

ARBORIST TECHNICIAN

DEFINITION

To perform a wide variety of technical tree maintenance, urban forest and natural resource management tasks in the City's urban forest, open space areas, creeks, preserves, and riparian areas; to plan, coordinate and oversee work performed by contractors and City staff; and to assist in the administration of the City's urban forest and natural resources.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives general supervision from the Urban Forester.

Exercises direct supervision over assigned field staff.

EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL DUTIES - Duties include, but are not limited, to the following:

Perform tree risk assessments, plant health care applications, tree trimming, tree climbing, tree planting and other urban forest maintenance activities; evaluate and provide reports; directly oversee and develop projects and tasks related to tree maintenance, preserve maintenance, creek and riparian maintenance, and natural resource monitoring and restoration programs; develop weekly schedules, assign duties to meet program goals.

Plan, prioritize, assign, supervise and review the work of staff involved in tree maintenance and urban forest management activities.

Evaluate operations and activities of assigned responsibilities; recommend improvements and modifications; prepare various reports on operations and activities.

Participate in budget preparation; prepare cost estimates for budget recommendations; submit justifications for staff, supplies, equipment, and services; monitor and control expenditures.

Interpret, and implement quality assurance standards; ensure standards are adhered to in tree maintenance, urban forestry, natural resource projects and tasks performed by full time, contract and seasonal staff.

Respond to inquiries and complaints from citizens and perform code enforcement duties.

Review and comment on projects and plan reviews proposed within or adjacent to parks, open spaces, landscapes, and infrastructures, as they relate to trees; coordinate and provide recommendations for urban forestry and tree related issues with affected City departments, residents, outside groups, and non-profit organizations.

## Arborist Technician

-2-

Update the City's GIS database; create maps using GIS and associated mapping software; track expenditures and work tasks; create basic reports and presentations; maintain and update the Division's tree inventory, tree management database, and Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) program.

Inspect tree maintenance work performed by private contractors and City staff to assure that all City standards/specifications are met; assist in developing specifications for contracted work and obtaining and participating in evaluating bids; monitor contract budgets, supplies and materials.

Inspect City trees to determine required tree trimming and maintenance needs; conduct tree plant health care assessments and identify diseases, prescribe corrective actions to eradicate diseases; estimate labor and material costs for work to be performed; inspect natural resource areas such as open space, preserves, and creeks; make recommendations; monitor and perform maintenance tasks for these areas.

Instruct employees and contractors in theoretical and practical applications of City procedures and policies as they relate to tree maintenance; train staff and contractors in work safety, small and heavy equipment use, power tools, for tree trimming, plant healthcare, and other urban forest maintenance activities.

Conduct community and public outreach related to the urban forest, open space areas, preserves, creeks and riparian areas; plan, coordinate and implement volunteer events; perform docent duties related to trees and open spaces for interested groups.

Review arborist's reports from outside consultants.

Prepare a variety of technical reports including arborist reports, tree risk assessments, and other related to urban forestry and natural resource management.

Use proper safety precautions and follow all local, state and federal work regulations.

Build and maintain positive working relationships with co-workers, other City employees and the public using principles of good customer service.

Perform related duties as assigned.

## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

### Knowledge of:

Methods of current Best Management Practices used in urban forest management management such as tree and natural resource maintenance, vegetation management, restoration, reforestation, and wildlife management.

Operation and maintenance of equipment used in urban forest and natural resource management.

Methods and strategies for vegetation management and restoration in different habitat types.

Plant pest and disease identification, adaptive management practices, integrated pest management, and plant health care; invasive plant control and vegetation management practices, pesticide application, construction.

Current ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) standards and Best Management Practices for tree planting, plant health care, risk assessment, tree protection, fertilization, tree support systems, root cutting, tree pruning and maintenance.

City, local, state, and federal laws, ordinances and policies related to management and maintenance the urban forest.

Principles of budget monitoring.

Safe work practices.

Ability to:

Read and interpret construction and as-built plans, blue prints, aerial photos and maps.

On a continuous basis, analyze and create technical and scientific reports; identify and interpret technical and numerical information; observe and problem solve operational and technical policies and procedures; know and understand urban forest management operations such as tree maintenance, restoration and reforestation; observe safety rules; intermittently, analyze problem equipment; identify safety hazards; remember and locate equipment and tools; remember street names and general geographic areas.

Intermittently, sit at a desk while researching, analyzing, and preparing reports; twist to reach equipment surrounding desk; stand, walk, balance, stoop, kneel, climb, crawl, and bend while performing field duties; perform simple grasping and fine manipulation; write or use a keyboard to communicate through written means; and lift or carry weight of 50 pounds or less.

Prepare and develop cost estimates and develop project budgets.

Use and safely operate power tools, small and heavy equipment such as backhoe, chipper, aerial lift trucks and climbing gear, dump trucks, stump grinder, chainsaw, hand and pole saw, stem injector, electronic handheld devices, survey equipment and other equipment as assigned.

Properly perform pesticide application equipment for Plant Healthcare.

Perform aerial rescue for second climber.

Perform storm emergency and after hour emergency response.

Set up traffic control and prepare Traffic Control Plans (TCP).

Perform tree pruning and maintenance activities from the ground and in aerial lifts; climb trees for pruning and risk assessment.

Keep records and prepare technical and expense reports; use and update records with a handheld device; use a personal computer to enter and retrieve data, track work order status, and communicate electronically via email.

Work outdoors in a variety of weather and environmental conditions.

Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.

Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

### Experience and Training

#### Experience:

Two years of increasingly responsible experience performing municipal tree care and tree maintenance, tree risk assessment, and other urban forest and natural resource management including one year of lead responsibility.

#### Training:

Equivalent to an Associate's Degree with major coursework in forestry, arboriculture, horticulture, natural resource management, or any closely related field.

### License or Certificate

Possession of California Class C driver's license.

Possession of California Class B driver's license within six months of appointment.

Possession of current Certified Arborist Certification in good standing as issued by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).

Possession of Certified Tree Worker/Climber Specialist certification as issued by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) within six months of appointment.

Arborist Technician

-5-

Possession of Tree Risk Assessment Qualification as issued by International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) within one year of appointment.

Possession of QAC (Qualified Applicator Certificate) as issued by California Department of Pesticide Regulations within one year of appointment.

12-10-16      Arborist Technician