



Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

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Job Opportunity – Engineer

The Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (HCRCD) is a Special District established in the County of Humboldt by popular vote in 1987. The District's function is to assist private landowners in voluntary planning, design, and installation of natural resource conservation practices in Humboldt County. HCRCD has a close working relationship with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in order to achieve local conservation goals and priorities. For more information on HCRCD and NRCS please go to: www.humboldtcrd.org and www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov.

POSITION

HCRCD is seeking to hire a Civil Engineer or Agricultural Engineer to perform engineering services to support implementation of the USDA – NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in Humboldt and portions of Del Norte counties. The Engineer will perform a variety of field and office engineering work in connection with the mission of the HCRCD and NRCS. The Engineer will assist with the planning, designing, layout, and certification of structural practices for conservation improvements in a variety of agricultural and/or wildland settings, including dairies, rangelands, forests, wetlands, and row crop farms. The Engineer will be an employee of HCRCD and will be based in the NRCS Eureka Field Office at 5630 South Broadway, Eureka, California. The position is funded through a grant agreement between the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the HCRCD. This is a temporary one-year position working under the supervision of the HCRCD Program Manager and in close coordination with the NRCS Area Engineer or State Office.

The Engineer position will only be hired if HCRCD's open Professional Engineer position is not filled. Applicants are encouraged to contact HCRCD Executive Director Jill Demers at 707-442-6058 x 5 or jillhcrd@gmail.com with questions.

JOB DESCRIPTION

- Assists in the development of designs, construction drawings, and specifications for engineering projects in close coordination with the NRCS Field Office staff and NRCS Area Engineer and in accordance with NRCS technical guides and standards, design handbooks, and industry standards.
- Conducts engineering surveys and investigations to obtain basic data necessary for the planning, design, and construction of engineering projects.
- Provides assistance to Field Office staff in conducting engineering surveys and investigations, provides technical guidance to field office staff staking out work and to facilitate computation or quantities.
- Complies with all local and state requirements for design and application of engineering practices.
- Compiles and keep accurate and complete records of engineering work performed.
- Participates in HCRCD/NRCS Technical Team meetings to prioritize projects and to provide project status updates/reports.
- Participates in discussions on engineering plans and specifications, possible alternatives, and construction methods with members of HCRCD/NRCS technical team and/or Field Office staff, individuals or groups of farmers, ranchers and/or contractors.
- Attends HCRCD Board meetings as requested and other duties as required.

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JOB REQUIREMENTS

- Ability to maintain communication and cooperative collaboration with HCRC and NRCS staff and regularly submit work to NRCS Engineering or Field Office staff with Job Approval Authority (JAA) for approval at all stages (planning, design, and certification).
- Knowledge of theories, principles, practices, and techniques of civil/agricultural engineering in order to assist in the development of alternatives; making of recommendations; and planning, designing, and constructing erosion control systems, irrigation systems, streambank protection/stabilization, wetland restoration, and other engineering systems.
- Knowledge of and experience conducting field data collection and testing procedures in order to collect appropriate topographical, geological, and soil engineering property data for the design and evaluation of engineering practices in accordance with NRCS and industry standards. Ability to use following equipment: Trimble R10 GNSS system w/a TSC3 handheld unit, Sokkia SET5E, and CST/Berger Electronic self-leveling rotary laser.
- General knowledge of geology, hydrology, hydraulics, structural engineering, and soil mechanics in order to assist in the design and evaluate alternatives for engineering projects.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively and efficiently utilize engineering design and CAD software in order to conduct evaluations, develop construction drawings and specifications. Proficiency with Microsoft Office software, including Excel and Word, for spreadsheet development and word processing software and GIS software and programs is needed.
- Ability to promote NRCS Field Office's erosion control, water management, waste management, wetland restoration, and stream habitat restoration objectives by effectively participating in the development of plans and all phases of engineering practice reporting and documentation.
- Knowledge and skill sufficient to communicate engineering conservation measures, methods, and techniques to private individuals, NRCS staff, representatives of other federal and state agencies, native communities, and members of the public orally and in writing.
- Ability to learn and apply NRCS policies, procedures, rules, regulations, and ordinances that are necessary for the position; and utilize available guidelines on technical standards and specifications, engineering manuals and handbooks, cost-share and other program handbooks, soil survey data, and other handbooks and manuals directly applicable to the work.
- Ability to understand county and municipal government agency policies and procedures and environmental process including CEQA and NEPA requirements.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree in civil engineering or a closely related field or equivalent education and experience
- Experience in environmental restoration and agricultural engineering
- Valid driver's license
- Ability to pass a drug-screening test and federal background check

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Strong verbal and written communication skills to communicate with the public and other resource professionals
- Willingness and ability to attend Board meetings, conferences, and seminars during traditional work and non-work hours
- Work under adverse conditions, such as in agricultural operations, around heavy construction equipment, and in inclement weather.
- Familiarity with dairy agricultural operations, Riparian systems, and NRCS practices and standards highly desirable.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

The work environment for this position includes both indoor office work and outdoor work. The Engineer will be assigned desk space at the NRCS Eureka Field Office, located at 5630 South Broadway, Eureka, California. The work environment experienced by this position also includes outdoor project field visits in all types of weather and terrain on public or private land and traveling alone or with others in a vehicle between project sites or to attend meetings. Some travel may be necessary by unimproved roads or boat. Work will include exposure to farm and heavy construction equipment environment.

The noise level in the work environment at times may be moderate. This position has limited exposure to high precarious places, toxic or caustic chemicals, vibration, and risk of electrical shock.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

While performing the duties of this job, the Engineer is required to regularly talk, hear, see and smell. On a daily basis the employee is required to sit, stand, walk on flat or uneven ground or through mud, climb, balance, stoop, kneel, bend, crouch, or crawl. The employee may be required to lift up to approximately 30 pounds and maneuver around construction sites. The employee in this position must have the ability to reach with hands and arms and to use their hands or fingers to handle, grasp and feel. Employees in this position will use typically use survey equipment (laser level, total station, GPS devices) or other hand tools.

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

WAGES, HOURS, & COMMENCEMENT OF WORK

The starting wage range for this position commensurate with GS9/GS11 pay scale (<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/2018/general-schedule/>) commensurate with experience. Personal leave is accrued at the rate of .092 hours for each hour worked. There are a total of eight paid holidays per year. The District provides a contribution of \$200/month towards medical insurance.

The successful candidate can work part-time (20 – 32 hours a week) or full-time (40 hours a week), generally Monday through Friday. The successful candidate should be able to start work immediately or within 2 weeks of selection. This position will end 1-year after hire unless grant funding is extended.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Position is open until February 19, 2018 or until filled. Application review will begin immediately and early submission of application is encouraged. Applicants are encouraged to contact HCRCD Executive Director Jill Demers at 707-442-6058 x 5 or jillhcrd@gmail.com with questions.

To apply, please provide a resume and a completed Humboldt County RCD Application For Employment (downloaded from http://humboldtcd.org/index_files/JobOpportunity.htm). Applications may be hand-delivered or mailed to Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, 5630 South Broadway, Eureka, CA, 95503 or sent electronically to Executive Director Jill Demers at jillhcrd@gmail.com.