THE FLOOD AND SEA LEVEL RISE RESILIENCY DISTRICT OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

INVITES YOUR INTEREST FOR THE POSITION OF:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
The Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District

Sea level rise poses an enormous challenge to San Mateo County as it has more people and property value at risk from the rising sea than any other county in the state. This concern has inspired San Mateo County leaders at the federal, state and local levels to boldly act to design the first of its kind agency tasked with preparing for sea level rise in a collaborative and innovative fashion. The newly created San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District (District) will ambitiously address sea level rise, flooding, coastal erosion and large-scale stormwater infrastructure improvements through integrated regional planning, design, permitting, project implementation, and long-term operations and maintenance, in an effort to create a unified and resilient “one shoreline” for San Mateo County by 2100. The District will enable San Mateo County and its incorporated cities and towns to coordinate across jurisdictional lines, build expertise, avoid duplication of efforts, and create a unified voice to more effectively compete for available state and federal funds.

The District will be formed by expanding the existing county Flood Control District into a countywide Special District. Legislation to create this new entity was signed by the Governor on September 12, 2019 and the new District will be legally in place on January 1, 2020. The new District will be governed by a seven-person board consisting of two members from the County Board of Supervisors and five Councilmembers from San Mateo County cities (four will represent the geographical areas of North, Central, South, and Coastal San Mateo County, and one will represent cities at large). For additional information on the District visit: https://resilientsanmateo.org.

The Position and Ideal Candidate

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) position for the District is an exceptionally exciting opportunity to create a new enterprise in the true spirit of Silicon Valley. The District seeks a bold, visionary and innovative CEO to lead this start up operation and evolve it into a transformative agency that will create a lasting impact for current and future generations.

As outlined in the proposal that was developed to create the new District (available at https://resilientsanmateo.org), during the District’s initial three year start up period, priorities will include: (i) establishing the infrastructure (e.g. budget, staffing plan, work plan, etc.) for the new District, (ii) overseeing the County’s current flood control work in three established flood zones which is anticipated to be implemented by contracting with County staff; (iii) continuing work in three areas of the County where cross-jurisdictional flood control projects are underway subject to memoranda of understanding (MOU Projects); (iv) identifying and pursuing additional MOU projects; and (v) developing a sustainable financing mechanism to fund the District’s operations.

During this initial three-year start up period, it is anticipated that various aspects of the new District’s
infrastructure, administration, and programs will be handled by existing County staff to facilitate the operations of the new organization.

The new District will require a nimble CEO with an entrepreneurial and creative mindset. Given the organization’s existing funding structure and countywide role, the candidate will need the ability to successfully manage complex city, county, special district and agency relationships to ensure collaboration and the District’s overall effectiveness. Proactive communications and positive engagement with government, business and community stakeholders will be critical for the new District to succeed.

A top priority for the CEO will be to secure funding for the day-to-day operations of the District following the completion of the three year start up period, as well as funding for project implementation. This will require pursuing both traditional and innovative funding approaches. Accordingly, the CEO will need a high level of financial savvy, expertise in municipal funding vehicles and grant funding opportunities, and the ability to identify and secure other potential funding sources.

The position will also require a strong financial, budgeting and human resources background. To put in place the organizational infrastructure for the new District, a proven track record of hiring and managing quality staff, and introducing effective organizational development programs and initiatives, will be critical to success.

Excellent project management skills and experience with capital improvement programs will be required as the new District will immediately need to assume and complete a number of key existing projects. The ideal candidate will also have strong regional, state and federal level connections and relationships that can be leveraged to assist the new District.

The new CEO will have a combination of experience, education, training, knowledge and skills required to perform the diverse duties of this position. This includes eight years of highly responsible public works, special district, relevant consulting, or city management experience, including four or more years of management and supervisory experience. A Bachelor’s degree or equivalent degree from an accredited college or university is required, preferably in engineering, environmental science, public administration or a related field. A Master’s degree and California registration as a Professional Engineer are highly desirable.
Compensation and Benefits

The District will offer an attractive compensation package. The annual salary for this position is negotiable based on qualifications. A competitive benefits program will also be offered.

The Process

To apply for this unique and exceptional career opportunity, please visit the Avery Associates Career Portal at www.averyassoc.net/current-searches/ to upload your letter of interest, resume, and contact information, including email addresses for five work-related references. References will not be contacted until after an interview takes place.

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The final filing date for this position is: November 8, 2019.

If you have any questions regarding this position, please contact Paul Kimura at paulk@averyassoc.net or 408.399.4424, or Sam Avery at samuela@averyassoc.net or at 408.399.4424.