

ASSISTANT PLANNER

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, to perform professional planning assignments in the County Planning Department; to participate in planning studies, environmental reviews, community design, and general plan preparation; to assist with planning policy formulation and implementation; and to do related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the entry and first working level in the professional Planner class series. Incumbents receive relatively close supervision while performing basic planning assignments. This class differs from the next higher level of Associate Planner in that Associate level incumbents have greater decision-making latitude and more independent responsibilities in performing job assignments. An incumbent at the Assistant Planner level who demonstrates sound work habits and the ability to perform independent assignments may expect promotion to the Associate Planner level, when the requisite experience has been gained.

REPORTS TO

Planning Director.

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

None.

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EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Gathers data and information for planning studies and long range planning policy development; assists with preparation of general plan elements; assists with current planning assignments; assists with and prepares project reports; conducts research and performs data analysis; processes applications for planning projects, such as special use permits, zoning changes, and site development permits; coordinates application reviews with other departments; provides staff support for LAFCO and performs projects related to annexations, consolidations, and district changes; may conduct inspections of sites to ensure compliance with General Plan and Zoning Codes; assists with the preparation and prepares environmental studies; assists with the preparation of public presentations; participates in the environmental review of proposed projects; assists with the implementation of general plan amendments and specific planning requirements; assists with the revision of planning ordinances; interprets use permits in accordance applicable ordinances and regulations; performs basic reviews of site development plans and may prepare and present staff reports on routine items for the Zoning Administrator and elected or appointed boards and commissions which hear and act upon public planning issues and matters; prepares or assists with the preparation of maps and graphs; receives zoning violation complaints; answers public inquiries regarding planning issues, permit procedures, and zoning.

TYPICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Sit for extended periods; frequently stand and walk; normal manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination; corrected hearing and vision to normal range; verbal communication; use of office equipment including computers, telephones, calculators, copiers, and FAX.

TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is performed in an office; occasionally works outside; continuous contact with staff and the public.

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DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Principles, techniques, and knowledge of land use planning.
- Current trends in land use planning and community design.
- Research and statistical methods.
- Environmental impacts of changes in land use.
- Graphic illustration and presentation.

Ability to:

- Assist with planning studies and environmental reviews.
- Collect, compile, and analyze technical, statistical, and other information related to public planning.
- Assist with the preparation of planning and zoning reports.
- Read and understand laws, ordinances, general plan elements, environmental impact statements, and other documents related to community planning and land use.
- Read and interpret maps.
- Operate a personal computer and use appropriate software in the performance of professional planning work.
- Make effective oral and written presentations.
- Effectively represent the Planning Department and the Land Use Ordinances and policies in answering questions, responding to inquiries, providing assistance, and dealing with concerns from the public, community organizations, other County staff, and other agencies.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships.

Training and Experience: Any combination of training and experience which would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required knowledge and abilities would be:

Equivalent to graduation from a four (4) year college or university with major work in planning, or a closely related field. Previous experience performing technical planning support assignments is desirable.

Special Requirement: Possession of a valid and current California Driver's License issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles.