

## **Community Organizer Pesticide Watch Central Valley**

### **BACKGROUND**

Pesticide use is more widespread than any of us would like to think. Pesticides are used not just in agriculture but in our schools, parks, and forests. They are known to cause a wide variety of health problems in children, farmers, farm workers, and the general public- from cancer, sterility to birth defects and asthma. Low income and communities of color are especially hard hit by pesticide misuse and food injustice.

The Pesticide Watch Education Fund (PWEF) is a cutting-edge, grassroots, non-profit organization dedicated to community organizing and leadership development strategies to turn this toxic tide. We work side-by-side with communities to prevent pesticide exposure, promote local farming and build healthier communities. We provide organizing and strategy assistance to local groups and individuals; serve as a clearinghouse for information on the hazards of pesticides and on their non-toxic alternatives; connect communities with technical experts and local groups in other communities that are working on similar issues. Our sister organization, Pesticide Watch, is a 501 (c)(4) non-profit organization that advocates for local and statewide policy reform on pesticide issues. Our main office is located in Sacramento.

### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

California's Central Valley is one of the most important agricultural regions in the nation, and an area of intense pesticide use. Our Central Valley Community Organizer, focused in the northern San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys, is responsible for continuing to build a community-based movement in the Central Valley counties to protect public health from dangerous pesticides and to promote safer alternatives. The organizer will report to the State Director in Sacramento. Primary responsibilities include:

\* Community Organizing. Work with 2-5 of existing community-based groups in the Sacramento Valley, as well as 5-10 individuals and others interested in starting new community groups to tackle pesticide use, especially throughout the northern San Joaquin Valley. Help these groups plan and execute winning campaigns. Train community members in volunteer recruitment, leadership development, working with the media, coalition building, campaign planning, and other organizing skills. Work with local groups to research and develop policies and materials necessary for local efforts. Work with sustainable agriculture groups and other experts to develop new strategies for communities to make a difference on pesticide issues locally.

\* Outreach/Public Education. Build relationships with local media and serve as a pesticide expert on related stories. Give presentations on pesticides and alternatives to community organizations throughout the Central Valley. Develop fact sheets and reports related to pesticide and healthy food issues.

\* Fundraising. Work with the State Director to develop and implement a Central Valley fundraising strategy, including grants and grassroots fundraising opportunities, major donor development and house parties. Fundraising is a critical component of this job.

### **LOCATION**

Sacramento, CA. San Francisco, CA is also a possibility.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- \* At least one year of grassroots organizing or community organizing experience
- \* Dedication to community-based activism as well as protection of public health and the environment
- \* Strong communication skills

- \* Ability to take initiative and work with minimal supervision
- \* Bilingual in Spanish required
- \* Familiarity with sustainable agriculture and pesticide issues preferred
- \* Fundraising experience preferred
- \* Personal car ownership preferred

### **SALARY & BENEFITS**

Salary for this position depends on years of relevant experience, education of the applicant and past work experience. A benefits package includes health care coverage, educational loan assistance, a retirement plan, paid vacation and sick days, parental leave, and a dependent care assistance program. Opportunities for advancement, travel, and additional training are available.

### **APPLICATION**

Position is open until filled. Please send a cover letter and resume to:

Paul S. Towers  
State Director  
Pesticide Watch Education Fund  
1107 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste 601  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[info@pesticidewatch.org](mailto:info@pesticidewatch.org)  
Please do not call at this time.

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