California Water Data Consortium Job Posting: Senior Program Manager, Telemetered Water Data

The California Water Data Consortium (Consortium), a nonprofit organization that supports data-informed water management decisions in California, is looking for qualified individual to fill the position of Senior Program Manager to support the Consortium’s Telemetered Water Data Project. The Consortium was formed in 2019 to support implementation of the Open and Transparent Water Data Act (AB 1755, Dodd). The Consortium empowers cross-sector collaboration, partnership with the state, and innovation to ensure that state and local agencies, Tribes, nongovernmental organizations, researchers, and the public can readily access and use the high-quality data necessary to sustainably manage water for the benefit of everyone living and working in California.

The Telemetered Diversion Data Project includes analysis, literature review, interviews, workshop hosting, and other work to support the development of data recommendations to support a State Water Resources Control Board pilot project for collection and reporting of telemetered diversion data to the State.

The Senior Program Manager for Telemetered Data will be responsible for guiding the collaborative development of recommendations to support reporting of telemetered diversion data to the State of California. This two-year project will include the development of watershed specific and scalable recommendations based on research from other jurisdictions, interviews, focus groups, and other analyses. This is an exempt full-time position for the project duration. Renewal of the position will be contingent on funding. The Senior Program Manager will report to the Consortium’s Chief Executive Officer.

Location
This role will function primarily as a remote, work from home, position with travel for meetings, interviews, or other convenings in Sacramento or other parts of California. The candidate must be based in California. Travel is estimated to be between 10-20% of total project time depending on meeting frequency and duration, and location.

Key Responsibilities
Co-develop, lead, and execute the Consortium’s Telemetered Data project to achieve key deliverables, including:

Project Management Responsibilities

- Managing the Telemetered Data project budget and timeline, including management of all project consultant(s), to ensure project deliverables are achieved within budget and according to timeline.

- Coordinating and leading work with consultant(s) supporting this work.
• Working with Consortium staff to develop and review project invoices, narratives, and other reporting requirements for internal compliance and to ensure compliance from consultant(s).

• Develop and communicate progress and final reports to donors and funding agencies both verbally and in writing to ensure the Consortium is in compliance with funding requirements.

*Research Planning, Implementation, and Synthesis*

• Articulating the need for improved water data in California and the potential role of telemetered data networks in improving water resilience in the state, particularly in the face of growing water demands, climate change, and increasing population growth.

• Developing a research plan for the development of telemetered diversion data networks recommendations and communicating the research plan and steps for plan implementation.

• Reviewing and synthesizing findings from scientific literature, case studies, interviews, and other analyses to understand the development, function, and cost of telemetered diversion data reporting networks in California, the U.S., or globally. These findings will serve as the basis for recommendations on the development of telemetered diversion data networks in California.

• Developing a final report making recommendations and summarizing findings from analysis, interviews, and convenings. Where appropriate, writing additional internal and external-facing materials to support communication of recommendations to a broad range of users.

*Stakeholder Outreach, Engagement, and Communication*

• Meeting with a variety of stakeholders, interested parties, researchers, water managers, data experts, and others to understand the diversity of interests, constraints, benefits, and outstanding questions in the development of telemetered data networks in California.

• Interviewing key stakeholders to understand potential watersheds to develop watershed-specific telemetered data network recommendations.

• Convening groups to co-develop and refine recommendations of telemetered data networks at both the watershed scale and beyond. Recommendations should be responsive to local water management conditions.

• Coordinate and communicate with the project team, including Consortium staff, Board of Directors, Steering Committee, and Working Group Co-chairs, as well as with external partners.

• Represent the Telemetered Data project and Consortium more broadly to stakeholders, government agencies, contractors, partners, and the media.

*Other Responsibilities*

• Additional responsibilities to advance the Consortium’s goals as assigned.

• Advance diversity, equity, and inclusion goals both within the Consortium and through the Consortium’s work.
Qualifications
The ideal candidate for this role will have seven to ten or more years of experience in the following areas:

- Undergraduate or higher degree in hydrology, environmental science, or a related field and at least 7 to 10 years professional experience required. Preference will be given to candidates with a Masters or Ph.D. or equivalent on-the-job experience. Salary and benefits will be scaled based on background, expertise, and experience. Ability to start in this role no later than October 2, 2023.

Project Management Responsibilities
- A proven track record of successfully designing and implementing complex projects that include feedback from a range of individuals with a diversity of experience, backgrounds, and interests.
- Demonstrated ability to manage technical projects with external stakeholders within project timelines and budget.
- Proactive management style, with a strong ability to work well independently, as well as collaboratively as a part of a team.

Stakeholder Outreach, Engagement, and Communication
- Demonstrated ability to operate strategically in a political environment, including familiarity with California water policy, processes, and operations.
- Strong facilitation, presentation, conflict management, and relationship building skills.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate complex scientific ideas to a range of audiences, including interested parties, academia, elected officials, and others in easy-to-understand terms through writing and orally.
- Experience developing and implementing communication strategies for ongoing and expanding stakeholder engagement.
- Integrity, good judgment, and discretion with confidential information.

Other Qualifications
- Strong research and quantitative skills (statistical analysis, modeling, spatial analysis) required.
- Ability to manage and prioritize multiple tasks, while maintaining impeccable attention to detail.
- Familiarity with fieldwork and data collection.
- Familiarity with agricultural water use.
- Strong knowledge of MS Office (Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, SharePoint).

Additional valued qualifications
- Professional facilitation experience.
- Experience working with boards, coalitions, and a diversity of interested parties.
- Bilingual in Spanish.
Commitment to Diversity and Equal Opportunity Employment

The Consortium is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, marital status, veteran status, pregnancy, parental status, genetic information or characteristics, or any other basis prohibited by applicable law.

We are committed to maximizing the diversity of our organization. We encourage all individuals with the necessary skills and experience to apply for this position.

Additional background on the California Water Data Consortium

The California Water Data Consortium provides an ongoing venue for collaboration and decisions on water data governance among the Partner Agency Team and non-state partners. The public-private partnership that makes the Consortium unique is reflected in the Consortium’s governance structure, which includes a 9-member Board of Directors representing a diversity of water and data interests and sectors; an 11-member Steering Committee with 6 state agency representatives and 5 non-state agency partners; and Working Group Co-Chairs.

The Consortium is an independent, 501(c)(3) corporation that seeks grants and funding from philanthropy; local, state and federal governments; and private donors.

Learn more about the Consortium at cawaterdata.org.

Application Instructions

The California Water Data Consortium is a small organization soliciting applications from energetic and passionate candidates who want to make a difference in water management in California. The Consortium offers competitive salaries, including 11 paid holidays and 15 days of paid time off, and a 401k matching program.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resumé to Amanda Miller (amiller@cawaterdata.org) with the subject line “Program Manager: TMD”. The California Water Data Consortium will be interviewing suitable candidates on a rolling basis until the position has been filled. Preference will be given to candidates who submit materials by July 21. Please provide all information electronically, no phone calls.