

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO CEQA CONSULTANT LIST MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

To be considered for the CEQA Consultants List, the Consultant must meet the following minimum qualifications for their applicable subject area:

Agricultural Resources

- A Bachelor's degree in the field of agriculture, regional or environmental planning, environmental science, or a related field; and
- Experience preparing as primary author and/or as principal reviewer for a public agency for a minimum of three (3) Agricultural Studies that evaluate impacts to agriculture under the provisions of CEQA; and
- Knowledge of and ability to evaluate compliance with relevant County, State, and Federal regulation, policies and procedures. This shall include, but not be limited to the County's General Plan, Zoning Ordinance, established Agricultural Preserves, County's CEQA Guidelines, California Environmental Quality Act, California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, and California Williamson Act; and
- Knowledge of and ability to evaluate and analyze local agricultural resources, systems, and operations; soil science concepts; demand and supply of agricultural water resources; and climate resources, as they relate to crop production; and
- Knowledge and ability to evaluate impacts on agricultural resources from discretionary land use projects in compliance with the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for Agricultural Resources.

Air Quality

- A Bachelor's degree in environmental science, chemistry, engineering, meteorology, or a related field. The degree requirement may be substituted with 10 years of professional air quality work experience; and
- At least four years of experience writing and directing the preparation of air quality technical reports in compliance with CEQA. A masters or doctoral degree in the above mentioned fields will count towards one and two years of work experience respectively; and
- Knowledge of and experience in estimating and quantifying area source emissions associated with land use projects; and
- Knowledge of regional and local air quality emission trends, basin attainment status and regulation; and
- Knowledge and experience of the following County regulations and guidance: General Plan, Zoning Ordinance, Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for Air Quality, and the County CEQA Guidelines.

Archaeological Resources

- A Bachelor's degree in archaeology, anthropology, or a related field; and
- At least four years of experience writing and directing the preparation of Cultural Resources Technical Reports in compliance with CEQA and State CEQA Guidelines. A masters or doctoral degree in the above mentioned fields will count towards one and two years of work experience respectively; and
- Knowledge of and ability to evaluate compliance with relevant federal, state, and County regulations, policies and procedures pertaining to archaeology. This shall include, but not be limited to, the County of San Diego Resource Protection Ordinance and regulations under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106; and
- Knowledge and experience of the following County regulations and guidance: General Plan, Zoning Ordinance, Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for Cultural Resources, local planning and community group guidelines, and County CEQA Guidelines.
- Certification by the Register of Professional Archaeologist (RPA) is strongly preferred.

Biological Resources

- A Bachelor's Degree in Biological Sciences, Natural Resources, Environmental Sciences, or related field; and
- At least four years of experience in writing and directing the preparation of Biological Technical Reports in compliance with State CEQA Guidelines, one year of which must include the preparation of reports for projects located in the County of San Diego. A masters or doctoral degree in the above mentioned fields with a research focus in San Diego County will count towards one and two years of work experience respectively; and
- Knowledge and experience of the following County regulations and guidance: General Plan, Zoning Ordinance, Cultural Resources Guidelines for Determining Significance, Cultural Resources Technical Report Format and Content Requirements, local planning and community group guidelines, and County CEQA Guidelines
- Experience in habitat evaluation and prediction and quantification of environmental impacts
- Local San Diego County experience in identification of flora or fauna, particularly rare, endangered, and threatened species with some knowledge of their local and range-wide population status and trends
- Knowledge of and ability to evaluate compliance with relevant federal, state, and San Diego County regulations, policies and procedures. This shall include, but not be limited to, regulations under Clean Water Act (CWA) Sections 401 and 404, Endangered Species Act (ESA) Sections 7 and 10, California Fish and Game Code (CFGF) Section 1600 and the state's Natural Communities Conservation Program (NCCP); and

- Knowledge of and experience with the following San Diego County Ordinances: Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), Habitat Loss Permit (HLP) Ordinance, Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO) and Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO); and
- Knowledge of and experience with San Diego County's CEQA Guidelines, the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format Requirements for Biological Resources, and processing of discretionary permits with the County.

EIR Preparer

- A Bachelor's Degree in the Environmental Sciences, Planning, or a related field; and
- Four years of experience in writing and directing the preparation of Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) in compliance with CEQA and State CEQA Guidelines. A masters or doctoral degree will count towards one and two years of work experience respectively; and
- Knowledge of and experience with the following San Diego County Ordinances: Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), Habitat Loss Permit (HLP) Ordinance, Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO) and Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO); and
- Knowledge of, and ability to evaluate compliance with relevant federal, state, and County regulations, policies and procedures. This shall include, but not be limited to, regulations under Clean Water Act (CWA) Sections 401 and 404, Endangered Species Act (ESA) Sections 7 and 10, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106, California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) Section 1600, the state's Natural Communities Conservation Program (NCCP), the County's Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), and Habitat Loss Permits requirements; and
- Knowledge and experience with the County's General Plan, the County's Zoning Ordinance, the County's Resource Protection, Noise, and Biological Mitigation Ordinances, and
- Knowledge and experience with the processing of discretionary permits with the County and other jurisdictions, local planning and community group guidelines, the County's Report Format and Content Requirements for Environmental Impact Reports, and the County's CEQA Guidelines.

Fire Protection Planning

- A Bachelor's Degree in Biological Resources, Environmental Sciences, Fire Ecology, or a related field, The degree requirement may be substituted with 10 years of professional fire fighting experience; and
- Knowledge and experience with the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for Fire Protection Planning; and
- Three years of full-time experience fire fighting for an organized fire protection agency or equivalent; **or**

- Four years of experience writing and directing the preparation of biological studies in compliance with CEQA including demonstrated experience with post-fire type-conversion, experience analyzing growth/decline cycles and other factors which could affect native vegetation. An understanding of the long-term effects of biological open spaces and riparian areas on fuel beds;
or
- Experience as primary author and/or as principal reviewer for a public agency for a minimum of three (3) Fire Protection Plans that evaluate a worst-case scenario Southern California wildfire event based on site terrain, fuel loads, atmospheric conditions, and maximum heat production.

Groundwater

- Licensed as a Professional Geologist (P.G.) in the State of California.
- Four years experience in responsible charge of hydrogeologic work including performing and evaluating well tests, and evaluating groundwater resources including estimating groundwater recharge, storage, and water demand; and experience in performing groundwater quantity investigation work in fractured rock, alluvial, and/or desert basin aquifers; and
- Experience writing and directing the preparation of groundwater investigation reports in compliance with CEQA; and
- Knowledge of and experience with the San Diego County Groundwater Ordinance No. 9644; and
- Knowledge and experience with the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for Groundwater Resources.
- Licensure as a Certified Hydrogeologist (C.HG.) in the State of California is preferred, but not required.

Historical Resources

- A Bachelor's Degree degree in history, historic architecture, or a related field; and
- Four years experience writing and directing the preparation of Historical Resources Technical Reports and Historic Structure Assessments in compliance with CEQA and State CEQA Guidelines. A masters or doctoral degree in the above mentioned fields will count towards one and two years of work experience respectively; and
- Knowledge of, and ability to evaluate compliance with relevant federal, state, and County regulations, policies and procedures pertaining to historic resources. This shall include, but not be limited to, the County of San Diego Resource Protection Ordinance and regulations under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106; and
- Knowledge and experience with the following County regulations and guidance: General Plan, Zoning Ordinance, Cultural Resources Guidelines for Determining Significance, Cultural Resources Technical Report Format and

Content Guidelines, local planning and community group guidelines, and County CEQA Guidelines.

- Membership in a professional history or architecture association is strongly preferred.

Mineral Resources

- A Bachelor's degree in geology, environmental sciences, natural resource management, planning, or other related field; and
- Four years experience in the field of mineral resources including knowledge and application of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act and experience writing and directing the preparation of mineral resource reports in compliance with State CEQA Guidelines
- Knowledge of and experience with the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for Mineral Resources and experience processing of discretionary permits with the County.

Noise

- A Bachelor's degree in physics, mechanical engineering, civil engineering, electrical engineering or a related field; and
- Four years of acoustical engineering experience writing and directing the preparation of noise technical reports in compliance with CEQA. One year of experience may be substituted, if the Consultant has passed the Institute of Noise Engineering (INCE) professional examination and/or is a member in good standing with the Acoustical Society of America (ASA); and
- Knowledge of, and ability to evaluate compliance with relevant County, State, and Federal regulation, policies and procedures including but not limited to the County's General Plan Noise Element and the County's Noise Ordinance; and
- Knowledge and experience with the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for Noise.

Revegetation Planning

- A Bachelor's Degree in biological sciences, natural resources, environmental sciences, landscape architecture or similar subject area OR a California State Certification in Landscape Architecture; and
- Four years of demonstrated experience with development, installation, and completion of Revegetation Plans in Southern California. A masters or doctoral degree in the above mentioned fields with a research focus in San Diego County will count towards one and two years of work experience respectively; and
- Knowledge of and ability to evaluate compliance with relevant federal, state, and San Diego County regulations, policies and procedures. This shall include, but not be limited to, regulations under Clean Water Act (CWA) Sections 401 and 404, Endangered Species Act (ESA) Sections 7 and 10, California Fish and Game Code (CFGF) Section 1600 and the state's Natural Communities Conservation Program (NCCP); and

- Knowledge and experience with the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for Revegetation Planning.

Transportation & Traffic

- Registered civil or traffic engineer in the State of California; and
- Four years of experience in writing and directing the preparation of Transportation and Traffic Technical Reports in compliance with CEQA and State CEQA Guidelines; and
- Knowledge of, and ability to evaluate compliance with relevant federal, state, and County regulations, policies and procedures. This shall include, but not be limited to, regulations or analysis procedures provided under the County's Circulation Element, the Transportation Research Board's Highway Capacity Manual, the County's Public and Private Road Standards, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) A Policy on Geometric Design of Highway and Streets, and the Federal Highway Administration Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways with the California supplement.
- Knowledge and experience is required with the following County regulations and guidance: General Plan, Zoning Ordinance, Transportation and Traffic Guidelines for Determining Significance, Transportation and Traffic Report Format and Content Requirements, local planning and community group guidelines, and County CEQA Guidelines.

Visual Resources

- A Bachelor's degree in planning, architecture, or other related field; and
- Four years experience in writing and directing the preparation of visual resource analyses including evaluation of visual impacts from grading, building mass, and community character evaluations in compliance with State CEQA Guidelines; and
- Knowledge and experience with San Diego County's CEQA Guidelines, the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for Visual Resources, and processing of discretionary permits with the County.

NOTE: Internships and/or volunteer work may count as a 50% employment/experience rate.

NOTE: Director may determine on a case by case basis that other degrees or combinations of experience and course work meet the intent of the minimum standards.