exempt, full-time, salary position that will work in partnership with communities in the Central Coast to help secure access to safe and affordable drinking water. This is primarily achieved by providing accurate and relevant information on local drinking water quality, conditions, and challenges, connecting residents to available resources, and supporting and empowering communities to engage in local drinking water projects and local, regional and statewide policy campaigns.

All employees at CWC are "at will." This position will report directly to CWC's Community Advocacy Manager based in Watsonville, and will work closely with other CWC staff, community partners, and allies.

Major Responsibilities

The ideal candidate will have a deep understanding of community-driven advocacy and organizing, and a strong passion for environmental and social justice. Candidates who will excel at this position are those that have core competencies and will thrive in several areas outlined in the Major Responsibilities section below. CWC recognizes that candidates may have areas of growth and the ideal candidate will be motivated to grow their skills in those areas with support from CWC.

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 and state decision-makers about the safety, affordability, and accessibility of drinking water in communities in the Central Coast.
 - Organize local communities to take action to obtain drinking water solutions by participating in local, regional and statewide policy campaigns, policy 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 Central Coast and surrounding areas as part of CWC's local-, regional- and state-level community drinking water solutions and policy campaigns.
- Support community member and property owner participation in drinking water projects by developing materials, sharing information, and collecting necessary documentation to facilitate their participation in the project.
- Support community outreach and organizing efforts, including 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 and support the effective implementation of drinking water well testing and regional bottled water programs, with a focus on integrating program participants into local, long-term community water projects and advocacy campaigns that help address systemic drinking water issues statewide.
- Coordinate community meetings and activities, including planning meetings, developing agendas, facilitating meetings, outreach and follow-up work with community partners to support community-driven water solutions.
- Support CWC's efforts to lift up community voices through traditional and 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, 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 Director of Strategic Partnerships and 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 prioritize work and rearrange priorities to meet goals, as needed.
- Ability to manage your own time effectively and track progress on projects.
- Ability to work in a collaborative environment and effectively cooperate with other team members.
- 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.
- Have or be willing to receive COVID-19 vaccination.

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 the political landscape in California.

Starting Date: OPEN UNTIL FILLED

We will begin review of applications on July 30th, and continue to receive them on a rolling basis.

Salary: Starting at \$54,080 (based on experience and qualifications).

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; flexible work schedule; professional development opportunities and more. (Benefits guidelines and eligibility vary based on tenure and employment status, among other factors.)

To apply: Email your resume and cover letter to Brandon Bollinger, Community Advocacy Manager, at brandon.bollinger@communitywatercenter.org and note Community Solutions Advocate position - [your name] in the subject line.

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, visit our website at www.communitywatercenter.org