

POSITION DUTY STATEMENT

PM-0924 (REV 7/2014)

CLASSIFICATION TITLE Materials and Research Engineering Associate (Specialist)	OFFICE/BRANCH/SECTION D8/Construction - Southern Regional Lab	
WORKING TITLE MREA - Field Tester	POSITION NUMBER 908-500-3381-	EFFECTIVE DATE

As a valued member of the Caltrans team, you make it possible for the Department to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated, and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. Caltrans is a performance-driven, transparent, and accountable organization that values its people, resources and partners, and meets new challenges through leadership, innovation and teamwork.

GENERAL STATEMENT:

Under the direction of a Senior Transportation Engineer, Caltrans and the lead of a Transportation Engineer (Civil), the MREA will perform material field testing and plant inspections including compaction tests, gradation, core samples, material sampling in the field and at plants, analysis on soils, aggregates, asphalt, and concrete samples according to the certified test methods designated for the field labs.

TYPICAL DUTIES:

Percentage		Job Description
Essential (E)/Marginal (M) ¹		
50%	E	Perform technical and physical testing of soils, aggregates, asphalt, concrete, Portland cement concrete, and base materials. These tests includes all California Test Methods and other tests methods, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), American Standard Test Method (ASTM), and Uniform Building Code (UCB) necessary to perform mix design for asphalt concrete pavement, Portland cement concrete pavement, base materials, and geo-technical analysis of soil. Prepare and ship samples to headquarters as needed. Calibrate testing equipment used at the materials laboratory in accordance with either the equipment manufacturer's calibration procedures or the procedures dictated by the test method. Ensure that proper arrangements are made for others to calibrate equipment that cannot be calibrated in-house. Maintain records of all equipment calibrations in accordance with the Quality Assurance Program. Monitor inventory of laboratory testing equipment in compliance with Quality Assurance Program guidelines and California Test Method requirements. Prepare reports, charts, and graphics about materials analyzed in the laboratory.
25%	E	Calibrate testing equipment used at the materials laboratory in accordance with either the equipment manufacturer's calibration procedures or the procedures dictated by the test method. Ensure that proper arrangements are made for others to calibrate equipment that cannot be calibrated in-house.
15%	E	Maintain records of all equipment calibrations in accordance with the Quality Assurance Program. Monitor inventory of laboratory testing equipment in compliance with Quality Assurance Program Guidelines and California Test Method (CTM) requirements.
10%	M	Assist with training technicians working in the lab. Occasionally attend meetings and conferences. Perform other Materials and Research Engineering Associate (Specialist) duties.

¹ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS are the core duties of the position that cannot be reassigned.
MARGINAL FUNCTIONS are the minor tasks of the position that can be assigned to others.

SUPERVISION OR GUIDANCE EXERCISED OVER OTHERS

None. Incumbent may work in a lead capacity with co-workers.

KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES, AND ANALYTICAL REQUIREMENTS

Must have knowledge of California Test Methods, materials, tools, and equipment used in inspecting and testing a wide variety of construction and other materials; physical environmental impact assessment evaluations and mitigation processes, physical properties and uses of engineering construction materials, fabrication of construction materials.

Must be able to utilize mathematics to make calculations using percentages or ratios and plot data to evaluate test

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results. Must have the ability to interpret plans and specifications, analyze and check all necessary test reports on materials incorporated in the work for conformity to applicable specifications.

Must have the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing, and must recognize the importance of working as a team; must have ability to test the quality and suitability of engineering construction and other materials; do research work on engineering construction and other materials; evaluate physical and environmental impact assessments and take effective action; prepare reports and dictate correspondence. Must have the ability to establish effective communication channels with the supervisor, Caltrans Headquarters, District personnel, and the public. Must also have command of basic computer applications such as Lotus Notes, Microsoft Excel, FileMaker Pro, Microsoft Word, and Caltrans custom-made applications.

Must have the ability to establish and maintain good and professional working relationships with other Department units, industry personnel, and contractors working on Department projects. Must be familiar with and able to follow Department policies and procedures.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECISIONS AND CONSEQUENCES OF ERROR

Must be able to effectively follow directions and testing procedures and record and file data properly. Failure to adhere to directions and procedures may result in inaccurate test results that could reduce the service life of the constructed facility or result in costly claims to the State.

PUBLIC AND INTERNAL CONTACTS

Will maintain close communications with supervisor and other inspection offices. Has daily and frequent contact with fellow branch office, district and Headquarters TransLab personnel regarding test results and inspection reports.

As a representative of the Department and the State of California, the incumbent is expected to maintain fair, impartial and effective relationship with clients, and conduct oneself in a professional and courteous manner at all times

PHYSICAL, MENTAL, AND EMOTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Physical activities vary and may be for a lengthy period of time. May be required to sit using a keyboard and video display terminal to enter and audit data. While working in the laboratory, may be required to stand for extended periods of time to perform materials testing in and around test equipment. Requires manual dexterity to operate testing equipment and handle materials. May be required to be tested and fitted to wear a respirator while working in the laboratory. May occasionally be required to move equipment and test materials that require lifting up to 60 to 80 pounds.

May be required to travel to Districts to train laboratory personnel on specific test methods. When working in Districts, may be required to stand for long periods of time; pull, push, bend, stoop and squat to examine testing equipment; maintain mental awareness and physical agility when working in the proximity of laboratory machinery. May be required to drive a motor vehicle.

Will be required to develop and maintain cooperative working relationship and respond appropriately to difficult situations. Must behave in a fair and ethical manner toward others and demonstrates a sense of responsibility and commitment to public service. The incumbent will value cultural diversity and other individual differences in the workforce. Will consider and respond appropriately to the needs, feelings, and capabilities of different people in different situations.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Will work in a climate-controlled environment under artificial lighting. Most of the workday will be in the laboratory where there is exposure to extreme heat, chemicals, odors, dust, and noise from laboratory testing equipment. For some part of each day, will work in a climate-controlled office. Both environments are under artificial lighting. May occasionally be required to travel and work outdoors, and may be exposed to dirt, noise, uneven surfaces, and/or extreme heat or cold.

Working hours will be set sometime between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. May be required to work nights, weekends, and split shifts. Per Diem may be necessary based on workload. Vacations may be restricted during peak times. May be required to travel to other satellite offices for training and/or meetings.

I have read, understand and can perform the duties listed above. (If you believe you may require reasonable accommodation, please discuss this with your hiring supervisor. If you are unsure whether you require reasonable accommodation, inform the hiring supervisor who will discuss your concerns with the Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator.)

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EMPLOYEE (Print)

EMPLOYEE (Signature)

DATE

I have discussed the duties with, and provided a copy of this duty statement to the employee named above.

SUPERVISOR (Print)

SUPERVISOR (Signature)

DATE