

SOPHIA BEJARANO

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

BS IN BIOLOGY
MINOR IN ENVIRONMENT
& SOCIETY
MAY 2013
San Diego State University

ASSOC. IN CHEMISTRY
MAY 2010
San Diego Mesa College

COURSES

Environmental Ethics
Ecology & the Environment
Taxonomy of CA Plants
Terrestrial Arthropods

LICENCES

State of CA Dept. of Public Health
Vector Control Certified Technician

CA Driver's License Class CM1

KEY SKILLS

Excellent communication
Time management
Organized
Detail oriented
Reliable
Adaptable
Supportive

PROFILE

An organized, detail oriented, communicative, and adaptable individual with over 9 years of service with the County of San Diego Vector Control Program. As a Senior Technician, I accomplish program directives through training staff, managing team schedules, providing support and guidance, communicating effectively with my team, management, and the public, collaborating with external entities, and performing skilled field work. My team and I exceed program expectations while maintaining a high team morale. On a personal note, my goal is to create positive and meaningful change.

EXPERIENCE

Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Viejas Tribal Government

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR • SEP 2023 – PRESENT

- Plan and host conferences (hosted 2023 Annual Region 9 Tribal & US EPA Conference at Viejas and planning the 2024 annual conference).
- Working to expand the compost program.
- Working on starting an aquaponics system and community garden.
- Restoring Viejas creek.
- Develop grant application (currently working on P2 grant).

County of San Diego, Dept. of Environmental Health & Quality,
Vector Control Program

SENIOR VECTOR CONTROL TECH. • DEC 2021 – PRESENT

* Duties are in addition to those listed in Vector Control Tech II

- Train, oversee, and provide continual guidance to staff.
- Create schedules for team members based on the program goals with consideration of time sensitive duties.
- Organize, maintain, and manage team resources including PPE, vehicles, and field supplies.
- Maintain clear communication within the team and with management and participate in interagency meetings.
- Communicate and collaborate with governmental and non-governmental agencies (e.g., US Fish and Wildlife Service, SD Natural History Museum) to achieve shared goals.
- Create training documents and standard operating procedures for program use.
- Contribute information integral in permit acquisition.
- Participate in routine trainings for emergency preparedness.

VECTOR CONTROL TECH. II • DEC 2016 – DEC 2021

- Employ skills acquired over numerous trainings and individual practice to collect vectors (e.g., mosquitoes, ticks, mice, rats, squirrels) and blood samples from small rodents safely and efficiently to be tested for vector borne disease.

INTERESTS

Environmental conservation
Nature
Culture
Travel
Art

REFERENCES

Jessica Dieckmann
County of San Diego
Vector Control Program
Supervising Vector Control Tech.
858.688.8804
jessica.dieckmann@sdcounty.ca.gov

Chris Conlan
County of San Diego
Vector Control Program
Supervising Vector Ecologist
619.954.9907
chris.conlan@sdcounty.ca.gov

Ray Rivera
County of San Diego
Vector Control Program
Senior Surveillance Technician
619.508.2316
raymond.rivera@sdcounty.ca.gov

- Remain current in and train on state and county guidelines regarding safety, vector sample collecting, and animal handling.
- Conduct urgent disease investigations while preserving sensitive information.
- Record detailed information to be entered into the county database and maintain proficiency in the various software programs and phone applications.
- Regularly work independently and manage time efficiently.
- Participate in outreach events to educate the public.

VECTOR CONTROL TECH. I • MAY 2015 – DEC 2016

- Responded to public requests concerning mosquito and rodent activity, conducted thorough inspections, produced detailed reports, and advised requestors on vector management.
- Managed high volume requests within specific time frames and delegated tasks as needed.
- Completed sensitive cases and disease investigations with care and precision.
- Adhered to various permits (e.g., CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, North County Transit District)
- Mosquito breeding sites were managed within specific time frames using integrated vector management.

SEASONAL VECTOR CONTROL TECH. • MAY 2014 – MAY 2015

- Collected vectors in the field to monitor disease risks.
- Assisted with follow up for positive disease findings.

Doggie Joggie, San Diego

DOG WALKER/PET SITTER. • DEC 2013 – DEC 2015

- Built trust and rapport with clients and provided high quality services that resulted in repeat requests for service.
- Worked independently and completed assignments within rigid time windows.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

San Diego State University

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT

Evolutionary Biology, Dr. Marshal Hedin

Aug 2012 – Jun 2013

- Field – Collected terrestrial arthropods in Anza Borrego
- Lab – DNA extractions, PCRs, and Gel Electrophoresis

Conservation Ecology, Dr. Rebecca Lewison

Aug – Dec 2011

- Lab – Prepared bird samples for Stable Isotope analysis.

Ecology and Animal Behavior, Dr. Rulon Clark

Aug 2010 – Jun 2011

- Field – Trapped small animals for data and tissue collection

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- Lab – Prepared reptile and mammal samples for Stable Isotope analysis
 - Lab – PCRs and Gel Electrophoresis for DNA sequencing