



Title: Agriculture and Rangeland Conservation Technician

About Sierra RCD: A non-regulatory, non-taxing, nonprofit, Special District of the State of California, under the Public Resources Code (PRC9003); the mission and function of the SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (Sierra RCD) is to take available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them at the local level, to meet the present and future natural resource needs of the local land user. Offices are in Auberry and Fresno, CA. More information can be found at www.sierrarc.com

Sierra RCD service area covers the eastern half of Fresno County and has two main programs in operation that interact with local land users and landowners: the Forestry and Watershed Program which predominantly focuses within the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and the Agriculture and Rangeland Program which focuses within the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and Central Valley floor.

The Agriculture and Rangeland Program (A/R Program): The Sierra RCD A/R Program is committed to supporting Fresno County's productive community of farmers and ranchers by providing technical assistance related to soil and water conservation practices, particularly historically underserved producers and small farming communities, and partnership support services that will improve farm and ranch productivity while strengthening the agricultural industry and its resilience to climate change.

Responsibilities and duties: The Conservation Technician is responsible for developing and coordinating implementation of on-farm conservation projects that reduce reliance on water, improve soil health, encourage carbon sequestration, enhance ecosystem biodiversity, and address other principles in alignment with regenerative agriculture practices. Principally, on a day-to-day basis, the Conservation Technician works closely with the Fresno County Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on facilitating applications for financial and technical assistance on specific conservation practices – including under the San Joaquin Valley Land and Water Conservation Collaborative (SJVWCC) with the American Farmland Trust (AFT) funded by the NRCS; and also provide on-farm consultation support for growers, producers and ranchers, regarding soil and water conservation practices, identifying agricultural issues, and helping determine appropriate resolutions that include practices in alignment with regenerative agriculture principles. The Conservation Technician works to reach the objectives and goals of the A/R Program, while operating in alignment with the values of Sierra RCD.

Other duties include, but are not limited to:

- Participate in developing grant proposals and manage awarded grants that benefit the A/R Program;
- Establish and/or maintain mutually beneficial working relationships with aligned agencies, organizations and other entities that provide relevant expertise and technical or financial assistance for farmers and ranchers, including economic relief assistance.
- Work with colleagues and partner agencies, organizations, and other entities, to plan, coordinate and broaden outreach efforts for all program-related projects and events.
- Represent Sierra RCD at public meetings, and occasionally make presentations on the work of Sierra RCD at events and workshops; and

- Provide regular updates to the Board of Directors, Executive Director and Senior Staff on progress, challenges, and successes.

Essential Education and Experience:

- Associate's degree, or equivalent professional experience, in agriculture, natural resource management, water resources, resource conservation, or related fields.
- Working directly with farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural and environmental professionals, organizations, and stakeholders.
- Experience in a leadership role on project management.
- Experience with, or open to learning, grant writing, implementation, reporting, and budget management.
- Proficiency with MS Office, spreadsheets, databases, and word processing; and
- Ability to work independently, multi-task and prioritize in a dynamic work environment.

Desirable Qualifications:

- Multi-lingual proficiency.
- Understanding of the unique agricultural industry and culture of California's Central Valley.
- Demonstrated ability to work with landowners, farmers and/or ranchers, to make improvements or conduct operations for one or more of the following: soil erosion, soil health, water conservation and distribution, irrigation systems, and wildlife habitat enhancement.
- Received training in Carbon Farm Planning and Regenerative Agriculture Practices.
- Experience with drip/micro irrigation system installation and evaluation.
- Understanding of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and potential impacts on agricultural landowners and users in the Central Valley as it is implemented.

Reports to: Executive Director and Senior Staff

Commitment: Starting at \$50,000 per year – or higher commensurate with experience and desired qualifications. This is a full time, non-exempt position. Initially, this position will be stationed full time at a Fresno office for training. Subsequently, flexibility will be possible and can shift to a hybrid schedule of in-office, field and remote work.

To Apply: This position is OPEN UNTIL FILLED. Please Submit Letter of Interest and Resume to Karin Roux via email: kroux [at] sierrarc.com.