

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

University of California Cooperative Extension Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

**Area Environmental Horticulture Advisor
Serving San Diego and Orange Counties
AP #15-06**

Location Headquarters: San Diego County, San Diego, CA

CLOSING DATE: To assure full consideration, complete application packets must be received by Monday, April 13, 2015 (open until filled).

BACKGROUND and PURPOSE: The University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, a statewide program with local development and delivery, is seeking a Cooperative Extension (CE) environmental horticulture advisor to conduct an extension, education and applied research program that will provide technical support and information to meet the needs of residents and professional clientele in the landscape industry which includes urban forestry, arboriculture, proper landscape design and maintenance, and turf with a focus on irrigation and pest management.

This position will address competition for water and land resources among urban, environmental, and agricultural uses; changes in natural, managed, and human communities caused by increased population; providing information needed by landscape managers and urban foresters to help minimize impacts of endemic and invasive pests. Inefficient irrigation practices by homeowners and professional landscape managers contribute significantly to the problem by overwatering and poorly maintained irrigation systems, wasting large amounts of water while polluting local watersheds.

Urbanized and landscaped areas are now considered the single greatest source of non-point pesticide pollution of California's waterways. A priority of this position will be to identify and implement strategies to reduce water and pesticide use in the urban landscape and increase the use of recycled water or other alternatives.



Global trade and illegal, non-professional import of landscape plants have been instrumental in the introduction of devastating invasive pests that have irreversibly altered the Southern California landscape. Therefore, this position will also play a critical role in providing landscape managers and urban foresters with the information they need to help minimize the impact of invasive pests through the implementation of effective management strategies with minimum impacts on the environment, especially water quality.



The advisor will also provide educational support and academic leadership to the UC Master Gardener (MG) Programs in San Diego and Orange Counties overseeing these volunteer programs as outlined in the statewide and local MG policies. visit: <http://mg.ucanr.edu/> MG volunteers serve urban, suburban, and rural residents engaged in home horticulture in both counties and these volunteers require the subject matter expertise of an environmental horticulture advisor in order to develop and better extend appropriate educational resources.

Key clientele also include local and regional water districts, county and city governments, and non-profits engaged in educating landscape professionals and the general

public. Opportunities exist to work with professional organizations, such as American Nursery and Landscape Association, California Landscape Contractors Association, American Society of Landscape Architects, Association of Professional Landscape Designers, International Society of Arboriculture, American Association of Consulting Arborists, California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers, and Southern California Turfgrass Council.

The UC ANR Strategic Vision guides our priorities in research, education, service, and resource allocation. The Strategic Vision is available at: [http://ucanr.edu/About ANR/Strategic Vision/](http://ucanr.edu/About%20ANR/Strategic%20Vision/). UC ANR is a network of colleagues with a focus on research, education programs, and outreach to resolve local challenges in communities where they live and work. Please read about these vibrant counties and UCCE programs at <http://cesandiego.ucanr.edu/> and <http://ceorange.ucanr.edu/>

EXTENSION: The CE advisor will provide research-based information and educational outreach in sustainable landscape practices, production issues, irrigation and pest management across many ornamental commodities including urban forestry and urban agriculture.

The advisor will collaborate with professionals and organizations in the environmental horticulture/landscape industry to organize and present educational programs for clientele including seminars, workshops, field days, tours, meetings and web conferences. Knowledge and information will be extended to clientele via newsletters and articles in professional journals, ANR publications, and electronic and social media.

RESEARCH:

This position will interact with UC academics, including campus faculty, CE specialists and CE advisors to conduct applied research, working with appropriate internal and external partners including two UC workgroups (Landscape & Urban Horticulture and Nursery & Floriculture). The UC Nursery and Floriculture Alliance (at UC Davis), the Turfgrass CE specialist (at UC Riverside), California Center for Urban Horticulture (at UC Davis) and UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program provide additional linkages.

The advisor will evaluate and assess the impact of projects and their benefits to local communities. Key research areas include: 1) methods to reduce water consumption and increase the use of recycled water without compromising performance, 2) reduce pesticide inputs and water runoff in the landscape, 3) detection, eradication or management of endemic and invasive landscape pests.

Most invasive pests are first detected in urban areas with many moving through retail nursery sales into landscapes and out to natural or agricultural areas, where they become severe problems. Little is known about many of these invaders, providing excellent opportunities for original and collaborative research. Urban runoff of pollutants, especially pesticides, is a key water quality issue and demonstrating ways to limit these problems will be a priority. Environmental horticulture advisors and associated UC master gardener volunteers are well placed to assist in the research required for successful and sustainable urban gardening and food production, as well as increased science literacy.



Publication opportunities include: American Society of Horticultural Science Journal, Horticultural Science, online agricultural science journals, California Agriculture, UCCE ANR Publications, UC Nursery and Floriculture Alliance Newsletters, manuals, web sites, commodity technical reports, and popular press.

GENERAL ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS: The academic in this position will be expected to interact with UC ANR program teams, CE specialists, CE advisors, and others within the research/extension network and industry advisory groups to develop, strengthen and expand the local delivery of statewide programs. This position would be closely aligned with our UCCE specialists in landscape horticulture and turfgrass, environmental horticulture advisors in Southern California, water issues advisors, area IPM advisors, and AES faculty and specialists at UC campuses. Additionally, this position will work closely with the director of the Statewide Master Gardener Program.

All ANR CE academic appointees are responsible for performance in the areas of extending knowledge and information, applied research and creative activity, professional competence and activity and University and public service.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Conduct and report regular needs assessments to identify priority issues or problems relevant to the local clientele groups being served.
- Develop and implement effective UC ANR Cooperative Extension applied research and educational programs to address the identified priority needs of the clientele that are consistent with ANR's Strategic Vision and ANR initiatives at:
http://ucanr.edu/About_ANR/Strategic_Vision/
- Conduct applied research designed solve locally relevant problems and to monitor changes.
- Disseminate useful, science-based information to inform clientele, using extension methods that are responsive to clientele needs and appropriate for the audience and situation.
- Evaluate programs and report accomplishments, results, and potential or actual impacts to scientific and lay audiences.
- Develop collaborative teams with other UC ANR academics, including campus-based specialists, AES faculty, CE advisors and/or others, to address priority issues for UC ANR.
- Represent UCCE in county government and other clientele group meetings as directed by the county director.

RELATIONSHIPS: The CE advisor is administratively responsible to the UCCE San Diego county director, with input from the Orange county director.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: An understanding of and commitment to UC ANR's affirmative action goals and commitments is expected of all advisors.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE: A minimum of a master's degree is required in an appropriate agricultural discipline such as environmental/ornamental horticulture, plant science, urban entomology, urban agriculture or a related field of study. Excellent written, oral and interpersonal communication skills are required as well as a demonstrated ability in applied agricultural research and extension experience. Supervision experience is desirable.

SALARY: Beginning salary will be in the Cooperative Extension Assistant Advisor Rank and commensurate with applicable experience and professional qualifications. For information regarding the Cooperative Extension advisor salary scale, please refer to:
<http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/187037.pdf>

If the successful candidate is currently a UCCE academic with indefinite status, the candidate will be offered the position commensurate with applicable experience and professional qualifications with eligibility to retain such indefinite status.

BENEFITS: The University of California offers comprehensive benefits including two days per month paid vacation, one day per month paid sick leave, and approximately thirteen paid holidays per year. This position is eligible for sabbatical leave privileges as per the terms of

University policy. For more information, refer to the UC Benefits website at:
<http://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/>

HOW TO APPLY: To be considered, applicants must electronically submit the following four components of the Application Packet to ANRacademicsearch@ucop.edu:

1. Cover Letter
2. ANR Academic Application Form— from the ANR website at:
<http://ucanr.edu/academicapplication>

On page one of the application form list contact information for four to six potential references. Please do not send letters of reference. If you are selected for an interview, your listed references may be contacted by the search committee.

3. Curriculum Vitae
4. Legible College Level Transcripts

Application and associated materials will not be returned to the applicant.

A search committee will review all applications, interview candidates, and recommend individuals most suitable for the position.

For information regarding this position, please contact:

*University of California
ANR Academic Personnel
Karen Ellsworth
(530) 750-1284*

E-mail Address: ANRacademicsearch@ucop.edu

Internet: <http://www.ucanr.edu/jobs>

Please Refer to Position # 15-06 in all correspondence

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status.

As of January 1, 2014, ANR is a smoke- and tobacco-free environment in which smoking, the use of smokeless tobacco products, and the use of unregulated nicotine products (e-cigarettes), is strictly prohibited.