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<b>Position:</b>	Environmental Safety Specialist	<b>FLSA:</b>	Non-exempt
<b>Department/Site:</b>	Plant Operations/Grounds & Landscape	<b>Salary Grade:</b>	21
<b>Reports to/Evaluated by:</b>	Grounds Supervisor	<b>Salary Schedule:</b>	Operations

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**SUMMARY**

Under general supervision coordinates and applies a district-wide program for healthy turf and landscaping, removal of harmful animals and insects, and identification of noxious greenery that is potentially harmful to people and/or environment. Work is performed with some independence and use of some independent judgment. Position is reviewed through observation of the work in progress and results obtained.

**DISTINGUISHING CAREER FEATURES**

The Environmental Safety Specialist is a senior-skilled position in the Grounds and Landscaping department, responsible for effective, yet safe and appropriate use of pesticides fertilizers and other methods for beautification of district grounds, public areas, and sports/activity fields. Advancement to this position is based on need and usually comes about from the Groundskeeper career path. Advancement to this level is based on need and compliance with the qualifications and certifications described below.

**ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Coordinates the application of pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemical and organic agents used for landscape enhancement and beautification at district sites that include gardens, public access areas, and athletic/sports playfields. Trains Groundskeepers in proper application procedures.
- Personally applies fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides to areas, as authorized. Places postings where pesticides are being applied.
- Monitors and diagnoses weed, disease, and pest problems in athletic fields/areas, taking appropriate measures to mitigate or eliminate the problems. Conducts advanced diagnosis of tree diseases.
- Conducts periodic inspections of district and school site grounds, identifying plant types and evaluating against existing criteria for noxious greenery.
- Sets calibration on tank sprayers, drop spreaders, and wheel-driven spreaders.
- Sets up a program for handling and disposal of toxic substances and product containers per instructions and applicable environmental regulations.
- Purchases materials and supplies for use in application. Maintains up-to-date knowledge of safe pesticide/herbicide application, particularly of new and safer products.
- Performs scheduled operational checks, preventive maintenance and routine servicing of equipment used for spraying and application.
- Sets up and maintains records for chemical usage in accordance
- Performs other related duties and responsibilities as required.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

**Knowledge and Skills:** Working knowledge of turf management and maintenance practices and techniques including those for athletic fields; horticulture and methods of planting, cultivating, pruning, and caring for plants, trees, and lawns; chemical applications and formulation; operating and mechanical characteristics of a range of general grounds maintenance equipment sufficient to skillfully operate and service. Requires special knowledge of spray rig operating characteristics, calibration, pressures and regulators, speed, nozzle size and spray width. Requires knowledge of plant diseases and pests and their biological and chemical controls. Requires knowledge of mandated record keeping techniques. Requires knowledge of safe lifting techniques; techniques for safe handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials. Requires sufficient math skill to calculate distances, proportions, and sums. Requires sufficient human relations skill to work cooperatively as part of a team to serve internal and external customers.

**Abilities:** Requires the ability to plant, cultivate, prune, and care for plants, trees, and lawns; ability to use herbicides and pesticides safely and effectively. Must be able to manage and maintain lawns, athletic fields, gardens, and must be able to accurately identify turf and other plant diseases and pests and take steps to mitigate or eradicate. Must be able to operate large vehicle, excavating and other mechanical equipment safely. Requires the ability to use and operate hand tools, mechanical equipment and power tools and equipment required for the work in a safe and efficient manner. Requires the ability to maintain accurate records. Requires the ability to safely apply pesticides and herbicides. Requires the ability to skillfully and safely operate grounds maintenance power equipment and hand tools. Requires the ability to lead projects and oversee student and/or other temporary help. Requires the ability to work as part of a team with minimal supervision. Requires the ability to work varying schedules in support of projects and events.

**Physical Abilities:** Requires the ability to stand for extended periods of time, walk up to 400 yards, and manipulate (lift, carry, move) light to heavy weights of up to 75 pounds on a regular basis. Requires the ability to push, pull, and guide materials over 75 pounds. Requires the ability to climb (e.g. ladders), stoop, kneel, and crouch on a regular basis. Requires sufficient hand-eye coordination, hand and finger dexterity including ability to grasp, and visual acuity to operate demanding grounds equipment and read instructions and safety information. Requires auditory ability to hear machinery sounds and alarms. Requires near and far visual acuity to read printed materials and observe stationary and moving objects. Requires speaking ability to carry on ordinary conversations.

**Working Conditions:** Work is performed indoors and outdoors where significant health and safety considerations exist from potential exposure and proximity to toxic chemicals and disease from animals.

**Education and Experience:** High School diploma or equivalent; supplemented by five (5) years of increasingly responsible grounds keeping and pest management experience, and having specialized knowledge of landscaping and horticultural techniques. Any equivalent combination of education, training and experience.

**Credential Requirements:** Requires a valid driver's license. Requires a state of California Pest Control Certificate that includes categories for public institutions, and landscape.